

2014 Probate Case Management Protocol

Effective March, 2014 the Probate and Mental Health Department's Case Management Protocol has been revised.

Generally, if the contested matter can be completed in a single hearing of **3 hours or less**, it should be heard by the assigned JO. If the assigned JO has time on their calendar to handle a one day hearing, they may set the one day hearing on their calendar. If the JO would like to handle a hearing that will take more than one day and the JO has time on their calendar to handle the matter, the JO may keep the case upon consultation and approval of the Presiding Judge or the Associate Presiding Judge. All other matters anticipated to be in excess of three hours should be sent to the associate presiding judge for the contested hearing.

The Protocol continues to require the parties to participate in good faith in the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process prior to the contested hearing unless the assigned judicial officer determines that the cost of ADR exceeds its benefit.