

## **Rule 58. Family Dependency Treatment Court**

### **(A) Establishment of the Family Drug Court Docket**

The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court's Family Dependency Treatment Court, also known as the Family Drug Court, was established in 2001. The mission of the Family Drug Court is to empower parents to address their substance abuse addictions and other needs to achieve long-term sobriety, recovery and family stability in order to ensure the safety of their children. The Family Drug Court shall use a non-adversarial, team approach to provide support and intense monitoring to assist all participants.

### **(B) Placement in the Family Drug Court**

To be eligible for participation in the Family Drug Court, a parent must have an open case alleging child abuse, neglect and/or dependency with the Substance Treatment And Recovery Team ("START") Unit of Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services ("CCDCFS") and be clinically assessed to be in need of chemical dependency treatment. The parent must be willing to enter the Family Drug Court docket voluntarily and to comply with the docket and treatment requirements. For more information regarding eligibility requirements or what makes a parent ineligible, please see the policy and procedure manual. The Family Drug Court presiding judge has the ultimate discretion over who is admitted onto the docket with input and recommendations from the Prosecutor's Office, CCDCFS, and the Public Defender's Office.

### **(C) Case Assignment in Multi-judge Courts**

All Family Drug Court cases shall be transferred to the presiding judge of the Family Drug Court. The presiding judge will be responsible for the case through final disposition. The successful or unsuccessful termination from the Family Drug Court does not affect the assignment of the case to the presiding judge.

### **(D) Family Drug Court Case Management**

Each participant shall sign an agreement that he or she will comply with the rules of Family Drug Court and that he or she has received a copy of the participant handbook that details the rights and responsibilities of the Family Drug Court, the benefits to participation in the Family Drug Court, the resources available to the participant, the list of requirements of the Family Drug Court and the specific legal and clinical eligibility criteria for participating in the Family Drug Court.

### **(E) Termination from the Family Drug Court**

A successful termination occurs when a parent completes all the treatment and court requirements of his or her program to the satisfaction of the treatment team. The parent will graduate from Family Drug Court and his or her case will be closed. An unsuccessful termination occurs when a parent stops participating in the program with three unexcused absences or demonstrates willful noncompliance with the program's expectations. For further information, please see the policy and procedure manual. Termination from the Family Drug Court will also result if a parent is charged with a new crime of serious violent activity, CCDCFS receives new allegations of serious physical abuse or sexual abuse against the child or the parent is incarcerated for an extended period of time. If termination occurs for any of these reasons, the

case remains on the docket of the Family Drug Court judge who will make further dispositional orders regarding the permanency plan for the child.

Last Revised 10/18/2013