

Family Courts Information Packet



2025
**Child Custody &
Domestic Relations
TASK FORCE**

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Introduction

The Administrative Office of the Courts has compiled this packet of information as a resource for the Idaho Legislature's Child Custody and Domestic Relations Task Force. In this document and included links, you will find information and data about Family Law proceedings, the rules and statutes that govern them, the services that may cost money during a divorce with children or child custody case, funding that is available to help parents navigate the system, and statistics on court filings that will detail the frequency of events in divorce and custody cases.

Family Court Services

The Declaration of Purpose set forth in Idaho code § 32-1402 envisions a system of **coordinated family services** that integrates flexible case management, non-adversarial dispute resolution (e.g. mediation and alternative dispute assessments), alignment of family dispute and related litigation, dedicated court services coordinators, support for domestic violence courts, supervised visitation by trained providers, and additional procedural innovations to promote timely, child-sensitive, and effective resolution. Each judicial district has a **Family Court Services** office with staff to provide services like these to the community.

Under title 32, chapter 14, Idaho Code, the Legislature affirmatively recognizes that families entangled in multiple court proceedings—whether domestic relations, juvenile, criminal, or child protection—require a holistic and coordinated response.

Court Assistance Office

Each judicial district also has a Court Assistance Office (CAO). The CAO helps families navigating divorce or custody cases by providing resources and guidance for those representing themselves in court. While the CAO cannot give legal advice, staff can explain the general court process, including the steps involved in filing a case, required forms, expected timelines, and upcoming hearings. They supply court-approved forms with detailed instructions and can review documents for completeness, ensuring that paperwork is properly prepared before filing.

The CAO also connects families with additional resources such as mediation services, required parenting classes, domestic violence assistance, and community legal clinics. Staff can explain filing fees and help individuals complete fee-waiver applications when appropriate. Some offices offer workshops or scheduled appointments to provide more in-depth procedural guidance.

Domestic Violence Court

Families experiencing domestic violence are often involved in more than one court proceeding including divorce and child custody cases, as well as civil and criminal proceedings regarding domestic violence, substance abuse and child protection.

Domestic violence (DV) courts hold offenders accountable, increase victim safety, provide greater judicial monitoring and coordinate information to provide effective interaction and use of resources among courts, court personnel and community agencies. Idaho has **ten domestic violence (DV) courts** in five judicial districts.

DV courts use judicial review hearings to keep the offender accountable. These hearings are supported by reports from probation officers, treatment providers, and sometimes, victims. The goal is to handle cases involving intimate partner violence while keeping victims safe, increase offender accountability, and reduce the risk of reoffending. What makes these courts different is their collaborative work with law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, victim advocates, probation offices, and treatment providers. This team approach ensures victims receive support services-such as safety planning and counseling-while offenders are held accountable.

Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure

Under the Idaho Supreme Court's authority to establish rules of procedure for the courts ([Article V, Section 2 of the Idaho Constitution](#)), the Court adopted the Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure effective July 1, 2015. The full rules are available online: <https://isc.idaho.gov/irflp>.

The Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure were established to address recurring issues unique to family law cases not covered by the Idaho Rules of Civil Procedure, including:

- the applicability of the Idaho Rules of Evidence (I.R.F.L.P. 102),
- participation of children and protection of their interests (I.R.F.L.P. 117 & 118),
- automatic, mandatory disclosure of information (I.R.F.L.P. 401),
- standardized discovery (I.R.F.L.P. 402),
- enforcement of orders in family law matters, such as parenting time (I.R.F.L.P. 815 & 816)
- coordination of related family cases (I.R.F.L.P. 106), and
- alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and judicial settlement conferences (I.R.F.L.P. 602 & 604)

The Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure (I.R.F.L.P.) provide a clear, consistent framework for handling family law cases throughout the state and guide how cases involving divorce, custody, child support, and other family matters are filed, managed, and resolved in court.

With **standardized procedures**, the courts ensure that all parties are treated fairly, legal processes are efficient, and outcomes are more predictable. The rules also help judges, attorneys, and individuals representing themselves understand what to expect and how to prepare for each step in a family law case.

