

# **District Court of Tulsa County**

## **Tulsa County Family Court**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
2011**

Report by:  
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# Tulsa County Family Court

## **Domestic Judges**

### **FD Docket A**

#### **The Honorable Carl Funderburk**

Clerk: Heather Silvestre  
Bailiff: Elaine Blythe  
Courtroom: 348

### **FD Docket B**

#### **The Honorable Martha Carter**

Clerk: KimberLee Barnum  
Bailiff: Elaine Blythe  
Courtroom: 378

### **FD Docket C**

#### **The Honorable Mark Barcus**

Clerk: Linda McMurray  
Bailiff: John McNew  
Courtroom: 605

### **FD Docket D**

#### **The Honorable Stephen Clark**

Clerk: Suzi Collins  
Bailiff: Elaine Blythe  
Courtroom: 349

### **FD Docket E**

#### **The Honorable Rodney Sparkman**

Clerk: Shana Grandstaff  
Bailiff: Elaine Blythe  
Courtroom: 379

### **Protective Order Judge**

#### **The Honorable Charles Hogshead**

Clerk: Kimberly Wiley  
Bailiff: Angelica Lopez  
Courtroom: 111

## **Court Clerk**

### **Tulsa County Court Clerk**

Sally Howe Smith  
Chief Deputy: Vicki Goodson  
Department Head: Jason Jones

## **Family Court Services**

### **Family Court Case Coordinator**

Nicole W. Kirkland, MSW  
Room: 607

### **Family Resource Coordinator**

Cheryl Conklin  
Room: 607

## **DHS Child Support Services**

### **DHS Attorney**

Ross Aston  
Room: 356

# Tulsa County Family Court

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011

Tulsa County's Family Court program provided triage for the Family Court Judges by reducing court involvement and providing services and resources to litigants. The following report illustrates case data for the six (6) Domestic Judges, breaks down the five (5) specialized dockets, and highlights specific case and docket data.

### 2011 Family Court Data

The following information applies to the six (6) Domestic Judges.  
(These totals do not include post decree motions to modify).

#### Total Pending Cases by Judge:

Pending Cases All Cases Coded Open (Does NOT Include Post-Decree)			
Judge	Newly Assigned	Closed	Pending Total
FD Docket A	366	381	2,388
FD Docket B	369	310	1,660
FD Docket D	384	328	1,626
FD Docket E	358	382	1,312
PO Docket	968	813	1,594
	<b>2,445</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>8,580</b>

Total Activity FD Dockets A, B, C, D, E, & PO 1st Quarter	
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	Total
Number of Cases Scheduled on the Judge's Docket:	7,656
Number of Cases NOT Scheduled on the Judge's Docket:	3,507
Total Court, Inbox, and Emergency Activity:	11,163

#### Specialized Dockets - Total Cases Processed:

Judge	Parenting Plan Conference Docket	Case Management Docket	Agreed-To / Default Dissolution Docket	Child Support Contempt Docket	TOTAL
FD Docket C	907	28	541	649	2,125

# Specialized Dockets

The following information breaks down the five (5) specialized dockets and illustrates how vital these dockets are in reducing court involvement for litigants, connecting families to needed services and resources, and helping thousands of litigants navigate the legal system.

## Parenting Plan Conference Docket

All Dissolution of Marriage, Legal Separation, and Paternity cases involving minor children are scheduled on the Parenting Plan Conference (PPC) docket two to three weeks after their petition is filed. In most cases involving minor children, this is their first court appearance.

The Judge for FD Docket C assisted the Domestic Judges by managing this docket.

