

Fulton County GA Program Description

Fulton County Superior Court Family Division was started in 1998 as a pilot program. (See the attached brochure.) It is now fully funded by Fulton County. The Family Law Information Center (FLIC) serves individuals seeking information and advice on a variety of domestic legal issues. We provide packets of information and forms on our website (www.fultonfamilydivision.com) and in FLIC. FLIC also offers 30 minutes of consultation with an attorney at no cost to the individual. We have one staff psychologist and each Family Division Judge (there are three) has a Social Services Coordinator. They perform evaluations and provide reports to the Court at the Court's direction. Also at the Court's direction we will perform drug testing (no cost). On the first Monday of each month we offer DNA testing for litigants directed to us by Court Order. The DNA testing (mother, putative father and child) is offered at a much reduced rate -- \$195. We also have the One Stop to assist individuals seeking Temporary Protective Orders. The One Stop has volunteers from the Partnership Against Domestic Violence *and* Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation to help those who want assistance. Litigants in cases assigned to the Family Division are also offered free mediation services through our ADR program. Parties have the option to schedule a particular time and date for mediation when ordered by the Court. (The ADR Program also offers case evaluation and arbitration at no cost.) In the Family Division we also have an On-Site Mediation Program which offers free mediation services to litigants who are making a court appearance but have issues which remain in conflict. In that way, they can go to mediation, and if possible, resolve, or narrow their issues without having to schedule another day and time to come back for mediation. The option is there for them to schedule mediation if they choose, but the On-Site program frequently allows litigants to resolve their issues and finalize their case on the same day.

We are in the process of developing an I-CAN! system for the Family Division. I-CAN! is an interactive program that gathers information from user responses and then populates the form/petition for filing with the Court. We hope to have this system available early in 2007.