

**CIRCUIT COURT
FOR
BALTIMORE COUNTY**



**FAMILY DIVISION ANNUAL
REPORT
FISCAL YEAR
2014**



CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Chambers of
Kathleen Gallogly Cox
Circuit Administrative Judge and
County Administrative Judge

County Courts Building
Towson, Maryland 21204
410-887-6510

October 16, 2014

The Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera
634 Courthouse East
111 N. Calvert St.
Baltimore, MD. 21202

Dear Chief Judge Barbera:

On behalf of the Judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, I am pleased to present the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Family Division of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. This Report is being submitted to you pursuant to Md. Rule 16-204 (a)(4)(D) and (b)(4) and represents all of the significant and hard work undertaken by the Family Division throughout Fiscal Year 2014. As always, should you or your staff have any questions regarding its contents, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gallogly Cox
Administrative Judge

cc: Ms. Pamela Q. Harris (w/attachment)
Mr. Timothy Sheridan (w/out attachment)
Ms. Connie Kratovil-Lavelle (w/attachment)
Mr. Richard P. Abbott (w/out attachment)

Circuit Court for Baltimore County

Family Division Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2014

Executive Summary

Since the creation of the Family Division in 1998, the judges, masters and staff of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County have been committed to the fair and efficient processing of family law cases.

In the domestic case processing area, the Family Division's emphasis on early alternative dispute resolution ("ADR") programs has allowed families the opportunity to resolve their own disputes, as early as possible, and without additional emotional trauma. Early ADR programs have reduced the need for more costly, more time consuming and more stressful hearings and trials.

For juvenile cases, the Family Division continues to focus a great deal of attention and resources on children and families with potentially severe problems. By addressing at-risk children early in the process and with frequent contact, the Family Division is investing in the well being of children. The goal is to provide these children with the opportunity to become well-adjusted and productive adults.

Finally, the Family Division realizes that it must attempt to address each family's interrelated problems, empower families through skill development and provide access to necessary and appropriate family services. Ultimately, the Family Division will strive to create solutions that maximize long-term family stability and minimize the need for subsequent court action.

The following are some highlighted achievements for fiscal year 2014. The achievements include:

- Family Division Masters helped parties settle, totally or at least one issue, in 56% of the 1,228 cases that had a Masters Settlement Conference, thereby reducing the need for a lengthy hearing in many cases.
- The Office of Family Mediation obtained a signed parenting agreement in 65% (386 total cases) of the 591 child access cases mediated.
- Child Access Evaluation Conferences settled 61% (22 total cases) of the 36 high-conflict cases that had a conference held.
- The Domestic Settlement Judges settled 68% (531 total cases) of the 785 cases set for conference.
- Pre-Hearing Contempt Facilitators fully settled 41 (34%) of the 121 Pre Hearing Contempt Conferences held and eliminated the need for a hearing in 128 (50%) of the 256 contempt cases with financial issues that were referred to the program.
- The IV-D Child Access Resolution Program settled 71% (24 total cases) of the 34 cases with a mediation held.
- The Juvenile Drug Court held graduations for a total of 22 participants in the program this past year.

- The Office of Family Mediation obtained a signed agreement in 71% (20 total cases) of the 28 dependency cases mediated.
- The Family Recovery Court had four (4) individuals graduate from the program this past fiscal year.
- The Self Help Office provided self-help assistance to 4,016 individuals in FY 2013.
- The Self Help Workshop provided information and answered questions about court hearings and other court events for 320 self-represented litigants.
- The Visitation Centers of Baltimore County supervised 609 visits, helped 20 cases convert successfully from supervised visitation to unsupervised visitation and monitored 169 child exchanges.
- A total of 1,142 individuals attended the Cooperative Co-Parenting for Healthy Children classes and 244 individuals attended the Intensive Services Parenting Workshop.
- The Family Employment and Support Program assisted 109 participants obtain jobs in FY 2014.

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I. Family Law Administration

Family Law Executive Team

The Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Administrative Judge
The Honorable Timothy J. Martin, Lead Family Judge
Julie L. Ensor, Clerk of the Court
Timothy Sheridan, Court Administrator
Richard P. Abbott, Family Law Administrator

Mission

The Circuit Court for Baltimore County is committed to developing a fully integrated, comprehensive approach to handling all cases involving children and families. The needs and best interests of children are the primary consideration of the Family Division. The Family Division is committed to improving the lives of families and children and ensuring that children live in safe and permanent homes.

All persons having business within the Family Division, including all personnel will be treated with dignity and respect. All services will be accessible to all, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or economic status and all facilities will be safe, accessible and convenient to use. Court services will be accessible without placing economic burdens on families and, wherever possible, the Court will make services and programs free to the litigants.

The judges and masters of the Family Division will carefully follow and apply the laws of the State of Maryland without bias. They will also make every effort to assure due process for all parties and give due consideration to the needs of the family, the litigants and the issues presented in each case.

Family Division processes will attempt to address each family's interrelated problems, empower families through skills development, provide access to appropriate services and offer dispute resolution forums where families can resolve their own disputes as early as possible and without additional emotional trauma. Ultimately, the Family Division will strive to create solutions that maximize long-term stability and minimize the need for subsequent court intervention.

The administration of the Family Division will seek innovative, yet practical solutions to problems, and will do so by being collaborative with the bar, court employees and all other stakeholders

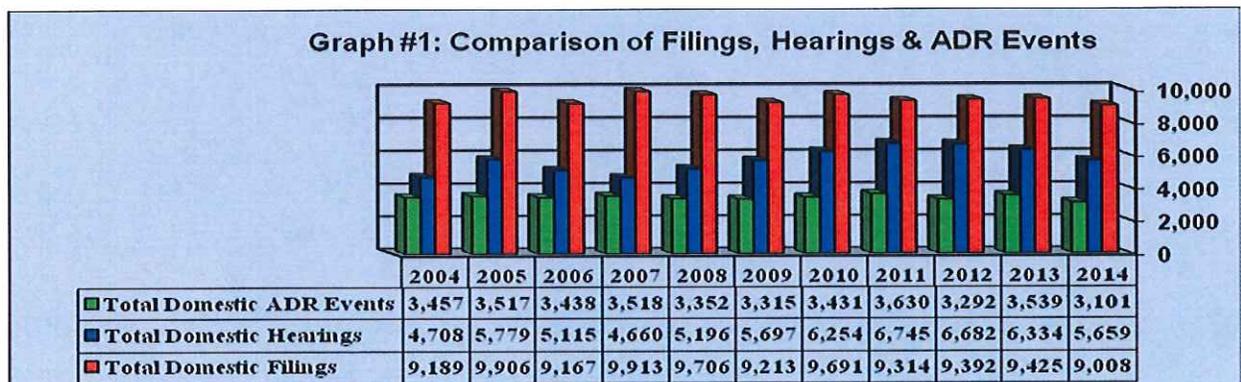
Family Division managers will coordinate, maximize and conserve court resources as efficiently as possible. The Court will accomplish this by ensuring that cases are processed and resolved as expeditiously as possible and by making services available to litigants as inexpensively as possible. Finally, in order to achieve its mission, the Family Division recognizes that it must have well-trained and highly motivated personnel.

II. Domestic Case Processing

Domestic Judges, Masters and Assignment Personnel

The Honorable Timothy J. Martin, Lead Domestic Judge (July - June)
 The Honorable Vicki Ballou-Watts, Full-time Domestic Judge (July -December)
 The Honorable Sherrie R. Bailey, Full-time Domestic Judge (July -December)
 The Honorable Judith Ensor, Full-time Domestic Judge (July - December)
 The Honorable Susan Souder, Full-time Domestic Judge (July-December)
 The Honorable H. Patrick Stringer, Full-time Domestic Judge (July -December)
 The Honorable Jan Marshall Alexander, Full-time Domestic Judge (January - June)
 The Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Full-time Domestic Judge (January -June)
 The Honorable Justin J. King, Full-time Domestic Judge (January -June)
 The Honorable John J. Nagle, III, Full-time Domestic Judge (January - June)
 The Honorable Mickey J. Norman, Full-time Domestic Judge (January -June)
 Master C. Theresa Beck, Domestic Master
 Master Phyllis Winsome Brown, Domestic Master
 Master Jacqueline E. Dawson, Domestic/ Juvenile Master
 Master Richard A. McAllister Jr., Domestic/Juvenile Master
 Master Wendy Schenker, Domestic/Juvenile Master
 Master James R. Farmer, IV-D Child Support Master
 Patricia Lucchesi, Central Assignment Director, Judicial Assignments
 Christine Shoobridge, Manager, Civil/Family Law Departments
 Jennifer Johnson, Civil Assignment Supervisor, Domestic Masters Assignments

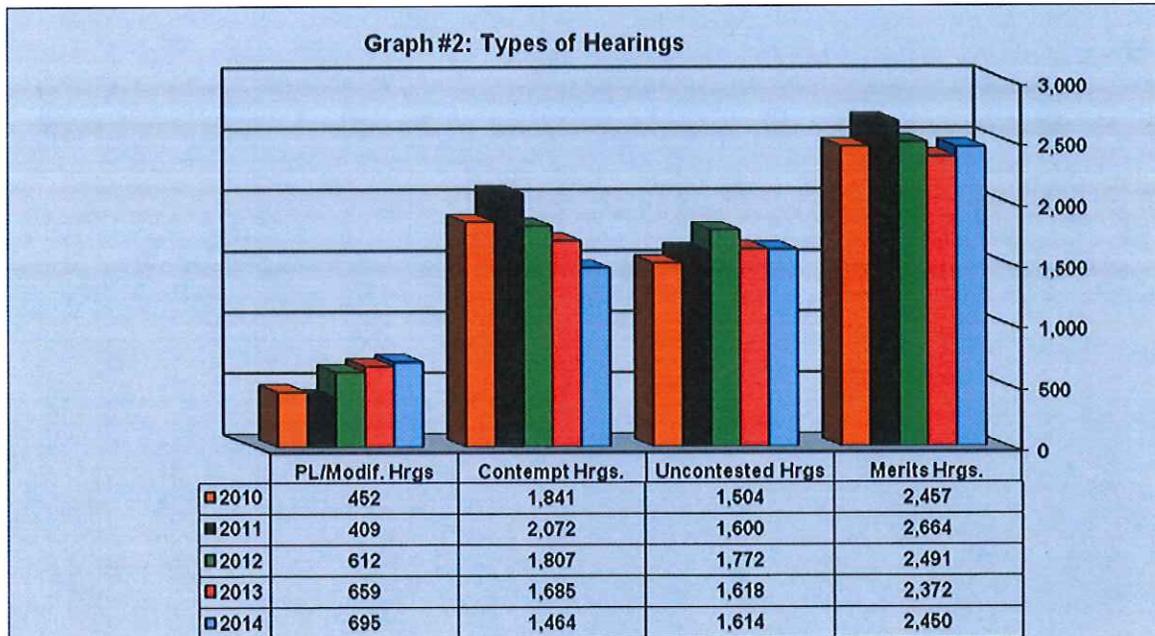
Domestic filings¹, alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) events² and hearings³ all decreased significantly in FY 2014 (-4.4%, -12.4%, and -10.6%, respectively) compared to FY 2013 (See graph #1).