Enforcement of Family Law Orders

In family law cases, courts issue orders (such as Child Support Orders, Parenting Time Orders, Protection Orders, and orders determining the division of assets) that parties are legally bound to follow. If a party willfully refuses to obey one of these orders, another party may seek enforcement of an order, judgment or decree under I.R.F.L.P. 815 or 816.

These rules provide a procedural mechanism for enforcement of existing orders in family law cases as an alternative to contempt proceedings, or modification actions where the moving party's intent is to enforce existing rights.

These rules allow for **expedited hearings** when a parent alleges denial of, or interference with, parenting time and allows remedies including:

- compensatory (make up) time,
- economic sanctions including the award of monetary compensation for the costs resulting from a parent's failure to appear for scheduled parenting time, or
- sanctions, including attorney fees and costs, for bad faith conduct when a party willfully conducts itself improperly or acts with an improper purpose.

In the alternative, a party may choose to seek enforcement of an order through traditional methods of contempt under I.R.F.L.P. 812 and I.R.C.P. 75, which offer similar remedies.

Potential Costs in a Divorce or Custody Case

Court Filing Fees

The Idaho Supreme Court establishes the fees for all Family Law (civil) case filings. A complete list of these fees, including a breakdown of how these fees are allocated, is available here: https://isc.idaho.gov/rules/IRCP-Appendix-A-Civil-Filing-Fee-Schedule_eff070122.pdf. Note: Government agencies and filers who represent the state of Idaho are exempt from these fees per Idaho code § 67-2301. Common filing fees on this Schedule include:

Filing Fees	Total
Divorce with minor children	\$207
Divorce without minor children	\$207
Petition or stipulation to reopen or modify divorce with minor children	\$154
Petition or stipulation to reopen or modify divorce without minor children	\$154
Amended complaint to convert an action that was not one for divorce (e.g. separate maintenance) into an action for divorce with minor children	\$41
Amended complaint to convert an action that was not one for divorce (e.g. separate maintenance) into an action for divorce without minor children	\$41
Child support/custody	\$166
Paternity action	\$166
Legal separation with minor children	\$166
Legal separation without minor children	\$166
Filing of a custody decree from another state	No Fee
For divorce when the complaint did not allege a claim for divorce with minor children	\$55
For divorce when the complaint did not allege a claim for divorce without minor children	\$55
Counterclaim for divorce when the complaint did not allege a claim for divorce with minor children	\$41
Counterclaim for divorce when the complaint did not allege a claim for divorce without minor children	\$41
Renewing a judgment	\$29
Appeals (Magistrate Division to District court)	\$81

Co-Parent Education

Co-parenting education, including Focus on the Children classes, seeks to provide parents with the information and skills necessary to promote healthier communication with each other and their children. Additionally, it is designed to help parents understand children's developmental needs and provide information to reduce the amount of litigation and conflict between parents.

“Focus on Children” is not a parenting class but is instead a course designed to provide divorcing parents with tools to communicate effectively on parenting issues, while removing the children from potential conflict. Parties in divorce cases with children are ordered to attend this class.

Family Court Services offers online classes in most districts, with a recommended time frame of 3 hours to watch the video and complete the required questionnaire.

Judicial District	Link to Focus on Children Course	Cost Per Parent
First Judicial District	<i>In person classes only</i>	\$20
Second Judicial District	http://sjdc.isc.idaho.gov/Portals/34/family-court-services/Flyer%20-%20Steps%20for%20Online%20Focus%20On%20the%20Children%20Class%2012-13-2024.pdf?ver=2024-12-24-145107-683	\$40
Third Judicial District	https://www.thirdjudicialcourt.idaho.gov/fcs/focus-on-children/	\$35
Fourth Judicial District	https://adacounty.id.gov/judicial-court/magistrate-court/family-court-services/focus-on-children-classes/	\$25
Fifth Judicial District	https://www.5thjudicialdistrict.com/family-court/family-court-services/	\$60
Sixth Judicial District	https://www.bannockcounty.gov/courts/divorce/	\$35
Seventh Judicial District	https://www.jcgov.us/Faq.aspx?QID=71	\$35

Supervised Access and Exchange

Supervised Access and Exchange are services ordered by the court to facilitate access between children and the noncustodial parent when circumstances prevent routine access or exchange of children. Trained supervisors and therapeutic supervisors must follow the expectations set forth in Idaho Rule of Family Law Procedure 1003.

