

## FAMILIES IN TRANSITION SEMINAR

### PURPOSE

The Families in Transition Seminar is a court-ordered educational program for parties involved in divorce, separate maintenance, paternity, change of custody, visitation, legitimation, and other domestic relations matters involving the custody of minor children. The four-hour educational seminar is conducted by trained counselors and therapists and is offered by the Family Division of Fulton County Superior Court. **Both parties to the domestic action are required to attend.** Each party is required to pay a \$30 fee, however a fee waiver may be requested by eligible parties.

### ASSISTING CHILDREN IN TRANSITION

#### *DURING SATURDAY FIT SEMINAR*

***Pre-registration is required***

ACT is a seminar provided for minor children of divorcing parents. The four-hour educational Seminar is offered by the Family Division of Fulton County Superior Court and is conducted by trained counselors and therapists. ACT addresses questions commonly asked by children, ages **8 through 17** whose parents are divorcing. Activities include arts and crafts, journal writing and role play.

### ONLINE SEMINAR

An online version of the Families in Transition seminar is available online. The seminar will take 3-4 hours to complete and can be started at any time day or night. The fee for the online seminar is \$50.00. Payment is made directly to Families First and there are **no fee waivers** available for the online version. A certificate of completion will be issued to participants upon completion of the online class.

### SPANISH SEMINAR

We offer a FIT Seminar in Spanish **once per month**. Please check the Spanish brochure, our website at [www.fultoncourt.org/family](http://www.fultoncourt.org/family), or call (404) 612-3938 for more information, including fees and registration.

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**For more seminar information call, please call**

**(404) 612-4618 English**

**(404) 612-3938 Spanish**

## Superior Court Judges

Judge Gail S. Tusan, Chief Judge  
Judge Alford J. Dempsey, Jr.  
Judge Doris L. Downs  
**Judge Constance C. Russell \***  
Judge John J. Goger  
Judge Tom Campbell  
Judge Ural D. Glanville  
Judge Craig L. Schwall, Sr.  
**Judge Christopher S. Brasher \***  
Judge Henry M. Newkirk  
Judge Kimberly M. Esmond Adams  
Judge Shawn Ellen LaGrua  
Judge Kelly Lee Ellerbe  
Judge D. Todd Markle  
Judge Robert C.I. McBurney  
**Judge Jane C. Barwick \***  
Judge Thomas A. Cox, Jr.  
Judge Eric Dunaway  
**Judge Belinda E. Edwards \***  
Judge Paige R. Whitaker

*\*Family Division Judge*

**Yolanda Lewis, District Court Administrator**  
Fulton County Superior Court

### Family Division Staff

Kim Brock, Director  
Thuy An Ho, Administrative Assistant  
Daniel Pinilla, FIT Seminar Coordinator  
Casandra Gilmore, Child Support Case Manager  
Natara Copeland FVIP Coordinator  
Shawenika Vinson, Family Violence Case Manager  
Brandon Glover, Family Violence Case Manager  
Desmond Brock, One Stop Assistant  
Billy Johnson, FLIC Legal Assistant  
Deborah Franklin, FLIC Legal Assistant  
Quionetta Jo Huff, FLIC Legal Assistant  
Vacant, FLIC Legal Assistant  
Terry Neal, Social Services Coordinator  
Theresa A. Strozier, Social Services Coordinator  
Angela Taylor, Social Services Coordinator

Address:

Fulton County Courthouse  
136 Pryor Street, Suite C-826  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Telephone: (404) 612-0505

Fax No.: (404) 612-5582

Email: [Familydivision@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Familydivision@fultoncountyga.gov)



## FAMILY DIVISION



*The Family Division Office is dedicated to providing quality, efficient, courteous and professional service to the public, court system, and related agencies. We will serve others with compassion, kindness, and respect.*

**FULTON COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT**

[www.fultoncourt.org/family](http://www.fultoncourt.org/family)



## HISTORY

The Family Division began in July 1998 as a pilot project designed to:

- provide a comprehensive approach to helping families in crisis by using both judicial adjudication and service intervention methods
- improve case processing from initial filing to disposition by assigning cases involving the same family to one judicial team, and scheduling cases at regular intervals through 30, 60 and 120 day conferences.

**Emphasis is placed on the best interest of the children and the family unit affected by the legal proceedings.** Though the proceedings are adjudicatory, there is an effort to reduce their adversarial nature. The parties are encouraged to take advantage of court annexed mediation which is available at no cost. As a unique feature of the Family Division, registered domestic mediators are available in each Family Division Courtroom to assist parties who are appearing at 30 and 60 Day Conferences. In many instances, parties come to a complete resolution of all issues.

## **Services offered within the Family Division include:**

- Social Services Coordinators
- Guardians ad Litem
- On Site Paternity Testing
- On Site Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Child Support Worksheet Assistance
- Legal Forms / Packets
- Free Attorney Consultations / Legal Clinics
- Families in Transition Seminars
- Alternative Dispute Resolution / Mediation Services

## FAMILY LAW INFORMATION CENTER

### PURPOSE

The Family Law Information Center (FLIC) was developed to assist people who wish to represent themselves in domestic legal matters or educate themselves about domestic issues. Anyone may come to FLIC to get legal forms or information on a variety of issues, including: paternity establishment, legitimation, custody, visitation, child support, annulment and divorce.

### FREE ATTORNEYCONSULTATION

FLIC uses the services of contract attorneys who, on an appointment basis, provide 30 minutes of free consultation on domestic legal matters. The service is available only to individuals who do not currently have legal counsel, and advice may not be provided to anyone when it has been determined that there is a legal conflict.

Many of the forms and packets are also available for downloading at our website:

[www.fultoncourt.org/family/family-forms.php](http://www.fultoncourt.org/family/family-forms.php)

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### **FREE Family Law Workshop**

There is no cost for the workshop, but participants are asked to register in advance. Workshops will be held on the 2nd Thursday from 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room located on the 7th Floor of the Justice Center Tower, 185 Central Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303.

### **FREE Legal Clinic**

There is no cost for the clinic, but due to limited space, participants are asked to register in advance. Call the Family Law Information Center at (404) 612-2789 to find out the dates, times, and location of our monthly legal clinics.

## THE ONE STOP

### PURPOSE

The One Stop Office opened on February 3, 2003. Prior to that time a petitioner seeking a Temporary Protective Order (TPO) from domestic violence or stalking had to navigate from one office to another to take the necessary steps to complete the process. Now the One Stop is open each week day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for petitioners to get help through the entire process of obtaining a TPO. Typically, ex-parte hearings are scheduled three times per day at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. and parties are asked to arrive at least 1 1/2 hours prior to hearing time to complete necessary paperwork.

Petitioners are screened and then given the forms they need to complete their petitions. Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) and the Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV) have volunteers available to provide assistance at no costs to the petitioners who qualify for their services and to help with safety planning and other related issues.

*A petitioner can always elect to seek private counsel or proceed without representation or assistance.*

Brochures and resource information on obtaining food, housing, clothing, medical care and other necessities are available. After petitioners complete their paperwork they are taken before a judge for an ex parte hearing to determine if a TPO will be issued.

### **\*\*NOTICE\*\***

If you need reasonable modifications due to disability, including communications in an alternate format, in order to participate in any County-sponsored program or meeting, please contact the

**FAMILY DIVISION at (404) 612-0505 press “0”**  
or email your request to:

[Familydivision@fultoncountygga.gov](mailto:Familydivision@fultoncountygga.gov)

seven (7) days in advance to facilitate your request.  
For TDD/TTY or Georgia Relay Service Access,  
dial 711”