¹ Domestic filings include new and reopened Divorce/Nullity, Other Domestic Relations, Adoption/Guardianship, Paternity and Domestic Violence case types and the figures for this report were taken from the Uniform Court System (“UCS”) and the Maryland Judiciary Annual Report for each year.

² Domestic ADR events include Custody/Visitation Mediation, Child Access Evaluation Conferences, Master’s Settlement Conferences, Pre Hearing Contempt Conferences and Judicial Settlement Conferences. The figures for this report came from the Uniform Court System (“UCS”) and Quarterly Family Division Reports submitted to the Executive Director, Department of Family Administration for the State Administrative Office of the Court (“AOC”). See Appendix A.

³ Domestic hearings include all merits hearings before a judge, all *pendente lite* hearings, all contempt hearings and all uncontested divorce hearings. The figures for this report came from the Uniform Court System (“UCS”) and Quarterly Family Division Reports submitted to the Executive Director Department of Family Administration for the State Administrative Office of the Court (“AOC”). See Appendix A.



The number of *Pendente Lite*/Modification Hearings and Merits Hearings increased slightly (5.5% and 3.3% respectively), the number of Uncontested Divorce Hearings remained almost the same and Contempt Hearings decreased significantly (-13.1%) compared to last fiscal year. (See Graph #2).

The significant decrease in filings in FY 2014 was likely caused by the improvement in the economy. Furthermore, the Contempt Hearings having further decreased from their high in FY 2011 is also due in part to the economy getting better the past few years, but also, in part, because of the continued efforts of the Court focusing on mediating contempt petitions. Thus, the Family Division's emphasis on early hearing dates and the appropriate use of ADR allows the Court to more efficiently process cases, use court resources most effectively and allows for the most practical, satisfactory and long-lasting resolutions to family disputes.

A. Settlement/Scheduling Conferences

Settlement/Scheduling Conference Masters, Domestic DCM Coordinator & Case Screeners

Master C. Theresa Beck, Domestic Master
 Master Phyllis Winsome Brown, Domestic Master
 Master Richard J. Gilbert, Domestic Master
 Master Wendy Schenker, Domestic/Juvenile Master
 Elizabeth Domozych, Domestic DCM Coordinator
 Cynthia Shinaberry, LCSW-C, Social Worker/Screeners
 Carl Smith, LCSW-C, Social Worker/Screeners
 Mary McNeish-Stengel, LCSW-C, Social Worker/Screeners

As part of the Domestic Case Management Plan, the Court began scheduling Settlement/Scheduling Conferences before Family Division Masters for all contested

domestic cases beginning in October 1998. The Conferences are scheduled approximately 30 days after the first answer is filed. All parties and attorneys in domestic cases with contested children's issues are required to attend.

The function of the Settlement/Scheduling Conference is threefold:

- (1) To encourage early settlement, if appropriate;
- (2) To schedule cases for future event dates, if a case does not settle; and
- (2) To screen cases for levels of conflict and arrange for appropriate services that will encourage positive discussions to help parties resolve their disputes in a mutually satisfactory manner.

A total of 1,988 in-person and telephone Settlement/Scheduling Conferences were held in FY 2014.

(1) Master's Settlement Conferences

The Family Division Masters encourage parties and their counsel to focus on the major issues in dispute and the settlement discussions with the Masters provides a forum on how those issues can be resolved. The Family Division recognizes that if communication between the parties is improved, it is more likely to lead to a mutually satisfactory result that is more beneficial for the entire family. The Conferences, therefore, provide litigants with earlier access to resolve their disputes, hopefully before the parties have "hardened" their positions and before they have expended money on unnecessary discovery.

In FY 2014, the Domestic Masters conducted 1,228 Settlement Conferences. To increase efficiency, the Masters do not meet with the parties in every Settlement/Scheduling Conference that is scheduled. If a case has high conflict issues or if there are only property issues in a case, the Masters do not hold a conference. The case will simply be scheduled for the appropriate services and hearing dates. The Masters achieved total settlements in 494 cases (40%) and partial settlement in another 196 cases (16%). It is clear that the screening process and the efforts of the Masters have greatly increased the efficiency of this process and, thereby, reduced the time that parties and their attorneys spend at the Settlement/Scheduling Conference.

(2) Child Access Screening

The Court employs a screening process to determine the level of conflict and domestic violence in all child access cases as part of the early Settlement/Scheduling Conference. The process requires that cases be screened by a professional, clinically licensed social worker at the time of the Settlement/Scheduling Conference. The Court requires that parties complete a questionnaire that was developed to identify the characteristics and issues that are often involved in a high-conflict, child access dispute. The questionnaire is used to determine whether a case may be high-conflict and whether the Screener should conduct an in-depth interview with the parties after the Family Division Master has met with the parties. If, from the questionnaire and the in-depth interview, the Screener determines that a case is high-conflict, the Screener will provide the parties with a Services Plan, including the appropriate track for each case. Cases will be assigned to one of five (5) tracks—"Intensive Services Mediation," "Intensive Services

Evaluation”, “Intensive Services Investigation,” “Intensive Services Expedited” or “Intensive Services Complex.”

The following tables show the breakdown of track assignments of Intensive Services cases and a comparison of Intensive Service track assignments to overall track assignments for FY 2014:

Intensive Services Track Assignments	FY 2014	% IS Cases
IS Evaluation	55	31.8%
IS Mediation	58	33.5%
IS Investigation	20	11.6%
IS Complex	3	1.7%
IS Modification	37	21.4%
Total IS Cases	173	100%

Domestic Case Assignments	FY 2014	% Assigned
Intensive Services Case Assignments	173	11%
Other Domestic Case Assignments	1,403	89%
Total Domestic Case Assignments	1,576	100%

While only 11% of all contested domestic cases are determined to be “high conflict” and thereby needing some type of intensive court services, it is extremely important to determine which cases need these services as early as possible. Doing so not only helps the Court and parties resolve the dispute in the most expedited and cooperative manner, but it also helps create a sense of order and stability in the lives of the children and the family as soon as possible.

(3) Telephone Conferences

The DCM Office also conducts telephone conference calls in contested cases where there are no children’s issues. In FY 2014, 342 conference calls were conducted in cases where there were no contested child access issues. The telephone conference procedure saves costs for litigants, since travel time to the Court for attorneys and litigants is eliminated.

B. Child Access Mediation

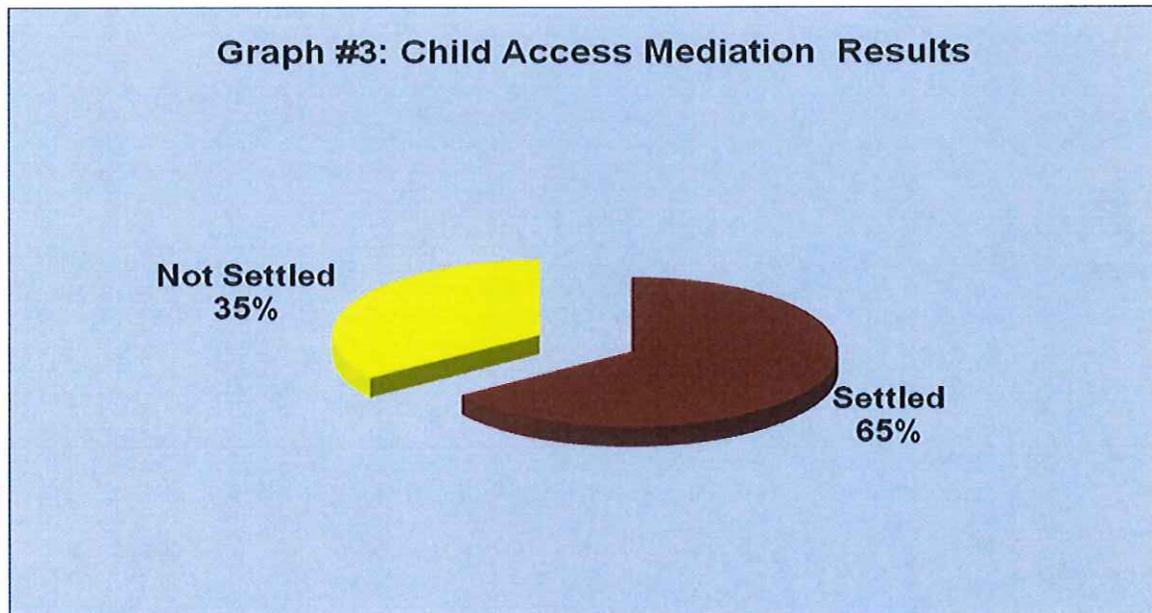
Office of Family Mediation

Wendy L. Sawyer, Director, Office of Family Mediation
Abigail Cohen, Esquire, Assistant Director/Mediator
Andrew Gange, Mediator
Adrienne Millender-Mather, Mediator
Emmett Ward, Mediator
Patricia Vias, Office Coordinator

The Court has been referring cases to the Office of Family Mediation since 1986. Most cases involving custody and visitation issues are referred to mediation. Mediators

help the parties to understand the needs of the children and reach agreements in their best interests, as well as develop a cooperative parenting relationship. Hostile and competitive feelings are reduced so individuals can better adjust to changing situations and plan for the future.

In FY 2014, staff mediators in the Office of Family Mediation held child access mediation sessions in 591 cases, including cases where a child access contempt petition was filed. The mediators helped parties reach parenting agreements in 386 (65%) of these cases (See Graph #3).



Currently, most child access mediation referrals are made at the Master's Settlement/Scheduling Conference. Family Division Judges and Masters may also make case referrals at, or after, a hearing, if the Judge or Master believes mediation will be in the best interests of the parties. Custody Mediation Conferences are scheduled approximately 30 days from the date of the Master's Settlement/Scheduling Conference and after the parties have attended at least one, three-hour session of the Court's Cooperative Co-Parenting for Healthy Children classes.