When issues of protection or safety occur, a judge may decide that for a child to have contact with a parent, a neutral third person must be present during visitation. This type of third-person visitation arrangement is often called “**Supervised Visitation**” and can be ordered for many reasons:

- To give the visiting parent a chance to address specific issues,
- To help reintroduce a parent after a long absence,
- To help introduce a parent and a child when there has been no existing relationship between the parent and child,
- When there is a history or allegations of domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, or substance abuse,
- When there are parenting concerns or mental illness, and

- When there is a parental threat of abduction.

Pursuant to I.R.F.L.P. 1003(e), the court must make the final decision as to who the provider will be, the way supervised access is provided, and any terms or conditions of the visitation. The court order will also specify the time and duration of the visits. The provider must always be present during the visit, listen to what is being said, and pay close attention to the child's behavior. If necessary, the provider may interrupt or end a visit. Supervised Access Providers also have rules for what is allowed during a visit, these rules are detailed in I.R.F.L.P. 1003(n) and (o).

There are three types of supervised visitation providers:

- **Non-professional provider** - Any provider who is **not paid** for providing supervised access services.
- **Professional provider** - Any provider **paid** for providing supervised access services.
- **Therapeutic provider** - A professional provider who is also a licensed mental health professional (including a psychologist, licensed master social worker, licensed professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, or an intern working under direct supervision of one of these professionals) and is ordered to provide Therapeutic Supervision.

Parenting Coordination

A "Parenting Coordinator" is a qualified impartial person appointed by the court to perform any or all of the following functions:

- (i) decide certain discretionary issues specified in the order of appointment relating to custody of a minor child;
- (ii) assist parties with reaching an agreement to resolve certain custody issues; or
- (iii) make recommendations to the court and parties.

The purpose of appointing a Parenting Coordinator is to help parents implement a court order regarding child custody, comply with an existing custody order, resolve day-to-day issues that arise regarding physical and legal custody of their child, learn healthy and effective methods of communication and ways to safely exchange their child, and reduce re-litigation where high conflict threatens the safety or well-being of their child.

The cost of Parenting Coordination varies, and the average fee for service of providers listed on the [Parenting Coordinators Roster](#) is **\$225/hour**.

Mediation

Child custody mediation provides parents with an alternative to the adversarial court process. Through mediation facilitated by a highly-trained professional, parents have the opportunity to work together and create a parenting plan that honors each parent's unique contribution to their children's upbringing. The process is non adversarial, reduces conflict and stress, costs less than litigation, and focuses on the future.

The cost of divorce mediation in Idaho varies depending on the mediator, how complex the issues are, and how many sessions are needed.

- Hourly mediator rates for private providers can vary between an estimated **\$100–\$300/hour**, depending on the mediator’s experience.
- Family Court Services can fund up to **\$75/hour** per party for mediation services.

Child Advocates

In some cases, the court may appoint an **attorney** to either (1) be the **child’s attorney** to represent the child’s interests based on the children wishes; or (2) be the child’s **guardian ad litem** to represent the best interests of the child as specified in Idaho code § 32-717.

The appointment in either role must be ordered by the court “only in those instances where the court deems legal representation or other assistance is necessary beyond any court ordered and court related services previously authorized for the particular case.” See, Idaho code § 32-704(4). The type of the appointment will depend on the age, maturity, or intelligence of the child to guide the attorney.

One or both parents will bear the cost for this appointment, which is typically billed at the attorney’s hourly rate, unless both parties are indigent, in which case the costs will be borne by the county. See, Idaho cost § 32-704(4).

Attorney for the Child

The court may appoint an attorney to represent a child in a family law case under Idaho code § 32-704 and I.R.F.L.P. 118. Like an attorney in any other case, an attorney appointed to represent a child in a family law case (i.e. child custody) represents the child’s interests based on the child’s wishes and must participate in any proceedings relating to child custody to the same extent as an attorney for any party.

