

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

July 1998 through December 2005

YEAR	FAMILY LAW INFORMATION CENTER				WALK-IN VISITORS	PACKETS SOLD	PHONE CALLS	ATTORNEY CONSULTS
	CASES ASSIGNED	CASES DISPOSED	ONSITE MEDIATION					
1998 July-Dec.	1234	582	39	2077	1325	786	206	
1999 Jan.-Dec.	3979	3482	417	5624	3687	7220	976	
2000 Jan.-Dec.	3447	3474	663	9298	3926	13,611	940	
2001 Jan.-Dec.	4211	4388	780	11,331	4432	17,638	891	
2002 Jan.-Dec.	5155	5630	1165	8036	5542	16,431	995	
2003 Jan.-Dec.	5464	5671	1430	9564	5394	20,917	981	
2004 Jan.-Dec.	5473	5202	1315	9597	5659	23,651	1048	
2005 Jan.-Dec.	5357	5284	1180	9280	5629	22,857	956	

TOTALS	34,320	33,713	6989	64,807	35,594	123,111	6993	

Superior Court Judges

Doris L. Downs, Chief Judge
 Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore
 Gail S. Tusan*
 Alford J. Dempsey, Jr.
 Stephanie B. Marnis
 Bensonetta Tipton Lane
 Wendy L. Shoob
 Constance C. Russell
 Cynthia D. Wright*
 T. Jackson Bedford, Jr.
 Melvin K. Westmoreland*
 John J. Goger
 Jerry W. Baxter
 Marvin S. Arrington, Sr.
 Tom Campbell
 Ural D. Glanville
 Michael D. Johnson
 Craig L. Schwall, Sr.
 Christopher S. Brasher

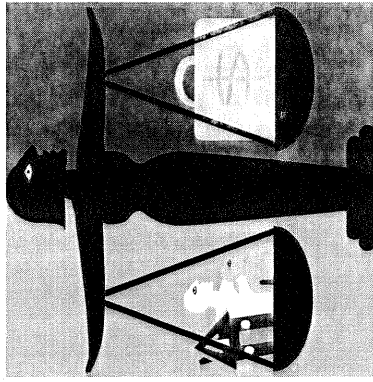
*Family Division Judge

Judith Cramer, Court Administrator

Family Division Staff

Granvette Matthews, Director
 Voncell Conley, FLIC Legal Assistant
 Deborah Franklin, FLIC Legal Assistant
 Casandra Gilmore, Intake Case Manager
 Chanin Jet-Cook, FLIC Legal Assistant
 Victoria Kealy, Staff Attorney
 Kellie Kenner, Social Services Coordinator
 Vivian Minter, Dom. Violence Case Manager
 Tammy Moore, Intake Assistant
 Terry Neal, Social Services Coordinator
 Carol Obierika, Seminar Coordinator
 Dr. Barbara Rubin, Psychologist
 Marlene Shah, Administrative Coordinator
 Angela Taylor, Social Services Coordinator
 Shawenka Vinson, Administrative Assistant

FAMILY DIVISION



Superior Court of Fulton County

Administrative Office
 136 Pryor Street, S.W., Suite C-826
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303
 404/ 224-0505
 404/ 335-8659 FAX

Family Law Information Center
 185 Central Avenue, S.W., Suite F-704
 Atlanta, Georgia 30303
 404/ 335-2789
 404/ 893-2608 FAX

Website: www.fultonfamilydivision.com

FAMILY DIVISION FULTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

HISTORY

The Family Division began in July 1998 as a pilot project designed to:

- provide a comprehensive approach to helping families in crisis by using both judicial adjudication and service intervention methods, and
- improve case processing from initial filing to disposition by assigning cases involving the same family to one judge, and scheduling cases at regular intervals through 30, 60 and 120 day conferences.

Today, the Family Division is a program of the Superior Court, funded by Fulton County and it has disposed of more than 33,000 cases.

Emphasis is placed on the best interest of the children and the family unit affected by the legal proceedings. Though the proceedings are adjudicatory, there is an effort to reduce their adversarial nature. The parties are encouraged to take advantage of **court annexed mediation** which is **available at no cost.** As a unique feature of Family Division, registered domestic mediators are available in each Family Division Courtroom to assist parties who are appearing at 30 Day Conferences. In many instances, parties come to a complete resolution of all issues. Since 1998 over 6900 cases have gone through On Site Mediation. Case evaluation is also available.