Even though the Court conducts a screening process to determine whether a case is appropriate for mediation at the Settlement/Scheduling Conference stage, the mediators continue to screen cases when parties appear for mediation to assure that all parties are comfortable with the process and are able to mediate on an equal footing.

C. Child Access Evaluation Conferences

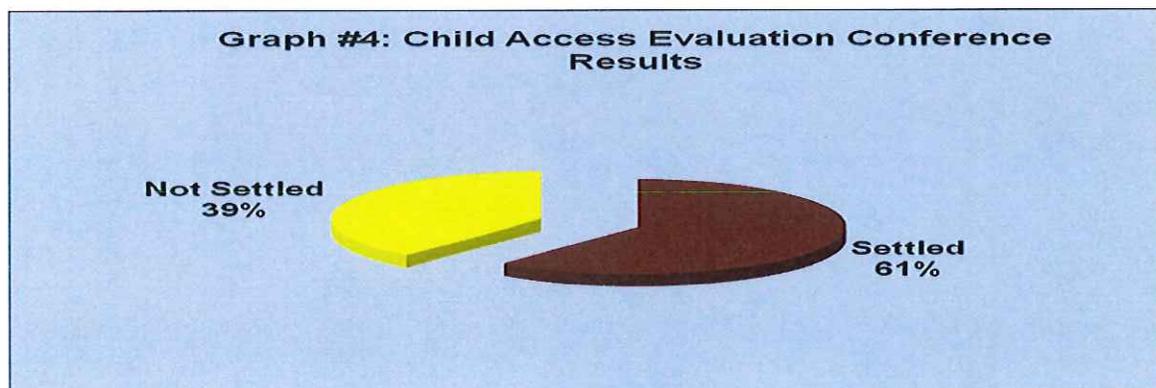
Social Workers & Mediators

Alice Dansker Doyle, M.S.Ed., Esquire
Mary McNeish-Stengel, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Cynthia Shinaberry, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Briana Shirey, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Carl Smith, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Wendy L. Sawyer, Director, Office of Family Mediation
Abigail Cohen, Esquire, Assistant Director/Mediator
Andrew Gange, Mediator
Adrienne Millender-Mather, Mediator
Emmett Ward, Mediator

A Child Access Evaluation Conference is scheduled for those cases where there are concerns about one or both parties' ability to parent. In the Child Access Evaluation Conference, a Family Support Services Social Worker will present his/her findings and offer explanations wherever appropriate to the parties and attorneys upon the completion of the Child Access Evaluation report. A Family Division Mediator facilitates the Child Access Evaluation Conference and attempts mediation on that day, after the Social Worker reports his/her findings to the parties.

The objective of the Child Access Evaluation Conference procedure is to have the parties resolve their issues at the conference, rather than having the parties go through an emotionally draining trial. Achieving this objective is not only more efficient, less costly, less stressful and sooner in the process for parties, but it will also likely result in the parties complying with the agreement they reach more closely than any order issued by a judge or master. The Court and the Family Division staff continuously work on making this process efficient and effective.

The results of the Child Access Evaluation Conferences are overwhelmingly positive. In FY 2014, there were 36 Child Access Evaluation Conferences with mediation held and 22 cases (61%) resulted in full settlement at the Conference (See Graph #4). This process has been extremely effective, since many of the families in these difficult and complex cases would have had to endure prolonged, costly trials prior to the implementation of this dispute resolution process.



D. Domestic Settlement Conferences

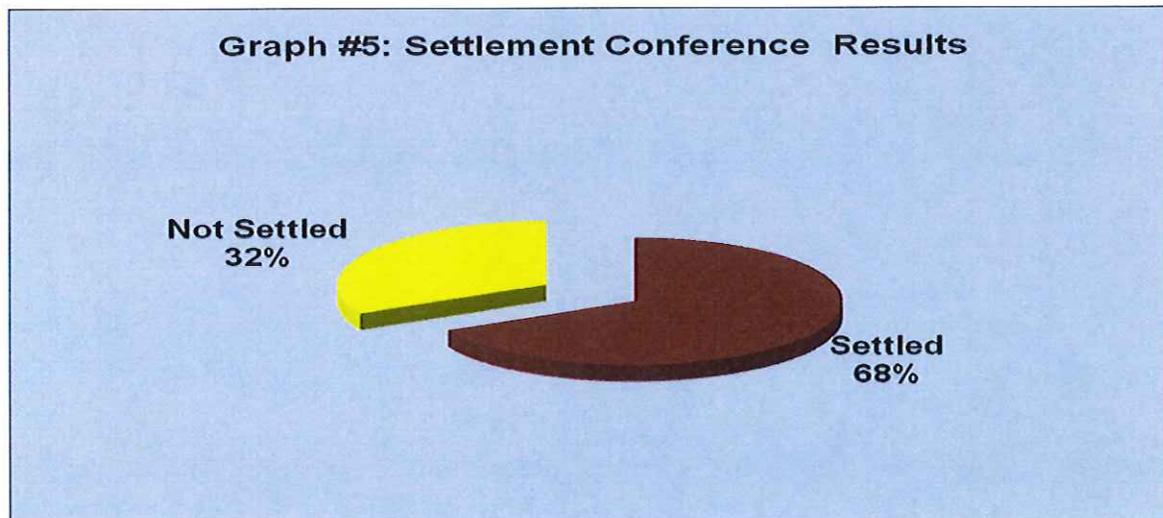
Settlement Conference Judges

The Honorable Thomas J. Bollinger
The Honorable J. Norris Byrnes
The Honorable Patrick Cavanaugh
The Honorable Robert N. Dugan
The Honorable Kathleen Friedman
The Honorable Barbara Kerr Howe
The Honorable Edward P. Murphy
The Honorable Carol Smith
The Honorable John Grason Turnbull, II

The Court has been referring domestic cases to a Domestic Settlement Judge since 1987. Domestic Settlement Conferences are scheduled approximately 30-45 days prior to trial in all domestic cases with contested issues.

Domestic Settlement Conferences provide litigants with a final opportunity to resolve their conflict prior to trial. Parties and attorneys are required to attend the Conferences. A retired judge, sitting as a settlement conference facilitator, conducts the conferences.

A total of 785 domestic cases had at least one Settlement Conference held in FY 2014. Of the total cases having conferences, 531 cases (68%) were settled at the Settlement Conference (See Graph #5).



E. Pre Hearing Contempt Conferences for Financial Issues

Contempt Facilitators & Mediators

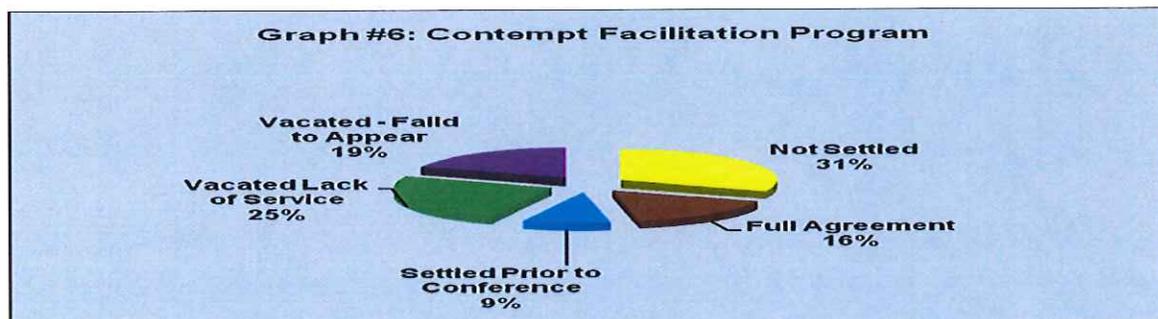
Suzanne K. Farace, Esquire
Wendy A. Schenker, Esquire
Wendy L. Sawyer, Director, Office of Family Mediation
Abigail Cohen, Esquire, Assistant Director/Mediator
Andrew Gange, Mediator
Adrienne Millender-Mather, Mediator
Emmett Ward, Mediator

The Court had been contracting the services of two local family law attorneys to act as facilitators in Pre Hearing Contempt Conferences in cases where a petition for contempt with financial issues is filed, but due to funding cuts, the Family Division, beginning on January 1, 2014, had to switch from using the contractual attorneys to having the Office of Family Mediation conduct these conferences.

This ADR process allows parties the opportunity to discuss their dispute prior to a formal hearing on the contempt. The program (1) empowers people to resolve their own disputes; (2) helps heal the rifts between the parties involved in the dispute; (3) helps restore family relationships; (4) provides an opportunity for an earlier resolution of the dispute; (5) often expedites the payment of child support arrearages; and (6) helps reduce the Court's congested docket.

The Pre Hearing Contempt Conference program also helps the Court reduce judicial and master time spent on contempt petitions. Besides those cases that are settled at the time of the conference, the program helps provide firmer hearing dates and decreases the number of postponements by identifying those cases where the moving party fails to obtain service before a hearing is even scheduled. Also, the program reduces the overall number of contempt filings and hearings, since the Facilitators address problems with the Petition, such as service, at the time of the conference. Thus, the parties correct the problems with the petition at the time of the first conference, rather than having the petition for contempt filed over and over again.

In FY 2014, there were 256 cases referred for a Pre Hearing Contempt Conference for financial issues, with 64 cases being vacated for lack of service and 23 cases removed due to the case settling prior to the conference. Of the 121 conferences held, 41 (34%) resulted in a full agreement on the day of the conference. The program thereby eliminated the need for a hearing in 128 of the 256 cases (50%) that were referred for a conference (See Graph #6 below).



F. IV-D Child Access Resolution Program

Mediators & Family Paralegal

Wendy L. Sawyer, Director, Office of Family Mediation
Abigail Cohen, Esquire, Assistant Director/Mediator
Andrew Gange, Mediator
Adrienne Millender-Mather, Mediator
Sally Moen, Mediator
Carol Murray, Mediator
Emmett Ward, Mediator
Anamarie Jimenez, Paralegal
Patricia Vias, Office Coordinator

The Court began this program in FY 2013 to offer IV-D populations an opportunity to use established mediation services, free of charge, in an effort to obtain a child access order for those non-custodial parents without a current order, or to help resolve child access issues where an order is already in place. The Court's designated IV-D Child Support Master, the Judges who hear paternity and child support cases and the Court's Family Employment and Support Program (FESP) began referring non-custodial parents with child access problems directly to the program to help non-custodial parents mediate/negotiate access issues with the custodial parent.

