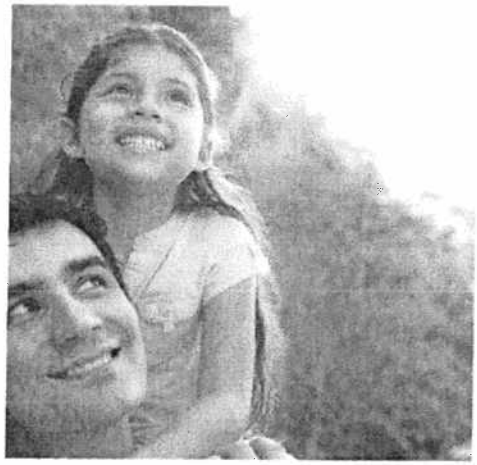
Tulsa County Family Court Program

Children struggle more with divorce than with the death of a parent.

Tulsa County's District Court helps families learn to PUT CHILDREN FIRST.

Oklahoma Ranks No. 1 in Divorce

- Over 400 divorces are filed each month in Tulsa County; 52% of them with children.
- Three in five of these children will feel rejected by at least one parent, and half will grow up with a parent(s) who stays angry.
- Children from Divorce score lower on measures of academic achievement, conduct, psychological adjustment, self-concept, and social relations.
- Children fare worse financially in a single parent home.
- Children from divorce are at a higher risk of suicidal thoughts and boys are at higher risk of completed suicide.



Solution: Tulsa County Family Court Program (TCFC)

With a focus on improving the lives of at-risk-children, Tulsa County's Family Court (TCFC) program helps over 7,000 Divorce and Paternity cases each year, and has since its inception in 1999. In Tulsa County, 37% of these litigants are self-represented, therefore needing additional support through TCFC Program.

This program:

- Provides advocacy and resource information, thereby stabilizing families at a critical time.
- Provides on-site Parenting Planning thereby ensuring ongoing financial support and children's contact with both parents at a fragile family time.
- Decreases court appearances and court time for divorcing parents and judges by clarifying all needed documents and classes to attend.
- Onsite mediation and high conflict case management is provided when ordered by one of the family court judges.
- Staff ensures a smoother divorcing process so income is not lost and the potential adversarial process does not put kids in the middle of their parents' divorce.

Benefits of TCFC

From the 2010 Annual report Tulsa Family Court Program results included:

- 96% of the self-represented divorcing parents reached Temporary Agreements without seeing the judge.
- 94% of the high conflict cases had less involvement with the court.
- 66% of all Divorce and paternity cases closed with 3 months.