Guardian ad litem

Effective July 1, 2024, House Bill 629 provides that a court may appoint a guardian ad litem (GAL) in a family law case with respect to the child’s support, custody and visitation. See, Idaho code § 32-704(4). These GALs are **not** GALs appointed in Child Protective Act cases through volunteer programs such as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). GALs appointed in family law cases are attorneys, and **do not** receive any funding or support from the state.

Unlike an attorney appointed for the child, an attorney GAL in a family law case must, among other things:

- conduct an independent factual investigation of the circumstances of the child;
- meet with any parent or other person having legal or physical custody of the child, record the concerns of the parent, and report them to the court, or if no such meeting occurs, file an affidavit stating why no meeting occurred; and
- submit a written report to the court stating the results of the investigation, the guardian ad litem's recommendations, and such other information as the court may require.

See, I.R.F.L.P. 118(d)(2) for a full list of the requirements.

Brief Focused Assessments (BFA)

A brief focused assessment (BFA) is an assessment of “specific, narrowly defined issues or limited set of issues identified by a judge and designated in a court order.”

See, [I.R.F.L.P. 1005](#)

Sometimes a judge will need more information on a specific issue in a case. In this scenario, they may order a Brief Focused Assessment (BFA). These assessments address specific, narrowly defined referral questions as identified by a judge in a court order. A BFA can be an efficient and effective tool to assist judicial decision-making in cases, while avoiding the time and cost of a full parenting time evaluation. In FY2025, **86 BFAs were ordered** which accounts for 2.06% of all divorce with children and custody cases.

The purpose of the assessment is to provide the court with information generated through reliable procedures regarding focused questions that have been identified by the court as important to the resolution of a child custody dispute. A qualified assessor conducts interviews, makes observations, reviews relevant records, consults relevant collateral contacts, and conducts additional activities in connection with the assessment. The assessment is guided by focused inquiry provided by the court.

The BFA provider is appointed to the case by the judge using Idaho Rule of Family Law Procedure 1005. The BFA provider conducts interviews with the parents, and possibly the children, watches parent/child interactions, looks at records that relate to the question(s) asked by the judge, and may ask to talk with other sources. The provider will compile their observations and will submit a written report to the court.

The BFA provider cannot give recommendations to the court. The BFA can only provide the information asked for by the judge to help the court with a specific issue.

Across the districts, the process for connecting parties with private BFA providers generally involves collaboration among attorneys, the court, and Family Court Services (FCS):

- Attorneys can provide parties with a list of provider options, sometimes selecting a provider directly or referring parties to FCS for assistance.
- FCS in each district maintains an updated list of providers, including information on availability, cost, and often helps parties identify the most accessible option.

Costs for these assessments vary by district depending upon the provider’s credentials, the amount of information requested by the court, and the number of children involved. The average cost for a Brief Focused Assessment as reported by each district is below.

Judicial District	Cost Per Assessment for Private Providers
First Judicial District	\$1,200-\$5,000
Second Judicial District	\$3,500-\$5,000
Third Judicial District	\$600-\$4,000

Fourth Judicial District	\$2,000-\$3,000
Fifth Judicial District	\$2,000-\$3,000
Sixth Judicial District	\$1,500
Seventh Judicial District	\$2,500-\$3,500

Parenting Time Evaluations (PTE)

In some extreme cases, the judge may need to order an expert to evaluate the situation through a Parenting Time Evaluation (PTE).

A PTE is a comprehensive forensic report ordered by the court. A forensic expert assists parents and the court by providing recommendations regarding a parenting or child sharing plan that is in the children's best interest. In FY2025, **107 PTEs** were ordered which represents 2.56% of all divorce with children and custody cases.

Parenting time evaluators are licensed professionals such as a social worker, counselor, or psychologist.

Requirements to be an evaluator are listed in [Idaho Rule of Family Law Procedure 1004](#).

The purpose of a parenting time evaluation is to provide the court with information it may consider when making decisions regarding custody and parenting time arrangements that are in the child's best interest.

Parenting Time Evaluators assess the developmental, emotional, and physical needs of the child, as well as the parents' capacity to parent. The evaluators must also consider and respond to the best interest factors set forth in Idaho code § 32-717.

The process for selecting or assigning providers varies by district but generally involves collaboration among attorneys, Family Court Services (FCS), and the court:

Attorneys can provide parties with a list of providers or discuss available options together.