The goals of the program are as follows: (1) to create a way for non-custodial parents in IV-D cases with child support obligations to obtain and/or enforce court-ordered child access rights; (2) to increase compliance with child support orders by the non-custodial parent; and (3) to increase the amount of child support paid by those non-custodial parents who receive assistance by the new program.

The Mediators working in this program first determine whether a child access order exists between the parties. The Mediators then attempt to resolve the access issue through the use of proven mediation techniques to either enter into a court order covering child access where an order does not exist, or attempt to help the parties resolve the issue(s) through mediation, if an order does exist. If the custodial parent is unwilling to mediate, if there are domestic violence issues that would prevent mediation, or if mediation is unsuccessful, then the Paralegal for the program assists the non-custodial parents with completing the appropriate complaint forms to obtain, enforce, or possibly modify visitation. The Paralegal may also help to coordinate other services for both parents, such as Cooperative Co-Education Classes, Supervised Visitation and Monitored Exchange.

For FY 2014, a total of 82 individuals have been referred to the program and there have been 34 cases with a mediation held and 24 cases (71%) have reached an agreement. In many of these cases, the non-custodial parent has had no contact with the child in several years. So in those cases where agreements are reached, the program is having a great, positive impact on the family, by making sure both parents are active in the lives of their children. Furthermore, when a case does not have a mediation held, the individuals referred are assisted with completing the appropriate forms for filing a complaint to establish, modify or enforce custody or visitation.

III. Juvenile Case Processing and Services

Juvenile Judges, Masters and Assignment Personnel

The Honorable Sherrie R. Bailey, Lead Juvenile Judge
 The Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox, Administrative Judge/Juvenile Judge
 The Honorable Vicki Ballou-Watts, Juvenile Judge
 The Honorable Paul Hanley, Juvenile Judge (also Juvenile Master part of the year)
 The Honorable Timothy J. Martin, Juvenile Judge
 The Honorable H. Patrick Stringer, Juvenile Judge
 Master Jacqueline Dawson, Domestic/Juvenile Master
 Master Richard A. McAllister, Jr., Domestic/Juvenile Master
 Master Wendy Schenker, Domestic/Juvenile Master
 Elizabeth Bova, Supervisor, Juvenile, Judicial and Masters Assignments

For juvenile cases, total filings decreased by 14% in 2014 compared to FY 2013. This continues a downward trend in the number of juvenile filings. There was a significant decrease in the number of juvenile delinquency filings (354 fewer cases; a 13% decrease). There was also a significant decrease in the number of juvenile dependency filings (106 fewer cases filed; a 24% decrease). (See Table II).

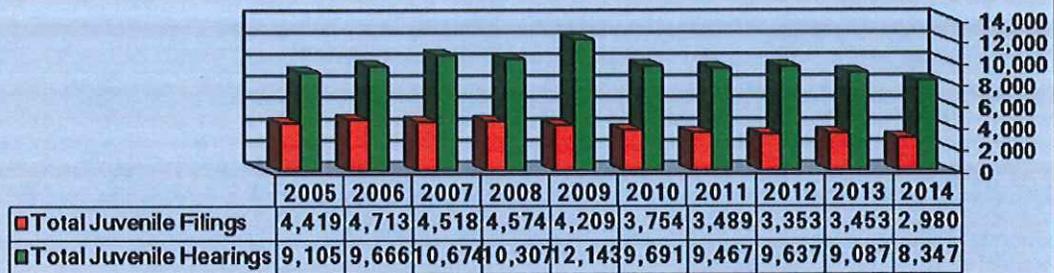
Table II: Juvenile Case Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Juvenile Delinquency	3,714	3,890	3,860	3,894	3,693	3,186	2,869	2,720	2,793	2,439
CINA, TPR & Children in Need of Supervision	526	650	506	565	391	446	420	459	445	339
Guardianship	47	25	31	33	32	26	27	18	33	34
Adoption	33	47	61	37	53	39	135	123	141	135
Other, Includes Peace Orders	99	101	60	45	40	57	38	33	41	33
Total Juvenile Filings	4,419	4,713	4,518	4,574	4,209	3,754	3,489	3,353	3,453	2,980

The number of Juvenile hearings⁴ also decreased this past fiscal year (See Graph #7 on next page). There were 740 fewer juvenile hearings held in FY 2014 than in the previous year, an 8% decrease.

The court resources and time spent on these juvenile cases remains fairly high. The number of juvenile hearings to case filings remains almost 3 to 1. This is due to the fact that the Family Division continues to focus a great deal of attention and resources on children and families with potentially severe problems, especially in the juvenile area.

⁴ Juvenile hearings include all adjudication, disposition, guardianship, contested TPR, shelter care, permanency planning and all review hearings and the figures for this report were taken from the Uniform Computer System ("UCS") and the Maryland Judiciary Annual Report for each year.

Graph #7: Comparison of Juvenile Hearings to Juvenile Filings



By addressing at-risk children early on and with frequent contact, the Family Division is investing in the well being of children. The goal is to provide these children with the opportunity to grow up to be well-adjusted and productive adults. The following juvenile court programs have been established by the Family Division to assist in the attainment of that lofty goal.

A. Juvenile Drug Court

Juvenile Drug Court Judges & Coordinator

The Honorable, Sherrie Bailey, JDC Judge
 The Honorable Paul Hanley JDC Judge
 The Honorable Vicki Ballou-Watts, Aftercare Judge
 Angela Shroyer, Drug Court Coordinator

The Baltimore County Juvenile Drug Court (“JDC”) program is an integrated, multi-agency effort to provide an innovative alternative to the traditional juvenile proceedings for substance abusing adolescents. It is operated on a collaborative basis by the JDC team, which includes a Judge, a State's Attorney, a Public Defender (or the youth's private attorney), a Department of Juvenile Services (“DJS”) Probation Officer; and an Addiction Counselors Contracted by the Bureau of Behavioral Health. The goals of the program are to increase wellness and sobriety among the adolescent population and to reduce recidivism by strengthening families and supporting drug free communities.

Throughout FY 2014, the JDC continued to maintain operations in the three (3) separate jurisdictions which were established in the planning and implementation of the program, as well as an Aftercare program available to juveniles who have an extensive history of substance abuse problems who are re-entering the community from a long-term, out-of-home, residential placement. As of June 30, 2014, the JDC program had a total of 27 juveniles active in the program. A total of 38 juveniles entered the JDC program during FY 2014 with a total annual census of 71. A total of 22 participants graduated during this past fiscal year.

The JDC was awarded a SAMHSA grant in the amount of \$948,183.00 over the next three years (October 2014 through September 2017) to fund the “Baltimore County

Juvenile Drug Court Enhancement Project.” These funds will be used to contract with Community Solutions Inc. to implement a Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) program in collaboration with JDC services. MDFT is a family-centered, comprehensive treatment program for adolescents and young adults with substance use and related behavioral and emotional problems. MDFT is an evidence-based practice, validated by clinical trials with significant positive outcomes in the treatment of adolescent substance use and behavioral problems. Federal, national, and international organizations recognize MDFT as an effective model to reduce youth substance abuse and delinquency.

The JDC program also maintains funding through the Maryland Office of Problem Solving Courts for core functions and continues to receive generous in-kind contributions from partnering agencies.

B. Dependency Mediation

Dependency Mediation Program

Wendy L. Sawyer, Director, Office of Family Mediation
Abigail Cohen, Esquire, Assistant Director/Mediator
Andrew Gange, Mediator
Adrienne Millender-Mather, Mediator
Emmett Ward, Mediator
Kristy Maurath, Permanency Planning Coordinator
Patricia Vias, Office Coordinator

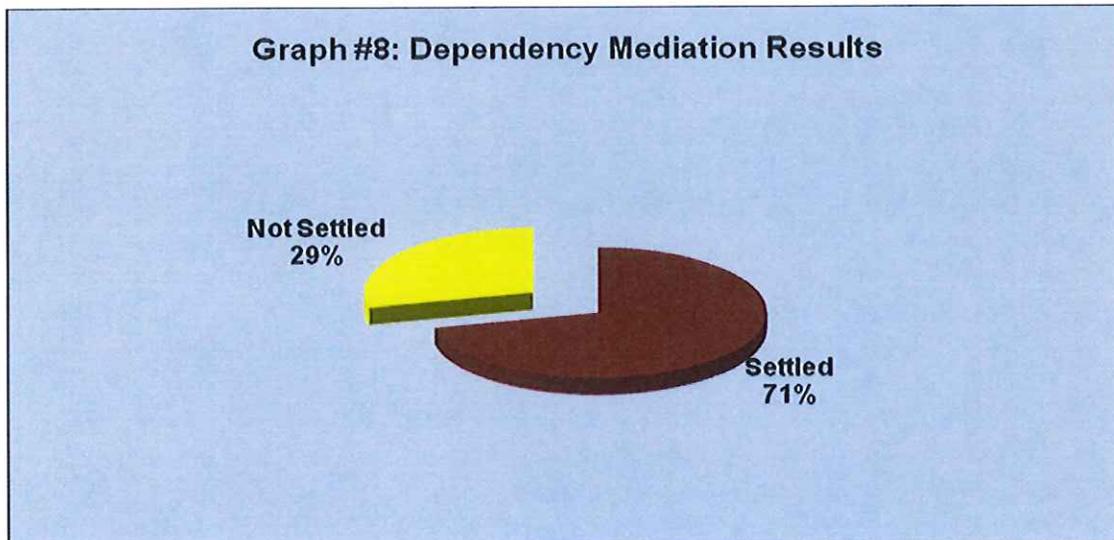
The Baltimore County Juvenile Court Dependency Mediation Program offers parents with children in foster care an opportunity to work together with social workers to plan for their children’s future. Dependency mediation may take place at an early phase (CINA stage), where the Department of Social Services and the parent attempt to work together and create a Services Agreement. Mediation allows the participants to agree and understand the progress a parent must make for reunification. The process is a give-and-take experience between the parents and the Department of Social Services. The goal for mediation at this stage is to give parents the opportunity to understand what is expected of them and to improve future communication between parents and the Department of Social Services. The likelihood that parents will successfully be reunited with their children during this early phase increases as a result of mediation.

