

11th Judicial Circuit

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT

Evaluation Results Submitted to the 11th Judicial Circuit and the
Missouri Supreme Court Family Court Committee

One Judge; One Family; One
Coordinated Response

One Judge; One Family; One Coordinated Response

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Executive Summary

Established by the Missouri Supreme Court in 1993, one purpose of the Family Court Committee (FCC) is to implement a Unified Family Court (UFC) model in Missouri. In January 2002, the FCC began a long-range strategic planning process to bring this objective to fruition. By July 2007, two UFC pilot courts were chosen, one in Circuit 11; the other in Circuit 25. By January 2008, these courts were working to incorporate the following five “*Essential Components*” of Unified Family Courts which help to ensure an effective and efficient court experience for litigants, court staff and the legal community.

- **Coordination** of multiple cases involving one family to one judge.
- **Court differentiated case management (CDCM)** to evaluate the complexity of each case at initiation to identify an appropriate case management track and the resources required; and to monitor case progress.
- **Less adversarial approach** to handling family cases that focuses on minimizing harm to the child while balancing due process concerns.
- **Collaboration** between the judiciary, stakeholders and the community to provide access to an array of services for families.
- **Use of Technology** to facilitate the capability of court staff to track family court cases and produce statistical reports which monitor the status of each case.

Each project site was awarded \$130,000 per year for a maximum of three years. Both were required to use a portion of the funds to provide for a full time Unified Family Court Case Coordinator to develop and implement UFC essential components. The majority of the remaining funds could be used for intervention and prevention programs and services, legal resources, resource materials, professional staff development and equipment, based on the individualized needs of each site. The circuits were required to develop and implement a plan for sustainability at the end of the award period.

This report presents results from an evaluation of the development and implementation of a Unified Family Court (UFC) in the 11th Judicial Circuit between July, 2007 and July, 2010. Divided into three sections, the report describes the actions taken to incorporate the five essential components of unified family courts and assesses the extent to which these components led to improvements in the court’s response to its stakeholders.

Section 1 of the report describes the various activities required of the Circuit 11 family court to develop and implement the essential components of a unified family court. Section 2 presents the results generated through output measures designed to determine whether the essential components were successfully implemented. Results show one judge; one family assignments, use of case management differentiation, mediation, program promotion and technology increased over the implementation phase of the UFC model.

Section 3 presents the results of short-term and long-term outcome measures intended to assess the extent to which implementation of the essential components of unified family courts led to the desired goal of improving Circuit 11’s family court response to stakeholders:

- The number of families with multiple cases coordinated under a single judge of jurisdiction has steadily increased since the implementation of the UFC model. Survey data suggest judges, attorneys and participants [of those responding] agree that having a single judge of jurisdiction has helped to maximize the use of judicial resources, enhance judicial understanding of the personal and legal needs of families, and promote fairness and consistency in judicial orders.
- Data pertaining to the accuracy of the case differentiation management system indicate cases assigned to the “standard track” meet the expected time to resolution most frequently, with cases assigned to the “expedited track” meeting the expectation least frequently. Although it appears the criteria associated with certain tracks may require adjustment to improve their accuracy, a moderate decrease in average time to disposition since UFC implementation suggests systematizing case assignment and management may be contributing to the court timeliness. In contrast, survey data show a divergence in the perceptions of judges and attorneys [in particular] who believe the procedure has improved efficiency and timeliness of the court, and participants [of those responding] who continue to express dissatisfaction with the amount of time required to resolve their case.
- The number of cases where mediation was ordered and the number of children and families served through this process grew substantially since UFC implementation, while the proportion of total cases requiring a trial decreased over the same period. Furthermore, the average time to dispose mediated cases remained relatively unchanged even as the number of mediated cases increased. Survey data show the majority of attorneys have developed a positive opinion about the efficiency and effectiveness of mediation and encourage clients to use this alternative to the trial process. As a result, the majority of judges report they recognize attorneys are diverting clients to mediation when non-judicial resolution of cases seems appropriate. Survey results for participants were less definitive. Although mediation was the most frequently reported service reportedly used by participants, comments were mixed as to whether they would recommend the service over the trial process.
- Survey data show participants are better informed about programs available to their families, particularly mediation. However, circumstances beyond court control, including insufficient funds and personnel issues limited the ability of the court to completely develop and implement the planned child education, custody exchange, drug testing and substance abuse programs. Aside from mediation, the most frequently used services were related to substance abuse and drug testing.
- JIS and Reportnet applications were used for the purposes of case coordination, assignment and monitoring, and to inform staff about case progress through statistical reporting. In addition, through the development of a *“Home Page of the website for Missouri’s Eleventh Judicial Circuit”*, UFC stakeholders are provided an orientation of what to expect as a UFC participant, as well as information regarding court and community resources.

Recommendations in support of the Circuit 11 UFC include:

- Evaluate differentiated case management system. Specifically, a review and modification of the case track criteria [or expected time] that differentiate cases may help to improve case timeliness and promote participant satisfaction. Consider systematizing report generation to alert staff of potential problems with track definitions.
- Consider the development and implementation of JIS milestones and associated tracking reports to assist case monitoring and reduce delays.
- Consider program development and expansion to align with intentions of the UFC model.
- Research potential programs shown to be effective in improving family functioning; reducing the need for families to pursue subsequent court action. Evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs in producing this effect.
- Complete website development and consider other means [brochures, video] of promoting the use of effective programs.

Purpose

This report presents results from an evaluation of the development and implementation of a Unified Family Court (UFC) in the 11th Judicial Circuit between July, 2007 and July, 2010. Specifically, the report describes the actions taken to incorporate the five essential components of unified family courts and assesses the extent to which these components led to improvements in the court's response to family court participants, particularly multi-problem families.

Background

Problems of domestic violence, substance abuse, mental illness, child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, custody and visitation, and non-support affect scores of families in communities across the country. Increasingly, these problems require judicial intervention for resolution.

Particularly problematic for courts are families with inter-related personal and legal problems. Such families are often involved in numerous court proceedings, sometimes in different court locations, involving different judges. Logistically burdensome for families in crisis, these circumstances can also lead to ineffective communication and coordination among the various courts, treatment providers, and social service agencies involved. In the absence of an integrated judicial response for assisting these families, unnecessary delays and duplicative or contradictory court rulings and recommendations can result. Many courts are adopting approaches that are more responsive to the needs of multi-problem families to reduce the likelihood they will require ongoing court intervention. One approach gaining momentum is the Unified Family Court, with its central principle that a single, highly trained and committed judge can manage multi-problem families through comprehensive jurisdiction.

Project Overview

Established by the Missouri Supreme Court in 1993, a major purpose of the Family Court Committee (FCC) is to implement a Unified Family Court (UFC) model in Missouri. In January 2002, the FCC began a long-range strategic planning process to bring this objective to fruition. By July 2007, two UFC pilot courts were chosen, one in Circuit 11; the other in Circuit 25. By January 2008, these courts were working to incorporate the following five "*Essential Components*" of Unified Family Courts which help to ensure an effective and efficient court experience for litigants, court staff and the legal community.

- **Coordination** of multiple cases involving one family to one judge.
- **Court differentiated case management (CDCM)** to evaluate the complexity of each case at initiation, identify an appropriate case management track and resources required; and to monitor case progress.
- **Less adversarial approach** to handling family cases that focuses on minimizing harm to the child while balancing due process concerns.
- **Collaboration** between the judiciary, stakeholders and the community to provide access to an array of services for families.

- **Use of Technology** to facilitate the capability of court staff to track family court cases and produce statistical reports which monitor the status of each case.

Each project site was awarded \$130,000 per year for a maximum of three years. Both were required to use a portion of the funds to provide for a full time Unified Family Court Case Coordinator to develop and implement UFC essential components. The majority of the remaining funds could be used for intervention and prevention programs and services, legal resources, resource materials, professional staff development and equipment, based on the individualized needs of each site. The circuits are also required to develop and implement a plan for sustainability at the end of the award period.

Circuit 11 Family Court Overview

Located northwest of the St. Louis Metro Area, Missouri's Eleventh Judicial Circuit is comprised of a single county, St. Charles County. One of Missouri's more affluent counties with a median household income of approximately \$67,000, St. Charles is also one of the fastest growing counties in the state (curr. pop. 350,000). Over fifty percent of St. Charles County residents have attended or graduated college and work in a diverse local economy that features manufacturing, wholesale/retail sales, construction and transportation, finance, health and education occupations. With a population that is predominately White (95%), the median age of St. Charles County residents is 34 years. Forty-three percent of households have children under the age of 18, with an average household size of 2.76.

Located in the City of St. Charles, the county seat of St. Charles County, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit provides a full range of court services, including domestic relations and juvenile court functions. HB 346, enacted in 1993, established a Family Court in six specified circuits. Although this legislation did not initially designate the Eleventh Circuit for implementation of a Family Court model, the legislation was permissive and the court en banc voted to establish a Family Court on June 30, 1993. The newly formed Family Court was viewed as an opportunity to address a growing number of domestic relations and juvenile cases.

In January, 2007, the Court en banc approved a plan to redistribute judicial resources [6 Circuit Judges; 6 Associate Circuit Judges] to better accommodate the Family Court caseload. To this end, two Circuit Judges were assigned to dedicate approximately 20% of their time to hearing juvenile cases, while one Circuit Judge and two Associate Circuit Judges were to dedicate 100% of their time to hearing domestic relations cases. In conjunction with this effort, the Family Court has continued to look for ways to benefit domestic relations and juvenile court participants. In May 2007, the Family Court submitted a proposal to the Missouri Supreme Court's Family Court Committee to participate in a Unified Family Court (UFC) pilot project designed to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the domestic division of the Family Court, particularly for litigants with children. Selected as one of two UFC pilot projects, the Family Court began the process of implementing a three year UFC model in July, 2007 (*Appendix A-Schedule*).

Judicial staff appointed to hear UFC cases the Eleventh Circuit includes the Hon. Richard Zerr, Family Court Administrative Judge, and the Hon. Terry Cundiff, Hon. Jon Cunningham, Hon. Daniel Pelikan, Hon. Norman Steimel, Hon. Elizabeth Swann, Hon. Matthew Thornhill. In addition, a UFC Coordinator, Cindy Syberg, is responsible for case assignment, case management, and service coordination for all case types under the jurisdiction of the UFC (*Appendix B*).

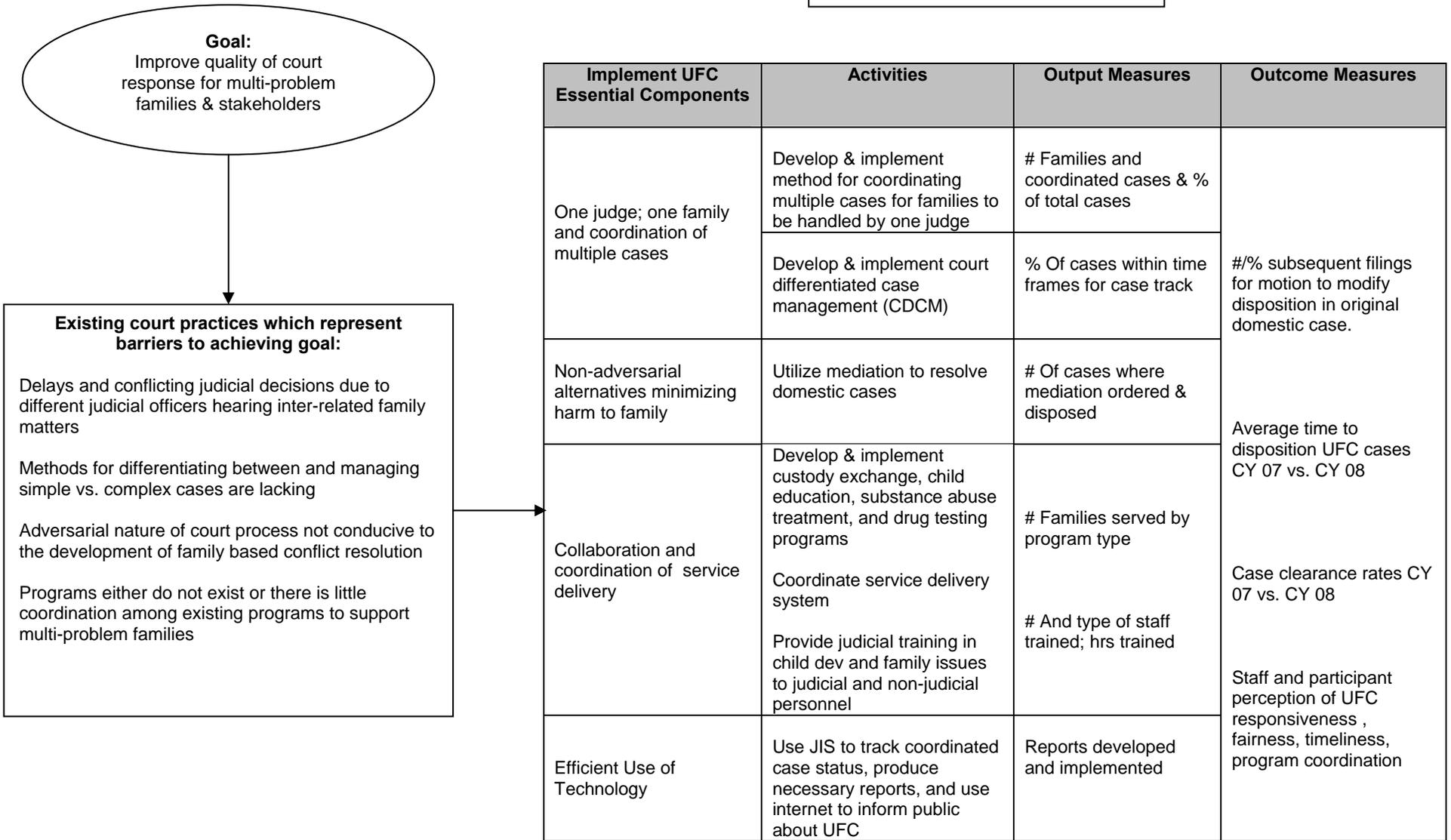
Logic Model

Logic models are useful tools for program planning, implementation, and evaluation. These models graphically illustrate the relationships among the problems that impede progress toward a goal, the activities believed necessary to solve the problems, and the measures demonstrating goal achievement.

Figure 1 depicts the logic model for the development and implementation of the Circuit 11 Unified Family Court (UFC). From left to right, the model first identifies Circuit 11's organizational goal, which is to improve the quality of the family court response for family court stakeholders, particularly multi-problem families. Second, the model specifies the barriers to achieving the stated goal, including existing court practices which fail to coordinate and prioritize cases according to their level of complexity, rely on legal based conflict resolution over family based resolution, and lack the program support needed for successful case outcomes. Third, the model identifies the development and implementation activities necessary to improve court response for multi-problem families, expressed through the essential components of unified family courts. Finally, as evidence of goal achievement, the model identifies several output and outcome measures.

The current report, divided into three sections, serves to evaluate the data associated with these measures. Section 1 describes the various activities required of the Circuit 11 family court to develop and implement the essential components of a unified family court. Section 2 presents the results generated through output measures designed to determine whether the essential components were successfully implemented. Section 3 presents the results of short-term and long-term outcome measures intended to assess the extent to which implementation of the essential components of unified family courts led to the desired goal of improving Circuit 11's family court response to families involved.

FIGURE 1 – LOGIC MODEL



Section 1: Development and Implementation of UFC Essential Components

Section 1 describes challenges to the development and implementation of each essential UFC component and actions taken to solve these issues. Information for this section derives from pre-implementation surveys of court and legal staff and quarterly status reports submitted by the UFC program coordinator (*Refer to Appendix C & D1-3*).

UFC Essential Component #1

Unified Family Courts emphasize coordinating multiple cases involving one family by assigning one judge to hear all cases.

Challenges:

- Decisions which case types would be coordinated under a single judge were required, as not all case types [e.g., criminal] were considered appropriate for coordination.
- Limitations of case management system (JIS) prevented easy search for cases requiring coordination under one judge.
- Attorneys and court staff were wary about the one family; one judge concept, with the primary concern related to how this process would affect work flow, workload, and staff roles.

Solutions:

- Domestic relations and juvenile case types were identified for coordination under a single judge. While an expectation was identified that the same judge who heard an original dissolution case should also hear any motions to modify that case, modifications were not considered coordinated cases. Instead, the definition of coordination was limited to families with multiple pending cases (*Appendix E*).
- A participant information sheet was developed by the Circuit 11 UFC Coordinator to identify family members associated with domestic relations case filings (*Appendix F*).
- Procedures were established to use the party information from the Unified Family Court Information Sheet to search the Circuit 11 JIS database for additional cases appropriate for coordination under a single judge. These procedures included recording coordinated cases in an excel database for future reference (*Appendix G*).
- Local court operating rules were developed and/or amended to establish a process of case assignment and the use of alternative dispute resolution (*Appendix H*).
- Training for judges, court and legal staff was conducted to inform these parties of the general concepts of unified courts and the potential impact this process could have on their respective roles (*Appendix I*).

UFC Essential Component #2

Unified Family Courts use differentiated case management to evaluate the complexity of each case at the outset to estimate and assign the appropriate resources.

Challenges:

- Identifying criteria to define tracks for differentiated case management was a complicated process, requiring several iterations to complete. Discussion focused on issues related to children, custody, property, mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence and abuse and neglect allegations to define tracks.
- JIS lacked a single form capable of providing differentiated case management and case progress monitoring functionality. Defects in automated reporting tool (Reportnet) required IT intervention before reports identifying the accuracy of initial track assignment and case monitoring could be created.
- Excel based alternative to using JIS for differentiated case management and case monitoring was time consuming and difficult to train clerks responsible for data entry.

