

FFP Treatment Team

- **Judge Tonya Jones** leads the treatment team and conducts court hearings.
- **Attorneys** represents best interests/wishes of their client
- **Case Manager** assess clients needs and coordinates community-based services for client, attends court hearings with clients, and reports progress to program coordinator.
- **Treatment Provider(s)** represent each agency providing services to the family and provides treatment services based on recommendations from litigants assessment.
- **Guardian ad litem (GAL)**, (if applicable) represents the best interests of the family's minor children.
- **Families First Program Coordinator** is the liaison between the Court and all treatment providers, case manager, and completes quick screening tools with litigants to determine appropriateness for program.
- **Court Bailiff** assists Judge Jones with daily court operations
- **Case Western Reserve University** completes research regarding the outcomes and the effectiveness of FFP.

Services Provide by FFP

Families First Program services includes, but not limited to, case management residential treatment, Intensive Outpatient, Partial Hospitalization, and aftercare. Litigants may also be linked with employment resources, parenting classes, individual/family counseling, youth counseling, anger management, youth mentoring programs.

Our Service Delivery

Litigant services are paid for using litigant insurance programs and grant funding provided by our partner agency.

Families First Program

Judge Tonya R. Jones,
Presiding Judge

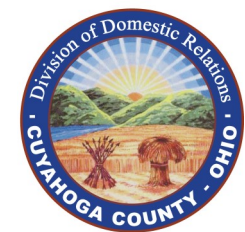
Janessa Hill Slade, FFP
Coordinator
Cuyahoga County
Domestic Relations Court
1 West Lakeside Ave.
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Phone: 216-443-8809
E-mail: FamiliesFirst@cuyahogacounty.us

Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court Families First Program



The Families First Program is an intervention program designed to support parents who are experiencing substance use and/or mental health issues that may impact their ability to co-parent.



Families First FAQs

Families First Program Benefits

FFP will link parents with the treatment services and supportive resources necessary to assist with substance use, mental health and parenting issues. Participants will graduate with a sustainable co-parenting plan that benefits both parents and children.

Eligibility Requirements

- Parties with minor children have a contested divorce filing with the court.
- Parties to the case express concerns of mental health and/or substance use.
- A pre-screen intake and assessment which will determine if the family qualifies for the Families First Program.
- The FFP program is completely voluntary and *both parties must agree* to participate.

Note: Dissolutions, legal separations, uncontested divorces, and divorces without minor children to not qualify.



Families First Program Intervention

Judge Jones meets with litigants at the first pretrial hearing. After meeting with the litigants the pre-screen intake will be completed when/if issues of mental health or substance use are raised.

Program Phases

Phase I – Hearings held every 30 days to review treatment progress and parenting time schedule

Phase II – Hearings held every 60 days to solidify co-parenting agreement

Graduation

Moore Counseling and Mediation Services (MCMS)

- MCMS will conduct a Clinical Assessment and provide recommendations to Judge Jones and the treatment team.
- Litigant will be linked with a case manager from MCMS to facilitate treatment referrals in accordance with recommendations.
- Case Manager reports progress to treatment team and will attend each hearing.
- Case manager will also assist litigant in removing barriers to treatment and find services that will benefit the family.

Graduation Requirements

- Completion of recommended services or consistent engagement in treatment services that are assigned by the treatment team.
- Consistent engagement with case manager and/or program coordinator.
- Development of a mutually agreed upon, effective parenting time schedule.

How Long Is The Program?

- FFP can last up to 18 months

Can A Case Be Terminated From The Families First Program?

Terminations can result if either party withdraws voluntary consent to participate OR if litigant's continued lack of progress in treatment requires the Court to terminate involvement.

If terminated, the case will return to traditional case processing but will remain with Judge Jones.

Will the FFP Address Other Issues In My Divorce?

The Families First Program focuses solely on co-parenting issues. However, all aspects of your divorce will be addressed prior to the finalization of your case.