Services offered within Family Division include:

- Staff Psychologist
- Social Services Coordinators
- Guardians ad Litem
- On Site Paternity Testing
- On Site Drug and Alcohol Testing

The Family Division also offers the following services:

FAMILY LAW INFORMATION CENTER

PURPOSE

The Family Law Information Center (FLIC) was developed to assist people who wish to represent themselves in domestic legal matters or educate themselves about domestic issues. Since opening, over 64,000 people have been served in FLIC.

Anyone may come to FLIC to get legal forms or information on a variety of issues, including: annulment, divorce, name change, custody, custody modification, legitimation, contempt, child support modification, visitation and paternity establishment. FLIC also has forms available, including the following: Poverty Affidavit, Acknowledgment of Service, Rule Nisi and Affidavit of Diligent Search.

Notarization of Family Law documents is free. Most other services are free, but there is a \$2 fee for some of the forms and packets in order to cover reproduction, and copies cost 15 cents per page.

FREE CONSULTATION

FLIC has attorneys from Atlanta Legal Aid who, on an appointment basis, will provide 30 minutes of free consultation. More than 6900 attorney consultations have been provided since FLIC opened in 1998. The service is available only to individuals who do not currently have legal counsel, and advice may not be provided to anyone if the opposing party has received advice or representation from Atlanta Legal Aid.

Many of the forms and packets are also available online at our website:

www.fultonfamilydivision.com.

For more information call: 404/ 335-2789

FAMILIES IN TRANSITION SEMINARS

PURPOSE

The Families in Transition Seminar is a court ordered educational program for parties involved in domestic relations actions involving an original question of custody of minor children. The four-hour seminar is conducted by trained counselors and therapists. Both parties to the domestic action are required to attend. Each party is required to pay a \$30 fee, however a fee waiver may be requested.

Topics addressed in the seminar include: the developmental stages of childhood; the needs of children at different ages; age appropriate expectations of children; stress indicators in children; the grief process; reducing stress; changing parental and marital roles; financial obligations of child rearing; and conflict management and dispute resolution.

LOCATIONS/SPANISH SEMINAR

Seminars are offered at the North Fulton Service Center on one evening each month, the South Fulton Service Center on one morning each month, and downtown at the court complex on one Saturday morning each month. A seminar presented entirely in Spanish is offered every other month at the same time as the downtown Saturday seminar.

SEMINAR FOR CHILDREN

Assisting Children in Transition, a free, voluntary seminar for children, ages 5 to 17 whose parents are attending the adult seminar, is offered at the same time as the Saturday seminar.

For more information call:

404/ 730- 4618 Seminar in English
404/ 224-3938 Seminar in Spanish

THE ONE STOP

PURPOSE

The One Stop opened on February 3, 2003. By December 2005 it had served more than 6000 petitioners. Prior to that time a petitioner seeking a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) from domestic violence or stalking had to navigate from one office to another in order to take the necessary steps to complete the process. Now petitioners can come to the One Stop for help throughout the entire process of obtaining a TPO.

The One Stop is open each week day from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Petitioners are screened and then given the forms they need to complete their petitions. Brochures on safety planning and resource information on housing, child care, food, clothing, medical care and more are available. There are also videos on domestic violence issues for petitioners to view. Crayons, coloring books and puzzles are available for the children while the adults complete their paperwork. When the paperwork is done, the petitioner is taken before a judge for the *ex parte hearing*.

FREE REPRESENTATION FROM AVLF

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) will provide representation at no cost to petitioners who qualify and who want to be represented at Domestic Violence hearings. A petitioner can always elect to seek private counsel or proceed without representation.

CELL PHONE PROJECT

Disconnected, but functional, cell phones with chargers have been donated for petitioners to use to dial 911 in emergencies. (Disconnected cell phones retain the capacity to dial 911.) These donated cell phones are an important lifeline for victims of stalking or domestic violence.

For more information call 404/730-4579