

**Judicial Branch Response to Information Request from the Chairs of the Task Force to Study
Legal Disputes Involving the Care and Custody of Minor Children
October 23, 2013**

1. Number of matters filed in each of the last five years regarding the custody of minor children (custody applications and divorce complaints)
See attached

- 2-4 Average and median lengths of uncontested cases involving children from filing to disposition for cases disposed of in each of the last five years

Average and median lengths of limited contested cases involving children from filing to disposition for cases disposed of in each of the last five years

Average and median lengths of fully contested cases involving children from filing to disposition for cases disposed of in each of the last five years

See attached

5. Number and/or percentage of cases claimed to limited contested list for parenting issues in each of the last five years (if child issues can be sorted out from financial issues)
We cannot reliably determine the number of limited contested vs. fully contested cases.

6. Number and/or percentage of cases claimed to fully contested list in each of the last five years
We cannot reliably determine the number of fully contested vs. limited contested cases.

7. Number of cases to which an AMC or GAL was appointed for each of the last five years
We do not track this information.

8. Number of cases for which Family Services provided mediation for parenting issues for each of the last five years
See attached

9. Do you keep statistics of how many/percentage settle after mediation?
See attached

10. Number of cases for which Family Services performed Issue Focused Evaluations for each of the last five years
See attached

11. Number/percentage which settle after Issue Focused Evaluations
See attached
12. Number of cases for which Family Services performed Comprehensive Evaluations for each of the last five years
See attached
13. Number/percentage which settle after Comprehensive Evaluations
See attached
14. Number of cases referred to Regional Family Trial Docket each of the last five years
We are working on this request. Limited information may be available.
15. Number/percentage of cases which settle after Special Masters at the Regional Family Trial Docket each of the last five years
We are working on this request. Limited information may be available.
16. Number and/or percentage of cases which settle after Special Masters in the judicial districts each of the last five years
We do not track this information
17. I think I know that Family Services has some sort of screen for high-conflict cases. Can you provide an explanation of the process? What happens when a case is identified?
See attached
18. Number of cases involving children which are reopened after disposition in each of the last five years (not regarding financial issues, if you can sort)
We do not track this information
19. Number of cases in which Motions for Contempt are filed regarding denials of parental access pendente lite in each of the last five years
We do not track this information
20. Average and median lengths of time from filing to disposition of pendente lite Motion for Contempt regarding denial of parental access in each of the last five years
We do not track this information

21. Number of cases in which Motions for Contempt are filed regarding denials of parental access post judgment in each of the last five years

We do not track this information

22. Average and median lengths of time from filing to disposition of post judgment Motion for Contempt regarding denial of parental access in each of the last five years

We do not track this information

Questions 1-7
16
18-22

State of Connecticut - Judicial Branch
Request for Information (10/21/13)

Question 1:

Custody Applications Filed During the Identified State Fiscal Year:

	Cases
7/1/2008 to 6/30/2009	2918
7/1/2009 to 6/30/2010	3141
7/1/2010 to 6/30/2011	3400
7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012	3532
7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013	3455

Dissolution of Marriage Cases Added During the Identified State Fiscal Year:

	Cases with Child(ren)*
7/1/2008 to 6/30/2009	7387
7/1/2009 to 6/30/2010	7883
7/1/2010 to 6/30/2011	7491
7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012	7480
7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013	6787

*Determined by Utilizing the Child Case Flag in the Civil Family System.

The Child Case Flag does not indicate that there was a Parenting Dispute.

Question 2:

Uncontested** with Children*	Average Days***	Median Days***
7/1/2008 to 6/30/2009	293	177
7/1/2009 to 6/30/2010	336	168
7/1/2010 to 6/30/2011	296	167
7/1/2011 to 6/30/2012	298	167
7/1/2012 to 6/30/2013	283	169

*Determined by Utilizing the Child Case Flag in the Civil Family System.

The Child Case Flag does not indicate that there was a Parenting Dispute.