Solutions:

- Operational definitions and JIS docket codes for differentiated case management were developed and deployed for case differentiation tracks. Case management conference process was instituted to assist with track assignment (*Appendix J*).
- JIS milestone codes were developed and made available for the purpose of monitoring the progress of domestic case.
- Reportnet reports were created and deployed to identify cases that met or did not meet expectations of differentiated case tracks (*Appendix K*)

Essential Component #3

Unified Family Courts promote the use of less adversarial approaches, such as mediation, to handle family cases. Such approaches focus on minimizing harm to the child while balancing due process concerns.

Challenges:

- Uncertainty on the part of attorneys regarding the impact of mediation on their legal practice.
- Uncertainty on the part of attorneys about whether mediation results in a more satisfactory resolution for families than does the family court trial process.
- Unawareness on the part of families involved in the family court process regarding the availability of mediation as an alternative to the trial process.
- Unknown availability of qualified mediators.

Solutions:

- Informational meetings were held with attorneys to discuss the impact of mediation on their role in the UFC process (*Appendix L*).
- Information on mediation made available to public at court website (*Appendix M*).
- Local Bar was invited to collaborate with Family Court to develop local court rules regarding use of mediation in domestic cases (*Appendix H & N*).
- UFC formalized a list of qualified mediators available to serve families and added access to mediators through Mediation for Children of MO [MARCH] services.

Essential Component #4

Unified Family Courts support collaboration among the judicial, legal, and service communities to provide access to an array of services for families.

Challenges:

- Families, judges, attorneys and court staff involved with the extant family court had limited knowledge of resources available to families in the community.
- Resources that were available to families with youth involved with the juvenile court were not being made available to families whose youth were not involved with that system.
- Attorneys were reluctant to recommend certain services (e.g. mental health), fearing repercussions of service participation on future court actions.

Solutions:

- Conducted semi-annual multi-disciplinary training for all professionals in UFC to ensure knowledge of community resources (*Appendix O*).
- Implementation of new programs, including custody exchange, child education, substance abuse treatment, and drug testing were considered with the intent to ensure all families involved in the UFC would have access (*Appendix P*).

Essential Component #5

Unified Family Courts use technology to facilitate the capability of court staff to track family court cases and produce statistical reports and reports that monitor the status of each case.

Challenges:

- Existing JIS functionality did not easily accommodate the differentiated case management, monitoring and search requirements of the UFC.
- Reports permitting case monitoring activities were unavailable.
- Reports to produce statistics on UFC cases were unavailable.
- Website development delays related to unavailability of staff with necessary programming skills.

Solutions:

- Reportnet reports created to provide statistical information, including average time to disposition, frequency of program assignment, number of pending domestic relations cases by party, et.al. (*Appendix Q*).
- Reportnet reports created to provide ability to monitor accuracy of case differentiation tracks (*Appendix K*).

Section 2 – Output Measures

Output measures refer to the proximal effects of programs. For Circuit 11 UFC, output measures are represented through counts of the development and implementation activities detailed in the Circuit 11 Logic Model (Figure 1). For example, to demonstrate that a process for assigning one judge to one family has been created and implemented, a count of cases where this assignment has actually occurred is generated (Table 1). Similar counts are presented below for each of the five essential UFC components.

Activity: Develop & implement method for coordinating multiple cases for families to be handled by one judge

- Output Measure(s):
 - Prior to implementation of the Circuit 11 UFC, cases for multi-problem families were not coordinated under a single judge of jurisdiction. Table 1 illustrates substantial growth in the number of families and coordinated domestic relations and/or juvenile cases for the two years post UFC implementation.

Table 1 - One Judge; One Family	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09
Number of families with concurrent cases	--	178	309
Number of concurrent cases	--	443	776

Activity: Develop & implement case differentiated case management (CDCM)

- Output Measure(s):
 - Prior to the implementation of UFC, Circuit 11 was guided by Court Operating Rule 17.23 time standards where 90% of domestic cases are required to be disposed within 10 months or 300 days (+/-) and 95% disposed within 14 months or 420 days. Circuit 11's UFC differentiated case management time standards for domestic relations cases are more ambitious than those associated with Court Operating Rule 17.23.

Table 2 presents the number of domestic relations cases disposed between Aug 1, 2009 and July 31, 2010 and their initial assignment to one of the five tracks that define the Circuit 11 UFC differentiated case management system. Table 2 also provides the percent of cases that met or did not meet the expected time frame for each differentiated case management track. The lowest percentage of cases meeting track expectation (47%) were assigned to the expedited track. The highest percentage of cases meeting track expectation were assigned to the standard track.

Track	Expected Days to Disposition	Number Assigned	Number Met	Percent Met
Expedited	45	110	52	47%
Uncontested	60	277	166	60%
Undetermined	90	276	146	53%
Standard	280	109	93	85%
Complex	340	14	9	64%
Total	--	786 466		59%

Activity: Utilize mediation to resolve domestic cases

- Output Measure(s):
 - Mediation as an alternative to the trial process was available to Circuit 11 family court participants prior to UFC implementation. However, as part of its implementation plan, Circuit 11 was interested in increasing the use of this alternative. Table 3 illustrates an increase in the number of cases where mediation was ordered and disposed during CY 2008 - 2009. Additional evidence of success in the effort to increase the use of mediation is shown in Table 4, which shows that the number of families served using mediation increased over the two years for which data are available. Comparable data for CY 2007 are unavailable, as orders of mediation were not docketed in JIS.

	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09
Mediations Ordered	2	288	410
Cases Disposed w/ Mediation Ordered	2	114	286

	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09
Families Served	0	202	326
Children Served	0	282	485

Activity: Collaboration and coordination of service delivery

- Output Measure(s):
 - Prior to UFC implementation, Circuit 11 services were not universally available to families involved in the family court. Further, several programs important to the support of these families did not exist (e.g., Custody Exchange). Table 5 presents information on the number of families, adults, and children receiving services through the Circuit 11 UFC, by program type. While the use of drug testing has increased, a corresponding growth in the use substance abuse programming has not. Further, it appears the proposed custody exchange and child education programs have yet to be initiated.

Table 5 - Families & Children Served	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09
Child Education Program	--	0	0
Custody Exchange Program	--	0	0

Table 6 - Adults & Children Served	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09
Substance Abuse Services (Adults)	--	6	5
Substance Abuse Services (Children)	--	6	8
Drug Testing (Adults)	--	5	5
Drug Testing (Children)	--	6	8
Drug Tests Performed (incl. adults & children)	--	63	219

Activity: Efficient Use of Technology

- Output Measure(s):
 - Post-UFC implementation, Circuit 11 UFC uses several automated applications to provide case management and program related information to relevant stakeholders. Table 7 lists these applications and their importance to UFC operations.

Table 7 – Use of Technology	
Judicial Information System (JIS)	Provides database and reporting capabilities
Reportnet & Excel	Provides case management and statistical reporting
Family Court Website	Informs UFC stakeholders regarding court and community resources, and provides an orientation of what to expect as a family court participant.

Section 3 – Outcome Measures

Outcome measures refer to the more distant effects of programs, identifying the extent to which the overall goal of a program has been achieved. The following outcome measures related to long-term court efficiency, service coordination and delivery, and stakeholder satisfaction were used to evaluate the Circuit 11 UFC goal of improving its response to family court stakeholders.

Time to Disposition

Presumably, differentiated case management (CDCM) maximizes judicial efficiency by assigning domestic relations cases to predetermined tracks based on their relative level of complexity. Less complex cases are identified for non-trial fast tracking, minimizing the need for court involvement. Conversely, multi-problem cases involving child custody, visitation, financial, and/or personal issues are assigned to tracks where judicial involvement and dispute resolution services match the corresponding need. Ideally, CDCM manifests in a decrease in case disposition time

Table 8 shows the overall average number of days to disposition decreased [w/ dismissed and mediated cases excluded], on average, 6% between CY 2007 and CY 2009. Importantly, average time to dispose individual case types involving children also decreased. For instance, average time to dispose dissolutions with children decreased 9%, on average, as did dissolutions without children (4%). Furthermore, average time to dispose child protection cases decreased 19%, as did motion to modify cases (6% / 74%). However, average time to dispose of family access motions increased 11%.

Table 8 Average Time to Disposition by Case Type [excl. mediation and dismissed cases]	Average Days to Disposition			
	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09	Avg Change
FC Adult Abuse w/o Stalking	30	26	41	11%
FC Adult Abuse Stalking	34	28	30	-7%
FC Adult Abuse Exten/Mod	34	48	81	35%
FC Family Access Motion	53	97	79	11%
FC Child Protection Ext/Mod	51	135	179	43%
FC Child Protection Act	52	39	37	-19%
FC Change of Name	53	54	70	12%
FC Reg For Jgmt-Dissolutn	70	56	87	5%
FC Reg For Jgmt-Custody	104	103	2	-2525%
FC Modify Registr For Jgmt	92	263	277	35%
FC Dissolution- w/o Children	134	127	125	-4%
FC Dissolution w/ Children	212	210	179	-9%
FC Motion to Modify	245	243	218	-6%
FC Contempt-Dom Rel	239	224	214	-6%
FC Miscellaneous Dom Rel	187	207	117	-34%
FC Leg Sep, Ann, Sep Main	177	247	214	6%
FC Paternity	275	233	228	-10%
FC CS Contempt	309	207	239	-18%
FC CS Motion to Modify	57	25	21	-74%
FC CS Misc Domestic Rel	168	20	37	-347%
FC CS Paternity	222	204	240	3%
FC CS UIFSA Responding	188	242	178	-7%
Overall Average Time	144	147	128	-6%

Table 9 shows that the overall average number of days to disposition for dismissed cases also decreased, on average, 6% between CY 2007 and CY 2009. Again, time to disposition [w/ mediated cases excluded] for several important case types involving children decreased, including dissolutions with and without children, and family access motions (8% / 9% / 6%, respectively), as did child protection cases (5% / 83%). Average time to dispose motion to modify cases (8%), and legal separations, annulments, and separation maintenance (18%), and FC CS paternity cases (32%) increased.

Table 9 Average Time to Disposition for Dismissed Cases by Case Type (excl. mediated cases)	Average Days to Disposition			
	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09	Avg Change
FC Adult Abuse w/o Stalking	32	28	30	-4%
FC Adult Abuse Stalking	40	32	36	-7%
FC Adult Abuse Extens/Modific	69	45	104	2%
FC Family Access Motion	102	169	112	-6%
FC Child Protection Act	51	55	47	-5%
FC Child Protection Ext/Mod	53	53	20	-83%
FC Change of Name	205	148	340	9%
FC Modify Registr Foreign Jgmt	9	158	--	--*
FC Reg Foreign Jgmt-Dissolutn	95	423	--	--*
FC Reg Foreign Jgmt-Custody	--	--	159	--*
FC Dissolution- w/o Children	176	200	153	-9%
FC Dissolution w/ Children	173	188	152	-8%
FC Motion to Modify	210	269	254	8%
FC Contempt-Domestic Relations	224	223	239	3%
FC Miscellaneous Domestic Rel	232	169	163	-20%
FC Legal Sep, Annul, Sep Maint	164	212	245	18%
FC Paternity	336	196	206	-33%
FC CS Paternity	133	235	296	32%
FC CS Contempt	407	1035	263	-116%
FC CS UIFSA Responding	58	307	169	0%
FC CS Miscell Domestic Rel	175	275	--	--*
FC CS Motion to Modify	83	565	--	--*
Overall Average Time	73	79	66	-6%

**When no cases of a particular case type were disposed in a given year, the average time to disposition could not be computed.*

Table 10 shows the average number of days to disposition for cases where mediation was ordered. Because the information required for calculating the average days to disposition was unavailable in the Circuit 11 JIS database for CY 2007, only CY 2008 and CY 2009 information is discussed. Overall, the average number of days to disposition for cases where mediation slightly increased (3%) between CY 2008 and CY 2009, but the number of cases where mediation was ordered significantly increased (n=114 / 287). Furthermore, the average number of days to disposition for cases where mediation was ordered once again decreased for dissolutions with and without children (4% / 3%) and for motion to modify cases (2%). However it is worthy to note the average number of days for disposing a case where mediation was ordered was substantially greater than that for cases handled in any other manner (Tables 8 and 9). As mediation is frequently ordered in complex cases, according differentiated case management criteria, this difference may be expected.

Table 10	Average Days to Disposition			
Average Time to Disposition for Mediation Ordered Cases by Case Type	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09	Avg Change
FC Adult Abuse Stalking	--	--	--	--*
FC Adult Abuse w/o Stalking	--	--	22	--*
FC Paternity	411	280	299	7%
FC Miscellaneous Dom Rel	--	428	326	-24%
FC Child Protection Act	--	--	--	--*
FC Reg Foreign Jgmt-Dissolutn	--	--	422	--*
FC Contempt-Domestic Rel	--	--	--	--*
FC Family Access Motion	--	99	146	47%
FC Dissolution- w/ Children	--	328	315	-4%
FC Dissolution- w/o Children	--	325	315	-3%
FC Motion to Modify	548	318	313	-2%
FC Paternity	--	--	--	--*
FC Legal Sep, Annul, Sep Maint	--	313	226	-28%
FC CS Paternity	--	--	317	--*
FC Contempt-Dom Relations		312	336	8%
FC CS Motion to Modify	--	--	167	--*
FC CS Misc Domestic Rel	--	16	--	--*
Average Time to Disposition for all Case Types	480 (2 cases)	295 (114 cases)	303 (287 cases)	+3%

*When no cases of a particular case type were disposed in a given year, the average time to disposition could not be computed.

Domestic relations case clearance rate

As a measure of overall court efficiency, case clearance rates are frequently reported. Case clearance rates are defined as the ratio of cases disposed by cases filed. Table 11 presents Circuit 11 domestic relations case clearance rates for CY 2007 (UFC pre-implementation) through CY 2008-09 (UFC post-implementation). Overall, the average change in clearance over the three year period assessed was virtually unchanged.

Table 11 Clearance Rate Filings/Disposed*	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09	Avg Change
Filings	4752	3673	3343	-20%
Disposed	4654	3903	3214	-20%
Clearance Rate	98%	106%	96%	-1%

*Counts based on **all** filings and dispositions for judges identified in Appendix A.

Cases to Trial

Presumably, the use of UFC practices such as alternative dispute resolution, mediation, and differentiated case management reduces the need for direct court intervention. Accordingly, the percentage of cases disposed through the trial process should decrease over time. Table 12 shows the percentage of all cases disposed through the trial process decreased from 15% in CY 2007 prior to UFC implementation, to 6% in both post implementation years..

Table 12 Cases Disposed by Trial	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09
Total Tried	683	225	208
Total Disposed	4654	3903	3214
Percent of Total Disposed	15%	6%	6%

Motion to Modify Filings

If UFC participants are satisfied with the resolution of their original domestic relations case it seems reasonable to assume motions to modify the terms of the original disposition would decrease over time. Table 13 compares the number and percent of total motion to modify cases disposed pre- and post-UFC. As a percent of total domestic relations cases filed, motions to modify have gradually increased over the three years assessed.

Table 13 Motion to Modify	Pre-Imp CY 07	CY 08	CY 09
Total FC CS & FC Motion to Modify Disposed	443	435	438
Total Disposed	4654	3903	3214
Percent of Total Disposed	10%	11%	14%

Pre & Post Implementation Survey Results

In addition to the quantitative outcomes described in Section 2, surveys were distributed to judges, attorneys, clerks and litigants to assess their impressions of the domestic relations court process as it existed prior to implementation of the UFC model. Surveys similarly designed were distributed two years after implementation of the UFC model to assess impressions of domestic relations court process at that time. A comparison of the pre and post implementation UFC responses for each party type is presented below. Note, there is no assurance that parties responding to each survey were the same.

Judge Survey Results

Twelve judges received both the pre and post UFC implementation surveys. Seven completed the pre-implementation survey for a 58% response rate, and eight completed the post-implementation survey for a 67% response rate.

Case Processing - extent to which judges believe domestic relations cases are efficiently and effectively processed.

Compared with their pre-implementation responses, post-implementation responses indicate a larger proportion agree that a single judge of jurisdiction has helped to maximize judicial resources, but respondents appear uncertain as to whether case

differentiation has helped to balance workload. Their responses further show strong agreement that compared with other case types, domestic relations cases are difficult to resolve in a timely manner. A smaller proportion of judges agree that post implementation domestic relations case scheduling is an inefficient process; a promising finding, but one tempered by the rather large proportion of judges responding neutral to this statement [Table 1J].

Table 1J	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Coordinating cases under a single judge of jurisdiction for families with multiple legal and non-legal personal issues will (has) help(ed) our domestic relations court to maximize its use of judicial resources.</i>										
	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	4 (57%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	5 (63%)	1 (13%)
<i>Conflicting and duplicative judicial orders issued for families with multiple legal and non-legal personal issues are a problem for our domestic relations court.</i>										
	0 (0%)	3 (43%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	2 (25%)	2 (25%)	2 (25%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)
<i>Coordinating cases under a single judge of jurisdiction involving inter-related family law issues will (has) help(ed) accommodate the needs of families.</i>										
	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	4 (57%)	2 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	3 (38%)	3 (38%)
<i>Differentiating domestic relations cases on the basis of their complexity will (has) help(ed) conserve and balance judicial workload.</i>										
	0 (0%)	3 (43%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	2 (25%)	3 (38%)	0 (0%)
<i>Compared with other case types in our circuit, domestic relations cases are difficult to resolve in a timely manner.</i>										
	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)
<i>Domestic relations case scheduling is an inefficient process in our domestic relations court.</i>										
	1 (14%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	1 (13%)	0 (0%)
<i>Domestic relations cases are resolved more quickly when some form of alternative dispute resolution is used.</i>										
	0 (0%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	4 (57%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	4 (50%)	2 (25%)	1 (13%)

Personnel – extent to which judges believe judicial and non-judicial personnel work well with one another.