Later in the process, the plan for reunification may change to long-term care or adoption. In some instances there is a foster family willing and able to adopt, and they may participate in mediation as well. Often this stage of the process underscores to parents the long-term consequence of failing to make the necessary progress to have a child returned home. Mediation can assist parents understand this important reality and at the same time move forward planning for the child’s future in the event the parent reunification is unsuccessful.

If a parent’s rights are to be terminated, the parent-child relationship ends. In most cases, the parent loses all contact with the child forever. Such a difficult result understandably causes parents to attempt to litigate at this stage, which has become an all-or-nothing situation. Mediation may take place between the Department of Social

Services, the birth parents, and any prospective adoptive parents. The goal for mediation at this stage is to avoid a court hearing and give the parent the opportunity to participate in planning for the future of his or her child. Often, continuing contact is established, either through photographs, letters, visits, or a combination. Mediation may also be a link to other services, such as the Progressive Visitation Center or the Enhanced Drug Treatment Program, since parties may agree to have these services made part of the conditions of the agreement.

In FY 2014, the Office of Family Mediation conducted dependency mediations in 28 cases and a full agreement was reached in 20 (71%) of those cases. (See Graph #8 below)



C. Permanency Planning

Permanency Planning

The Honorable Sherrie Bailey, Lead Juvenile Judge
Kristy Maurath, Permanency Planning Coordinator

The Permanency Planning Coordinator positions throughout the State were created in the Foster Care Court Improvement Project's 2001 Plan of Action. The Coordinator for the Third Circuit is responsible for ensuring that every child in the child welfare system in Baltimore and Harford Counties is provided with a permanent home setting in a timely manner. This is done by identifying barriers that prevent Termination of Parental Rights ("TPR") cases from being timely concluded (i.e., within 180 days from the filing of a petition).

In FY14, there were 25 TPR petitions filed and 30 TPR cases were closed, for a clearance rate of 120%. This is a 5% increase over the previous year's rate. Fourteen cases (56%) opened in FY13 have closed timely, three cases more than FY13. There were 14 trials set through the fiscal year, with five events being postponed, amounting to a trial date

certainty of 64%. This is a 33% increase over the previous fiscal year, when five out of 16 trial events were concluded.

The Coordinator tracks, monitors and assists in the disposition of TPR cases. The Coordinator also coordinates all juvenile dependency cases (i.e., Children In Need of Assistance "CINA" cases, as well as TPR cases) by developing the agenda for the Court's Juvenile Dependency Workgroup meetings, scheduling and assisting in follow-up for all dependency mediation cases and assisting the Juvenile Clerk's Office in timely processing and concluding of all Juvenile Dependency cases. The Permanency Planning Coordinator's efforts at coordination in CINA and TPR cases helps to assure that the Family Division will continue to comply with the Administrative Office of the Court's performance standards for processing Juvenile Dependency cases.

This past fiscal year, the Permanency Planning Coordinator helped close a significant number of CINA and TPR cases by reviewing every CINA and TPR case that was open with no future scheduled event. The Coordinator also helps ensure that a child consultation with a Juvenile Master takes place each year in every open CINA case, including those who are deemed unable to attend court due to medical concerns. Finally, the Permanency Planning Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the administration of the Family Recovery Court.

D. Family Recovery Court

Family Recovery Court

Master Wendy Schenker, Juvenile Master
Kristy Maurath, Permanency Planning Coordinator
Gail Kennedy, Family Recovery Court Coordinator

The Court began referring cases to the Baltimore County Family Recovery Court ("FRC") at the beginning of FY 2011. The mission of the FRC is to treat chemical dependency, preserve families and protect children. Parents and guardians who suffer from substance abuse in Child In Need of Assistance ("CINA") cases are (1) provided an opportunity to access and engage in an intensive, structured treatment program, and (2) provided with a support network of holistic, strength-based services. Through a collaborative and non-adversarial process, participants are held accountable through frequent monitoring, evaluations and Court reviews. The goals of the FRC are to provide a structured therapeutic approach to assist primary custodians to (1) live a drug-free life; (2) assume the full responsibilities of parenthood; (3) enhance family functioning; (4) achieve reunification within statutory timeframes; and (5) improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the child welfare system in Baltimore County.

In March 2011, the program was able to implement a testing component, which has increased accountability of participants, helped them stay clean and sober and, as a result, participating parents are violating the conditions of the FRC less frequently and more participants are moving through the phases of the program in a more regular fashion than in the initial year of operation.

By the end of FY14, there have been a total of 216 referrals to FRC, with 65 parents choosing to participate. The FRC has graduated 14 participants since the program began in July 2010, with four participants graduating in FY 2014. The average length of time from an individual entering the program to graduation has been 12 months. Of those who have graduated, 93% regained custody of their children at the conclusion of their respective CINA cases. In contrast, out of all the referrals who never began FRC, and had a closed CINA case at the end of FY14, 17 out of 84 (20%) were reunified with their children.



IV. Family Services

The Family Division continues to provide quality family services to those families who file cases in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. Family services are provided by court staff, contracted out by the Court or referred by the Court to outside provider agencies. The following are the family services provided by the Family Division in FY 2014.

A. Self Help Assistance

Self Help Assistance

Richard Abbott, Family Law Administrator
Terrell Warren, Self Help Office Coordinator
Roger Munn, Esquire, Self Help Workshop Presenter
Erika Daneman Slater, Esquire, Self Help Workshop Presenter
Elizabeth Domozych, Domestic DCM Coordinator

(1) Self Help Office

A full-time Paralegal staffs the Self Help Office. Parties who are representing themselves are assisted by the Paralegal in filling out Family Law forms in Family Division cases. The Paralegal also provide valuable information on how to initiate a complaint or provide a response to a complaint, how to obtain appropriate service and how the court process works. She may also provide referral information to various legal service providers whenever necessary. The Paralegal does not provide parties with legal advice.

The Office is open 35 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. There are no fees charged for the assistance provided by the Self Help Office and the Office assists anyone who needs help in filing a domestic case complaint, answer or counter complaint, regardless of income. In FY 2014, the Office provided assistance to 4,016 individuals.

The Family Division also continued its cooperative program with Stevenson University, whereby paralegal students assist parties prior to being seen by the Paralegal in the Self Help Office. The students volunteer their time for class credit and hands-on experience. Before working in the project, the students are provided with an orientation, which includes information regarding the domestic case management process and how cases are handled in the Self Help Office. The students are supervised by the Self Help Office Paralegal and their instructor, Judith Hamilton, Esquire. This program is a great benefit to the parties and the Court.

(2) Self Help Workshop

The Court began providing a Self Help Workshop to self represented litigants in February 2009. The one-hour workshop is offered in the evenings the last Tuesday of every month. An experienced family law attorney and the Family Law Administrator

provide an informative seminar, as well as answer questions regarding what self-represented litigants will need to know/do before, at and after their respective hearings.

A total of 320 individuals attended these workshops in FY 2014.

B. Family Support Services Office

Family Support Services Office

Richard Abbott, Family Law Administrator
Alice Dansker Doyle, M.S.Ed., Esquire
Mary McNeish-Stengel, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Cynthia Shinaberry, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Briana Shirey, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Carl Smith, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Linda Heilman, BSW, Investigator
Ronnie Eichelberger, FSSO Coordinator

The Court's Family Support Services Office provides various services to people involved in family law cases. The Office conducts child access evaluations and investigations/home studies. The office also manages random urine screenings and substance abuse evaluations and coordinates supervised visitation and monitored exchange services through the Visitation Centers of Baltimore County. All of these services are initiated by Court Order.

(1) Child Access Evaluations

A Child Access Evaluation is an assessment tool that results in a written recommendation to the Court on how the best interests of a minor child can be met. It is designed to assist parents in focusing on their children's needs and, at the time of the Evaluation Conference, help the parties to resolve their dispute. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute themselves, then the Child Access Evaluation provides the court with a psycho-social assessment of the family so that a judge or master can make a more informed child access determination.

The evaluations, which are free of charge to all parties, are conducted by a Social Worker and consist of a series of interviews and collateral contacts. The Social Worker's report summarizes such information as:

- Quality of the relationship between parent and child;
- Quality of the relationship between contesting parties and ability to co-parent;
- Ability of each party to parent the child;
- Mental health of the parties;
- Mental health of the child; and
- Patterns of domestic abuse.

The Social Worker does not conduct psychiatric testing, but the parties may be referred to the Office of the Court Psychiatrist for testing and assessment if specific mental

health issues are suspected. The Social Worker does not provide case management services, counseling or therapy.

In FY 2014, a total of 74 Child Access Evaluations were ordered and the Family Services Office completed 51 Child Access Evaluations.

(2) Investigations/Home Studies

An investigation is a fact-finding tool. The Court's Investigator can be called on to collect background information, conduct home inspections, and interview the parties to outline their child care plans. A written report is submitted to the Court summarizing the information collected but no recommendation is provided.

A home study reviews the care, condition and type of residence. It will address child safety issues associated with the residence and comment on the surrounding neighborhood. If only a home study is ordered, a recommendation to the Court is not provided. A home study, however, is always part of a full investigation.

In FY 2014, a total of 60 Investigations/Home Studies were ordered and the Family Services Office completed 48 Investigations/Home Studies.

(3) Supervised Visitation/Monitored Exchange

Visitation Center of Baltimore County

Richard Abbott, Family Law Administrator
Mary McNeish-Stengel, LCSW-C, Social Worker
Ronnie Eichelberger, FSSO Coordinator
Kristy Caceres, LCSW-C, Visitation Center Supervisor
Neijma Celestine-Donner, LCSW-C, Visitation Center Supervisor
Suzanne Cox, LCSW-C, Visitation Center Supervisor
Maia Wood, LCSW-C, Visitation Center Supervisor
Catherine Fisher, Visitation Center Caseworker
Kay Jessup, Visitation Center Caseworker
Marsha Mason, Visitation Center Caseworker

The Family Division offers supervised visitation and monitored exchange services through the Visitation Center of Baltimore County. The Office of Family Support Services manages the Visitation Center, which is centrally located in Cockeysville.

The Visitation Center provides a neutral location for court ordered supervised visitation and monitored exchange. The program serves families in which one of the parties is estranged from their children due to allegations of abuse, domestic violence, or other high risk factors. The court enters into contracts with the staff at the Center to effectuate the service. The staff includes a Supervisor, a Caseworker and a Security Officer. The Court provides an orientation session to the children in the program which reduces any anxiety children may have prior the start of supervised visits.

