

- **Family Violence Case Assessments** – Family Relations Counselors assess all cases that are referred to Family Services subsequent to the arraignment process. Assessments include:
 - In-depth victim interview
 - In-depth defendant interview
 - Coordination with the Family Violence Victim Advocate
 - Preparation of detailed case assessment and recommendations for the Court
- **Pretrial Case Management Services** – Family Relations Counselors oversee diversionary programs for cases referred to Family Services and perform the following functions:
 - Administrative monitoring/supervision
 - Monthly contact with the defendant
 - Coordination of the Family Violence Education Program (FVEP) and other court-ordered contracted and non-contracted services
 - Coordination with the Family Violence Victim Advocates

For more information, contact your local Court Support Services Division – Family Services Office. Contact information is available at the Superior Court – Court Service Center or at www.jud.ct.gov.

For information on ADA accommodations, contact the Centralized ADA Office at 860-706-5310 or go to: www.jud.ct.gov/ADA/



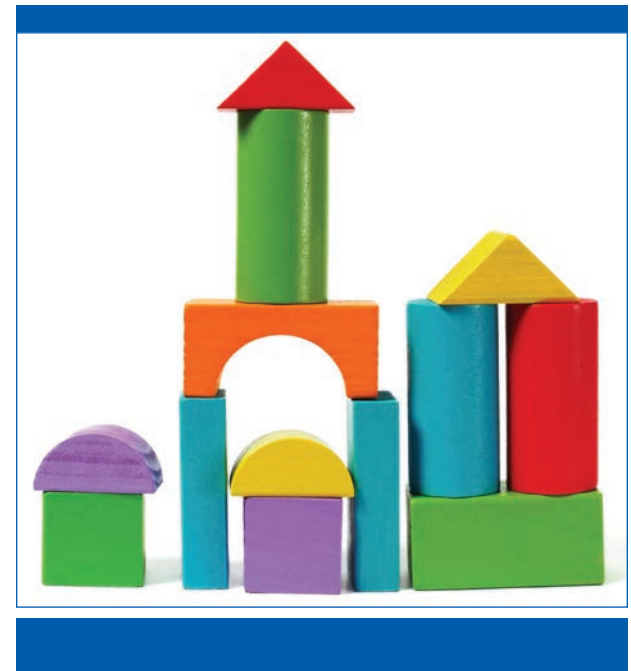
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Family Services Programs

Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division Family Services



Our Role in Family Civil Court

Family Services helps the Court and clients in the timely and fair resolution of family conflicts by a comprehensive program of alternative dispute resolution services, case management, evaluation, and education.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Services:

- **Pretrial Settlement Negotiations** – In all Judicial Districts, Family Relations Counselors conduct pretrial and final judgment settlement conferences with attorneys and litigants in conjunction with their attendance at Family Civil Court dockets.
- **Resolution Plan Date** – Once a dissolution, custody application, or post-judgment motion is filed with the Court, a meeting with Family Services is scheduled for a resolution screening. During this meeting parents obtain information about the Court process and the most effective pathway to resolution.
- **Mediation** – Family Relations Counselors mediate custody and access disputes for up to three 2-hour sessions. These efforts are geared toward assisting parents in resolving differences in a self-determining, non-coercive, and confidential manner.
- **Conflict Resolution Conference** – This is a confidential, directive process utilizing negotiation and mediation techniques to resolve the primary issues of custody and access. Parents and attorneys participate in the conferences and information from professional sources may be included. The Family Relations Counselor may

offer recommendations to the parents at the conclusion of the process if the parties are unable to resolve their dispute. These recommendations are not provided to the Court.

Case Management Services:

- **Early Intervention Program** – Family Relations Counselors offer parties a formal Informational Session to provide information about the court process and the dispute resolution programs available. Additionally, through a referral from the Court, Family Relations Counselors offer support, educational opportunities, and dispute resolution for parents.
- **General Case Management** – A Family Relations Counselor will be assigned distinct responsibilities to assist parties in resolving their parenting issues with a report back to the Court. Some components include gathering specific information regarding the family, monitoring compliance with court orders, facilitating settlement conferences to develop parenting plans, conducting home visits, or completing other court-ordered tasks.

Evaluative Services:

- **Issue-Focused Evaluation** – This is a non-confidential process of assessing a limited issue impacting a family and/or parenting plan. The goal of an Issue-Focused Evaluation is to explore the defined parenting dispute, gather information regarding only this issue, and provide a recommendation to the parents and the Court. This evaluation format is limited in scope, involvement, and duration.

- **Comprehensive Evaluation** – This is an in-depth, non-confidential assessment of the family system by the Family Relations Counselor. The information gathered by the counselor, the assessment of the family, and the resulting recommended parenting plan is shared with the parents and attorneys. This recommendation may be used to form the basis of an agreement. At the conclusion of the process, a report with recommendations is filed with the Court.

Our Role in Family Criminal Court

The role of Family Services is to assist the Court and clients in the timely and fair disposition of family violence criminal cases through a comprehensive assessment and intervention plan to prevent, reduce, and stop the frequency and severity of violence against victim/complainants.

- **Family Violence Arraignment Proceedings** – Family Relations Counselors conduct pre-arraignment family violence intake assessments and screen all family violence arraignment cases. This process includes:
 - Collecting demographic information
 - Reviewing criminal histories
 - Reviewing the Protective Order Registry
 - Screening for handguns and firearms
 - Screening for risk of continued violence
 - Interviewing the defendant and victim
 - Coordinating with Family Violence Victim Advocates
 - Recommending the level of Protective Orders
 - Recommending treatment/services