Compared with pre-implementation responses, post-implementation responses show agreement, or less “disagreement”, that attorneys are providing the court with complete and timely documents in domestic relations cases. In addition, responding judges strongly agree that attorneys are diverting domestic relations cases for non-judicial resolution [e.g., mediation] when appropriate and consistent with the ends of justice [Table 2J].

Table 2J	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>An emphasis of our domestic relations court should be (is) to provide judicial and non-judicial personnel with special training in child development and family functioning to enhance their effectiveness with multi-problem litigants.</i>										
	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	3 (43%)	1 (14%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	0 (0%)
<i>Attorneys provide the court complete and timely documents for their domestic relations cases.</i>										
	3 (43%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	2 (25%)	0 (0%)
<i>Attorneys involved divert domestic relations cases for non-judicial resolution [mediation] when appropriate and consistent with the ends of justice.</i>										
	1 (14%)	4 (57%)	2 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	4 (50%)	3 (38%)	0 (0%)
<i>Court personnel involved with the domestic relations court cooperate with one another well to achieve timely dispositions.</i>										
	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (29%)	4 (57%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	5 (63%)	0 (0%)

Service Delivery - extent to which judges believe services (i.e. dispute resolution, visitation, custody exchange, family counseling) benefit the families involved with the domestic court process.

Compared with their pre-implementation responses, judge responses show slightly more agreement post-implementation that domestic relations court offers a variety of dispute resolution forums to empower families and lessen the need for additional court action. They also agree the post-implementation domestic relations court provides safe visitation and custody exchange programs and is responsible for post-disposition compliance with judicial orders [Table 3J].

Table 3J	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Our domestic court should offer (offers) a variety of dispute resolution forums that empower families to resolve their own problems without extensive reliance on judicial intervention.</i>										
	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	2 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (38%)	2 (25%)	3 (38%)
<i>An emphasis of our domestic relations court should be (is) to provide services that address the interrelated legal and non-legal problems of families to reduce the need for additional court action.</i>										
	0 (0%)	4 (57%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	4 (50%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)
<i>A major goal of our domestic relations court should be (is) to minimize the need for subsequent court action by linking families with services that promote positive family functioning.</i>										
	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	3 (43%)	3 (43%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	1 (13%)
<i>Our domestic relations court should be (is) responsible for post-disposition compliance with judicial orders.</i>										
	0 (0%)	2 (29%)	2 (29%)	1 (14%)	2 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (50%)	3 (38%)	1 (13%)
<i>Our domestic relations courts should provide (provides) safe visitation and custody exchange programs.</i>										
	0 (0%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	3 (43%)	2 (29%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	4 (50%)	2 (25%)

Judge Open-Ended Responses

Q1. How do you think families have benefited from implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?

- Families have been offered mediation, supervised custody exchange, therapeutic visitation, and drug court services. Before implementation of the UFC, families were referred to mediation occasionally.
- Their cases are not shoved aside while judges concentrate their attention on criminal and civil matters.
- The system is more focused on decision-making by parties and less on trial.
- Everyone I've spoken to about one judge-one family is very supportive and the Family Court Judges seem to be effective in pre-trial referral for services.
- It makes us more efficient and therefore resolves cases quicker. It also prevents inconsistent judgments.

Q2. How do you think the 11th Judicial Circuit has benefited from implementation of the Unified Family Court?

- It has been a challenge but having services to offer to families has been very helpful.
- We have taken a closer look at our docketing system and have cut down on continuances so the cases move faster through the system.
- Our family court coordinator has greatly helped with the organization of our Court and facilitates providing services to litigants and timely setting of cases.

- One judge-one family reduces the number of duplicative or conflicting orders.
- Both attorneys and judges who regularly practice comment that rules seem more consistent.

Q3. *What has been the most significant challenge(s) for the 11th Judicial Circuit since Unified Family Court has been implemented?*

- It has been difficult to meet time standards. Last year one division of the UFC was disqualified consistently placing additional cases in the other two divisions. Also, judges who have been on the bench in Family Court for several years get “slammed” when all the cases are assigned back to that division to comply with one judge-one family.
- Assuming, for purposes of argument only, it really is the job of the Court to provide ADR, counseling, custody exchanges, etc., etc., the Court lacks the funds to provide these programs. The majority of the judges have not bought into the program. As long as a few judges “want” to do domestic relations cases – fine. But when one of those judges suffers compassion fatigue or burnout there is much gnashing of teeth over who will take his place. As a result, you get either a judge who doesn’t want to be there and is only concerned with getting out or a judge who is new to the bench and lacks the experience to manage the cases properly. At the onset, the initial “volunteers” are excited and committed to the Unified Family Court concept. When those judges retire or rotate off the Family Court, the success of the Unified Family Court is at risk, since the replacement judges have no commitment to the program.
- The need to change the culture of the attorneys, parties, and court.

Attorney Survey Results

Forty-seven of 76 attorneys asked to complete the pre UFC implementation survey complied, representing a 62% response rate. Thirty-four of 122 attorneys asked to complete the post UFC implementation survey complied, for a 28% response rate.

Efficiency - *extent to which attorneys believe domestic cases are resolved in a timely manner and effectively use court resources, allowing attorneys to be as productive as possible while meeting the needs of clients.*

Compared with their pre-implementation responses, attorney responses show substantially more agreement that post-implementation domestic relations cases are resolved in a timely and efficient manner. Attorneys also strongly agree the post implementation court process helps them to be productive, economical and contributes to their overall efficiency as an attorney [Table 1A].

Table 1 A	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Other attorneys provide me complete and timely documents as required by the Family Court Rule.</i>										
	0 (0%)	16 (34%)	8 (17%)	22 (47%)	1 (2%)	1 (3%)	6 (18%)	9 (27%)	15 (46%)	2 (6%)
<i>Domestic relations cases are resolved in a timely manner.</i>										
	1 (2%)	17 (36%)	12 (26%)	12 (26%)	5 (11%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	23 (68%)	7 (21%)
<i>The domestic relations court process resolves cases efficiently.</i>										
	2 (4%)	15 (32%)	11 (23%)	14 (30%)	5 (11%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	22 (65%)	8 (24%)
<i>The domestic relations court process allows me to be productive and economical.</i>										
	3 (6%)	16 (34%)	9 (19%)	15 (32%)	4 (9%)	2 (6%)	4 (12%)	6 (18%)	17 (50%)	5 (15%)
<i>The domestic relations court scheduling process contributes to my overall efficiency as an attorney.</i>										
	3 (6%)	7 (15%)	17 (36%)	14 (30%)	6 (13%)	2 (6%)	3 (9%)	11 (32%)	13 (38%)	5 (15%)
<i>The domestic relations court scheduling process allows me to schedule matters to meet the needs of my clients and practice.</i>										
	1 (2%)	5 (11%)	4 (9%)	28 (61%)	8 (17%)	4 (12%)	1 (3%)	5 (15%)	19 (56%)	5 (15%)

Family-Friendly - extent to which attorneys believe court personnel and litigants understand and are satisfied with the domestic relations court process.

Compared with pre-implementation responses, attorney responses show substantially more agreement that the post-implementation domestic relations court process is more “family-friendly”, demonstrated through the preparedness and satisfaction of litigants and court personnel. Attorneys also agree or strongly agree the post-implementation court process is easier for clients to understand and use. Finally, a larger proportion of attorneys agree or strongly agree with the statement indicating in the post-implementation environment, they encourage clients to access community based services [Table 2A].

Table 2 A	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>In the majority of my cases, litigants are prepared for court.</i>										
	0 (0%)	11 (24%)	5 (11%)	25 (56%)	4 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (21%)	18 (53%)	9 (27%)
<i>Litigants I represent are satisfied with the domestic relations court process.</i>										
	3 (7%)	17 (37%)	8 (17%)	17 (37%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	4 (12%)	13 (38%)	15 (44%)	2 (6%)
<i>Court personnel are satisfied with the domestic relations court process.</i>										
	1 (2%)	11 (24%)	16 (35%)	17 (37%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	2 (6%)	16 (47%)	12 (35%)	3 (9%)
<i>The domestic relations court process system is "family friendly."</i>										
	2 (4%)	14 (31%)	15 (33%)	13 (29%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	5 (15%)	9 (27%)	14 (41%)	6 (18%)
<i>My clients easily understand the domestic court process.</i>										
	2 (4%)	29 (63%)	6 (13%)	7 (16%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	5 (15%)	15 (44%)	10 (29%)	4 (12%)
<i>The domestic relations court process will be (is) easy to use.</i>										
	5 (11%)	6 (14%)	22 (50%)	9 (21%)	2 (4%)	0 (0%)	7 (21%)	4 (12%)	16 (47%)	7 (21%)
<i>The new domestic relations court process will be (is) easier to understand.</i>										
	4 (9%)	5 (11%)	21 (48%)	12 (27%)	2 (5%)	0 (0%)	6 (18%)	4 (12%)	17 (50%)	7 (21%)
<i>I encourage my clients to access community resources. (e.g., substance abuse counseling, mental health services, etc.)</i>										
	1 (2%)	5 (11%)	9 (19%)	27 (59%)	4 (9%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	3 (9%)	20 (59%)	10 (29%)

Mediation - extent to which attorneys believe Alternative Dispute Resolution methods improve the domestic relations court process.

Compared with pre-implementation responses, attorney post-implementation responses show they have a more positive perception about the effectiveness and efficiency of mediation in resolving domestic relations cases. Attorneys also agree they believe litigants are aware of mediation services in their area and when used, litigants have followed mediated agreements. Attorneys appear more uncertain whether mediation would be helpful in the majority of their cases [Table 3A].

Table 3 A	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Alternative Dispute Resolution (ex. mediation) could provide(s) significant help to me and my clients.</i>										
	0 (0%)	15 (32%)	12 (26%)	15 (32%)	5 (11%)	0 (0%)	2 (6%)	11 (32%)	15 (44%)	6 (18%)
<i>Alternative Dispute Resolution is likely to be (has been) helpful in the majority of my cases.</i>										
	2 (4%)	20 (43%)	9 (19%)	14 (30%)	2 (4%)	2 (6%)	12 (35%)	9 (27%)	8 (24%)	3 (9%)
<i>In the majority of my cases, I think mediated agreements would be (are) followed by litigants.</i>										
	0 (0%)	8 (17%)	17 (37%)	17 (37%)	4 (9%)	0 (0%)	4 (12%)	9 (27%)	20 (59%)	1 (3%)
<i>My clients are aware of mediation services available in my area.</i>										
	5 (11%)	13 (28%)	16 (35%)	12 (26%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	20 (59%)	13 (38%)
<i>I have a positive perception about the effectiveness of mediation in the domestic relations court process.</i>										
	1 (2%)	13 (28%)	10 (21%)	17 (36%)	6 (13%)	0 (0%)	4 (12%)	3 (9%)	20 (59%)	7 (21%)
<i>The addition of mediation to family law will make (has made) resolution of the case easier.</i>										
	2 (4%)	14 (30%)	11 (23%)	17 (36%)	3 (6%)	1 (3%)	7 (21%)	6 (18%)	17 (50%)	3 (9%)

Attorney Open-Ended Responses

Q1. *I am still reluctant to encourage my clients to seek community resources (i.e. substance abuse counseling, mental health services, etc.) because:*

- Services are costly and typically are not an option for clients.
- Difficult to get prompt appointments.
- Could be evidence later and used against them.

Q2. *How do you feel you have contributed to the implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?*

- I serve as a mediator and GAL. I have utilized the Family Drug Court and encouraged others to do so.
- I have done several court-annexed mediations and recommend them to clients.
- Encouraging clients to participate (CMCs and mediation) within the process and operate within the system and time constraints to move these cases.
- Try to abide by the scheduling rule.
- Become familiar with consistency of rules and requirements.
- I have encouraged clients to connect with community resources.
- Support the supervised exchange program.
- Ensure clerks know about companion cases.

Q3. *How do you think the clients you represent have benefited from the implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?*

- Knowing who their judge is from the beginning (one family, one judge).
- Knowing case is on track with Case Management Conference.
- It has streamlined the process and made it simpler and makes the clients more connected to the process through the CMC and mediation (for those who use it).
- Definitive trial settings help with preparation and settlement.
- Cases have been resolved quicker.
- MARCH mediation has settled case quicker.
- Family Drug Courts would not be possible for most of my clients without the Unified Family Courts.

Q4. *How do you think the 11th Judicial Circuit has benefited from the implementation of the Unified Family court?*

- Consistency and uniformity has benefited all.
- Timely scheduling of most cases, predictable process to describe and explain to clients. Court viewed in more favorable light.
- The time to do a family matter is more streamlined and predictable.
- Cases are resolved quicker.
- Consolidation is cost efficient and time efficient.
- The circuit is better organized, the judges are knowledgeable and prepared.
- Fewer competing orders (i.e. OPs, PDL, etc.)
- Very little repetition or redundancy of efforts.
- Less last minute continuances and “judge shopping”.
- Less trial continuances than old method of judge assigned the day of trial.

Q5. *What do you feel has been the most significant challenge(s) for the 11th Judicial Circuit since the Unified Family Court has been implemented?*

- Funding for services/programs, including Family Court Coordinator and GAL.
- Case assignments have been lopsided due to internal problems with one of the judges, resulting in overloading one specific judge and scheduling has been delayed by the sheer volume of cases assigned to the overloaded judge.
- Confusion with which court room to appear for non attorneys for orders of protections since many divisions have them the same day and time.
- Allowing enough time for mediation before trial since often clients do not want attorneys to prepare for trial (expend funds) before they try mediation.
- Moving CMC settings quickly and efficiently. Getting trial dates quickly for easier cases (i.e. child support modifications, contempt, emancipation)
- Rigidity of trial schedule has been problematic on some. All related matters (i.e. OPs, divorce, mtm) with one judge is good but has stalled many cases when the commonality isn't found by clerks.
- Staggering dockets so family lawyers don't have to pick which judge to upset because they are in another division.
- Staggered dockets for CMC would be a blessing. Allowing clients to be available by phone for CMC so they don't need to lose a day's pay for minutes with a judge.
- I believe that the CMC's are a complete waste of attorney time and clients time. Local lawyers are capable of getting cases set for trial without having to wait for up to 2 hours at the CMC to set a case for trial. I would encourage you to do away with CMC.

- PTC should be before CMC and implement mediation. Mediation should occur prior to CMC. Seem to have lost effectiveness of settling cases early on in the process with the loss of the mandatory PTCs. CMCs serve as scheduling/time resolution but not necessarily effective because no early contact with judge. Judges assigned under UFC cases often have no experience or are not familiar with the law in the other areas of the cases assigned such as probate, divorce, motions to modify, juvenile court, orders of protections, and adoptions.

Clerk Survey Results

Nine clerks were requested to complete the pre UFC implementation survey. Nine complied for a 100% response rate. Nine clerks were requested to complete the post UFC implementation survey. Eight complied, for an 89% response rate.

Workload and Efficiency- *extent to which clerks believe domestic cases are resolved in a timely manner and court resources are used efficiently.*

Compared with pre-implementation responses, clerk responses show substantially more agreement with statements that indicate post-implementation domestic relations cases are resolved in a timely and efficient manner. Clerk responses also suggest they believe the domestic court scheduling process more satisfactorily provides for the needs of litigants and judges. Similarly, the process of judge assignment is viewed more favorably [Table 1C].

Table 1 C	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Domestic cases are resolved in a timely manner.</i>										
	2 (22%)	2 (22%)	2 (22%)	3 (33%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	5 (63%)	1 (13%)
<i>Domestic cases are resolved through an efficient use of court resources.</i>										
	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	3 (33%)	4 (44%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	2 (25%)	5 (63%)	0 (0%)
<i>The domestic court process discourages clerks from being efficient and productive.</i>										
	2 (22%)	3 (33%)	3 (33%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)
<i>The scheduling process hinders clerks from scheduling hearings that meet litigants' needs.</i>										
	0 (0%)	4 (44%)	4 (44%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (75%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)
<i>The scheduling process allows judges to be efficient.</i>										
	0 (0%)	1 (11%)	6 (67%)	2 (22%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	2 (25%)
<i>The domestic court process generates an unmanageable workload.</i>										
	0 (0%)	2 (22%)	5 (56%)	2 (22%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	3 (38%)	2 (25%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)
<i>Assignment of judges to domestic cases is an efficient process.</i>										
	0 (0%)	4 (44%)	2 (22%)	3 (33%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	5 (63%)	0 (0%)

Public Perception and Accommodation – extent to which clerks believe the domestic court is easily understood and accommodates the needs of litigants.

Compared with pre-implementation responses, clerk responses show they believe families understand the post-implementation domestic court process and are more aware of services available in the community. They also agree the court assists families in acquiring these services. However, clerk responses suggest they are less certain the post-implementation domestic relations court process is “family-friendly” [Table 2C].