Data collected on the PPC Survey. Figures are averaged based on sample size and number of litigants docketed.				
Quarter	Dockets	Litigants Docketed	Pro Se Litigants <small>(One or both sides self-represented)</small>	Children Affected
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	34	1,814 (907 Cases)	37%	3,450

### 1. Docket Procedures:

- a. The Judge helped families understand the effects of divorce and conflict on their children and encouraged families to create a Temporary Order (TO) Agreement;
- b. Pro Se (self-represented) cases without an attorney on both sides were sent to the Family Resource Coordinator (FRC) to achieve financial and visitation agreements;
- c. Cases with at least one attorney involved, that could not reach an agreement, conferenced with the Judge. If an agreement could not be reached, the Judge referred the case to their Assigned Judge to schedule a Temporary Order Hearing;
- d. High conflict and complex cases were also identified at this docket and referred to the Case Management docket; and
- e. All cases were given a Scheduling Order that outlined when the Helping Children Cope with Divorce (HCCWD) seminar, discovery, and mediation must be completed and were given a 120 day status date.

Quarter	Pro Se cases sent to FRC	Cases Referred to TO Hearing	Cases Referred to Management Docket
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	94 (10%)	55 (6%)	22 (2%)

This resulted in the Judge for FD Docket C referring 6% of the PPC cases to the four (4) Assigned Judges for a Temporary Order Hearing.

### 2. Family Resource Coordinator:

- a. Provided community resources to all litigants;
- b. Distributed the Parenting Plan Conference Survey, results on page 6; and
- c. Worked with Pro Se (self-represented) litigants at the PPC docket to achieve financial and visitation agreements (both sides must be Pro Se).

Quarter	Total Pro Se Cases	Total Temporary Agreements
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	94	90 (95%)

This resulted in 95% of the self-represented litigants coming to financial and visitation agreements.

### 3. Family Court Case Coordinator

- a. Assisted the Judge with the 28 cases referred to the Case Management docket;
- b. Helped the litigants and attorneys understand the case management process and the specific requirements for this docket; and
- c. Helped the litigants understand court orders put in place at the PPC docket and provided them with resource information.

### 4. Case verifications by the Department of Human Services:

- a. The Department of Human Services (DHS) must review and sign Temporary Orders when they have an interest in a case. DHS may have an interest in a case if one or more of the following are present: Child Care, Child Support, SoonerCare, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);
- b. In 2009, The Family Court Case Coordinator developed a verification system to verify cases scheduled on the PPC docket for services with the Department of Human Services (DHS);
- c. In 2010, DHS started using this verification system and has verified the following:

Quarter	Total Cases Verified	Cases with DHS Services	Cases without DHS Services (Disclaimers Signed and Filed)
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	558	386 (69%)	172 (31%)

This resulted in sending 31% of the cases verified to the DHS Child Support Attorney, located in the courthouse, to review and sign Temporary Orders.

### 5. Helping Children Cope with Divorce Seminar

- a. All Dissolution of Marriage, Legal Separation, or Paternity cases involving minor children are required to take the Helping Children Cope with Divorce seminar;
- b. The Judge for FD Docket C ordered all litigants to sign up for this seminar within seven days of their PPC;
- c. The goal of this seminar is to help parents manage conflict, learn effective parenting skills, avoid pitfalls and problems, and understand the typical reactions to divorce by developmental age; and

The following data is from the program evaluation given at the end of each seminar:

	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
<b>Number of parents that attended the seminar:</b>	<b>937</b>
1. Overall, I found the seminar helpful:	87%
2. The information I learned today will help me with my co-parent:	82%
3. The information I learned today will help me understand my children:	85%
4. It would help to attend this program before the divorce was filed:	62%
5. This seminar will help reduce conflict between co-parents:	71%

