

Rhode Island Family Court Administrative Order 2026-01

Assignments of Judicial Officers and Live Streaming of All Public Remote Hearings and Trials.

A. Effective March 2, 2026, judicial officers are assigned to the following calendars.

Chief Judge Michael B. Forte

- To assist on all calendars as permitted by administrative duties.

Associate Justice Laureen D'Ambra

- To the Child Welfare Calendar in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Karen Lynch Bernard

- To the Domestic Relations, the Juvenile Justice, the Adult Criminal, the Child Welfare, and the Miscellaneous Calendars in Washington County including name change and reciprocal matters where the Office of Child Support Services is not a party and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Sandra Lanni

- To the Domestic Relations Calendar in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Lia N. Stuhlsatz

- To assist on the Child Welfare Calendar in Providence County, to the Safe and Secure Babies Court, the Juvenile Drug Court, the Family Treatment Drug Court, and the Voluntary Extension of Care (VEC) Calendars, and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Feidlim E. Gill

- To the Domestic Relations, the Juvenile Justice, the Adult Criminal, the Child Welfare, and the Miscellaneous Calendars in Newport County including name change and reciprocal matters where the Office of Child Support Services is not a party and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Richard A. Merola

- To assist on the Domestic Relations Calendar in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Elizabeth Ortiz

- To the Child Welfare, the Domestic Relations, and the Miscellaneous Calendars in Kent County including name change and reciprocal matters where the Office of Child Support Services is not a party and to assist elsewhere as needed

Associate Justice Shilpa Naik

- To the Juvenile Justice and the Adult Criminal Calendars in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Jeanine Perella McConaghy

- To assist on the Child Welfare calendar in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Alberto Aponte Cardona

- To the Miscellaneous and Immigration Calendars in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Associate Justice Andrea M. Iannazzi

- To the Juvenile Justice and the Adult Criminal Calendars in Kent County, to assist on the Domestic Relations and the Miscellaneous Calendars in Kent County including name change and reciprocal matters where the Office of Child Support Services is not a party, and to assist elsewhere as needed.

General Magistrate Daniel V. Ballirano

- To assist on the Domestic Relations Calendar in Providence County including contested divorce hearings, trials, name change, and reciprocal matters where the Office of Child Support Services is not a party, and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Magistrate Jeanne L. Shepard

- To the Child Support Calendars in Newport and Washington Counties for matters where the Office of Child Support Services is a party and the Paternity Calendars for all counties for matters where the Office of Child Support Services is a party.

Magistrate Angela M. Bucci

- To assist on the Diversionary Truancy Calendars and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Magistrate Edward H. Newman

- To the Child Support Calendar in Providence County for matters where the Office of Child Support Services is a party.

Magistrate Paul T. Jones, Jr.

- To the Child Support Calendar in Kent County for matters where the Office of Child Support Services is a party and to the Providence County Child Support Overflow Calendar for matters where the Office of Child Support Services is a party.

Magistrate Denise Cassisi Finkelman

- To the Restraining Order Calendar in Kent County, to assist on the Domestic Relations and the Miscellaneous Calendars in Kent County including contested divorce hearings, trials, and name change and reciprocal matters where the Office of Child Support Services is not a party, and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Magistrate Ronald F. Cascione

- To assist on the Diversionary Truancy Calendars and to assist elsewhere as needed.

Magistrate Susan Nahabedian

- To assist on the Child Support Calendar in Providence County for matters where the Office of Child Support Services is a party.

Magistrate Samantha S. Polisena

- To the Restraining Order Calendar in Providence County, to hear reciprocal matters where the Office of Child Support Services is not a party in Providence County, and to assist elsewhere as needed.

B. All public hearings and trials conducted remotely (i.e., those matters not listed in R.I. Gen. Laws § 14-1-5 and any other matter requiring confidentiality to protect the interests of minors) shall not go forward unless the proceeding is made accessible to the public through the Judicial Live Stream which can be found at the judiciary's website, www.courts.ri.gov.

C. This Administrative Order rescinds and vacates Administrative Order 2024-01 and any provision in any other prior Administrative Order inconsistent with the provisions in this order

Date: 2/10/26

/s/ _____
Honorable Michael B. Forte
Chief Judge of the Family Court