In FY 2014, a total of 609 supervised visits were held in 98 cases and helped 20 cases convert successfully from supervised visitation to unsupervised visitation in FY 2014. A total of 169 monitored exchanges also took place at the Visitation Center during the past fiscal year.

(4) Substance Abuse Evaluations & Random Urine Screening

The Court instituted policies and procedures regarding substance abuse screenings and evaluations to ensure that parties in cases involving child access issues are referred for appropriate and adequate substance abuse services, as well as to ensure that the Court resources are efficiently employed. No testing takes place at the Courthouse. The ordered party will be contacted on a random basis for testing to report for a screening at a pre-determined lab within twenty-four hours.

Referrals and results of the random urine screening services are managed through the Office of Family Support Services. If it appears from the results of the substance abuse screening that a party has a substance abuse problem, the Office of Family Support Services will refer the party to the Baltimore County Office of Substance Abuse to have a Treatment Evaluation.

A total of 137 individuals were referred for substance abuse screening in FY 2014, with an overall total of 191 drug screenings being performed. Also, 24 substance abuse evaluations were performed by the Baltimore County Office of Substance Abuse during this past fiscal year.

C. Parent Education

(1) Cooperative Co-Parenting Classes

The Family Division sponsors a parent education seminar designed to give separated parents information and resources on how to constructively cope with the separation. It is designed to assist parents in focusing on children's needs during a parental separation and to teach them how to meet children's needs from two separate homes.

The program consists of two, three-hour classes. The classes are offered the first and second Thursday evenings of each month and the third and fourth Saturday mornings of each month. Much of the program involves understanding the importance of creating a cooperative co-parenting relationship. Topics covered include: understanding the need for and learning how to develop better communication techniques with the other parent, to share information and to make important decisions for children, thereby providing stability for children without continuing conflict.

The goal for the program is to help parents understand the need for continuing parental cooperation after a separation, so that children can feel free to go back and forth between homes without experiencing turmoil or conflicted loyalties. The Family Division firmly believes this program increases the likelihood that parents will reach agreement in mediation by focusing on the children, rather than focusing on their own needs and the conflict with the other parent.

A total of 1,142 individuals attended the co-parenting classes in FY 2014.

(2) Intensive Services Parenting Workshop

The Court also offers a workshop for parents in cases where there are severe, and often chronic, conflict issues. These cases are ones in which there are serious safety issues surrounding parenting, such as alcohol and drug addiction, mental health issues, sexual abuse, and domestic violence. Also in this category are cases where parents have been entrenched in conflict for a long period of time, often involving repeat litigation. Effective communication between these parents outside the courthouse is often impossible. The goal of the workshop is to address these complex issues and provide parents with information regarding alternative ways of parenting without conflict. The workshop is to be taken after parents have attended the six-hour “Cooperative Co-parenting for Healthy Children” classes.

In FY 2014, a total of 244 individuals attended the Intensive Services Workshop. Overwhelmingly, the people who attended the workshop indicated on the evaluation survey that they have found the information obtained in the class to be understandable and useful.

D. Private Adoption Investigations

The Office of Family Mediation also conducts investigations and home studies in private adoption cases. In FY 2014, 22 private adoption investigations were conducted.

E. Office of the Court Psychiatrist

Court Psychiatrists

Dr. Stephen W. Siebert, Chief Court Psychiatrist
Dr. David Waltos, Court Psychiatrist
Dr. Barbara Tobin, Clinical Psychologist
Sheila Baynes, LCSW-C, Clinical Social Worker

The Office of the Court Psychiatrist has been in existence in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County for more than forty-years. Currently, two part-time forensic psychiatrists, a part-time forensic psychologist, a full-time social worker and a full-time administrative assistant, all of whom are fully supported in the Court’s budget funded locally through Baltimore County, staff it. This office conducts full psychiatric evaluations for Judges in the Family Division as well as pre-sentence criminal assessments. In FY 2014, 30 psychological evaluations were completed in family cases. Many of the family reports include testing, interviews, and assessments of multiple family members.

F. Family Employment and Support Program

Family Employment & Support Program ("FESP")

The Honorable John O. Hennegan, (Ret.), Lead Child Support Judge
The Honorable Sherrie R. Bailey, Child Support Judge
The Honorable Jan Alexander, Child Support Judge
The Honorable Justin J. King, Child Support Judge
Master James R. Farmer, IV-D Child Support Master
Lori Keel, Director, Child Support Enforcement Office
Adina Tanasescu, Enforcement Supervisor, Child Support Enforcement Office
Cheryl Harris, Chief Court Employment Coordinator
Lisa Gabriel, Court Employment Coordinator

The Family Employment and Support Project ("FESP") combines Court oversight, case management, employment referral and employment training to get non-custodial parents who have been delinquent with child support payments back on track – financially contributing to the well-being of their children.

Based in the Family Division, the FESP accepts client referrals from the Child Support Enforcement Office, the Judges and Masters. Each participant is required to meet weekly with a court employment coordinator, actively seek employment, retain employment and pay child support. An employment coordinator determines each individual's employment skills and training needs. The coordinators will help participants work on eliminating or controlling barriers that may impact their ability to gain employment and may make referrals to job training, if necessary. Court employment coordinators also recruit local employers as referral sources.

Monitoring and periodic Court reviews are an essential component of the FESP. Court employment coordinators monitor each participant's progress and report to the Court. Participants will be required to periodically appear before the Court to report on their progress. All participants will remain under the supervision of the Court for one year.

FESP participants come to the program with a myriad of issues that impact on the job search process. To provide a holistic approach to gaining employment, FESP has partnered with a number of community agencies that provide specialized assistance with homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health issues, to name a few. FESP monitors the participant's progress with the partner agencies and also continues to provide the tools and information needed to gain employment.

The program's goals are to increase accountability and employment opportunities for non-custodial parents who owe child support. FESP will also assist non-custodial parents improve their relationships with their children, ideally increasing both emotional and financial support for children.

Currently FESP has 170 active clients with 123 (72%) of those clients making child support payments. The Employment Coordinators helped find employment for 109 participants during FY 2014.

Because of the high number of individuals with criminal backgrounds, FESP employment coordinators are certified as Offender Workforce Development Specialists (“OWDS”). The certification is issued by the National Institute of Corrections (a division of the Department of Justice). FESP also has one staff person who is a certified OWDS instructor and an OERS (Offender Employment Retention Specialist). OWDS certification standardizes the way organizations work with and provides services for the ex-offender population. The trainings and certifications that the FESP employment coordinators receive contribute to the success the Office has had finding this population employment during these difficult economic times.

After FESP participants have completed partner programs, they may still struggle with some of their barriers. While some barriers require a longer time frame to resolve, interviewing techniques and application completion can be addressed in the short term. FESP coordinators provide an intense, three (3) hour, individualized session called ‘Empower Me Friday’. The session focuses on their resume, interviewing techniques and strategies, presentation and application completion, both on paper and on-line. Feedback is provided to the participant as a written evaluation highlighting areas that may need additional resources.

In FY2014, FESP started the process to become a paperless office. Participant files are now kept electronically. Forms and documents are scanned and delivered wirelessly to partner programs, child support offices and if possible, to FESP participants. While not yet completely paperless, FESP believes it is headed in the right direction.

The Department of Social Services (“DSS”) provides access to the Department’s “Efforts to Outcomes” database, which allows FESP Coordinators and FESP Judges more up-to-date information on the efforts each individual makes toward their respective job search. The database also helps free-up time for the employment coordinators to concentrate on assisting individuals in the program with obtaining employment.

V. Guardianship Services

Guardianship Judges, Mediators & Assignment Personnel

The Honorable Kathleen Gallogly Cox
The Honorable Judith C. Ensor
The Honorable Ruth A. Jakubowski
The Honorable Nancy M. Purpura
Wendy Sawyer, Adult Guardianship Mediator
Abigail Cohen, Adult Guardianship Mediator
Jennifer Wheeler, Trust Clerk

The following highlights the adult guardianship services offered by the Court.

A. Adult Guardianship Mediation

The Office of Family Mediation began conducting mediation in contested adult guardianship cases in 2006. The judges will refer cases to mediation, but attorneys or parties may also request mediation. There is no fee for the parties for adult guardianship mediation.

Adult guardianship cases involve families dealing with decisions about personal or financial needs of a vulnerable adult. Family members may feel overwhelmed by juggling the needs of that adult with the needs of their children or career demands. At the same time, the person over whom guardianship is sought may feel threatened or betrayed because he or she stands to lose the right to make basic life decisions. Often, family conflict can escalate during these times, particularly siblings who disagree over the parent's care, selling the family home, moving the parent to a new setting, and how to monitor the parent's health care and financial responsibilities.

Mediation is an alternative to litigation and offers parties many benefits. The vulnerable adult, if it is appropriate for him or her to attend, will have the opportunity to express his or her emotions, preferences, and concerns. Siblings can collaborate with each other to reach consensus on caregiver responsibilities, medical care and decision-making and financial concerns. Mediation enables people in conflict to communicate effectively and to make decisions together. The process can improve understanding between individuals at risk and the people who care about them.

In FY 2014, the Office of Family Mediation held two adult guardianship mediation conferences and one case (50%) resulted in an agreement between the parties.

B. Guardianship Orientation Program

The Court began implementation of a Guardianship Orientation program during fiscal year 2008. The judges assigned to hear guardianship cases present the orientation program in the evenings at the Courthouse every other month.

The orientation provides valuable information to parties appointed as Guardians of the person/property of a minor or an incapacitated adult. The program covers the responsibilities of each Guardian, reporting requirements, the role of the Trust Clerk, the practical "Dos" and "Don'ts" of being a Guardian and how to end the Guardianship relationship.



IV. Conclusion

The Family Division of the Circuit Court continues to process cases effectively and efficiently. In the domestic case processing area, the Family Division's emphasis on early ADR programs has allowed families the opportunity to resolve their own disputes as early as possible and without additional emotional trauma. The ADR programs of the Family Division have resulted in more efficient case processing and more efficient use of court resources, but, more importantly, they allow for practical, satisfactory and long-lasting resolutions to family disputes.

For juvenile cases, the Family Division continues to focus a great deal of attention and resources on children and families with potentially severe problems. By addressing at-risk children early on and with frequent contact, the Family Division is investing in the well being of children. The goal is to provide these children with the opportunity to grow up to be well-adjusted and productive adults.

Finally, the Family Division realizes that it must attempt to address each family's interrelated problems, empower families through skill development and provide access to necessary and appropriate family services. Ultimately, the Family Division will continue to create solutions that maximize long-term family stability and minimize the need for subsequent court action.