Table 2 C	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>The court ensures litigants are aware of services available in our community.</i>										
	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	4 (44%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	6 (75%)	0 (0%)
<i>Families do not understand the domestic court process.</i>										
	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	6 (67%)	1 (11%)	1 (13%)	3 (38%)	3 (38%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)
<i>The domestic court process is "family friendly."</i>										
	1 (11%)	5 (56%)	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	3 (38%)	3 (38%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)
<i>The court assists litigants in acquiring services they need.</i>										
	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	4 (44%)	0 (0%)	2 (22%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	6 (75%)	0 (0%)
<i>Families believe they can resolve domestic issues for themselves, rather than seeking court involvement.</i>										
	0 (0%)	4 (44%)	4 (44%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	3 (38%)	3 (38%)	0 (0%)

Interaction with other Court Personnel- extent to which clerks believe court personnel cooperate with one another.

Compared with pre-implementation responses, clerk post implementation responses show noticeably more agreement that attorneys cooperate with other court staff, and that court staff cooperate with one another to resolve and achieve timely dispositions in domestic relations cases [Table 3C].

Table 3 C	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Attorneys cooperate with other court personnel to achieve timely dispositions</i>										
	0 (0%)	3 (33%)	6 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	0 (0%)	7 (88%)	0 (0%)
<i>Court personnel cooperate to resolve domestic cases. (Court personnel other than attorneys.)</i>										
	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (33%)	6 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	7 (88%)	0 (0%)

General - Consider the new Unified Family Court - extent to which clerks believe the new Unified Family Court will be easier to understand and manage.

Compared with pre-implementation responses, clerk responses show substantially more agreement with statements indicating post-implementation domestic relations cases are resolved in a timely and efficient manner. Clerk responses also suggest they believe the post-implementation domestic court scheduling process more satisfactorily provides for the needs of litigants and judges. Similarly, the process of judge assignment is more favorably viewed [Table 4C].

Table 4 C	Pre-UFC					Post-UFC				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Court personnel are "on-board" with the new Unified Family Court concept.</i>										
	0 (0%)	2 (22%)	3 (33%)	3 (33%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	7 (88%)	0 (0%)
<i>The new Unified Family Court will be easier to understand than our previous domestic court process.</i>										
	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (56%)	4 (44%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	6 (75%)	0 (0%)

Clerk Open-Ended Responses

Q1. *In what ways have clerks contributed to the implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?*

- Clerks are a pivotal influence on attorneys for this program and their acceptance of the program from the beginning is the most important aspect.
- Opening, relating, and assigning cases to the appropriate judges' clerks, make sure cases remain on the docket (always have future date).
- Clerks had to work together to make sure cases were assigned to the correct judge and given to that clerk for the court date.

Q2. *How do you think families have benefited from the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?*

- By knowing that they have to deal with one judge.
- I feel having the same judge on all family court cases will be a great benefit because the judge will understand the family much better.
- More cases are uncontested or settled prior to trial. Cases are done more expediently
- There are more programs available to them. Families i.e. mediation, special masters program to settle cases.

Q3. List the most significant challenges(s) to implementation of the UFC experienced by clerk staff in the 11th Judicial Circuit:

- Judge’s rotation assignment to F.C. hinders 1 family concept.
- There are issues between family court judges and the use of transfer judges.
- Unclear what cases qualify to be related (same mom but different dad).
- Placing each case with the same judge. Dealing with present and past cases. Pro se parties not understanding that their CMC date is not their final court date.
- The most difficult thing is for the case initiation clerks to figure out which division the cases should be assigned – this causes extra work and uses time they don’t have.

Participant Survey Results

To assess the extent to which participants (petitioners and respondents) believe the Circuit 11 family court incorporates the essential components that define the UFC model, and if so, whether these components were related to participant satisfaction, two surveys were distributed at different times during the implementation process. Survey A was distributed approximately six months; and Survey B, two years after the initial implementation of the UFC model. In both cases, surveys were mailed to UFC participants thirty days after the resolution of their domestic relations case. The thirty-day lag between case resolution and survey mailing served as a “cooling off” period for participants to gain perspective regarding their UFC experience. Survey A resulted in 266 survey mailings. Sixty-three of these surveys were completed and returned to OSCA, representing a 24% response rate. Survey B resulted in 494 survey mailings. Sixty-five of these surveys were completed and returned to OSCA, representing a 13% response rate.

Participant Characteristics – characteristics of responding participants.

A majority of participants responding to both Survey A & B were petitioners. In contrast to Survey A participants, Survey B participants were more likely to be represented by an attorney. Furthermore, Survey B participants were more likely to be involved in a contested case involving children. Perhaps as a result of the trial process related to contested matters, Survey B respondents were less likely to expect the outcome of their case [Table 1P].

Table 1 P						
Participant Survey Submitted	Survey A (6 mos)			Survey B (2 yrs)		
	Petitioner	Respondent	Total	Petitioner	Respondent	Total
	41 (65%)	22 (35%)	63	42 (62%)	26 (38%)	68

Legal & Case Status	Survey A (6 mos)			Survey B (2 yrs)	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
<i>Participant represented by attorney</i>					
	51 (81%)	12 (19%)		71 (97%)	2 (3%)
<i>Case involved children</i>					
	43 (68%)	20 (32%)		64 (89%)	8 (11%)
<i>Concerns with children were contested</i>					
	22 (38%)	36 (62%)		36 (52%)	33 (48%)
<i>Case went to trial</i>					
	16 (28%)	42 (72%)		24 (35%)	45 (65%)
<i>Outcome of case was expected</i>					
	41 (71%)	17 (29%)		39 (61%)	25 (39%)

Case Processing - extent to which participants believe the Unified Family Court is timely and convenient.

Perceptions of UFC timeliness and convenience show that both Survey A & B participants agreed having one judge hear all their cases was convenient and helped to inform the judge regarding what action to take. However, a larger proportion of Survey B participants thought their case was not resolved in the amount of time they expected. A majority of Survey A & B participants agreed they received clear answers to questions about their case from their attorneys and court personnel, including court reporters, security and clerks [Table 2P].

Table 2 P	Survey A (6 mos)		Survey B (2 yrs)	
	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	Strongly Agree/ Agree
<i>Once my case was filed with the court, it was completed in about the amount of time I thought it would take</i>				
	32 (51%)	31 (49%)	49 (68%)	23 (32%)
<i>*Having the same judge during the entire court process was convenient</i>				
	5 (28%)	13 (72%)	8 (24%)	26 (76%)
<i>*Having the same judge hear all my cases seemed to help him/her know what action(s) needed to be taken</i>				
	2 (15%)	11 (85%)	5 (20%)	20 (80%)
<i>When I had questions about my case, or what I was supposed to do, I got clear information from:</i>				
<i>My attorney</i>	9 (17%)	43 (83%)	12 (18%)	56 (82%)
<i>Court Clerk</i>	7 (32%)	15 (68%)	6 (26%)	17 (74%)
<i>Court Reporter</i>	4 (22%)	14 (78%)	7 (32%)	15 (68%)
<i>Court Security</i>	4 (24%)	13 (76%)	7 (32%)	15 (68%)
*Trial Cases Only				

Participant Comments

- As far as the same judge, for me I liked it but I've seen others get a really bad judge and need a change.
- I was in front of judge who did not know nor care to hear about the history of previous cases.
- My judgment was given in a timely manner.
- The process from filing to trial was way too long. There is no way a divorce should drag on and on.
- Judge should keep to a better schedule on court day.
- I think there should be a set time. No excuses when it's time for your trial.
- Although I was presented with a timetable from the court at the beginning, it was never enforced, very unhappy about that.

Case Outcome - extent to which participants believe their UFC outcome was fair and that related court orders will be followed.

Although a majority of both Survey A & B participants agreed judicial decisions delivered through the UFC model were fair to all parties involved in their case, proportionately fewer Survey B participants responded in this manner. Similarly, although a majority of both Survey A & B participants agreed they intend to follow the terms of court orders related to their case, proportionately fewer Survey B participants believed other parties involved with the case will do the same [Table 3].

Table 3 P	Survey A (6 mos)		Survey B (2 yrs)	
	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	Strongly Agree/ Agree
<i>*The judge's decision was fair to everyone in the case</i>				
	6 (30%)	14 (70%)	18 (46%)	21 (54%)
<i>*I plan to follow the terms of the court order</i>				
	0 (0%)	20 (100%)	2 (5%)	38 (95%)
<i>*I believe other parties involved in my case will follow the terms of the court order</i>				
	10 (53%)	9 (47%)	26 (63%)	15 (37%)

Participant Comments

- Judge was very fair.
- I don't think the judge really read the circumstances surrounding my divorce and therefore did not make a logical decision regarding the best interest of the parties involved.
- I feel like the family court rubber stamps cases and moves on rather than focus on the merits of each case.
- My experience with the whole family court system is a male biased system.
- Court did not listen to what was best for my child.

Service Information - extent to which participants believe services were explained and offered to their family; whether they were used; and whether they would recommend.

Compared with Survey A participants who were evenly split on the matter, a majority of Survey B participants recall having legal or court staff explain and offer services available to their family at some point during their UFC experience. Mediation and child education programming were the most frequently used and recommended services by both Survey A & B participants [Table 4 P].

Table 4 P	Survey A (6 mos)		Survey B (2 yrs)	
	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	Strongly Agree/ Agree
<i>At some point during my court case, several types of services were explained and offered to my family, for example: mediation, substance abuse services, child exchange services, etc.</i>				
	25 (49%)	26 (51%)	20 (29%)	48 (71%)
<i>Did your family use any of the following services while your court case was being processed:</i>				
	Yes	No	Yes	No
<i>Mediation</i>	10 (16%)	51 (84%)	39 (53%)	35 (47%)
<i>Custody Exchange Services</i>	0 (0%)	61 (100%)	4 (6%)	67 (94%)
<i>Child Education Services</i>	9 (15%)	51 (85%)	16 (22%)	57 (78%)
<i>Drug Testing</i>	0 (0%)	61 (100%)	4 (6%)	68 (94%)
<i>Substance Abuse Services</i>	1 (2%)	60 (98%)	0 (0%)	72 (100%)
<i>Which services would you recommend to other families involved in the UFC process:</i>				
<i>Mediation</i>	36 (86%)	6 (14%)	44 (75%)	15 (25%)
<i>Custody Exchange Services</i>	21 (72%)	8 (28%)	28 (61%)	18 (39%)
<i>Child Education Services</i>	27 (84%)	5 (16%)	33 (67%)	16 (33%)
<i>Drug Testing</i>	22 (71%)	9 (29%)	25 (57%)	19 (43%)
<i>Substance Abuse Services</i>	21 (70%)	9 (30%)	21 (48%)	23 (52%)

Participant Comments

- The mediation program was outstanding.
- I think it is in the interest of every single parent to be offered mediation immediately, not after appearing in court.
- Mediation services are a joke total waste of time to sit while a mediation person sits and tells about his past with his family and Grandpa.
- Mediator was not an attorney and did not seem knowledgeable in law. Did not make any suggestions as to fair solution, nor did she push for resolution. Did not feel I could express individual opinions.
- My ex was supposed to take parenting classes, alcohol abuse classes, and anger management but somehow he got custody without taking any of these.

Personnel Interaction - extent to which participants believe they were treated with respect and courtesy by attorneys, judges and other court staff.

Although a majority of Survey A & B participants agreed their attorneys did a good job representing them and treated them with courtesy and respect, proportionately more Survey B participants responded in this manner. Conversely, proportionately fewer Survey B participants responded that court staff [other than the judge assigned to their case] treated them with courtesy and respect. Further, proportionately fewer Survey B participants responded the judge listened closely to the facts and seemed interested in reaching a fair decision.

Table 5 P	Survey A (6 mos)		Survey B (2 yrs)	
	Strongly Disagree/Disagree	Strongly Agree/Agree	Strongly Disagree/Disagree	Strongly Agree/Agree
<i>My attorney treated me with courtesy and respect.</i>				
	6 (12%)	45 (88%)	5 (7%)	62 (93%)
<i>*My attorney did a good job representing my concerns with the judge.</i>				
	3 (17%)	15 (83%)	6 (16%)	31 (84%)
<i>Court staff (other than the judge and my attorney) treated me with courtesy and respect.</i>				
	4 (8%)	49 (92%)	8 (13%)	56 (87%)
<i>*The judge listened closely to the facts of the case and seemed interested in reaching a fair decision.</i>				
	5 (25%)	15 (75%)	14 (39%)	22 (61%)
*Trial Cases Only				

Participant Comments

- I had a great lawyer and judge.
- I feel my judge was very respectful of the petitioner, the attorneys for both parties and I.
- My case was in front of the judge five times and I never saw him once. Lawyers and judge drag it out.
- My attorney did not present nor pursue all avenues available.
- The respondent's attorney and respondent were allowed to do things in court.....attorney slammed folders on the table and respondent threw a pencil and was allowed to use vulgar language.
- I felt neglected and left in the dark most of the time. My lawyer did a poor job of explaining things and told me wrong in some cases.

Conclusion

The Unified Family Court of the 11th Judicial Circuit has made considerable progress in implementing the essential components of the UFC model.

Clear procedures have been established for assigning one judge to one family. As a result, the number of families with multiple cases coordinated under a single judge of jurisdiction has steadily increased since the implementation of the UFC model. Survey data suggest judges, attorneys and participants [of those responding] agree that having a single judge of jurisdiction has helped to maximize the use of judicial resources, enhance judicial understanding of the personal and legal needs of families, and promote fairness and consistency in judicial orders.

To manage court resources and improve on case timeliness, a differentiated case management system has been developed and implemented. Based on the level of complexity, cases are assigned to specific “tracks” with an associated expected time to resolution. Data reflecting the accuracy of track assignment indicate cases assigned to the “standard track” meet the expected time to resolution most frequently, with cases assigned to the “expedited track” meeting the expectation least frequently. Although it appears the criteria associated with certain tracks may require adjustment to improve their accuracy, a moderate decrease in average time to disposition since UFC implementation suggests systematizing case assignment and management may be contributing to the court timeliness. In contrast, survey data show a divergence in the perceptions of judges and attorneys [in particular] who believe the procedure has improved efficiency and timeliness of the court, and participants [of those responding] who continue to express dissatisfaction with the amount of time required to resolve their case.

The use of less adversarial approaches to handling domestic relations cases has clearly increased. Both the number of cases where mediation was ordered and the number of children and families served through this process grew substantially since UFC implementation, while the proportion of total cases requiring a trial decreased over the same period. Furthermore, the average time to dispose mediated cases remained relatively unchanged even as the number of mediated cases increased. Survey data show the majority of attorneys have developed a positive opinion about the efficiency and effectiveness of mediation and encourage clients to use this alternative to the trial process. As a result, the majority of judges report they recognize attorneys are diverting clients to mediation when non-judicial resolution of cases seems appropriate. Survey results for participants were less definitive. Although mediation was the most frequently reported service reportedly used by participants, comments were mixed as to whether they would recommend the service over the trial process.

Court personnel received training to ensure knowledge regarding the availability of community services and programs but actual program participation during implementation was limited. Survey data show, participants are more well-informed about programs available to their families, particularly mediation. However, circumstances beyond court control, including insufficient funds and personnel issues limited the ability of the court to completely develop and implement the child education, custody exchange, drug testing and substance abuse programs that were anticipated. Aside from mediation, the most frequently used services were related to substance abuse and drug testing.

Automation was used in meaningful ways to support the UFC. JIS and Reportnet applications were used for the purposes of case coordination, assignment and monitoring, and to inform staff through statistical reporting. In addition, through the development of a *“Home Page of the website for Missouri’s Eleventh Judicial Circuit”*, UFC stakeholders are provided an orientation of what to expect as a UFC participant, as well as information regarding court and community resources. As funds and technical staff resources permit, the UFC expects to expand on the information made available at this location.

