

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Family Court?

Family Court is the process that ensures that a single judge will hear all cases that involve members of the same family. This way the judge can make well informed decisions about the family, and the participants don't have to repeat personal information for each different judge.

Additionally, family court participants have access to the coordination of human services. When a judge decides to assign a family to Family Court, a team of community agencies can be assembled to support the family. The family treatment team will meet with the family, to develop a plan that is designed to help the whole family use community resources for their benefit. The Family Court Coordinator manages this program, providing conflict resolution services, collaborative discussion, and problem-solving skills.

Will this change the outcome of my court case?

In many cases, it will.

The purpose of this program is to keep families together, so long as they are making progress toward reaching defined goals. Another purpose is to reduce the number of new cases that come into court. If the treatment plan is effective, and if new cases are not being filed, this information may help to keep children home with their parents, as well as promote independence from the court system.

How can my family participate?

Anyone can ask the court to review your case. It could be your counselor, case worker, attorney or teacher, or you may contact the Family Court Coordinator at the address below.

You will need to sign a waiver of confidentiality for the purpose of coordinating services.

Your involvement will be needed for the family treatment team meetings. This plan is designed to work with your participation. It is your family, and we believe that you know the best way to have your family regain strength and independence.

Where are the meeting held?

Family Court meetings are held at the courthouse: 1100 NW Bond in the Justice Building. A sign with the jury room location will be posted on the bulletin board near security.

What can I expect at a Family Court meeting?

The Coordinator will invite DHS, CASA, attorneys, and community partners (counselors, school personnel, housing advocates etc.). The Coordinator will lead a discussion to resolve differences, identify resources for your family, and provide a plan towards reunification. This is a collaborative process that is very different from the sometimes contentious nature of court hearings. The Coordinator will utilize negotiation, mediation, and structure to provide the most optimum environment for resolution of differences. This is a CONFIDENTIAL setting; however, you will need to sign a release of information for the purpose of coordination of services.

Who can tell me more?

Family Court Coordinator (541)388-5300 Ext. 2610
1164 NW Bond St.
Bend, OR. 97701