- FCS maintains a list of providers who are qualified to provide evaluations per I.R.F.L.P. 1004, checks availability and capacity, and may assign cases to in-house services for low-income parties or when outside providers are unavailable.
- In some districts, the judge orders the provider based on proposals from parties or their attorney.
- Party stipulations may also determine the provider in certain cases.
- In areas without local providers, services are coordinated through providers in other districts.

The practices and costs for these evaluations vary by district and provider and are generally based on the evaluator's credentials. The average cost for a Parenting Time Evaluation as reported by each district is below.

Judicial District	Cost Per Assessment for Private Providers
First Judicial District	\$7,000-\$12,000
Second Judicial District	\$8,000-\$12,000

Third Judicial District	\$2,000-\$10,000
Fourth Judicial District	\$6,000-\$10,000
Fifth Judicial District	\$5,000-\$15,000
Sixth Judicial District	\$3,500
Seventh Judicial District	\$3,500-\$5,000

Federal/State Funds to Offset Costs to Parents

Family Court Services offers in house services to parents to help offset the cost of a divorce or child custody proceeding. Established by the Legislature in 2001, Coordinated Family Services encompasses a range of programs created to facilitate the timely and effective resolution of family-related court cases. To fund these initiatives, the Idaho Legislature established the Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Family Court Services Fund. These resources support parents who are divorcing or establishing parenting arrangements and Idaho's domestic violence courts.

Family Court Services play a key role in coordinating supervised visits, co-parent education, mediation, brief focused assessments, and parenting time evaluations. Family Court Services operates on a first come, first served basis with the following amount funding direct services in each District:

Judicial District	FCS Direct Services Budget FY26
First Judicial District	\$25,637
Second Judicial District	\$25,959
Third Judicial District	\$39,414
Fourth Judicial District	\$61,200
Fifth Judicial District	\$14,405
Sixth Judicial District	\$9,995
Seventh Judicial District	\$40,295
TOTAL	\$216,905

In addition, the Idaho Supreme Court receives \$88,000 from a federal grant to fund clinicians that provide services related to access and visitation in the 4th and 5th Judicial Districts.

Services Offered by Family Court Services

Idaho Code § 32-1403 states, in part, that the Children and Families in the Courts Committee (CFCC) shall recommend, for adoption by the Idaho Supreme Court (ISC), policies and procedures that will carry out the purpose of Chapter 32, Idaho Code. The Direct Services Budget Policy identifies and delineates which direct services may be paid for using the ISC allocated funds budgeted for direct services from the state Family Court Services fund.

The CFCC has identified seven core services, or direct services, listed below.

- (1) Workshops and Education in Collaboration with the Court Assistance Office (CAO)
- (2) Co-Parenting Education
- (3) Family Civil Intake Screening/Case Management Screening
- (4) Mediation
- (5) Brief Focused Assessments
- (6) Parenting Time Evaluations
- (7) Supervised Access and Exchange

The Idaho Supreme Court has put limits on what FCS can charge the public for these services per I.C.A.R. 56. Note that private providers are not subject to these same limitations.

Cost Recovery Fee Schedule for Coordinated Family Court Services (I.C.A.R. 56)	Maximum Cost Per Hour
Parent education on the needs of children	\$75
Mediation	\$75
Development of parenting schedules	\$75
Alternative Dispute Resolution screening and referral reports	\$75
Children and family needs and risk assessments	\$75
Psycho-educational information for high conflict families	\$75
Pilot projects for case resolution as approved by Children and Families in the Courts Committee	\$75

State Funds for Court Ordered Evaluations

Limited state funds, as listed on page 12, are available for families through the FCS for **Brief Focused Assessments** and **Parenting Time Evaluations**. In addition to this, Clinicians are available in the Fourth and Fifth Judicial Districts which allow many services to be provided in-house at reduced rates.