Appendices

Appendix A - Schedule

UFC EVALUATION TASK TRACKING FOR CIRCUIT 11

Circuit 11 UFC Implementation Date = 01/01/08	Staff	Planned Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Comments
Task				
1. All Staff Pre-Implementation Survey				
1a. Pre-implementation interview w/ circuit staff	An, R	11/08/07	11/08/07	
1b. Develop pre-implementation survey	A, J	11/28/07	11/28/07	
1c. Distribute survey @ OSCA training	A, J	11/29/07	11/29/07	
1d. Organize and distribute workshop planning notes	A, J	12/07/07	12/07/07	
1e. Organize and analyze survey data	J	12/07/07	12/07/07	
1f. Email results of survey to court staff	J	12/07/07	12/07/07	
2. Attorney Pre & Post Implementation Surveys				
2a. Develop attorney pre-implementation survey	A	12/01/07	12/01/07	
2b. Distribute survey @ local attorney training	C	12/12/07	12/12/07	
2c. Survey return date	C	01/05/08	01/05/08	
2d. Organize and analyze survey data	R	02/15/08	02/29/08	
2e. Distribute survey results to court	R	05/01/08	07/12/08	
2f. Develop post-implementation survey	R	02/01/10	03/01/10	
2g. Distribute post-implementation survey	C	06/15/10	06/15/10	
2h. Survey return date	C	07/15/10	07/15/10	
2i. Compare pre/post survey data	R	08/01/10	08/01/10	
2j. Final report	R	08/1/10	08/20/10	
3. Clerk Pre & Post Implementation Surveys				
3a. Develop clerk pre-implementation survey	J	01/05/08	01/05/08	
3b. Distribute survey @ local clerk	C	01/17/08	01/17/08	
3c. Survey return date	C	01/25/08	01/25/08	
3d. Organize and analyze survey data	R	02/15/08	04/01/08	
3e. Distribute survey results to court	R	05/01/08	07/12/08	
3f. Develop post-implementation survey	R	02/01/10	03/01/10	
3g. Distribute post-implementation survey	C	06/15/10	03/01/10	
3h. Survey Return Date	C	07/15/10	06/15/10	

Appendix A - Schedule
UFC EVALUATION TASK TRACKING FOR CIRCUIT 11

3i. Compare pre/post survey data	R	08/01/10	07/15/10	
3j. Final report	R	08/01/10	08/20/10	
4. Judge Pre & Post Implementation Surveys				
4a. Develop judge pre-implementation survey	A, J	01/25/08	02/14/08	Complete
4b. Distribute survey @ local judge or court en banc	C	02/14/08	02/14/08	Need clarification on when this survey can be distributed. Ray needs to know if all judges or just some will get it. This will determine how the survey is distributed. Need judges to have for week 2/15/08. One judge out to 18 th .
4c. Survey return date	C	02/25/08	02/20/08	
4d. Organize and analyze survey data	R	02/15/08	04/01/08	
2e. Distribute survey results to court	R	05/01/08	07/12/08	
4f. Develop post-implementation survey	R	02/01/10	03/01/10	
4g. Distribute post-implementation survey	C	06/15/10	03/01/10	
4h. Survey return	C	07/15/10	06/15/10	
4i. Compare pre/post survey data	R	08/01/10	07/15/10	
4j. Final Report	R	08/01/10	08/20/10	
5. Participant Survey				
5a. Develop family post-UFC survey	R	05/01/08	06/30/08	Need clarification on how and when this survey can be distributed. Needs to be determined before survey is developed, per Anne.
5b. Distribute family post-UFC survey	JA,C	1/31/09 04/01/10	1/31/09 07/31/10	Use JIS L-merge to create and distribute survey Aug 2008. Second mailing Jan 09.
5c. Survey return	T	2/28/09	2/28/09	
5d. Organize and analyze survey data	T,R	3/5/09 08/01/10	3/5/09 08/20/10	
5e. Final report	R	08/01/10	08/20/10	

Appendix A - Schedule
UFC EVALUATION TASK TRACKING FOR CIRCUIT 11

Quarterly Report Schedule				
Report Due Date	Staff	Reminder Date	Actual Submission Date	Comments
01/30/08	A, J	01/25/08	01/30/08	
04/30/08	A, J	03/31/08	03/31/08	
07/31/08	A, J	06/30/08	07/31/08	Nicely prepared. Counts stabilizing.
10/31/08	A, J	09/30/08	10/31/08	
01/31/09	A, J	01/15/08	01/31/09	
04/30/09	R	04/15/09	04/30/09	
07/30/09	R	07/15/09	07/30/09	
10/30/09	R	10/15/09	10/30/09	
01/31/10	R	unk	01/31/10	
04/30/10	R	unk	04/30/10	
07/31/10	R	unk	07/31/10	

An=Anne
A=Angela
C=Cindy/Charla
J=Joie
Ja=Jameille
R=Rick
T=Tina

Appendix B

Unified Family Court Case Coordinator

General Characteristics: Under the administrative direction of the Presiding Judge or Family Court Administrative Judge or their designee, performs highly responsible Unified Family Court activities. Primary responsibilities include performance of the day-to-day activities necessary to provide a high quality, coordinated approach to the assignment of cases, management of the case flow process, and delivery of services in all cases under the jurisdiction of the Unified Family Court.

Examples of Work Performed

Evaluates each case at the outset to determine the appropriate differentiated case management assignment and referral to services.

Identifies and coordinates case assignment and case processing of multiple cases involving one family.

Provides information to the court and attorneys on court history of families.

Provides information to court on compliance with court orders (e.g., child support, paternity establishment, orders of protection).

Monitors caseload progress to assure efficient and speedy processing of cases through the court system.

Troubleshoots problems with docketing/calendaring of cases.

Makes recommendation to the court for improvements in caseload management process.

Coordinates referrals for and access to court based services and provides linkages to community based services and providers. (e.g. counseling services, legal services, mediation, supervised visitation programs)

Responsible for collection and reporting of process and outcome data necessary to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Unified Family Court model.

Processes invoices, reimburses providers and monitors award expenditures according to OSCA project site requirements.

Prepares and submits all OSCA project site program reports and forms according to the project requirements.

Prepares and/or maintains information packets and resource materials for parties attorneys, community providers and the public.

Serves as a liaison between parties, attorneys, law enforcement, agencies and court.

Quarterly Report

Submitted by: _____ **Phone:** _____

Reporting Period

- January – March, due April 30, 2010
- April – June, due July 31, 2010
- July – September, due October 31, 2010
- October – December, due January 31, 2010

SECTION I: Summary Narratives

Activities

Please provide a summary narrative of any activities (meetings, trainings, local court rule development, program enhancements, etc.) that have been completed or are ongoing during this quarter.

Accomplishments

Please provide a summary narrative of any notable accomplishments during this quarter.

Challenges

Please provide a summary narrative of any challenges the UFC is facing at this time and plans to address these challenges.

Example: Having difficulty with court staff buy-in, Service provider no longer in business, etc.

Planned Activities for Next Quarter

Please list any activities or events planned for the upcoming quarter. Include details (dates, parties involved, agendas, etc.) where available. (See section VI.)

Other

Please provide a summary narrative of any additional information you feel would be valuable to the evaluation of the UFC. (See section VI for possible items to attach.)

SECTION II: Contracted Personnel

For activities, please provide any necessary details below the table.

Position	Name	Date Position Started	# of Hours this Period	Activities
Family Court Coordinator				

Unified Family Court

SECTION III: Case & Party Information.

Please run the following Reportnet reports located in your Adhocreporting folder for the following information.

UFC SEARCH FOR CONCURRENT CASES (use information from this report to populate the following table)

Number of families with a domestic case filed during reporting quarter that have one or more other cases that will be coordinated with the domestic case (exclude municipal, criminal, traffic case types).	Total number of cases coordinated for quarter.

AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION BY CASE TYPE AND DOCKET ALL Q CASES
(exclude DDPT, DDCT and DDCTP dismissed cases)

Summary Count for Reporting Quarter

AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION BY CASE TYPE AND DOCKET ALL Q CASES for DDPT, DDCT and DDCTP dismissed cases.

Summary Count for Reporting Quarter

ALL Q CASES INITIATED

Summary Count for Reporting Quarter

ALL Q CASES PENDING

Summary Count for Reporting Quarter

Unified Family Court

ALL Q CASES DISPOSED BY CASE TYPE AND DOCKET

Summary Count for Reporting Quarter

Q CASES DISPOSED WITH MEDIATOR BY D CODE DATE

Summary Count for Reporting Quarter

Q CASES WITH MEDIATOR ORDERED BY ORDER DATE

Summary Count for Reporting Quarter

SECTION IV: Intervention and Prevention Programs and Services

Please enter the information requested in the tables below for services your circuit provides for its clients. Please attach supporting documentation of services provided. (See section VI.)

Program/Service Mediation	# Families this quarter	# of Children this quarter	# Hrs this quarter	# Families year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Children year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Hrs year-to- date
M.A.R.C.H			N/A			N/A
Private/Grant						

Program/Service	# Families this quarter	# of Children this quarter	# Exchanges this quarter	# Families year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Children year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Exchange yr-to-date
Custody Exchange Services						

Program/Service	# Families this quarter	# of Children this quarter	# Hrs this quarter	# Families year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Children year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Hrs year-to- date
Child Education Services						

Program/Service	# Adults this quarter	# of Children this quarter	# ? this quarter	# Adults year- to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Children year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# ? year- to-date
Substance Abuse Services						

Program/Service	# Adults this quarter	# of Children this quarter	# Tests this quarter	# Adults year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Children year-to-date (Unduplicated Count)	# Tested year-to-date
Drug Testing						

SECTION V: Professional Staff Development

Please list any training received by all professional staff during the quarterly reporting period. Additionally, please attach any training agendas or handouts that detail the training content. (See section VI.)

Name of Event (Training, Course, etc.)	Date	Location	Type¹	Duration²	Participants by Discipline	Number of Participants

¹Training types may include Group, One-on-One, Online, Conference, etc.
²Length of training (1 day, 4 hours, 1 week, etc.)

SECTION VI: Supporting Documentation

Please attach the following types of documentation for this reporting period, as requested in sections above:

- Meeting agendas and minutes
- Updated court rules
- Updated case processing procedures
- Revised job descriptions
- Revised organizational charts
- Newly created program or service brochures or pamphlets
- Spreadsheets or other information detailing program participation
- Training agendas or handouts
- Updated web screenshots
- DVD or other audio/visual materials
- Forms or counts used in reporting program participation
- Other

Upon completion, please submit report to:

Office of State Courts Administrator

OSCA Research

Appendix C

Unified Family Court

Circuit 11

P.O. Box 104480, Jefferson City, MO 65110

For questions regarding this report, contact Research Division at (573)751-4377

Unified Family Court

11th Circuit Judge Pre-Implementation Survey

This survey is an important part of an evaluation of the Unified Family Court which began processing domestic cases in Circuit 11 on January 1, 2008. Regardless of whether you hear domestic cases, the Research Unit at Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator is interested in your thoughts about the domestic court process **as it existed in Circuit 11 prior to the implementation date of the Unified Family Court**. Your responses are confidential. The results of this survey will be aggregated and distributed for your review. A post-implementation survey will be administered at a later date. Thank you for participating in the survey.

Yes No I hear domestic cases.

Yes No I am familiar with the Unified Family Court as a domestic court concept.

Based on your perceptions of, or experience with the domestic court process in your circuit prior to Jan 1, 2008, to what extent do you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Case Processing					
1. Consolidating or coordinating cases involving inter-related family law issues would help our domestic court maximize its use of judicial resources.					
2. Conflicting and duplicative judicial orders are a problem for our domestic court.					
3. Consolidating or coordinating cases involving inter-related family law issues would better accommodate the needs of families.					
4. Our domestic court process should differentiate cases in terms of their complexity to conserve and balance judicial workload.					
5. Compared with other case types in our circuit, domestic cases are difficult to resolve in a timely manner.					
6. Judge assignment and domestic case scheduling is an inefficient process in our circuit.					
7. Domestic cases are resolved in our circuit more quickly when some form of alternative dispute resolution is used.					
Personnel					
8. Judicial and nonjudicial personnel in our domestic court can function effectively without any special training in child development and family functioning.					
9. Attorneys in our circuit provide complete and timely documents for domestic cases.					
10. Attorneys in our circuit divert domestic cases for non-judicial resolution when appropriate and consistent with the ends of justice.					
11. Domestic court personnel in our circuit cooperate to achieve timely dispositions.					
Service Delivery					
12. Our domestic court should offer a variety of dispute resolution forums that empower families to resolve their own problems without extensive reliance on judicial intervention.					
13. Therapeutic justice, which provides services that address family's interrelated legal and non-legal problems, should NOT be an emphasis of our domestic court process.					
14. A major goal of our domestic court should be to minimize the need for subsequent court action by linking families with services that promote positive family functioning.					
15. Our domestic court should be responsible for post-disposition compliance with judicial orders.					
16. Our domestic courts should provide safe visitation and custody exchange programs.					

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Dr. Anne Janku, Research Manager, Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator, at 573.522.6081 or anne.janku@courts.mo.gov

Unified Family Court - For UFC Judges Only

11th Circuit Judge Pre-Implementation Survey

1. How do you think families will most benefit from implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?
2. How do you think the 11th Judicial Circuit will most benefit from implementation of the Unified Family Court?
3. What will be the most significant challenge(s) for the 11th Judicial Circuit as the Unified Family Court is implemented?
4. What factors hinder efficiency in the domestic court process?
5. In what ways could the process of judge assignment be improved?
6. If you have any additional comments regarding the implementation of the Unified Family Court, please use the space provided below.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Dr. Anne Janku, Research Manager, Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator, at (573) 522-6081 or anne.janku@courts.mo.gov.

Unified Family Court

Attorney Pre-Implementation Survey

This survey is an important part of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Unified Family Court program. The Research Unit at Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator would like your thoughts on the local court system as it has functioned prior to the implementation of the new Unified Family Court. Please consider the current situation in responding to each of these statements. Your responses will remain confidential. The results of this survey will be presented in a group format. A post-implementation survey will be administered at a later date.

11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

YEARS IN PRACTICE _____

TRAINED AS A MEDIATOR? YES NO

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
--	-------------------	----------	----------------------------	-------	----------------

EFFICIENCY

1. Other attorneys are providing me full, complete, and timely documents as required by the Family Court Rule.					
2. Under the current court system, domestic cases are resolved quickly.					
3. Under the current court system, domestic cases are resolved efficiently.					
4. The current court system allows me to be economically efficient and productive.					
5. The current scheduling system allows me to schedule matters to meet my needs and the needs of my clients.					
6. The current scheduling system contributes to my efficiency as an attorney.					
7. In the majority of my cases, litigants are prepared for court.					

MEDIATION

8. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ex. mediation) could provide significant help to me and my clients.					
9. Alternative Dispute Resolution is likely to be helpful in the majority of my cases.					
10. The addition of mediation to family law will make resolution of the case easier.					
11. I have a positive perception about the effectiveness of mediation in the family court process.					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

MEDIATION (continued)

12. In the majority of my cases, I think mediated agreements would be followed by litigants.					
13. My clients are aware of any mediation services available in my area.					
FAMILY-FRIENDLY					
14. My clients easily understand the current domestic court system.					
15. Litigants I represent tend to be satisfied with the current court process.					
16. Court personnel tend to be satisfied with the current court process.					
17. The current Family Court system could be described as "family friendly."					
18. The new Family Court system will be easier to understand than the current system.					
19. The new Family Court system will be easier to use.					
SERVICES					
20. I encourage my clients to access community resources. (i.e. substance abuse counseling, mental health services, etc.)					

21. I might be hesitant to encourage my clients to seek community resources (i.e. substance abuse counseling, mental health services, etc.) because:

If you have any additional comments regarding the implementation of the Unified Family Court, please use the space provided below.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Dr. Anne Janku, Research Manager, Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator, at (573) 522-6081 or anne.janku@courts.mo.gov.

Unified Family Court

Attorney Pre-Implementation Survey

1. How do you see yourself contributing to the implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?
2. How do you think the clients you represent will most benefit from the implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?
3. How do you think the 11th Judicial Circuit will most benefit from the implementation of the Unified Family Court?
4. What do you feel will be the most significant challenge(s) for the 11th Judicial Circuit as the Unified Family Court is implemented?

Unified Family Court

11th Circuit Clerk Pre-Implementation Survey

This survey is an important part of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Unified Family Court program. The Research Unit at Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator would like your thoughts on the local court system as it has functioned prior to the implementation of the new Unified Family Court. Please consider the current situation in responding to each of these statements. Your responses will remain confidential. The results of this survey will be presented in a group format. A post-implementation survey will be administered at a later date.

Consider your court process prior to January 1, 2008 when responding to Questions 1 - 17.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
WORKLOAD AND EFFICIENCY OF COURT					
1. Communication among domestic court personnel promotes efficiency.					
2. Domestic cases are resolved in a timely manner.					
3. Domestic cases are resolved through an efficient use of court resources.					
4. The domestic court process discourages clerks from being efficient and productive.					
5. The scheduling process hinders clerks from scheduling hearings that meet litigants' needs.					
6. The scheduling process allows judges to be efficient.					
7. The domestic court process generates an unmanageable workload.					
8. Assignment of judges to domestic cases is an efficient process.					
PUBLIC PERCEPTION / ACCOMMODATION					
9. The court ensures litigants are aware of services available in our community.					
10. Families do not understand the domestic court process.					
11. The domestic court process is "family friendly."					
12. The court does not assist litigants in acquiring services they need.					
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
PUBLIC PERCEPTION / ACCOMMODATION					

13. Families exit domestic court believing the process has been "helpful" to them.					
14. Families believe they can resolve domestic issues for themselves, rather than seeking court involvement in their disputes.					
INTERACTION WITH OTHER PERSONNEL					
15. Attorneys cooperate with other court personnel to achieve timely dispositions.					
16. Court personnel cooperate to resolve domestic cases. <i>(Consider court personnel other than attorneys.)</i>					
17. Court personnel are dissatisfied with the domestic court process.					
GENERAL - Consider the new Unified Family Court for questions 18 - 21.					
18. Court personnel are "on-board" with the new Unified Family Court.					
19. The new Unified Family Court will be easier to use than our previous domestic court process.					
20. The new Unified Family Court will be more difficult to understand than our previous domestic court process.					

21. I think that the process of assigning judges could be improved in the following ways:
 If you have any additional comments regarding the implementation of the Unified Family Court, please use the space provided below.
 If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Dr. Anne Janku, Research Manager, Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator, at (573) 522-6081 or anne.janku@courts.mo.gov.

Unified Family Court

Clerk Pre-Implementation Survey

1. How do you see yourself contributing to the implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?
2. How do you think families will most benefit from the implementation of the Unified Family Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit?
3. How do you think the 11th Judicial Circuit will most benefit from the implementation of the Unified Family Court?
4. What do you feel will be the most significant challenge(s) for the 11th Judicial Circuit as the Unified Family Court is implemented?