** Uncontested was determined utilizing the Case Disposition Field for the following Dispositions:

- Judgment of Dissolution After Uncontested Hearing
- Judgment of Dissolution After Hearing Upon Default
- Judgment Without Trial - General

*** Days were calculated from Return Date to Disposition.

Question 3 and Question 4:

The Branch could provide data on dissolution cases that were disposed and were contested at the time of disposition. We can't reliably divide contested cases into limited contested and fully contested.

Question 5:

We cannot reliably determine the number of limited contested vs. fully contested cases.

Question 6:

We cannot reliably determine the number of fully contested vs. limited contested cases.

State of Connecticut - Judicial Branch
Request for Information (10/21/13)

Question 7:

We do not track this information

Question 14 and Question 15:

We are working on this request. Limited information may be available.

Question 16:

We do not track this information.

Question 18 through Question 22:

We do not track this information.

**JUDICIAL BRANCH- COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
FAMILY CIVIL COURT SERVICES
(2009 – SEPTEMBER 2013)**

Mediation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 to date
Referrals	716	624	584	485	426
Agreement Rate	71%	72%	72%	69%	69%

Conflict Resolution Conference	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 to date
Referrals	391	446	366	348	233
Agreement Rate	71%	76%	72%	71%	68%

Issue Focused Evaluation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 to date
Referrals	313	291	293	295	222
Agreement Rate	73%	74%	74%	75%	75%

Comprehensive Evaluation	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 to date
Referrals	620	630	513	453	349
Agreement Rate	68%	68%	66%	71%	64%

A primary outcome captured by the Judicial Branch-Court Support Services Division is the number and percentage of cases that return to Court for subsequent services post-agreement. This very low rate of return for additional services demonstrates the effectiveness of current interventions and the lasting nature of the agreements for families.

Rates of Return Post-Agreement	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 to date
Percentage	16%	16%	17%	13%	5%

**JUDICIAL BRANCH-COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
FAMILY CIVIL INTAKE SCREEN**

OVERVIEW:

The Family Civil Intake Screen (FCIS) is a comprehensive and standardized assessment instrument designed to identify parenting conflicts early in the court intake process and match the needs of the family to the correct service option. This screen provides a research based methodology that guides professional judgment and facilitates decision making. The FCIS is administered by professional staff of the Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division (CSSD)-Family Services when parents are unable to reach an agreement regarding child custody/access disputes. The screening is conducted in a motivational interview manner that takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. This tool is comprised of 27 questions, based on empirical and clinical findings, which encompass the level of conflict; ability to cooperate and communicate; complexity of issues; and level of dangerousness. The FCIS is administered by a CSSD Family Relations Counselor (FRC) as part of a Short Calendar negotiation within the Family Civil Court.

PROCESS:

Once a determination has been made by the Court or a Family Relations Counselor that a referral to Family Services will be made to assist the clients in resolving a parenting dispute, a Family Civil Intake Screen (FCIS) is completed. The information necessary to complete the Family Civil Intake Screen is gathered verbally from the parties. In optimum situations the parties, and possibly their respective attorneys, are in the same room during the Screening process. The presence of the attorney during the process is elective; therefore the FRC and the attorneys of record discuss the need for counsel to be present during the entire intake screen. Prior to bringing parties together to complete the FCIS, the FRC canvasses each parent separately regarding their concerns of any history or current domestic violence, fear, intimidation, the existence of Court Orders prohibiting contact, and level of comfort each has towards the other. If these factors are present, the Screening process is completed with each client separately.

Once the Family Civil Intake Screen is completed, the FRC utilizes the information gathered to determine the service option that has the highest probability of resolving the contested issue. The FRC indicates to the parties and attorneys of record the service option that will be offered to the clients. The FRC also provides a brief description of the selected process (Mediation, Conflict Resolution Conference, Issue Focused Evaluation or Comprehensive Evaluation) to the parties. At the conclusion of the process, the FRC makes that service recommendation known to the Court.