Acknowledgements

The Judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County wish to acknowledge the following individuals who contributed to the compilation, writing and editing of this Annual Report. In alphabetical order, they are as follows:

Richard P. Abbott, Family Law Administrator
Elizabeth Bova, Supervisor, Juvenile, Clerk of Court's Office
Donnetta Daniels, Administrative Assistant, FESP
Elizabeth Domozych, Domestic DCM Coordinator
Veronica Eichelberger, Office Coordinator, Family Support Services
Susan Green, Judicial Assistant, Court Administrator's Office
Cheryl Harris, Chief Employment Coordinator
Jennifer Johnson, Supervisor, Civil Assignment, Clerk of Court's Office
Lori Keel, Director, Office of Child Support Enforcement
Kristy Maurath, Permanency Planning Coordinator
Jenny Mellor, Administrative Assistant, Court Psychiatrist's Office
Patricia Lucchesi, Director, Central Assignment
Wendy Sawyer, Director, Office of Family Mediation
Timothy Sheridan, Court Administrator
Angela Shroyer, Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator
Patricia Vias, Office Coordinator, Office of Family Mediation
Terrell Warren, Self Help Office Coordinator
LuEllen Watson, LAN Administrator

**Appendix A. Anticipated Family Division Costs
FY 2015**

Program Name	Program Description	Anticipated Costs for FY 2015	Funding Source(s)
Family Law Adjudication	Includes all Masters, support staff and case processing staff. Does not include Judges or their support staff.	\$1,167,849 (\$182,778 - FDJG)	Family Division Jurisdictional Grant, County Funding and Other State Funding
Family Law Administration	Family Law Administrator provides overall supervision and direction to all Family Division programs. Also included are Administrative Costs of Family Division Professional Personnel staff.	\$138,966 (\$132,660 - FDJG)	Family Division Jurisdictional Grant
Self Help Assistance	This includes the Pro Se Office, which provides self-help assistance filing out forms and filing cases, and the Self Help Workshop, which prepares unrepresented litigants for hearings and other court events.	\$51,153	Family Division Jurisdictional Grant
Parent Educational Programs	The program provides co-parenting classes and Intensive Services Workshop to parents.	\$26,980	Family Division Service Fees
Supervised Visitation Centers	The program provides group supervised visitation and monitored exchange services to families in domestic cases.	\$35,190	Family Division Service Fees
Office of Family Mediation	Provides mediation for child access, dependency and guardianship cases. Also conducts adoption investigations.	\$451,919	County Funding
Family Support Services	Provides Child Access Evaluations and Investigation; conducts screenings for high conflict issues; provides administration for referral programs.	\$393,902	Family Division Jurisdictional Grant
Family Employment and Support Program (FESP)	Assists and monitors non-custodial parents in obtaining employment in child support cases.	\$175,837	Family Division Fees & Local CRA Title IV-D Grant
Office of the Court Psychiatrist	Provides psychiatric testing and evaluations in domestic and juvenile cases.	\$40,509 (approx. 10% of the \$405,093 total cost of the Office is for Family Division cases)	County Funding
Juvenile Drug Court (JDC)	Provides four (4) problem solving drug courts for juvenile in delinquency cases.	\$123,600	County Funding and Other State funding

**Appendix A. Anticipated Family Division Costs
FY 2015**

Program Name	Program Description	Anticipated Costs for FY 2015	Funding Source(s)
Family Recovery Court (FRC)	Provides a problems solving drug court for parents in CINA cases. Includes salary and benefits for Drug and Alcohol Counselor II and grant to Office of Public Defender	\$62,780 (\$15,701 - FDJG)	Family Division Jurisdictional Grant, Family Division Service Fees & Other State Funding
Permanency Planning Liaison	Coordination and monitoring of CINA/TPR cases.	\$74,966	Family Division Jurisdictional Grant
Substance Abuse Sceening and Evaluations	The program refers parents for substance abuse screens and evaluations. Substance Abuse screens are provided for FSS, FESP and FRC programs.	\$3,000	Family Division Service Fees
Child Counsel Appointments	Child Counsel Appointments	\$3,000	Family Division Service Fees
Total FDJG		\$857,160	FDJG
Total Other Funding		\$1,892,491	Other Funding
Total Family Division		\$2,749,651	

Grant # J-14-03 Jurisdiction: Baltimore County		FY 14				
If your jurisdiction does not track the requested info, input "X." If your jurisdiction does not offer a service, input "NA."		Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	YTD
ADR Programs						
Domestic Violence Screening						
List those (by role) responsible for screening →	Family Division Master at Sched Conf; FSSO Social Worker at Sched Conf;					
# Cases Screened		318	282	414	450	1464
In-person		318	282	414	450	1464
Not in-person		0	0	0	0	0
Mediation Programs						
Custody/Visitation (non-CINA)						
# Cases		172	163	204	240	779
Cases Ordered or Referred? →	Ordered					
# Held		140	123	152	176	591
# Agreements Reached		90	82	94	120	386
Full Agreements:		90	82	94	120	386
Partial Agreements:		0	0	0	0	0
# Cases Pending or In Progress		22	27	44	43	136
Property/Financial						
# Cases		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
Cases Ordered or Referred? →						
# Held		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
# Agreements Reached		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
Full Agreements:		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
Partial Agreements:		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
# Cases Pending or In Progress		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
CINA/TPR						
# Cases		15	5	12	9	41
Cases Ordered or Referred? →	Ordered					
# Held		10	4	8	6	28
# Agreements Reached		9	2	5	4	20
Full Agreements:		9	2	5	4	20
Partial Agreements:		0	0	0	0	0
# Cases Pending or In Progress		19	14	15	7	55
Facilitator Program						
# Cases		49	62	36	44	191
Cases Ordered or Referred? →	Ordered					
# Held		12	39	11	24	86
# Agreements Reached		4	13	6	6	29
Full Agreements:		4	13	6	6	29
Partial Agreements:		0	0	0	0	0
Settlement Conference						
# Cases		276	223	237	306	1042
Cases Ordered or Referred? →	Ordered					
# Held		198	171	184	232	785

Grant #	J-14-03	Jurisdiction: Baltimore County	FY 14		
# Agreements Reached	140	117	117	157	531
Full Agreements:	134	115	106	153	508
Partial Agreements:	6	2	11	4	23
Scheduling Conference					
# Cases	426	421	538	571	1956
Cases Ordered or Referred? →	Ordered				
# Held	374	379	345	368	1466
Other ADR Programs					
a. Guardianship Mediation	0	1	0	0	1
b.					0
c.					0
d.					0
Other Family Court Services					
Children's Attorney (Non-CINA)					
# of Attys appointed in each category					
a. Best Interest Attorney	3	2	7	6	18
b. Child Advocate	0	0	0	0	0
c. Child's Privilege Attorney	0	1	3	6	10
TOTAL # Attorneys Appointed	3	3	10	12	28
Children's Programs					
a. Psycho-Educational (#children referred)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
b. Childcare/Waiting Room (#children)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
Child Custody Related Evaluations or Investigations					
# Ordered	24	19	16	15	74
# Completed (Counted by case)	12	9	16	14	51
Home Visits					
# Ordered	13	17	14	16	60
# Completed (Counted by case)	7	10	15	16	48
Visitation Services					
Visitation					
a. # Cases Referred	10	8	7	6	31
b. # Cases Retained from Previous Qtr	23	26	29	20	98
c. # Supervised Visits Held	169	150	151	139	609
d. # Supervised Hours	169	150	151	139	609
e. # Parents Utilizing Program	66	68	72	52	258
f. # Grandparents Utilizing Program	0	0	0	0	0
g. # Children Utilizing Program	44	47	50	38	179
h. # Cases Closed Successfully	4	2	9	5	20
i. # Cases Closed Unsuccessfully	3	3	7	1	14
j. # Cases Converted to Monitored Exchange	0	0	1	0	1
Monitored Exchange					
a. # Actual Exchanges	49	67	28	25	169
b. # Parents Utilizing Program	12	14	12	8	46
c. # Grandparents Utilizing Program	0	0	0	0	0
d. # Children Utilizing Program	8	9	8	5	30

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e. # Cases Closed Successfully	0	0	1	2	3
f. # Cases Closed Unsuccessfully	0	2	0	0	2
Emergency Assistance/Crisis Intervention					
# Requests for Emergency Hearings	25	21	18	15	79
# filed	25	21	18	15	79
# granted	4	2	0	0	6
Requests for Assistance (Domestic Relations ONLY) OPTIONAL					
a. in person	0	0	0	0	0
b. by phone	125	122	130	121	498
TOTAL:	125	122	130	121	498
Mental Health Services					
Individuals Referred by Type					
a. Psychological Evaluations	6	10	4	10	30
b. Psychiatric Evaluations	0	0	0	0	0
c. Counseling (family or individual)	0	0	0	0	0
e. Anger Management	0	0	0	0	0
d. Other (Input total# others)	0	0	0	0	0
Please specify "other" below:					
Qtr 1:					
Qtr 2:					
Qtr 3:					
Qtr 4:					
	6	10	4	10	30
Parenting Coordination					
# Individuals	0	0	0	0	0
Ordered or Referred? →	Referred				
a. Pre-Judgement	0	0	0	0	0
b. Post-Judgement	0	0	0	0	0
# Individuals who Completed	0	0	0	0	0
Parenting Classes					
# Individuals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
Ordered or Referred? →					
# Individuals who Completed	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#####
Substance Abuse					
# Individuals	27	35	31	44	137
Ordered or Referred? →	Referred				
a. Screening	39	46	49	57	191
b. Evaluation	6	7	5	6	24
c. Treatment	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL REFERRALS/ORDERS (a., b., c.):	45	53	54	63	215
# Individuals who Completed	18	11	18	21	68
Other Services					
a. Adoption Investigations	4	4	10	4	22
b.					0