Appendix E- One Judge, One Family Case Types

Table 1 – UFC CASE TYPES INCLUDED	
DOMESTIC RELATIONS – FAMILY COURT	
QA	Adult Abuse Not Stalking
QB	Adult Abuse Stalking
QC	Adult Abuse Extension/Modification
QD	Change of Name
QE	Child Protection Act
QF	Child Protection Extension/Modification
QG	Contempt
QH	Dissolution of Marriage without Children
QI	Dissolution of Marriage with Children
QJ	Habeas Corpus
QK	Legal Separation/Annulment/Separate Main
QL	Modify Registration of Foreign Judgment
QM	Motion to Modify
QN	Paternity
QO	Registration of Foreign Judgment - Custody
QP	Registration of Foreign Judgment - Dissolution
QQ	Registration of Foreign Order of Protection
QR	Miscellaneous Domestic Relations
QS	Family Access Motion
Q1	IV-D Administrative Order with Hearing
Q2	IV-D Contempt
Q3	IV-D Miscellaneous Domestic Relations
Q4	IV-D Motion to Modify
Q5	IV-D Paternity
Q6	IV-D UIFSA - Initiating
Q7	IV-D UIFSA - Responding
Q8	IVD URESA - Initiating
Q9	IVD URESA - Responding
JUVENILE – FAMILY COURT	
JA	FC Status Offense
JB	FC Delinquency
JC	FC Abuse and Neglect
JD	FC Adoption-Regular
JE	FC Termination of Parental Rights
JF	FC Adoption-Step-Child
JG	FC Adoption-Adult
JH	FC Permanency Planning Motion

Appendix F- Family Court Party Information Sheet
IN THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, STATE OF MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT DIVISION

(Please Print or Type)

In Re the Matter of:	MANDATORY TWO-LETTER CASE TYPE CODE _____ (From back of this sheet)
Petitioner	
Respondent	
Case Number _____	

FAMILY COURT PARTY INFORMATION SHEET

	PETITIONER	RESPONDENT
Name		
Residential Address		
Mailing Address		
Social Sec. No.		
Home Phone No.		
Counsel's Name		
Counsel's Bar ID		
Counsel's E-Mail Address		

List all minor children of Petitioner and Respondent:

Name (last, first, middle)	DOB	Social Security No.	Petitioner's Children	Respondent's Children

I certify that: There are no other related cases
 The following are the only cases pending or previously adjudicated in any court related to dissolution of marriage, custody, visitation, paternity, guardianship, adoption, child support, maintenance, abuse neglect or delinquent behavior (by the minor child/ren), or adult abuse of or by any parties to this action. I further state that the parties to this action have been known by other names, as stated below:

Indicate style of related case/case number/court and whether case is pending or closed:

I state that the parties to this action have been known by the following other names:

Date: _____ Filing Party: _____

RULE 68.5 Filing Requirement – Family Court Proceedings
 Family Court Information sheet – shall be completed and attached to all initial pleadings filed in the Family Court Division

Appendix F- Family Court Party Information Sheet

(Attach additional pages, if necessary)

DOMESTIC RELATIONS – FAMILY COURT

QA ADULT ABUSE NOT STALKING
QB ADULT ABUSE STALKING
QC ADULT ABUSE EXTENSION/MODIFICATION
QD CHANGE OF NAME
QE CHILD PROTECTION ACT
QF CHILD PROTECTION EXTENSION/MODIFICATION
QG CONTEMPT
QH DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITHOUT CHILDREN
QI DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE WITH CHILDREN
QJ HABEAS CORPUS
QK LEGAL SEPARATION/ANNULMENT/SEPARATE MAIN.
QL MODIFY REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN JUDGMENT
QM MOTION TO MODIFY
QN PATERNITY
QO REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN JUDGMENT - CUSTODY
QP REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN JUDGMENT - DISSOLUTION
QQ REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN ORDER OF PROTECTION
QR MISCELLANEOUS DOMESTIC RELATIONS
QS FAMILY ACCESS MOTION
Q1 IV-D ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER WITH HEARING
Q2 IV-D CONTEMPT
Q3 IV-D MISC DOMESTIC RELATIONS
Q4 IV-D MOTION TO MODIFY
Q5 IV-D PATERNITY
Q6 IV-D UIFSA - INITIATING
Q7 IV-D UIFSA - RESPONDING
Q8 IVD URESA - INITIATING
Q9 IVD URESA - RESPONDING

JUVENILE – FAMILY COURT

JA FC STATUS OFFENSE
JB FC DELINQUENCY
JC FC ABUSE AND NEGLECT
JD FC ADOPTION-REGULAR
JE FC TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS
JF FC ADOPTION STEP-CHILD
JG FC ADOPTION-ADULT
JH FC PERMANENCY PLANNING MOTION

One Judge One Family Tracking Data Entry Instructions

This workbook is divided into 4 tabs, one for each quarter. For each quarter please enter the following for each family:

**Family name, quantity of each case type the family is under, date filed, and .
cause (case number)**

The spread sheet will total the cases for each case type and for each family automatically.

If there is more than one family member with the same case number under the same case type please enter all date and case number information into the same cell divided by a semicolon.

Example:

FAMILY / NAME	Adult Abuse	DATE FILED	CAUSE
Burkes	2	5/15/2008	0811-FC01468 ; 0811-FC01469
Timber	2	6/4/2008 ; 10/3/2006	0811-FC01678 ; 0811-FC01758

I have entered some examples highlighted in green on the first spreadsheet (Jan-Mar 09).

If you need to add more families and are out of rows: Left click on the row directly above the solid dark grey row. Once the entire row is highlighted right-click. Select Insert, this will insert a new row.

68.3. ASSIGNMENT OF FAMILY COURT CASES

- (A) New cases within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Family Court, as defined under §487.080, RSMo, shall initially be assigned to one of the divisions assigned to the Family Court Division, pursuant to an Individualized Docketing Plan approved by the Court. This initial assignment shall be considered the trial assignment for purposes of Supreme Court Rule 51.05.
- (B) Whenever a new case is filed, and the Circuit Clerk determines there is already pending a companion case involving the same parties, the new case shall be assigned to the division to which the companion case has been assigned, so that all pending matters involving the same parties may be heard before one judge.
- (C) Motions to modify, motions for contempt, family access motions or any other post-disposition motions seeking modification or enforcement of an existing judgment shall be assigned to the division, which entered the previous judgment. If the division, which entered the previous judgment, is no longer assigned to the Family Court Division, the pleading shall be treated as a new filing and shall be assigned in accordance with Paragraph A of this rule.
- (D) Should any party request a change of judge pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 51.05, the case shall be transferred to the Presiding Judge, or, in his absence or unavailability, to the Acting Presiding Judge, for reassignment.

(Amended 12/10/07)

68.5. FILING REQUIREMENTS

- (A) Waiting Period.

No hearing shall be conducted, nor any judgment entered, in any dissolution case until thirty days after service of process has been obtained or entry of appearance has been filed.
- (B) Statistical Report.

Information necessary to give notice to the Missouri Department of Health of the entry of a judgment of dissolution of marriage or legal separation shall be supplied by counsel or the parties on the forms provided for that purpose by the Circuit Clerk. The form shall be completed and filed at the time of hearing or at any time prior thereto.
- (C) Uniform Child Custody Act Requirements.

Appendix H- Court Operating Rules 68.15-68.20

1. Any Petition, or Affidavit attached thereto, shall state:
 - a. The name and date of birth of each child born of the marriage.
 - b. The present residence of the children and the length of that residence.
 - c. The residence(s) of the child(ren) for the past six months and with whom the child(ren) resided.
 - d. Any prior litigation regarding custody of the child(ren) in which the petitioner has participated in any capacity in this or any other state.
 - e. Any current custody proceedings pending in this or any other state.
 - f. Any information regarding any person, not a party to the action, who has physical custody of the child(ren) or who claims to have custody or visitation rights with respect to the child(ren).
2. Notices of any custody proceedings shall be given to:
 - a. Any parent whose parental rights have not been terminated.
 - b. Any person having legal or physical custody of the child(ren).

(D) Family Court Information Sheet

1. The Circuit Clerk shall develop a Family Court Information Sheet, which shall be completed and attached to all initial pleadings filed with the Family Court Division. The Family Court Information Sheet shall include the style and case number of any case involving the parties, or their children, presently pending or previously adjudicated in any court, including, but not limited to, dissolutions of marriage, paternity, motions to modify custody or support, change of name, adult abuse, child protection, family access, juvenile neglect, juvenile abuse, juvenile delinquency, adoption or guardianship. The Family Court Information Sheet shall also set forth all other names by which any of the parties, or their children, have been known along with their social security numbers.
2. No initial pleading shall be accepted for filing which is not accompanied by a completed Family Court Information Sheet.

(Amended 12/10/07)

68.11. ENTRY OF JUDGMENT UPON AFFIDAVIT

(A) Final Orders Entered – When

1. Final orders in any proceeding for dissolution of marriage or legal separation, motions to modify, and in any action for declaration of paternity may be entered upon affidavit of either or both parties when:
 - a. There are no minor children of the father and the mother and the mother is not pregnant, or the parties have entered into a written settlement agreement determining child custody and child support; and
 - b. The adverse party has been served in a manner provided by the Missouri Rules of Civil Procedure or has filed a verified entry of appearance or other responsive pleading; and
 - c. There is no marital property to be divided, or the parties have entered into a written settlement agreement providing for the division of their marital property.
2. Final orders in any proceeding for change of name or in any other matter falling within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Family Court, as defined under §487.080, RSMo, may be entered upon affidavit when any person entitled to service has been served or has filed an entry of appearance or other responsive pleading.

(B) Affidavit - Filing

If one party desires to submit the matter for entry of final orders upon affidavit, the submitting party shall file an affidavit setting forth sworn testimony showing the Court's jurisdiction and containing factual averments sufficient to support the relief requested, together with a copy of a proposed judgment or order, a copy of any written settlement agreement and written parenting plan proposed for adoption by the Court, a completed Form 14, and any other supporting evidence. The filing of such an affidavit shall not be deemed to shorten any statutory waiting period required for the entry of a judgment of dissolution of marriage or legal separation.

(C) Hearing Required - When

The Court shall not be bound to enter any judgment or order upon affidavits of either or both parties, but may, on its own motion, require that a formal hearing be held to determine any or all issues presented by the pleadings.

(D) Affidavit Docket

The judge of each division of the Family Court Division may establish an affidavit docket for entry of judgments submitted by affidavit. The times and dates of said docket shall be set by the division judge from time to time. So long as the requirements of Subsection A have been met, a matter may be submitted by affidavit at any time or, upon motion of either party, on a date certain. Upon the setting of a case on a specific affidavit docket for entry of final order, if all documents necessary for entry of the judgment are not submitted to the Court on said date, absent a showing of good cause, the case shall be set for trial by counsel for the parties, or if one or both counsel fail to appear, by the Court.

(Amended 12/10/07)

68.12. CASE MANAGEMENT

(A) General

The Administrative Judge of the Family Court, in consultation with the other judges assigned to the Family Court Division, shall establish a coordinated system for the management and resolution of all cases assigned to the Family Court Division. The judge of each division of the Family Court Division may establish such trial, pendente lite, case management, settlement and motion dockets as are needed for the effective operation of that division. The times and dates of such dockets shall be set by the judge of each division.

(B) Case Management Conference Docket

1. All cases filed in the Family Court Division shall be set down for a case management conference as close to ninety days from date of filing as is practicable. Upon filing, the Circuit Clerk shall provide to the filing party a Notice of Case Management Conference, which shall set forth the assigned date and time of said conference. The Notice of Case Management Conference shall be served upon the responding party with the summons and service copy of the initial pleading.
2. Once scheduled, a Case Management Conference may only be rescheduled by the judge of the division to whom the case has been assigned. All parties and their counsel of record are required to appear in person at the Case Management Conference, unless previously excused by the judge of the division to whom the case has been assigned. **Failure of the parties and their counsel of record to appear for the scheduled Case Management Conference may, without further notice, result in the dismissal, without prejudice, of the case, or the issuance of such other sanctions as the court may deem appropriate.**

3. Attendance at the Case Management Conference shall not be required in any case that is resolved by default, affidavit or consent memorandum before the scheduled conference date.

(Amended 12/10/07)

68.13. MOTIONS PENDENTE LITE

- (A) All motions pendente lite seeking temporary awards of child custody, child support, maintenance or other temporary relief pending trial upon the merits shall be heard at such times as determined by the judge of the division to which the case has been assigned.
- (B) No motion pendente lite shall be noticed up for hearing prior to the first of the following: Thirty days after service of the petition upon the opposing party; waiver of service by the opposing party; or the filing of an answer by the opposing party.

(Amended 12/10/07)

68.15 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (A) Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 17 and 88.02 through 88.08, the Court adopts the following Alternative Dispute Resolution program. The alternative dispute resolution mechanism shall be mediation.
- (B) In all actions in which this rule applies, a notice of the availability of alternative dispute resolution services shall be furnished to all parties. The Circuit Clerk shall provide a notice to the party or parties' initiating the action at the time the action is filed. All responding parties shall be provided the notice along with the summons and petition. The notice shall advise the parties of the availability of alternative dispute resolution and shall inform the parties that the name of mediators qualified under this rule and a description of their background and fees may be obtained from this Court. Counsel for the parties shall discuss alternative dispute resolution with their clients.
- (C) A Mediation Notice and Election Form must be signed personally by the parties and presented to the Court at or before the Case Management Conference. Mediation will be expected on those cases where both parties indicate a willingness to use mediation. If the mediation is elected or ordered by the Court, counsel will obtain a copy of the list of Approved Domestic Mediators from the Family Court Coordinator and select a mutually agreed upon mediator. If an agreement cannot be made, the Court will appoint a mediator.

Appendix H- Court Operating Rules 68.15-68.20

- (D) The mediation shall be private and confidential as provided by Supreme Court Rule 17.06. No stenographic, electronic or other record of the mediation shall be made.
- (E) The mediator shall receive compensation as the parties and the mediator selected agree. The fee, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, shall be borne equally by the parties and shall be paid directly to the mediator selected. The Court reserves the right to review all the reasonableness of the fee charged by the mediator.
- (F) The mediator must meet the qualifications as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 17.04.
- (G) The Circuit Clerk shall maintain and make available to counsel, parties, and the public the list of qualified neutrals compiled by the clerk under this rule. The list shall include the mediator's training, experience, qualifications and other information deemed appropriate by the Court.
- (H) No person shall serve as a mediator in any proceeding in which the mediator is interested, prejudiced, related to a party, has been counsel to a party in the cause, or under any circumstance which would reasonably call into question the mediator's impartiality. A mediator may withdraw for any reason set forth in this rule or for any other reason.
- (I) The results of the mediation shall not be reported to the Court except as provided in Supreme Court Rule 17.05. Parties attempting resolution through Alternative Dispute Resolution, without success, shall receive priority trial settings.

(Adopted 12/10/07)

68.16 MEDIATION DEFINED

Mediation under this local rule is the process by which a neutral mediator, selected by the parties or appointed by the Court, assists the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement as to issues of their case. The role of the mediator is to assist the parties in identifying the issues, reducing misunderstanding, clarifying priorities, exploring areas of compromise, and finding points of agreement. An agreement reached by the parties is to be based on the decisions of the parties and not the decisions of the mediator. The agreement reached can resolve all or only some of the disputed issues.

(Adopted 12/10/07)

68.17 MEDIATION – WHEN ELECTED – APPOINTMENT OF MEDIATOR

- (A) In all family-law related cases referred to mediation by the terms of this rule, the parties are encouraged to mediate any or all issues including, but not limited to, child custody and visitation, child support, property division and maintenance.
- (B) If both parties indicate a willingness to use mediation per the Mediation Notice and Election Form, or if mediation is ordered by the Court, an Order of Mediation shall then be issued by the Court. Mediation shall be completed within the time frame set forth in the court order for mediation.
- (C) If the parties have not selected a mutually agreeable mediator from the court-approved list, the court shall appoint a mediator from the court-approved list to conduct mediation pursuant to the rule. Fees for mediation may be adjusted by the court upon consideration of the parties' Statement of Income and Expenses and if resources are available to the Court.
- (D) The mediator shall file with the Court a notice indicating completion of the mediation as to whether or not the issues were settled within ten (10) days of the final mediation appointment.
- (E) Some cases may be inappropriate for mediation, which may include those with a history of domestic violence. If the case is deemed inappropriate for mediation due to domestic violence or for any other reason determined by the mediator, the mediation shall so notify the Court in writing.

(Adopted 12/10/07)

68.18 MEDIATION – QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MEDIATOR

- (A) A mediator who performs mediation in a domestic relations matter pursuant to the rule shall be a person who has stated by affidavit that he or she:
 - 1. Is an attorney or a person who possesses a graduate degree in field that includes the study of psychiatry, psychology, social work, counseling or other behavioral science substantially related to marriage and family interpersonal relationships; and,
 - 2. Has completed an approved training program which consists of at least forty (40) hours of curriculum requirements approved by the Missouri Supreme Court or its designee. Such curriculum shall substantially meet the training requirements and components as established by the Association of Conflict Resolution and must include at least four (4) hours dealing with domestic violence and power imbalance issues.

Appendix H- Court Operating Rules 68.15-68.20

- (B) All Supreme Court Rule 88 mediators trained prior to December 1, 2002, shall be exempt from the new education requirements established above with the exception of continuing education but shall advise the Court and the Office of State Courts Administrator of the number of formal hours of mediation training received.
- (C) The Circuit Clerk shall maintain a list of persons qualified to act as mediators under this rule. Only those persons who are included on the court-maintained list of mediators may be considered as mediators according to this rule. To be included on this court-maintained list, the interested person must file the previously described affidavit with the Circuit Clerk along with a statement containing, at the minimum, the following information: business address; telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, if any; degree(s) and the institution(s) obtained therefrom; type and number of hours of mediation training; current profession and hourly rate of mediation. The person may also attach a resume or curriculum vitae in lieu thereof.
- (D) The list of mediators shall be updated from time to time as deemed necessary by the Family Court Administrative Judge. All persons included in the list of mediators shall keep the Circuit Clerk apprised of any changes to their qualification, including any change in status with any professional association, and their fees.
- (E) All mediators who serve in family-law related cases by court order shall submit an application for listing on the Approved Mediators List to be established and maintained by the Office of State Courts Administrator.
- (F) Disqualification of a mediator shall be ordered in any legal proceeding upon the filing of a written application within ten (10) days of appointment. Each party is entitled to one (1) disqualification in each proceeding, except a party may be entitled to additional disqualifications for good cause shown. A mediator who has been appointed shall advise the Court of any fact bearing on their qualifications, including any fact which would be reason for their disqualification. If a mediator is disqualified, an order shall be entered naming a qualified replacement. Nothing shall limit the mediator's ability to refuse assignment of any mediation under this rule.

