

District Court of Tulsa County

Tulsa County Family Court

Annual Report

2011

Report by:

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Website:

www.tulsacountyfamilycourt.org

Tulsa County Family Court

Domestic Judges

FD Docket A

The Honorable Carl Funderburk

Clerk: Heather Silvestre

Courtroom: 348

FD Docket B

The Honorable Martha Carter

Clerk: KimberLee Barnum

Courtroom: 378

FD Docket C

The Honorable Mark Barcus

Clerk: Kacharra Mansker

Courtroom: 605

FD Docket D

The Honorable Stephen Clark

Clerk: Suzi Collins

Courtroom: 349

FD Docket E

The Honorable Rodney Sparkman

Clerk: Shana Grandstaff

Courtroom: 379

Protective Order Judge

The Honorable Charles Hogshead

Clerk: Kimberly Wiley

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

ANNUAL REPORT 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	383	467	1294
FD Docket B	391	355	1686
FD Docket D	403	357	1668
FD Docket E	385	392	1230
PO Docket	1,111	952	1830
			7,708

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	838	30	1092	2528	4,488

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 st Quarter	34	1,814 (907 cases)	37%	1,360
2 nd Quarter	26	1,598 (799 cases)	36%	1,198
3 rd Quarter	29	1,614 (807 Cases)	37%	1,210
4 th Quarter	27	1,354 (838 cases)	37%	1,256
TOTAL	116	6,380 (3,351 cases)	37%	5,024

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 st Quarter	94 (14%)	55 (9%)	22 (2%)
2 nd Quarter	89 (11%)	98 (12%)	31 (4%)
3 rd Quarter	93 (12%)	74 (9%)	26 (3%)
4 th Quarter	92 (12%)	75 (9%)	26 (3%)
TOTAL	366 (12%)	302 (9%)	105 (3%)

This resulted in the Judge for FD Docket C referring 3% 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 st Quarter	94	90 (96%)
2 nd Quarter	89	86 (97%)
3 rd Quarter	93	87 (93%)
4 th Quarter	92	88 (97%)
TOTAL	368	351 (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 30 cases referred to the Case Management docket from the Parenting Plan Conference 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. Since 2010, DHS started using this verification system and has verified the following in 2011:

Quarter	Total Cases Verified	Cases with DHS Services	Cases without DHS Services (Disclaimers Signed and Filed)
1 st Quarter	558	172 (31%)	386 (69%)
2 nd Quarter	696	226 (32%)	470 (68%)
3 rd Quarter	723	209 (29%)	514 (71%)
4 th Quarter	659	202 (31%)	457 (70%)
TOTAL	2636	809 (31%)	1827 (69%)

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.

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:

Cases referred by Assigned Judge:

Quarter	Cases Referred	Cases Denied	Cases Closed	Cases Accepted	Cases Pending Acceptance	Total Active Cases
1 st Quarter	28	5	3	6	14	22
2 nd Quarter	38	14	5	14	24	51
3 rd Quarter	26	5	1	2	24	52
4 th Quarter	31	5	3	3	28	30
TOTAL	123	29	12	25	90	155

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 st Quarter	485	304 (63%)
2 nd Quarter	439	288 (65%)
3 rd Quarter	361	261 (72%)
4 th Quarter	368	239 (65%)
TOTAL	1653	1092 (66%)

This resulted in 66% of the cases being processed to the Judge and preventing 34% from seeing the Judge with incorrect or missing paperwork.

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 65 cases per week.

Total Child Support Contempt Cases:

1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	TOTAL
649	797	450	632	2,528

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 76 cases per week.

Total Protective Orders Filed:

1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	TOTAL
968	1172	1149	1097	4,386

Court Watch 2011 Observed Cases

- 41% Dismissed
- 16% Granted
- 14% Continued
- 19% Alias EPO
- 5% Consolidated
- 4% Other Action

Self Represented Litigants

- 91% Plaintiff Pro Se
- 86% Defendant Pro Se

Plaintiff

- 16% Male
- 80% Female
- 9% Used an Attorney

Defendant

- 77% Male
- 20% Female
- 14% Used an Attorney

Parenting Plan Conference Survey Totals

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The Judge did a good job of reminding us to keep conflict away from our children.	99%
The Family Resource Coordinator was beneficial.	99%
I am willing to work with my co-parent to develop a plan for parenting our children.	97%
I am represented by an attorney.	63%
My relationship with my co-parent may improve because of the information I learned at the PPC.	80%
I plan to use the information I received today to help my children.	97%
Total children affected by Dissolution of marriage, Legal Separation, or Paternity action.	5,487

TOTAL SURVEYS COLLECTED 4785

TOTAL LITIGANTS SCHEDULED ON DOCKET: 6380

HCCWD 2011 Evaluation Results

Evaluation Questions

Overall, I found the seminar helpful.	88%
The information I learned today will help me with my co-parent.	82%
The information I learned today will help me understand my children.	86%
I would recommend the seminar to others.	80%
It would help to attend this program before the divorce was filed.	65%
This seminar will help reduce conflict between co-parents.	72%
I need additional information on helping my children.	33%
The female presenter did a good job with the material.	94%
The male presenter did a good job with the material.	94%

Ethnicity	
African American	6%
Hispanic	6%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
White/non-Hispanic	70%
Native American	13%
Other	2%
Missing/Blank	2%

Gender	
Female	53%
Male	44%
Missing/Blank	3%

Age	
18 or under	2%
19-35	54%
36-64	43%
65 or more	1%