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c.					0
d.					0
TOTAL:	4	4	10	4	22
Co-Parenting Education					
# Individuals	388	329	258	326	1301
Ordered or Referred? →	Ordered				
# Individual who Completed Class	291	239	274	338	1142
Demographics					
Ethnic Background					
African American/Black	88	87	110	122	407
Asian	1	3	3	4	11
Caucasian/White	183	132	148	195	658
Hispanic	5	6	8	11	30
More than one race/Biracial	9	8	5	5	27
Native American	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0
No Response/Refused	5	3	0	1	9
Other: (Input total # of "others")	0	0	0	0	0
Please specify "other" below:					
Qtr 1:					
Qtr 2:					
Qtr 3:					
Qtr 4:					
TOTAL:	291	239	274	338	1142
Gender					
Male	140	115	133	171	559
Female	151	124	141	167	583
TOTAL:	291	239	274	338	1142
Household Income					
\$0-\$14,99	28	33	19	38	118
\$15,000 - \$29,999	50	49	49	56	204
\$30,000 - \$49,999	70	47	64	68	249
\$50,000 - \$69,999	47	36	56	61	200
\$70,000 - \$99,999	46	28	40	47	161
\$100,000 +	48	42	44	67	201
No Response/Refused	2	4	2	1	9
TOTAL:	291	239	274	338	1142
Education					
Less than High School	11	9	11	13	44
High School	83	68	69	97	317
Technical School	0	0	0	0	0
Some College Classes	107	83	98	96	384
Associates Degree	0	0	0	0	0
Bachelors Degree	49	55	56	80	240
Advanced Degree	40	23	39	51	153
No Response/Refused	1	1	1	1	4

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TOTAL:		291	239	274	338	1142
Marital Status						
Married to Co-Parent		114	103	125	154	496
Divorced from Co-Parent		34	33	38	42	147
Never Married to Co-Parent		140	100	111	135	486
No Response/Refused		3	3	0	7	13
TOTAL:		291	239	274	338	1142
Major Language Spoken						
English		289	231	268	329	1117
Spanish		0	5	4	6	15
Other: (Input total # of "others")		2	2	2	3	9
Please specify "other" below:						
Qtr 1:	2 listed "other" on the form					
Qtr 2:	2 listed "other" on the form					
Qtr 3:	2 listed "other" on the form					
Qtr 4:	3 listed "other" on the form					
No Response/Refused		0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL:		291	239	274	338	1142
Other Courses Recommended						
Being an Effective Step-Parent		0	0	0	0	0
Co-Parenting for Never Married Couples		0	0	0	0	0
Relative Care Providers		0	0	0	0	0
For Kids: An Education Prgrm for Kids		0	0	0	0	0
Experiencing Divorce or Separation		0	0	0	0	0
Other: (Input total # of "others")		76	54	86	28	244
Please specify "other" below:						
Qtr 1:	Special Challenges "High Conflict" Workshop					
Qtr 2:	Special Challenges "High Conflict" Workshop					
Qtr 3:	Special Challenges "High Conflict" Workshop					
Qtr 4:	Special Challenges "High Conflict" Workshop					
TOTAL:		76	54	86	28	244
Self-Help Center						
# Served		1145	935	954	982	4016
Demographics						
Ethnic Background						
African American/Black		596	475	507	561	2139
Asian		28	34	23	19	104
Caucasian/White		371	286	296	268	1221
Hispanic		46	59	67	57	229
More than one race/Biracial		38	26	18	27	109
Native American		10	6	9	10	35
Pacific Islander		3	3	4	1	11
Other: (Input total # of "others")		38	36	21	34	129
Please specify "other" below:						
Qtr 1:	38 listed "other" on the form					

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Qtr 2:	36 listed "other" on the form				
Qtr 3:	21 listed "other" on the form				
Qtr 4:	34 listed "other" on the form				
No Response/Refused	15	10	9	5	39
TOTAL:	1145	935	954	982	4016
Gender					
Male	474	416	418	407	1715
Female	667	517	535	575	2294
No Response/Refused	4	2	1	0	
TOTAL:	1145	935	954	982	4009
Household Income					
\$0-\$14,999	373	332	300	320	1325
\$15,000 - \$29,999	258	198	205	214	875
\$30,000 - \$49,999	212	157	193	197	759
\$50,000 - \$69,999	129	106	110	88	433
\$70,000 - \$99,999	56	49	47	50	202
\$100,000 +	39	30	16	30	115
No Response/Refused	78	63	83	83	307
TOTAL:	1145	935	954	982	4016
Education					
Less than High School	84	51	64	52	251
High School	355	323	315	310	1303
Technical School	80	68	60	49	257
Some College	312	237	255	263	1067
Associates Degree	88	54	76	76	294
Bachelors Degree	133	124	91	124	472
Advanced Degree	70	54	56	64	244
No Response/Refused	23	24	37	44	128
TOTAL:	1145	935	954	982	4016
Major Language Spoken					
English	1094	879	893	915	3781
Spanish	34	39	36	37	146
Other: (Input total # of "others")	11	13	15	27	66
Please specify "other" below:					
Qtr 1:	11 listed "other" on the form				
Qtr 2:	15 listed "other" on the form				
Qtr 3:	10 listed "other" on the form				
Qtr 4:	3 listed "other" on the form				
No Response/Refused	6	4	10	3	23
TOTAL:	1145	935	954	982	4016
Other Court Matters					
Bankruptcy	0	0	0	0	0
Foreclosure	0	0	0	0	0
Creditor/Debtor Issue	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Matter	0	0	0	0	0
Other Financial Case	0	0	0	0	0

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Other Non-Criminal Court Matter	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0
Type of Assistance Provided					
Telephone Assistance	0	0	0	0	0
Walk-In Assistance	1145	935	954	982	4016
a. Assistance with Forms	0	0	0	0	0
b. Legal Advice	0	0	0	0	0
b. Mediation Preparation	0	0	0	0	0
c. Parenting Plan Review	0	0	0	0	0
d. Trial Preparation	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (phone & walk-in):	1145	935	954	982	4016
Assistance by Case Type					
Absolute Divorce	340	321	342	339	1342
Adoption	16	5	2	6	29
Alimony	20	33	21	27	101
Child Support IV-D	174	246	250	232	902
Child Support non IV-D	59	110	94	86	349
Custody	312	344	344	353	1353
Domestic Violence	45	23	17	20	105
Guardianship (Child)	55	26	34	28	143
Guardianship (Adult)	0	0	0	0	0
Name Change	27	38	35	47	147
Paternity	15	15	12	8	50
Visitation	82	68	61	83	294
TOTAL:	1145	1229	1212	1229	4815
Further Assistance Recommended					
Child Support Agency	0	1	4	0	5
Lawyer Referral (e.g. Bar Assoc or	83	16	33	42	174
Other Private Atty Referral Prgm)					0
Legal Services Provider (e.g. Legal Aid)	17	4	11	7	39
Proceed Pro Se	1026	906	890	908	3730
Collaborative Law Referral	0	0	0	0	0
Mediation Referral	0	0	0	0	0
Other: (Input total # of "others")	19	8	16	25	68
Please specify "other" below:					
Qtr 1:	19 Referred to POARP				
Qtr 2:	8 Referred to POARP				
Qtr 3:	15 Referred to POARP; 1 referred to DSS				
Qtr 4:	25 Referred to POARP				
TOTAL:	1145	935	954	982	4016
Pro Se Statistics					
# Cases Involving Child Access Issues	413	409	391	449	1662
Domestic Cases					
a. # no Pro Se parties at answer	312	345	285	293	1235
b. # 1 Pro Se party at answer	247	233	241	297	1018
c. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at answer	342	306	340	460	1448

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d. # no Pro Se parties at scheduling conference	256	250	315	288	1109
e. # 1 Pro Se party at scheduling conference	117	102	146	151	516
f. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at scheduling conference	81	92	105	160	438
g. # no Pro Se parties at pendente lite hearing	19	16	25	20	80
h. # 1 Pro Se party at pendente lite hearing	7	6	6	7	26
i. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at pendente lite hearing	6	8	2	11	27
j. # no Pro Se parties at contempt hearing	136	101	101	140	478
k. # 1 Pro Se party at contempt hearing	233	139	156	266	794
l. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at contempt hearing	66	33	50	52	201
m. # no Pro Se parties at settlement conference	184	156	170	214	724
n. # 1 Pro Se party at settlement conference	33	37	24	50	144
o. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at settlement conference	57	28	44	39	168
p. # no Pro Se parties at pretrial hearing	0	0	0	0	0
q. # 1 Pro Se party at pretrial hearing	0	0	0	0	0
r. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at pretrial hearing	0	0	0	0	0
s. # no Pro Se parties at uncontested hearing	37	27	59	32	155
t. # 1 Pro Se party at uncontested hearing	127	109	132	127	495
u. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at uncontested hearing	208	233	250	268	959
v. # no Pro Se parties at trial	235	199	169	223	826
w. # 1 Pro Se party at trial	286	207	203	246	942
x. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at trial	180	174	164	216	734
y. # no Pro Se parties at disposition	527	460	448	1050	2485
z. # 1 Pro Se party at disposition	1026	865	973	2410	5274
aa. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at disposition	863	608	727	1773	3971
CINA/TPR Cases					
a. # no Pro Se parties at shelter hearing	77	47	59	52	235
b. # 1 Pro Se party at shelter hearing	0	0	0	0	0
c. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at shelter hearing	0	0	0	0	0
d. # no Pro Se parties at adjudication hearing	97	64	46	76	283
e. # 1 Pro Se party at adjudication hearing	0	0	0	1	1
f. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at adjudication hearing	0	0	0	0	0
g. # no Pro Se parties at disposition hearing	87	54	36	71	248
h. # 1 Pro Se party at disposition hearing	0	0	0	1	1
i. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at disposition hearing	0	0	0	0	0
j. # no Pro Se parties at initial permanency hearing	50	41	54	63	208
k. # 1 Pro Se party at initial permanency hearing	0	0	0	0	0
l. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at initial permanency hearing	0	0	0	0	0
m. # no Pro Se parties at settlement conference	0	0	0	0	0
n. # 1 Pro Se party at settlement conference	0	0	0	0	0
o. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at settlement conference	0	0	0	0	0
p. # no Pro Se parties at permanency/review	2	8	2	27	39
q. # 1 Pro Se party at permanency/review hearing	0	0	0	1	1
r. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at permanency/review	0	0	0	0	0
s. # no Pro Se parties at TPR hearing/trial	0	0	0	0	0
t. # 1 Pro Se party at TPR hearing/trial	0	0	0	0	0
u. # 2 or more Pro Se parties at TPR hearing/trial	0	0	0	0	0
v. # no Pro Se parties at guardianship review	20	30	21	22	93
w. # 1 Pro Se party at guardianship review	0	0	0	0	0

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x.# 2 or more Pro Se parties at guardianship review	0	0	0	0	0	

Circuit Court for Baltimore County Family Division Organizational Chart