(Adopted 12/10/07)

68.19 MEDIATION – DUTIES OF THE MEDIATOR

- (A) The mediator in writing shall:
1. Inform the parties of the costs of mediation;
 2. Advise the parties that the mediator does not represent either or both of the parties;
 3. Define and describe the process of mediation to the parties;
 4. Disclose the nature and extent to any relationships with the parties and any personal, financial, or other interests that could result in a bias or a conflict of interest;
 5. Advise each of the parties to obtain independent legal advise;
 6. Disclose to the parties' attorneys any factual documentation revealed during the mediation if at the end of the mediation process the disclosure is agreed to by the parties;
 7. Ensure that the parties consider fully the bests interests of the children and that the parties understand the consequences of any decision they reach concerning the children;
- (B) The mediator may meet with the children of any party and, with the consent of the parties, may meet with other persons.
- (C) The mediator shall make a written memorandum of any understanding reached by the parties. A copy of the memorandum shall be provided to the parties and their attorneys, if any, within ten (10) days of the last mediation appointment. The mediator shall advise each party in writing to obtain legal assistance in drafting any agreement or for reviewing any agreement drafted by the other party. Any understanding reached by the parties as a result of mediation shall not be binding upon the parties until it is reduced to writing, signed by the parties and their attorneys, if any, and then approved by the Court. If any party is not represented, the mediator shall provide to the Court the written summary of any understanding reached by the parties.
- (D) The mediator may act as a mediator in subsequent disputes between the parties. However, the mediator shall decline to act as attorney, counselor or psychotherapist for either party during or after the mediation or domestic relations proceedings unless the subsequent representation, counseling, or treatment is clearly distinct from the mediation issues. The mediator may not subsequently act as an investigator for any court-ordered report nor make any recommendations to the court regarding the child care issues.

(Adopted 12/10/07)

68.20 TERMINATION OF MEDIATION

- (A) Either party may terminate mediation at any time as per Supreme Court Rule 88.07
- (B) The mediator shall terminate mediation whenever the mediator believes:
 - 1. The continuation of the process would harm or prejudice one or more of the parties or the children; or
 - 2. That the ability or willingness of any party to participate meaningfully in mediation is so lacking that a reasonable agreement is unlikely.
- (C) The mediator shall report the termination of mediation to the Court. The mediator shall not state the reason for termination except when the termination is due to a conflict of interest or bias on the part of the mediator, in which case another mediator may be appointed.

(Adopted 12/10/07)

68.21 CONFIDENTIALITY

Mediation proceedings shall be regarded as settlement proceedings. With the exception of information released pursuant to subdivision 88.06(a) (6), any communication relating to the subject matter of such disputes made during the mediation shall be a confidential communication. No admission, representation, statement or other confidential communication made in setting up or conducting such proceedings not otherwise discoverable or obtainable shall be admissible as evidence or subject to discovery.

Appendix I -Pre-implementation Workshop
Unified Family Court Workshop
11th & 25th Judicial Circuits
November 28-29, 2007
Jefferson City, MO

We want to make our future sessions as meaningful as possible and we would appreciate your candid evaluation of this seminar in response to the questions below. Please leave the form with the seminar leader before you depart.

What Circuit are you representing? Please check one.

11th _____ 12 _____ 25th _____ 4 _____

How would you rate the following items?

Please circle the best possible response for each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The workshop was a valuable professional development experience.	5	4	5		
The knowledge I gained will be useful to me.	5	11	2		
Overall, I was satisfied with this workshop.	4	10	2		

Did this workshop meet your needs? *(Please check the best response.)*

- Yes - 17
 No

Please give a brief explanation.

- Would have liked to have heard about assignment of cases to one judge after a family has had prior contact with court =- i.e. what judge gets the family? The prior judge of the judge that handles the new case filing?
- It was very helpful to be reminded of the ultimate goals and to hear of different ways/ideas to accomplish the goals of one judge/one family and effective case management.
- Other areas have already completed the process of UFC. I was expecting more details in what has worked best for them ‘ best practices’ or “what went right/what went wrong”.
- It gave a great overview of the implementation process and things to consider prior to starting the process.
- Finally, as a group, we were able to come together to determine when, what and who does what in a UFC.

What did you wish you could have learned more about during this workshop?

- I think the workshop was very complete!
- There was discussion of accountability, holding attorneys to timelines, etc. Would like to have head strategies beyond dismissing case to get compliance.
- We just need more input on implementation.
- My desire was to gain an understanding on what a UFC is. I definitely now have this knowledge.

Appendix I-Pre-implementation Workshop

- Seems that there is a big difference between the services needed in dissolution, juvenile & protection cases. Case management strategies are very different for each type of case. Perhaps future trainings could be tailored to each type of case.
- I wish I could have seen the 2 circuits proposals prior to attending.
- I was expecting that there would be more discussion about the actual process of the cases involved, how they're picked, and actual steps that would be taken.

What do you consider the most valuable knowledge gained over the course of this workshop?

- I like the “hands on” method of training. Our team really needed to put out heads together and address the project.
- Information on differentiated case management was new material to me and probably most valuable.
- Setting goals and timelines.
- The 2nd day actually gave me more information that I need. I already knew what a UFC was.
- Process and steps needed to make this happen.
- The exchange of ideas among team members and discovering the different expectations was helpful. We would never have been able to do this back at the courthouse.
- Percent of cases going to trial.
- Having input from all team members at the onset of this process is critical.
- Information provided by the circuits of their general ideas of UFC, type of services being considered and some of the steps that need to be considered in beginning to look at a UFC. The need for an effort to get key stakeholders involved early in any process to implement a UFC.
- Over all knowledge and what we still need to do as a court.
- The time spent in breakouts was well spent.

Was there anything that interfered with your learning or your enjoyment of this workshop?

- Yes
- No - 17

Please give a brief explanation.

How would you rate the following items?

Please circle the best possible response for each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The speakers presented in a clear and organized manner.	9	6			
The speakers were knowledgeable about the subject.	14	4	1		
The speakers' use of presentation visuals was effective.	8	7			
The handouts were helpful.	9	8	1		
The team breakouts sessions were helpful.	11	6	1		

Appendix I-Pre-implementation Workshop

Please offer your comments or suggestions for future workshops.

- I think training insured everyone had a basic understanding of Family Court. Although a “Family Court” since 1993, we really have not functioned as a true Family Court. It would have been good to have a brief introduction to Family Court so all had same basic information, purpose, etc.
- Work more on details and less on theory.
- Kathy Mays is an “11”! One of the best presenters I have heard.
- Both presenters were great, especially Ms. Mays.
- Some of the presentations were repetitive. Why go over the slides when the materials are in the handouts?

What is your profession or role at this workshop? *(please check one response)*

- Attorney - 1
- Family Court Administrator
- Family Court Coordinator
- Clerk - 3
- Judge - 5
- Juvenile Officer 5
- Other (4) ADR Program Specialist, Mental Health, and mediator**

If you have any additional information or comments that you would like to provide, please do so in the space provided below.

- A lot of the second day would have been helpful if we were beginning to consider implementing a UFC. We are going “online” with the UFC on 1/1/08, so we won’t be forming committees, etc. anymore.
- Although our circuit is not one of the 2 circuits involved in the UFC pilot project, the discussion of the circuits have been very beneficial in identifying issues for our circuit to consider if a decision is made to move toward the implementation of a UFC. I appreciate and thank OSCA for allowing our circuit (45th) to sit in on the training.
- Too much hype and repetition of goals and benefits.
- Great workshop.

Differentiated Case Management Tracks

Expedited Track (45 days)

Definition: Cases that are filed with all of the appropriate paperwork, Respondent's Entry of Appearance and Waiver of Service. Disposition anticipated within 45 days of case initiation date.

- Automated Tracking:
 - JIS Docket = FEXPD.
 - Tracking Report = Expedited Cases Disposed (Closed) 45 Days or Less.

Uncontested Track (60 days)

Case is either non-contested and will be filed with affidavits or issues are limited/simple. The case will be completed before the ninety (90) day case management conference either by affidavit or with a non-contested hearing. Disposition anticipated within 60 days of case initiation date.

- Automated Tracking:
 - JIS Docket = FUNCO.
 - Tracking Report = (FUNCO) Uncontested Cases with No FSTAN or FCOMP (Closed) 60 Days or Less.

Undetermined Track (90 days)

Definition: Cases which are filed and service has to be issued on Respondent. Not clear at the time of filing what the issues are or the anticipated outcome of the case. Case Management Conference is scheduled for 90 days from filing and a track will be determined at that time if the case is not complete. Disposition anticipated within 90 days of case initiation.

- Automated Tracking:
 - JIS Docket = FUNDT.
 - Tracking Report = (FUNDT) Undetermined Cases with No FUNCO, FSTAN, or FCOMP (Closed) 90 Days or Less.

Appendix J- Differentiated Case Management Tracks

Standard Track (280 days)

Definition: Case is still on-going at the case management conference. Custody and/or visitation issues are limited or resolved at that time with property issues pending and may be resolved through mediation within sixty (60) days. Disposition anticipated within 280 days of case initiation.

- Automated Tracking:
 - JIS Docket = FSTAN.
 - Tracking Report = (FSTAN) Standard Cases (Closed) 280 Days or Less.

Complex (340 days)

Definition: Contested custody issues, contested maintenance issues, contested property issues and/or the use of expert testimony. The Court shall take a greater role in monitoring the trial preparation. Disposition anticipated with 340 days of case initiation.

- Automated Tracking:
 - JIS Docket = FCOMP
 - (FCOMP) Complex Cases (Closed) 340 Days or Less.

Appendix J - Case Management Conference Order

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS.
COUNTY OF ST. CHARLES)

IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT DIVISION

')
Petitioner,)
vs.) Cause No.
) Division No.
')
Respondent,)
)
)
)

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ORDER

(Continued)

On appeared:

- Petitioner (in person) by (counsel);
- Respondent (in person) by (counsel);
- The minor child(ren) by GAL.

All parties announce that the case has not been settled, and the matter is continued to ___/___/___ at _____ for case management conference due to:

ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD MUST APPEAR.

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ORDER (Settled)

On appeared:

- Petitioner (in person) by (counsel);
- Respondent (in person) by (counsel);
- The minor child(ren) by GAL.

All parties announce that the case has been settled and the matter is placed upon the uncontested docket of ___/___/___ for hearing or submission by affidavit.

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ORDER (Contested)

On appeared:

- Petitioner (in person) by (Counsel);
- Respondent (in person) by (Counsel);
- The minor child(ren) by GAL.

All parties announce that the case has not been settled and the matter is:

Set for __ day trial on ___/___/___ at 9:00 A.M. as the _____ setting. No continuances without good cause shown.

Appendix J- Case Management Conference Order

- Pendente lite hearing set for ___/___/___ at 9:00 A.M.
- Pretrial settlement conference set for ___/___/___ at ___ A.M./P.M. ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD MUST APPEAR.
- Additional case management conference set for ___/___/___ at ___ A.M./P.M. ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD MUST APPEAR.
- Both parties to attempt mediation with _____. Mediation to be completed by ___/___/___.
- Both parties to complete a parent education program by ___/___/___ (Local Rule 68.10).
- Both parties to file updated financial statements and written property lists by ___/___/___ (Local Rule 68.8)
- Written discovery, if any, to be completed by ___/___/___.
- Depositions, if any, to be taken by ___/___/___.
- Experts, if any, to be disclosed by ___/___/___.
- Drug or alcohol tests, psychological evaluations, real estate appraisals, or business evaluations, if any, to be completed by ___/___/___.
- All orders and judgments regarding payment of Guardian ad Litem fees shall be complied with on or before ___/___/___.
- Other orders: _____

Is child custody and visitation settled? Yes No
(A signed Parenting Plan regarding Custody and Visitation to be presented at this time if Yes)

Case to be placed in: Track C Track D

Attorney for Petitioner

SO ORDERED:

Attorney for Respondent

Guardian Ad Litem

Judge of the Family Court
Division No.

Appendix J- Case Management

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) SS.
COUNTY OF ST. CHARLES)

IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT DIVISION

_____,)
Petitioner,)
) Cause No. _____
vs.) Division No. ____
)
_____)
Respondent.)

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ORDER (Contested)

On the ____ day of _____, 20__ appeared:
Petitioner(__ in person) (__ by counsel _____);
Respondent(__ in person) (__ by counsel _____);
The minor child(ren)by GAL _____.

All parties announce that the case has not been settled and the matter is:

___ Set for ___ day trial on ___/___/___ at 9:00 a.m. No
continuances without good cause shown.

___ Pendente lite hearing set for ___/___/___ at 9:00 a.m.

___ Pretrial settlement conference set for ___/___/___ at _____.
ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD MUST APPEAR.

___ Additional case management conference set for ___/___/___ at
_____. ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD MUST APPEAR.

___ Both parties to attempt mediation with _____.
Mediation to be completed by ___/___/___.

___ Both parties to complete a parent education program by
___/___/___ (Local Rule 68.10).

___ Both parties to file updated financial statements and written
property lists by ___/___/___ (Local Rule 68.8).

___ Written discovery, if any, to be completed by ___/___/___.

___ Depositions, if any, to be taken by ___/___/___.

___ Experts, if any, to be disclosed by ___/___/___.

___ Drug or alcohol tests, psychological evaluations, real estate

Appendix J- Case Management
appraisals, or business evaluations, if any, to be completed
by ___/___/___.

Other orders: _____

_____.

Sanctions of \$_____ shall be assessed against each party, or
their counsel of record, for each violation of the deadlines set
out above.

Attorney for Petitioner

SO ORDERED:

Attorney for Respondent

Judge of the Family Court
Division No. _____

Guardian Ad Litem

mcelfrra

Query Studio Report Studio

Cognos Connection

[Home](#) [Preferences](#) [Log On](#) [Log Off](#) [About](#) [Help](#)

[Welcome](#) **Public Folders** [My Folders](#) [New Page](#)

[Tools](#) ▾

[Public Folders](#) > [ADHOCREPORTING - CT25](#) > [Unified Family Court](#) > **CASE DIFFERENTIATION**



Previous 1 - 10 Next

	Name ↕	Modified ↕	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ A EXPEDITED (FEXPD) CASES WITH D CODE	August 27, 2009 3:48:39 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ B UNDETERMINED (FUNDT) CASES WITH NO FSTAN OR FCOMP WITH D CODE	August 27, 2009 3:34:36 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ C UNCONTESTED (FUNCO) CASES WITH D CODE	August 27, 2009 3:21:20 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ D STANDARD (FSTAN) CASES WITH D CODE	August 27, 2009 3:19:34 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ E COMPLEX (FCOMP) CASES WITH D CODE	August 27, 2009 3:18:46 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ F (FUNCO) CASES OPEN & OVER 60 DAYS OLD (MISSING D-CODE)	August 27, 2009 2:56:09 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ G (FUNDT) CASES OPEN & OVER 110 DAYS OLD (MISSING FSTAN or FCOMP & D-CODE)	August 27, 2009 2:52:50 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ H (FEXPD) CASES OPEN & OVER 45 DAYS OLD (MISSING D-CODE)	August 27, 2009 2:50:23 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ I (FSTAN) CASES OPEN & OVER 280 DAYS OLD (MISSING D-CODE)	August 27, 2009 2:41:10 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	▶ J (FCOMP) CASES OPEN & OVER 340 DAYS OLD (MISSING D-CODE)	August 27, 2009 2:47:45 PM	More...

Unified Family Court

11th Circuit Family Court

Holiday Inn Select – St. Peters/St. Charles
4341 Veterans Memorial Parkway, St. Peters, MO 63376

July 11, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. JointParents.com**
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. OurFamilyWizard.com**
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. M.A.R.C.H. Mediation**
Rebecca T. Magruder, MSW, JD
- 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Break**
- 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Unified Family Court**
Julia F. Weber, JD, MSW
Supervising Attorney
Center for Families, Children & the Courts
Judicial Council of California –
Administrative Office of the Courts
- 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Unified Family Court (continued)**
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break**
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Bench & Bar Discussion**
Judge Rick Zerr
Judge Elizabeth Swann
Judge Norman C. Steimel, III

Program Sponsor:

This workshop was made possible as part of the grant for the Unified Family Court Project funded by the Office of State Courts Administrator.

**Approved for 5.4 CLE Units by MCLE, Missouri Bar
(Neither JointParents.com or OurFamilyWizard.com qualify for CLE units.)**

Appendix M

11th Judicial Circuit Court - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OSCA

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites RSS SnagIt

Address <http://www.courts.mo.gov/hosted/circuit11/> Go

State of Missouri
11th Judicial Circuit Court
St. Charles County

Welcome to the Home Page of the website for Missouri's Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

[Case.net](#)

[OSCA](#)

[Circuit Court Case Files 1805 - 1835](#)

[Email Closed files](#)

Family Home Links Mediation Dissolution Marriage Self-Represent

Judicial Branch of the government of the State of Missouri is a separate and independent branch of our state government. Missouri's judicial system was established by the people of Missouri through Article V of the Constitution of the State of Missouri. Missouri is divided into 45 separate judicial circuits. The 11th Circuit covers St. Charles County.

