

# Family Law Treatment Court

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



# History of Family Law Treatment Court

- STARTED IN 2002
- TWO GRANTS THAT FUND THE PROGRAM: FIRST 5 AND COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE FOCUS GRANT
- COURT LEADERSHIP: JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT – PRESIDING JUDGE, FAMILY SUPERVISING JUDGE, CEO, FAMILY COURT SERVICES
- COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: FIRST 5, SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT SERVICES (SUTS), ATTORNEYS/BAR ASSOCIATION, COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIAL SERVICES

# FLTC: Mission Statement

Through judicial oversight and enhanced access to comprehensive treatment services, the Family Law Treatment Court (FLTC) supports parents in their recovery. FLTC improves the safety and welfare of children by supporting a parent's recovery from substance abuse and connecting parents with co-occurring mental health issues to services.

# What is Family Law Treatment Court (FLTC)?

- ▶ FLTC is a voluntary, 1 year court-supervised drug and alcohol treatment monitoring program for parents with children involved in custody hearings in Family Court.
- ▶ The purpose of FLTC, the Judge and Special Resource Program Specialists is to improve the safety and welfare of children by supporting parents in their recovery from substance abuse. Follow well-established treatment court models. A parent in FLTC will be connected to a variety of services, including recovery treatment programs and, if needed, mental health services.
- ▶ Although not guaranteed, the goal for a parent who participates and/or graduates from the program is to have improved access to their child(ren).

# FLTC: Goals

## Goal #1

- Assist participants in recovery from substance abuse and co-occurring mental health issues to make positive changes in their lives and children's lives

## Goal #2

- Assist participants through process of change to improve their well-being and strive to reach their full potential as parents

## Goal #3

- Assist participants to reach their full potential as parents by connecting their children to early screening and treatment services

# How Do Clients Get Referred?

- ▶ Judges
- ▶ Attorneys
- ▶ Screenings
- ▶ Mediations
- ▶ Previous Clients
- ▶ Therapists
- ▶ Court Website

# Who Is the Program For?

- INDIVIDUALS WHO ADMIT TO HAVING HAD OR CURRENTLY HAVE A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEM.
- INDIVIDUALS WITH NON-DEPENDENCY GUARDIANSHIP CASE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

# Family Law Treatment Court Requirements

Enter and complete an inpatient/outpatient program

Attend a minimum of 3 AA/NA or 12 step alternative meetings a week

Find a sponsor and work the 12 steps (if applicable to your program)

Participate weekly or twice weekly random drug/alcohol tests at FLTC approved site

Attend FLTC hearings on time



# Intake with Resource Specialist

- ▶ Intake and waiver forms completed
- ▶ History of substance abuse discussed
- ▶ Referred to outpatient, inpatient, or relapse prevention programs (clients walked to SUTS for an appointment/assessment)
- ▶ Referred to FIRST 5 and other community resources
- ▶ Testing Fees and other testing sources such as SOBERLINK, BACtrack, and SCRAM

# Test Results and Notices

- NOTIFICATION WILL BE SENT TO THE OPPOSING PARTY AND ALL ATTORNEYS INVOLVED IN THE CASE FOR ALL MISSED, DILUTE AND POSITIVE TESTS, SUSPENSION, TERMINATION OR VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM.
- IF CLIENT HAS UNSUPERVISED ACCESS TO THEIR CHILD(REN) AND HAVE A MISSED, POSITIVE OR DILUTE, AN EMERGENCY REVIEW HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED IMMEDIATELY WITH YOUR APJ.

# Review Hearings

- ▶ The FLTC parent is entitled to a review with their All-Purpose Judge every 120 days. These hearings are specially set only by the FLTC Resource Specialists. Notices go out and all parties as well as attorney's are required to attend those hearing since custody changes may occur.
- ▶ The FLTC Resource Specialists will provide the APJ with a progress report that includes testing results, information on program compliance and what programs the client is currently enrolled in/has completed. The opposing party, attorneys, including minor's counsel, and Judge will be provided with a copy.

# Incentives

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- ▶ Star on the star board
- ▶ Bus Tokens
- ▶ Gift Cards
- ▶ Literatures
- ▶ Sobriety Chips
- ▶ Progress reports and FLTC participation at Review Hearings

# Graduated Sanctions

- ▶ Missed/Dilute/Positive Tests or suspension/term/withdrawal =  
Notice to other party and attorneys
- ▶ Missed/Dilute/Positive test + unsupervised contact =  
Emergency review hearing
- ▶ Non-compliance = up to suspension/termination
  - ▶ Increased FLTC Appearances

# The Client's Perspective

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"I have found a love for my recovery that I never had before. I have found a way to be self sufficient and hold myself accountable. FLTC, testing and resources was paramount in my recovery." **5/2019 Graduate**

"Early sobriety can be very difficult for many, as it was for myself. Having a program that held me accountable for my sobriety was extremely important. It gave me solid foundation to build upon. I attribute a large part of my success in my sobriety to the FLTC program." **6/2019 Graduate**



# The Client's Perspective

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"FLTC is a fantastic program that makes you appreciate everything you have in life. Through this program I was able to be in my daughters life faster then I believed. With testing, Outpatient Program and NA meetings have made me a stronger parent." **4/2019 Graduate**



"When I think back at my drinking habits I found myself alone. I had no money to pay for the test and had to take public transportation, but FLTC helped me with both. I now have a different kind of life with new friends in recovery and people in AA that I call family. I have to thank FLTC for my sobriety and paving the road to getting there." **7/2019 Graduate**



# FLTC: The Data

'17-'18 clients =  
88 clients

~30-40 active  
clients

'17-'18 Children  
served = 164 (63  
under 6)

Average  
compliance  
rate = ~85-90%

% of Clients with  
Visit Change =  
38-52%

'17-'18 Budget  
= ~\$275k





# Contact Information

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