

Family Treatment Court - Judge Specific Orientation Materials

Please email fdc@cffutures.org if you have additional resource or training needs website for updated materials

General Family Drug Court Resources

- [Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards](#)- *The Family Treatment Court (FTC) Best Practices Standards* published by the Center for Children and Family Futures (2019) and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals provide local jurisdictions, states, tribes, and funders with clear practice guidance to improve outcomes for children, parents, and families affected by substance use and co-occurring disorders who are involved in child welfare. The FTC Standards reflect the rigorous research and rich practice experience from treatments courts, dependency court, child welfare, SUD treatment, mental health treatment, children's developmental services, and related health, educational, and social services.
- [National Strategic Plan for Family Drug Courts](#) - This National Strategic Plan was written by Children and Family Futures (CFF) with support and participation from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Children's Bureau, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) along with other national, state and foundation stakeholders. This plan outlines a coordinated national strategy to enhance and expand the use of FDCs to improve outcomes for more children and families.
- [Family Drug Court Tutorials](#) – The Family Drug Court tutorial is designed for anyone interested in gaining basic and introductory knowledge of the FDC model and operation. Newly hired team members, local community stakeholders, and members from partner agencies who are looking to become acquainted with the FDC model will find this tutorial particularly helpful. This tutorial delivers the latest best practices and research about FDCs using a user-friendly platform.
- [Checklist to Change: Rethinking Success](#) - Family Drug Courts (FDCs) provide a pathway for achieving positive outcomes through interagency collaboration, coordinated and comprehensive service delivery, and enhanced accountability. The phasing system of the FDC model, in particular, provides participants and the team visible steps for measuring progress and success. Many FDCs have moved beyond the traditional pre-set phasing structure focused on compliance and completing a checklist of requirements to one that accounts for parents' strengths, readiness, and desire behavioral change. This Café Conversation will explore the innovative yet meaningful approach FDCs have adopted to better assess and prepare families for successful recovery and reunification.
- [Top 5 Challenges in Responding to Participant Behavior](#) - Many family treatment courts (FTCs) are challenged with effectively responding to participant behavior. The complexities of supporting real behavior change and providing accountability to achieve the goals of recovery and safe parenting require a renewed mindset towards sanctions and incentives. This recorded webinar will highlight the most recent research and

explore hot topics surrounding sanctions and incentives, such as use of jail, phase advancement, and termination. The Café Conversation will explore key considerations on responding to participant behavior and the wide range of responses available. This will require your team to be individualistic yet fair, problem-solving and therapeutic in its approach. FTCs will also need to consider the underlying causes of the behavior and the effect of the response on the participant's children, and the parent's engagement in treatment and supportive services.

- [ACYF - Family Time and Visitation](#)- This information memorandum provides information on research, best practices, resources and recommendations for providing children and youth in out-of-home care safe, meaningful and high frequency family time that strengthens the family, expedites reunification and improves parent and child well-being outcomes.

Discipline Specific Resources: Judicial Officer

- [Judicial Script](#) - FDCs expressed the need for additional judicial guidance specific to the recommended way Judge's should respond to participant behavior. In response, we developed the Family Drug Court: Judicial Script. This Script is modeled off of Santa Clara's Family Wellness Court and was taken from a training tool developed by Judge Yew for her judicial successor. Judge Yew is known as one of the most trauma-informed judges in the field. We adjusted her training tool so that it is generalized across court models and jurisdictions. This is a great training tool for Judges that are new to the FDC approach and can be used as an evaluation tool when observing court responses. We are in the process of updating this resource and should have a revised version sometime this summer. The updates will include a focus on child and family needs.
- [FDC Learning Academy Webinar: Passing the Judicial Baton – Why Judicial Succession Planning Matters in FDC: -](#) The judge serves as a central figure of leadership in the FDC by serving as a team leader in bringing various systems together and overseeing the progress in treatment and recovery of participants in the FDC. The judge is also in a position to influence related reform efforts and keeping colleagues and the community informed about the FDC. So what happens when such leaders either transition or rotate out of this position? This webinar presentation explores key considerations to effectively plan for judicial succession in the FDC. The presentation will include perspectives of two judicial officers and an FDC Coordinator who share knowledge about their experiences and strategies to ensure a smooth judicial transition.
- [Judicial Perspectives on Family Drug Treatment Courts](#) – written by Judge Leonard Edwards and Judge James A. Ray, this article is intended to give judges and others a judicial perspective on FDCs, and to offer some assistance for those who are operating or who are considering creating one. This article reviews everything from the basics of FDCs to strategies of innovation and sustainability.
- [The Drug Court Judicial Benchbook](#) – Although written for Adult Criminal Drug Court, there is still great information for Judges of all collaborative courts within this resource

that can be transferred to the Family Drug Court arena. *The Drug Court Judicial Benchbook* brings evidence-based practices and best practices to the adult Drug Court field like never before. After years of compiling and synthesizing the collective knowledge and wisdom of thousands of judges, attorneys, treatment providers, probation officers, law enforcement officers, and research scholars, *The Drug Court Judicial Benchbook* provides key guidelines that will help judges improve client outcomes and increase cost savings.

- [Family Drug Treatment Courts: A place for Judicial Activism?](#) – This article, written by Honorable Angela Edwards Roberts is an oldie but a goodie. The objective of this article is to inform lawyers and judges about collaborative courts and to encourage judges to be involved in this innovation. This article asserts that family drug treatment courts allow for collaborative intervention without breach of judicial ethics when a team of professionals, led by the J&DR court judge, works collaboratively to help families effectively deal with substance abuse.