Our website is designed to provide information about our court system and to make it easier to use the many services available.

The twelve judges of the Eleventh Circuit provide a full range of service to the people of Missouri in all areas of law established in the Missouri Constitution and the statutes of our state. The judges of the Eleventh Circuit are elected by the people of St. Charles County.

Shortcut to # Local intranet

Page 1 Sec 1 1/1 At 1" Ln 1 Col 2 REC TRK EXT OVR

Start Rick McElfresh - Inbox - I... Circuit 11 UFC Final Rep... Document1 - Microsoft ... 11th Judicial Circuit C... 8:37 AM

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website for the 11th Judicial Circuit Court in St. Charles County, Missouri. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://www.courts.mo.gov/hosted/circuit11/Family_Diss_Marr.html. The website header features the Missouri state seal and the text "State of Missouri 11th Judicial Circuit Court St. Charles County". Below the header, the page title is "Dissolution of Marriage / Legal Separation". A left-hand navigation menu lists various court categories: Criminal, Civil, Traffic, Juvenile, Probate, Family, Judges, Jury Service, Forms, Circuit Clerk, Directions, and Home. The "Family" category is expanded, showing a list of links: "Steps in a Dissolution Case" (highlighted in blue), "Local Court Rule on Parent Education", "Case Management Conference", "Information for Parents", "Information for Children", and "Forms Required for Dissolution". The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates "Page 1", "Sec 1", "1/1", "At 5.6\"", "Ln 3", "Col 1", and "REC TRK EXT OVR". The taskbar shows several open applications, including "Rick McElfresh - Inbox - I...", "Circuit 11 UFC Final Rep...", "Document1 - Microsoft...", and "Family Dissolution Ma...". The system clock shows "8:40 AM".

Family Dissolution Marriage - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OSCA

Address: http://www.courts.mo.gov/hosted/circuit11/Family_Diss_Marr.html

State of Missouri
11th Judicial Circuit Court
 St. Charles County

Dissolution of Marriage / Legal Separation

Criminal
 Civil
 Traffic
 Juvenile
 Probate
 Family
 Judges
 Jury Service
 Forms
 Circuit Clerk
 Directions
 Home

Steps in a Dissolution Case
 Following are the steps in a typical dissolution case with minor children.

1. Filing of Original Petition.
2. Issuance and service of summons.
3. Court sets the date for a Case Management Conference.
4. Filing of Original Answer (and possibly a Counter Petition).
5. Parents attend a parent education program.
6. Mediation to explore areas of agreement and disagreement.
7. Discovery (exchange of information needed for trial).
8. Pre-trial conference.
9. Trial (may be a contested or non-contested hearing).
10. Entry of Judgment of Dissolution.

Local Court Rule on Parent Education
 Case Management Conference
 Information for Parents
 Information for Children
 Forms Required for Dissolution

Page 2 Sec 1 2/2 At 5.6" Ln 3 Col 1 REC TRK EXT OVR

Start Rick McElfresh - Inbox - I... Circuit 11 UFC Final Rep... Document1 - Microsoft ... Family Dissolution Ma... 8:41 AM

Family Dissolution Marriage - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OSCA

Address: http://www.courts.mo.gov/hosted/circuit11/Family_Diss_Marr.html

State of Missouri
11th Judicial Circuit Court
 St. Charles County

Dissolution of Marriage / Legal Separation

Criminal
 Civil
 Traffic
 Juvenile
 Probate
 Family
 Judges
 Jury Service
 Forms
 Circuit Clerk
 Directions
 Home

Steps in a Dissolution Case
 Local Court Rule on Parent Education
08.10 PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

(A) All parties in any proceeding for dissolution of marriage, legal separation, annulment, paternity, or modification or enforcement of child custody or visitation, who have filed pleadings or who have otherwise entered their appearance with this Court, shall be required to participate in and successfully complete a court-approved parent educational program. A certificate of completion shall be filed with the Court.

(B) The petitioner or movant shall attend said program within sixty days of the filing of a petition or motion. The respondent in any such proceeding shall attend said program within sixty days of the date of service of process. Each party shall pay the cost of their own program.

(C) The Court may strike or dismiss the pleadings of any non-complying party or impose any other sanctions deemed appropriate by the Court.

(D) For good cause shown, the Court may waive application of this rule.

(Repealed and Adopted 1/2/07)
 Case Management Conference
 Information for Parents
 Information for Children
 Forms Required for Dissolution

Page 3 Sec 1 3/3 At 5.5" Ln 2 Col 1 REC TRK EXT OVR

Start Rick McElfresh - Inbox - I... Circuit 11 UFC Final Rep... Document1 - Microsoft ... Family Dissolution Ma... 8:41 AM

Family Dissolution Marriage - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OSCA

Address: http://www.courts.mo.gov/hosted/circuit11/Family_Diss_Marr.html

Dissolution of Marriage / Legal Separation

- Criminal
- Civil
- Traffic
- Juvenile
- Probate
- Family
- Judges
- Jury Service
- Forms
- Circuit Clerk
- Directions
- Home

Steps in a Dissolution Case

Local Court Rule on Parent Education

Case Management Conference

PURPOSE OF THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

On January 1, 1997, the Missouri Supreme Court mandated provisions of Supreme Court Operating Rule 17 - Case Processing Time Standards. The Rule 17 Standard mandates that 50% of all Domestic Cases must be resolved within 120 days of filing, 90% of all Domestic Cases must be resolved within 240 days of filing and 98% of all Domestic Cases must be resolved within 365 days of filing. Judges are legally and ethically bound to follow these standards. In addition, studies have shown that 95% of all Domestic Cases will be resolved without a trial. It is obvious that the cost to the parties, both emotional and financial, increases in direct proportion to the length of time it takes to resolve their case. It is the intent of this system to focus the parties and their Counsel on settlement of the case at the earliest possible time. Resources are available, in the form of Mediation and Pretrial Conference to aid in the settlement process. It is expected that learned and skilled counsel will immediately undertake necessary discovery, exchange commonly requested documents and engage in meaningful settlement discussions prior to the Case Management Conference. If a trial is necessary, it is the hope of the Court that some issues may be settled, leaving only a few issues to be resolved by the court. The Court suggests the use of Partial Settlement Agreements to limit the contested issues at trial.

In the end, the decision lies with the parties. A Judge, no matter how skillful and experienced, is called upon to make decisions about the custody of children and division of assets based upon very limited contact with the parties and their children. The parties are the ones who are best suited to decide upon a fair division of their assets and a parenting plan that will be the best possible plan for their children.

The parties will recover from the loss of their marriage. Judges have seen the harm that comes to children in divorce. Unnecessary aggressive litigation does irreparable harm to the children and benefits no one. The law requires that the Court from a custody plan that provides the maximum frequent and meaningful contact between the children and their parents. It is the hope that this process will encourage parents to think first of their children and do their utmost to avoid unnecessary controversy and harm to the most precious of their assets, their children.

Information for Parents

Information for Children

Forms Required for Dissolution

Page 4 Sec 1 4/4 At 1" Ln 1 Col 1 REC TRK EXT OVR

Start Rick McElfresh - Inbox - I... Circuit 11 UFC Final Rep... Document1 - Microsoft ... Family Dissolution Ma... 8:41 AM

Family Dissolution Marriage - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by OSCA

Address: http://www.courts.mo.gov/hosted/circuit11/Family_Diss_Marr.html

Dissolution of Marriage / Legal Separation

- Criminal
- Civil
- Traffic
- Juvenile
- Probate
- Family
- Judges
- Jury Service
- Forms
- Circuit Clerk
- Directions
- Home

Steps in a Dissolution Case

Local Court Rule on Parent Education

Case Management Conference

Information for Parents

On-Line Resources

www.mobar.org

Family Law pamphlets, Parenting Plan Guidelines & Forms.

www.courts.mo.gov

Case information on Case.net, Parenting Plan Guidelines & Forms, Form 14.

www.fatherhood.com

Articles on fathering, answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

www.marchmediation.com

Mediation resources, Form 14 link.

www.uptoparents.org

Free tool for parent planning.

www.divorcesupport.com

State laws, parenting advice, explanation of divorce procedure, download forms.

www.daads.com

Advice for distance parenting.

www.missourifamilies.org

Age specific effects of divorce, divorce & domestic violence, parenting advice.

www.divorcecentral.com

State laws, answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding parenting and legal matters.

www.dss.mo.gov/cse/

Child Support Agency.

www.dss.missouri.gov/mcplus

MC+ for Kids (health insurance).

<http://www.moga.state.mo.us/statutesearch>

MO law.

<http://www.dhs.mo.gov>

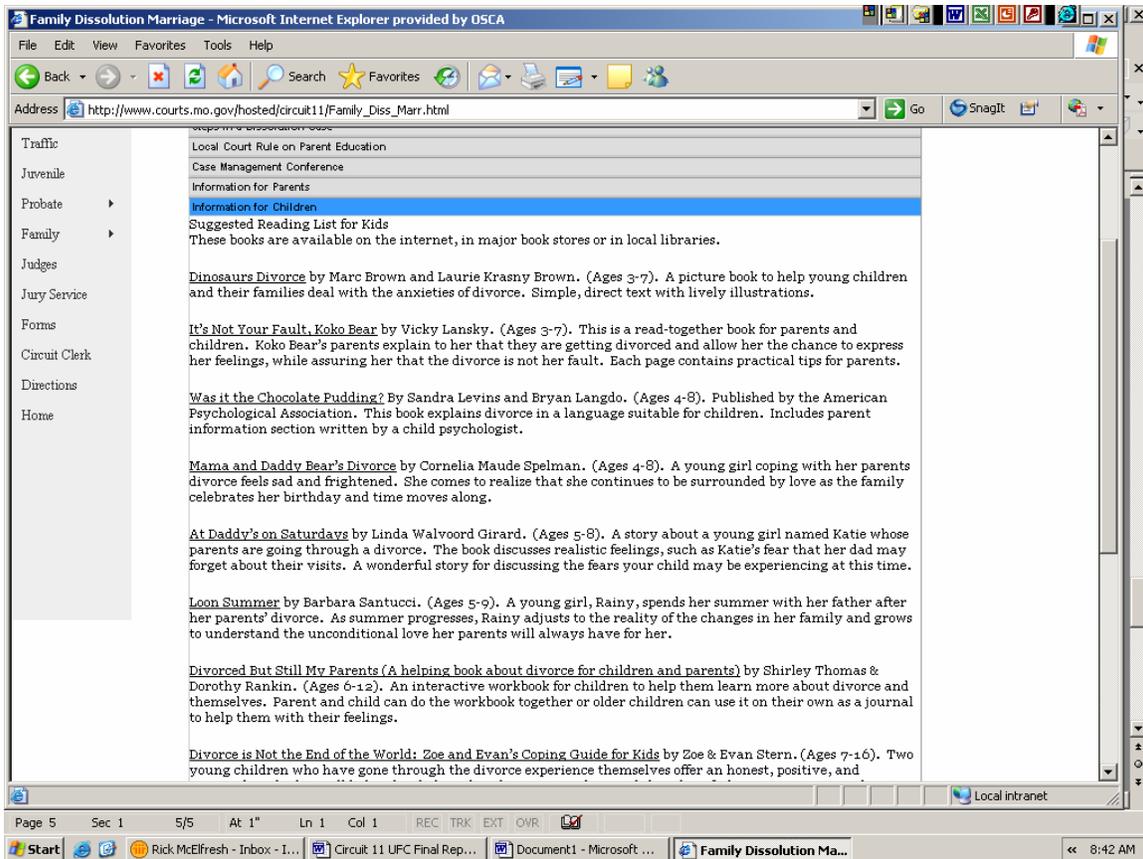
MO Dept. of Health and Senior Services - Vital Records.

<http://www.outreach.missouri.edu/parentlink>

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about parenting.

<http://singleparents.about.com>

Essential information and support for divorcing and single parents.



IN THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT, STATE OF MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT DIVISION

MEDIATION NOTICE AND ELECTION

1. Style of Case: _____
2. Cause Number: _____
3. Counsel for Petitioner: _____
4. Counsel for Respondent: _____

5. **NOTICE:** The Court believes that Mediation can be very helpful in the resolution of some, or all, of the issues in this case. Mediation can be focused only on contact and parenting time or can also aid in the prompt and cost effective resolution of property and support issues. The Court maintains a list of specially trained Mediators who are available to aid in the resolution of your case. The use of a Mediator is not an alternative to having an Attorney, but he or she will work with you and your attorney. This form has been developed to indicate the willingness of each party to attempt Mediation. Each party is asked to indicate their willingness to use Mediation. If both parties agree to use Mediation, Counsel will select a mutually agreed upon Mediator, or the Court will appoint a mediator to you. Mediation may also be ordered whenever the Court feels that it may be helpful to the resolution of the case.

6. Petitioner: I ___ agree or ___ do not agree to use Mediation.

Signature of Petitioner

7. Respondent: I ___ agree or ___ do not agree to use Mediation.

Signature of Respondent

8. This form must be signed personally by the parties and presented to the Court at or before the Case Management Conference.

9. If Mediation is elected by both parties, please list the name of the Mediator selected from the court approved list.

Name of Mediator

Unified Family Court

11th Circuit Family Court

Holiday Inn Select – St. Peters/St. Charles
4341 Veterans Memorial Parkway, St. Peters, MO 63376

June 19, 2009

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | High Conflict Families
What a Psychologist Thinks You Should Know
Dr. Jerry Marks |
| 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Break |
| 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | High Conflict Families (continued) |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Preparing Clients for Mediation
Larry Swall
Executive Director, M.A.R.C.H. Mediation |
| 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. | Break |
| 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. | Therapeutic Supervised Visitation
Jeff Homan, Therapist
Youth In Need |
| 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Bench & Bar Discussion
Judge Rick Zerr
Judge Elizabeth W. Swann
Judge Matthew E. P. Thornhill |

Program Sponsor:

**This workshop is being funded by a grant through the
Office of State Courts Administrator.**

RSVP TO CHARLA NO LATER THAN JUNE 15, 2009 @ NOON.
NO REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR.

**Guardian Ad Litem
Multi-Discipline Training**

11th Circuit Family Court and Children's Division

Holiday Inn Select – St. Peters/St. Charles
4341 Veterans Memorial Parkway, St. Peters, MO 63376

November 14, 2008

- 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Attachment Disorders**
Shirley Crenshaw, MSW, LCSW
- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break**
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Attachments Disorders (continued)**
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Independent Living Program**
Sally A. Gains, Program Development Specialist
and
Youth Panel
Missouri Children's Division
- 3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break**
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Family Drug Court**
Judge Philip J. Ohlms
- Bench & Bar Discussion**
Judge Rick Zerr
Judge Daniel G. Pelikan
Judge Jon Cunningham
Judge Elizabeth W. Swann
Judge Norman C. Steimel, III

Program Sponsor:

**This workshop is being funded by a grant through the
Office of State Courts Administrator.**

Approved for 7.2 CLE Units by MCLE, Missouri Bar

11th Circuit Custody Exchange Program St. Charles County, Missouri

- Location:** Juvenile Justice Center
1700 South River Road
St. Charles, MO 63301
- Hours of Service:** Friday evenings, 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
Sunday evenings, 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
(Exchange times can ONLY be scheduled by
Program staff of the Exchange Center.)
- Requirements:** Court Order from Family Court Judge
ALL program forms completed
Program orientation completed
- Fees:** \$ 25.00 per month, payable in advance
- Contacts:** Charla Harbour, Family Court Coordinator
636/949-7900, Extension 5058
(To obtain program packets containing all forms,
program rules, etc.)

Doug Patton, Program Coordinator
636/949-3040

(To schedule orientation with a Custody Exchange
Monitor.)

Appendix Q

mcelfra Query Studio Report Studio

Cognos Connection Home Preferences Log On Log Off About Help

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Public Folders > ADHOCREPORTING - CT25 > Unified Family Court

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	Name ↕	Modified ↕	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	ARCHIVE	August 13, 2009 12:46:58 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	CASE DIFFERENTIATION	August 27, 2009 3:48:39 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	A_AVG TIME TO DISPOSITION BY CASE TYPE & DOCKET ALL Q CASES	June 24, 2009 1:57:47 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	B_AVG TIME TO DISPOSITION BY CASE TYPE & DOCKET WITH MEDIATOR	February 20, 2009 11:32:49 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	C_ALL Q CASES INITIATED	June 24, 2009 1:10:27 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	D_ALL Q CASES PENDING	March 12, 2009 3:51:52 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	E_ALL Q CASES DISPOSED CASE TYPE AND DOCKET	March 12, 2009 3:54:03 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	F_Q CASES WITH SPECIAL MASTERS SENT	June 25, 2009 9:33:54 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	G_Q CASES WITH SPECIAL MASTER SESSION HELD	February 20, 2009 11:33:27 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	H_Q CASES DISPOSED WITH SPECIAL MASTER COMPLIANCE BY D CODE DATE	June 25, 2009 9:42:51 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	I_Q CASES WITH MEDIATOR ORDERED BY ORDER DATE	February 20, 2009 11:33:42 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	J_Q CASES DISPOSED WITH MEDIATOR COMPLIANCE BY D CODE DATE	February 20, 2009 11:33:49 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	K_UFC SEARCH FOR CONCURRENT CASES	February 20, 2009 11:34:31 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	L_ALL Q CASES PENDING WITH PARTIES	March 12, 2009 4:01:33 PM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	M_MILESTONES DUE	October 20, 2009 10:52:27 AM	More...
<input type="checkbox"/>	N_Q CASES WITH CHILD PRESENT	August 13, 2009 12:55:10 PM	More...