



DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE

2022-23 Budget Presentation

MISSION

The Harris County Domestic Relations Office provides services to families with cases in the Harris County Family District Courts. All services are offered with a focus on the child(ren)'s best interest.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

- Administration and Support Services
- Community Supervision Services
- Family Court Services Division
 - Adoption Evaluations
 - Child Custody Evaluations
 - Family Mediation and Parent Conferences
 - Parent Coaching and Issue Based Investigations
 - Supervised Visitation
- Legal Services Division
 - Child Access & Parenting Time
 - Child Support Monitoring/Enforcement Program
 - Child Support Services

DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL AREA:

KEY OBJECTIVES:

Public Health

- Children are afforded quality time, in a safe environment with both parents.
- Children in adoption and contested custody matters are protected and safe.
- Parents discover that mediation is a preferred alternative to litigation.
- Parents understand and keep children out of parental conflict.

Justice & Safety

- Parents are aware of the consequences of failing to follow court orders.

Economic Opportunity

- Children receive both emotional and financial support from each parent.
- Children timely receive the financial support needed to grow up and thrive in.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Delivering of direct services during COVID.
- Odyssey Case Management – Configuration, training and launch of new system.
- Child Support Early Intervention Program – Modified case entry due to federal and state legislative changes.
- Renegotiation of four contracts/grants to provide community supervision, possession/access, customer service and child support.
- Rolled out program and service mapping to better track spending and metric progress.
- Training – Mediation, forensic evaluation and parenting coordination.
- Supervised Visitation – Secured 7th location.

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

- Delivering direct services during COVID.
- Outreach to lawyers and parents on new case entry for child support program.
- Moving 2/3 of staff into the Odyssey Program
- Harvesting data for service mapping and metric reporting.
- Deadlines – timely completion of forensic evaluations caused by COVID

DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND PROGRESS

- Adoptions Evaluations Processed
- Supervised Visits of Children
- Forensic Child Custody Evaluations Processed
- Family Mediations Processed
- Parent Conferences Processed
- Mediation Resolution Rate
- Child Possession & Access Services
- Child Support Collected and Collection Rate
- Successful Completion of Community Supervision
- Legal Assistance to Self-Represented Litigants
- 300+ children affirmed in safe/loving homes.
- 3000+ safe visits between children and parents.
- 93% of custody matters settled after a forensic evaluation.
- 1500+ families applied for mediation, with 81% setting their case and avoiding trial.
- 400+ parents sought possession of their child.
- \$176 million+ collected in child and medical support, with a child support collection rate of 81%.
- Over 300 parents successfully completed community supervision and avoided jail time.
- 600+ residents received legal assistance with their family law case.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS OFFICE BUDGET REQUESTS

PROPOSAL	SFY 22	FY 22 - 23	RESULTS & OUTCOME
Create a service to provide legal information to self-represented litigants. (1 new attorney)	\$72K	\$133K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in clearing the family courts' dockets • Move approximately 480 self-represented cases through the family courts annually. • Assist self-represented Harris County residents.
Reallocate all staff working on the Integrated Child Support System into the General Fund. Cost is recouped from contract revenue.	\$1,727K	\$2,591K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICSS Agreement handled as a contract. • Provide budget continuity and eliminates monthly budget shortages. • Reduce administrative inefficiencies.
Merit raises based on formula that considers any COLA and level of salary.		\$98K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivate employees to excel & builds loyalty. • Raise performance outcomes. • Increase employee retention/satisfaction.