



# **NEWS RELEASE**

**New York State  
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas  
Chief Administrative Judge**

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## **Chief Administrative Judge Zayas Announces Measure to Fill Critical Quasi-Judicial Posts in New York City Family Court**

**NEW YORK**—Recognizing both the crucial role and high level of skill required of the court system’s Support Magistrates—and the urgent need to fill these critical positions in New York City Family Court—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced an increase in Support Magistrates’ grade level and pay. This action reflects the Unified Court System’s commitment to ensuring that New York’s family courts—which hear a range of sensitive matters involving children and families, including child neglect, adoption, juvenile delinquency, paternity, domestic violence and child custody, visitation and support in each of the State’s 62 counties—function efficiently, equitably, and compassionately.

Formerly known as Family Court Hearing Examiners, Support Magistrates are quasi-judicial appointees responsible for conducting formal hearings to determine support, paternity, and other family matters within their authority as defined by the Family Court Act. Judge Zayas has issued an administrative order, reallocating Support Magistrates’ grade level from Grade 31 to 33.

“Though part of our legal series, this change acknowledges the quasi-judicial nature of these positions and the unique role they play in our court system. Support Magistrates are statutorily appointed to hear and determine Family Court proceedings and, like judges, handle their own caseloads, create their own part rules, and maintain their calendars. Authorized to make determinations of law and render binding decisions, they play a pivotal role in protecting the rights of families and children,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “This increase in pay will help us attract qualified candidates to these positions, which are absolutely critical to addressing caseloads in these very busy forums and addressing the needs of New Yorkers appearing in our family courts. I encourage those who seek meaningful career opportunities and meet the qualifications to fill this key post to submit their applications in response to the Support Magistrate openings now available in New York City Family Court.”

“We both recognize and appreciate the essential, demanding nature of the Support Magistrate’s role. Theirs is highly meaningful work that is so integral to the effective, efficient delivery of justice and the stability and safety of New York City’s at-risk families and children,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George. “I invite eligible candidates with relevant legal experience and an interest in public service and the welfare of children and families to view the court system’s careers page at the link below to learn more about these job openings in responding to our clarion call to fill this urgent need.”

In addition to their salary and location pay, New York City Family Court Support Magistrates are entitled to generous benefits that include a regular work schedule, paid vacation and sick days, paid holidays, and excellent health insurance and retirement benefits.

To apply, candidates must have five years of relevant legal experience, three of which must be in New York State, gained after admission to the New York State Bar; or an equivalent of education and experience. Support Magistrates serve in a confidential quasi-judicial capacity for a term of three years and may be reappointed to subsequent terms.

For more information about the New York City Family Court Support Magistrate openings, including how to apply, visit

<https://www.nycourts.gov/legacyPDFs/careers/statewide/22419.pdf>

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