Advanced Family Law for North Carolina District Court Judges

2020-21 Action Plan

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| Name |  |
| Date |  |

The following are the ten North Carolina best practices for a successful Family Court. My action plan is to identify up to two practices that are not in place in my court or need improvement and to work with other judges and staff to put them into practice in my court.

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| **No** | **Best practice** | **Description of action** | **Already practiced** | **Needs improve-ment** | **ACTION**  **Check at least 2** |
| **1** | **Judicial Leadership** | Judicial leaders must communicate with and enlist the support of their employees, practicing attorneys, child welfare agencies, to ensure timely dispositions |  |  |  |
| **2** | **One Judge (or Judge Team)/One Family** | Assigning of a single judge to a family in domestic court for a divorce, in juvenile court for abuse, neglect or dependency issues, in domestic violence court for assault charges, or in delinquency court for a truant or criminally-involved youth. |  |  |  |
| **3** | **New Local Rules** | Develop specific procedures to ensure that upon filing, cases continue through the system in a timely, predictable, and effective manner. |  |  |  |
| **4** | **Time Standards for Events in All Cases** | Time standards for events in all cases provide for the pace of the case, as well as the length of time families can anticipate their case will require to resolve. |  |  |  |
| **5** | **Active Case Management by the Court** | When the case is filed, the case coordinators or judicial staff/clerks capture those filings, assign a judge, and schedule and continuously calendar each case. |  |  |  |
| **6** | **Maximum Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)** | Use of two mandatory programs: Custody Mediation and Family Financial Mediation. |  |  |  |
| **7** | **Focus on Customer Service** | Produce brochures that cover many aspects of their programs and services, as well as contact information for staff. These districts also develop web sites linked to [www.nccourts.org](http://www.nccourts.org) for ease of informational access. |  |  |  |
| **8** | **Additional Court and Community Services** | Additional court and community services tailored to the individual needs of each district are designed and implemented from a menu of innovative programs and tailored to the individual needs of each district. |  |  |  |
| **9** | **Specially Trained Judges and Staff** | Judges study substance abuse, domestic violence, and other topics; staff studies the unauthorized practice of law and domestic/juvenile legal procedures. |  |  |  |
| **10** | **Collaborative Local Family Court Advisory Committee (FCAC)** | Committees provide an opportunity for community and court partners to work together on visionary planning. They also serve as an all-important venue for stakeholders to bring their concerns to Family Court. |  |  |  |