# Parenting Plan Conference Survey Totals

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011**

	Yes	No
1. I received the Tulsa County Family Court instruction packet at the beginning of my divorce process.	180 <b>61%</b>	74 <b>25%</b>
2. The instructions I received in the Tulsa County Family Court instruction packet were useful.	172 <b>96%</b>	4 <b>2%</b>
3. The Judge did a good job of reminding us to keep conflict away from our children.	291 <b>99%</b>	0 <b>0%</b>
4. Did the DVD show how children are affected when parents do not work together?	289 <b>99%</b>	2 <b>1%</b>
5. The Family Resource Coordinator was beneficial.	291 <b>99%</b>	2 <b>1%</b>
6. I learned about community resources that are available to help me.	285 <b>97%</b>	3 <b>1%</b>
7. I am willing to work with my co-parent to develop a plan for parenting our children.	285 <b>97%</b>	2 <b>1%</b>
8. I am willing to agree to a Temporary Order.	266 <b>91%</b>	3 <b>1%</b>
9. I am represented by an attorney.	186 <b>63%</b>	103 <b>35%</b>
10. My relationship with my co-parent may improve because of the information I learned at the PPC.	234 <b>80%</b>	22 <b>7%</b>
11. I plan to use the information I received today to help my children.	285 <b>97%</b>	0 <b>0%</b>
12. Total children affected by Dissolution of Marriage, Legal Separation, or Paternity action.	<b>575</b>	

Gender:	Age:	Race:
<b>Male:</b> 45% <b>Female:</b> 53%	<b>18 and under:</b> 3% <b>19 to 35:</b> 58% <b>36 to 64:</b> 37% <b>65 and up:</b> 0%	<b>African American:</b> 11% <b>Asian:</b> 1% <b>Hispanic:</b> 7% <b>Native American:</b> 11% <b>White:</b> 72% <b>Other:</b> 1%

**Total Surveys Collected: 293**

## Case Management Docket

High conflict/complex cases are identified at the Parenting Plan Conference docket or at any stage of the dissolution of marriage or paternity process by the five (5) Domestic Judges. The Judge for FD Docket C and the Family Court Case Coordinator assisted the Domestic Judges by managing these cases.

### The Family Court Case Coordinator:

1. Provided case management and resources to high conflict/complex families;
2. Assisted the Domestic Judges by communicating with attorneys and litigants to move high conflict cases to resolution; and
3. Decreased conflict, number of court appearances, and time involved with the court:

Cases referred at the Parenting Plan Conference: 22

Cases referred by Assigned Judge: 6

Quarter	Cases Referred	Cases Denied	Cases Closed	Cases Accepted	Cases Pending Acceptance	Total Active Cases
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010	8	4	2	1	1	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2011	28	5	3	6	14	22

## Agreed-To/Default Dissolution Docket

All Dissolution of Marriage, Legal Separation, and Paternity cases where both parties agree or do not contest may attend the Agreed-To Docket.

- The Judge for FD Docket C managed the daily Agreed-To docket (held every day in courtroom 605);
- Assisted the Domestic Judges by ruling on Agreed-To/Default Dissolution cases;
- Averaged 45 cases per week.

### Family Resource Coordinator:

Assisted the Judge for FD Docket C, using a check list to sort Pro Se (self-represented) litigant paperwork before seeing the Judge.

Quarter	Total Pro Se Cases Agree	Total Pro Se Cases Processed to the Judge
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	485	304 (63%)

This resulted in 63% of the cases being processed to the Judge and preventing 37% from seeing the Judge with incorrect or missing paperwork.

The table below illustrates the total cases on the Agreed-To/Default Dissolution Docket:

Quarter	Total Pro Se	Total with Attorney	Total Cases
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	304	237	541

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## Child Support Contempt Docket

All child support contempt cases are scheduled on the Child Support Contempt Docket.

- The Judge for FD Docket C managed the weekly Child Support Contempt Docket (held every Friday in courtroom 605);
- Assisted the Domestic Judges by ruling on all Child Support Contempt cases;
- Averaged 54 cases per week.

### Total Child Support Contempt Cases:

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
649

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## Protective Order Docket

All Protective Order cases are scheduled on the Protective Order docket.

- The Protective Order Judge managed the daily Protective Order docket (held every Monday through Thursday in courtroom 111);
- Assisted the Domestic Judges by ruling on Protective Order and Emergency Protective Order cases;
- This docket is held Monday through Thursday;
- Averaged 72 cases per week.

### Total Protective Orders Filed:

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
968