

10. Do you routinely screen for domestic violence in the families you encounter?

Yes No

11. How do you screen for domestic violence?

12. What kind of innovative programs have you implemented in the Domestic Relations Division of your Court?

13. What have you planned or thought of/hoped to do in this area, but cannot due to time or money constraints?

14. Would you support some kind of fee or case tax that all divorcing families pay statewide to support innovative prevention and education programs to assist Domestic Relations Courts throughout the State of Alabama?

Yes No

15. Please indicate whether you are a member of any of the following organizations providing legal resources on domestic relations matters.

- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)-www.afcnet.org
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) - www.ncjfcj.org
- ABA Family Law Section - <http://www.abanet.org/family/>

16. a.

Is parental gatekeeping a significant problem in your county?

Parental Gatekeeping can be defined as one parent substantially taking over the caretaking duties with a child and excluding the other parent from those duties.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

In what percentage of DR custody cases do you see this as an issue?

- Over 75%
- 50 - 75%
- 25-50%
- Less than 25%

What has been your response to such cases in your county?

Do you believe there are strategic responses that may be implemented to address these cases?

16. b.

Is parental alienation a significant problem in your county?

Parental Alienation is where one parent intentionally tries to influence a child to dislike/mistrust the other parent to the degree that the child no longer wants to be with the other parent. This may include suggestions of abusive behavior by the other parent or other reasons to mistrust or be frightened of the parent or others, such as a new spouse, within the parent's household.

Yes
No
Not sure

In what percentage of DR custody cases do you see this as an issue?

over 75%
50-75%
25-50%
less than 25%

What has been your response to such cases in your county?

Do you believe there are strategic responses that may be implemented to address these cases?

17. Regarding the use of psychologists as experts relating to child custody decisions, what is your preference:

- Have court-appointed expert to report to the court
- Allow parties to choose whether to employ experts (sometimes referred to as “dueling experts?”)

18. Do you support recognition of Quasi-Judicial Immunity for court-appointed psychologists in your Court?

Yes No

19. Would you support and use a mental health professional to assist you in divorce cases where the parties cannot afford private psychologists?

Yes

No

20. Would you be willing to use some uniform method of Directed Case Management to help with assessment, screening, and management of domestic cases if that came to you from AOC?

Directed Case Management is a system of identifying and differentiating between cases as they come on the docket, or at some later point, and putting them into different categories for disposition, e.g., this one needs a full trial, this one should go to mediation, etc.

Yes

No

Need more information

21. What non-judicial programs are offered in your county that helps families in crisis and what type of services do they provide?

22. How does your county appoint Guardian ad Litem for the dependant children?

by contract

from a select list

from a list of all interested attorneys

other

23. Does your county have a local place for a forensic interview for children of alleged abuse? If so, what is it called? If not, how far do children have to travel for such an interview?

Yes

No

24. Does your county have a local program for parents who need help with substance abuse? If so, what is it called?

Yes

No

If so, what is it called?

25. Is there an area in your courthouse designated for children who are there for court hearings?

Yes

No

26. What resources, if any does your court have to obtain psychiatric or psychological evaluation, counseling and other mental health needs for parties?

If so, what is it called and what are the costs?

27. Is there an adult literacy or GED program in your county?

Yes

No

Please return the completed survey to:

Associate Dean Noah Funderburg
University of Alabama School of Law
Box 870382
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0382