

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO FAMILY LAW POLICY	Effective Date: May 18, 2017 Expiration Date: Until Rescinded
Policy: Consolidate and Case Assignment of Domestic Violence Matters Policy #: FL-003 Revised: Replaces:	Approved by <u>Raymond E. Haight III</u>

Purpose:

To define the appropriateness of the type of cases to consolidate with a domestic violence action and case assignment

Policy and Procedures:

1. When a domestic violence action is filed with the court, the clerk will research the case management system for other related cases.
2. If there is an existing case for Petition for Dissolution, Legal Separation, Nullity or miscellaneous Petition for Custody and Support, the clerk will file the domestic violence action as a supplemental filing in that case.
3. If there is an existing Uniformed Parentage or Child Support action, then the clerk will initiate a new filing for the domestic violence action and the domestic violence action will be related to the existing Uniformed Parentage and/or Child Support action. The domestic violence action will be assigned to the Judicial Officer that is assigned or would be assigned to hear the Uniformed Parentage or Child Support action for custody and/or visitation.
4. If there is not an existing matter, the case will be assigned in normal course.
5. If there is an existing domestic violence matter and the responding party to the original domestic violence is filing their own domestic violence request, that new domestic violence request will be filed as a supplemental filing in the original domestic violence matter. But if the original domestic violence request was dismissed or denied in its entirety, then a new domestic violence case will be opened and assigned in normal course.

Best practice is domestic violence matters should not be consolidated with Uniformed Parentage actions or Child Support matters due to the confidentiality of those cases. Cases will be related in the case management system and coordinated for hearings. For calendar preparation, the clerk will pull the related cases and secure together for courts reference at any hearing.