

## NEWS RELEASE

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO 247 West Third Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor San Bernardino, Ca 92415-0302 www.sb-court.org

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Hon. John P. Vander Feer Presiding Judge

Nancy CS Eberhardt Court Executive Officer

## ONLINE ORIENTATION FOR CHILD CUSTODY RECOMMENDING COUNSELING LAUNCHES IN SPANISH

**SAN BERNARDINO, CA**—On November 25, 2019, the San Bernardino Superior Court introduced online orientation for child custody recommending counseling in Spanish.

According to a survey, more than 500,000 San Bernardino County residents speak Spanish as their primary language at home. Without proper language assistance, Limited English Proficient (LEP) court users may be excluded from meaningful participation in the judicial court process.

Orientation for child custody recommending counseling prepares parents who are going through a divorce, nullity, legal separation, or exclusive, legal and/or physical custody with an overview of the custody and visitation process as it relates to children. This orientation includes educational information regarding children's developmental needs and about developing plans for sharing parenting responsibilities when parent's divorce, separate or do not live together.

Aligned with the court's <a href="2018-2023 Strategic Plan">2018-2023 Strategic Plan</a>, offering online orientation in Spanish, in addition to the existing English version, ensures access to justice for all litigants, including self-represented, by leveraging cost-effective technology solutions. The introduction of online orientation in Spanish also supports the <a href="Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts">Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts</a> by providing meaningful access to justice through expanded translated services.

Online orientation can be found on our website, <a href="https://www.sb-court.org/divisions/family-court-services">https://www.sb-court.org/divisions/family-court-services</a>.

For questions or more information, please contact the Family Court Services 909-521-3180.