

# Status Conference and Non-Compliance Hearings

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. What is a Status Conference, Non-Compliance, or Case Review Hearing?

Status Conference and Non-compliance hearings are court hearings to ensure that domestic relations (Divorce, Legal Separation, Invalidity, Parenting Plan, Modifications) and Parentage cases have complied with certain case schedule deadlines.

Hearings for Non-Parent Custody petitions are called Case Review Hearings on the case schedule, but they appear on the Status Conference and Non-Compliance calendar along with all other case types. Petitioners or their attorney must appear at the Case Review Hearing.

Parties may refer to [King County Local Family Law Rule 4 for](#) more information.

## 2. How do I know when my Status Conference is?

The Status Conference date, location and time is always listed on the Case Schedule. All domestic cases filed in King County are issued an Order Setting Domestic Case Schedule upon filing. The petitioner must serve a copy of this case schedule on all parties in the case, along with the Summons and Petition. *If you miss your Status Conference, you may be fined by the court.*

## 3. I am scheduling a motion to finalize my invalidity (annulment). What time and courtroom should I put on my Notice of Court Date form?

If you are scheduling your hearing to be heard on the Status Conference calendar, in accordance with [LFLR 5](#), the hearing date, time, and location should be as follows:

Seattle cases: Any Friday @ 9:00 AM, Courtroom W-331

Kent cases: Any Monday @ 1:30 AM, Courtroom 1-G

## 4. Why is my case on the Non-Compliance Calendar?

If parties miss their Status Conference hearing or if they attend their hearing but need more time to bring their case into compliance, the hearing is continued to the Non-Compliance Calendar. The case will remain in non-compliance until parties comply with the order, or until a judge orders otherwise. *Failure to comply with the order or attend the hearing may result in the case being dismissed.*

## 5. If I file my Confirmation of Issues form with the court by the deadline in the case schedule, do I need to go to my Status Conference?

Parties do not need to go to their Status Conference hearing if they have completed the following:

- Filed a [Confirmation of Issues](#) form *signed by both parties with the 1<sup>st</sup> box checked* **or** for Parentage cases, file a [Confirmation of Genetic Testing](#) with the first box checked

**And**

- Filed all mandatory pleadings, which include: valid Proof of Service and/or Joinder for parties who are in agreement.
- For cases where there is no Joint Petition or Joinder filed then a Response to Petition must be filed by the responding party.
- For Modifications of Parenting Plans** or Non-Parent Custody Orders parties must have obtained an Order Granting Adequate Cause

- ❑ **For Petitions to Establish Parenting Plans** a copy of the Birth Certificate or a certified copy of the Paternity Acknowledgement with State Certification for each child must be filed. (Note: A copy of the Acknowledgment signed by parties is not certified by that state and therefore is not sufficient documentation for proof of parentage).

Parties should *not* expect a court order if the case is in compliance as described above the day of the Status Conference and no one appears. The hearing will be canceled administratively.

## 6. I have filed everything required on the Order to Go to Court (or the Order on Non-Compliance). Do I need to attend my Non-Compliance hearing?

If parties are on the Non-Compliance calendar, they must comply with any other requirements the judge has ordered in order to be considered in compliance. Parties do not need to attend if they have complied with *all* the requirements of that order.

## 7. What if the other party is unwilling to sign the Confirmation of Issues?

Parties must attend their Status Conference. The court will determine if they will accept a Confirmation of Issues signed by only one of the parties. This rule applies even if the other party has not responded and may be in default.

If parties are having trouble understanding the Confirmation of Issues form, please refer to the guide “Understanding the Confirmation of Issues Form”. It might be helpful to provide a copy of this guide to the other party so that they may better understand the Confirmation of Issues form.

## 8. How can I check if my case is in compliance?

*Parties should not be inquiring with the bailiff to find out if their case is in compliance.* It is the responsibility of the parties to review their files and ensure they have met all case schedule deadlines and that their case is in compliance.

Parties may review their court files free of charge in person at the clerk’s office.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/access-records/records.aspx>

**Or**

Parties can review their case docket (list of documents filed), by reviewing it on the Washington State Court website (<http://dw.courts.wa.gov/>). Note there is a delay from

when the document is filed with the clerk's office to when it will show up on this website.

If you do not have an attorney and you need information on how to properly pursue your case please visit the facilitator website for instructions and information.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/family/facilitator.aspx>

## 9. We filed our Joint Confirmation of Issues past the deadline; do we still need to attend the Status Conference?

The court will review the file *the day of the hearing* to determine if the case is in compliance before assessing a non-compliance fee. If the Joint Confirmation of Issues is filed **and** the mandatory pleadings are filed at the time the case is reviewed then the case will be considered in compliance. See the information above about what the court considers mandatory pleadings for the purpose of [Status Conference](#) and [Non-compliance](#) hearings.

*If parties filed their Confirmation of Issues past the Case Schedule deadline, they should not be contacting the court to ask that their hearing be stricken or to ask if their case is in compliance. To ensure their case is in compliance, parties should file documents in a timely fashion.*

## 10. I live out of state and cannot appear in person. What should I do?

The court may grant a request to appear by phone *if a party resides out of state*. Request to appear by phone must be submitted at least 6 court days before the hearing date by sending an email to [Statusconference@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Statusconference@kingcounty.gov). Last minute requests will not be granted. Parties should assume that any other request to appear by phone will be denied.

A party who is approved to appear by phone is still required to be familiar with their case and should be prepared to answer questions about their case file.

## 11. Can I ask that the Status Conference hearing date be continued?

You may email [Statusconference@KingCounty.gov](mailto:Statusconference@KingCounty.gov) at least 6 calendar days prior to the status conference to request a continuance of the hearing. The requests will only be considered if:

- All parties (the petitioner and the respondent) are CC'ed on the email request
- The request is made at least six (6) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing

The request will only be granted if there is a good reason for the continuance.

## 12. What happens if we miss our hearing?

If no one appears for the Status Conference the Clerk's office issues an Order to Go to Court and sets your case on the Non-compliance calendar. A *\$50 non-compliance fee is assessed*. Requests to appeal the fee are processed through the clerk's office. The following page has the Non-Compliance Appeal Request Form <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/fees.aspx>

If the case is on the Non-Compliance calendar and parties have not taken steps to get their case in compliance then failure to attend the Non-Compliance hearing may lead to the case being dismissed.

## 13. What if the court is closed due to inclement weather on the day of my scheduled hearing?

In the event of inclement weather, the court will notify the public about court closures on the King County Superior Court webpage <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court.aspx>. If the court is closed, the hearing will be rescheduled to the same time the following week. If the case is a Kent case the hearing will be reset for the following Monday at 1:30 p.m. If it is a Seattle case, the hearing will be reset for the following Friday at 9:00 am. Parties **will not receive** a separate notice about the new date.