A summary of this financial assistance available for these assessments is below:

Judicial District	Financial Assistance Available
First Judicial District	Up to \$750 per qualifying person
Second Judicial District	Up to \$750 per qualifying person
Third Judicial District	Up to 75% of cost
Fourth Judicial District	Up to 75% of cost
Fifth Judicial District	Up to \$900 per qualifying person for BFAs Up to \$1,800/per party for PTE
Sixth Judicial District	Up to \$500 per qualifying person for BFAs Up to \$800/per party for PTE
Seventh Judicial District	Up to \$750 per qualifying person for BFAs Up to \$1,000 per qualifying person for PTEs

Parties whose household income is less than 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines may receive a full or partial waiver of fees.

FY2021-FY2025 Statistics

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Data and Evaluation Department compiled the following information from the statewide case management system, Odyssey Navigator, using data entered by court clerks as they process cases. *Note: Compilation of the following statistics requires interpretation and relies upon manual data entry. As a result, this data is not a substitute for the actual source documents, and the complete accuracy of this data cannot be guaranteed.*

Only a small percentage of divorce cases in Idaho proceed to trial. The vast majority of cases are resolved through settlement, mediation, or other forms of alternative dispute resolution, as parties often find negotiated agreements to be faster, less costly, and less emotionally taxing than full litigation. Cases that do reach trial typically involve complex financial issues, contested custody matters, or high levels of conflict that cannot be resolved through prior negotiation. The limited number of trials reflects both the effectiveness of **court-facilitated settlement processes** and an overall preference to minimize adversarial proceedings in these cases. The total number of divorces with children and child custody cases over the last 5 years are listed below:

Court Trials & Protection Orders

Divorce Case Filings

This report displays the total count of **Divorce Cases (B1A)** and **Child Support/Custody Cases (A9)** filed between **07/01/2020 to 06/30/2025**. The cases are broken down by **cases with civil trials held** and **percent of cases with civil trials held**. The data is also broken down by **cases with both parties on civil protection order cases** and **percent of cases with both parties on civil protection order cases**.

Please note: The cases with both parties on civil protection order cases were counted only if the cases were within 6 months of each other, civil protection order cases outside that timeframe were not included.

Total Count of Cases

21,335

Divorce Cases with
Minor Children

17,229

Custody Cases

4,106

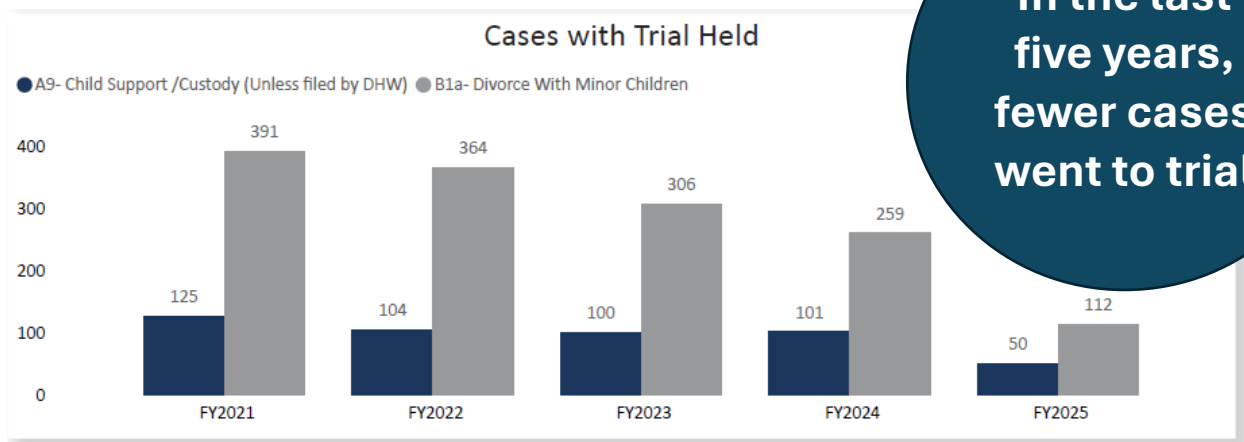
Case Type	Cases with Trial Held	Percent Went to Trial	Divorce Cases with Both Parties on Protection Order Cases	Percent Civil Protection Cases
A9- Child Support /Custody (Unless filed by DHW)	480	11.69%	714	17.39%
B1a- Divorce With Minor Children	1432	8.31%	1877	10.89%
Total	1912	8.96%	2591	12.14%

8.96%

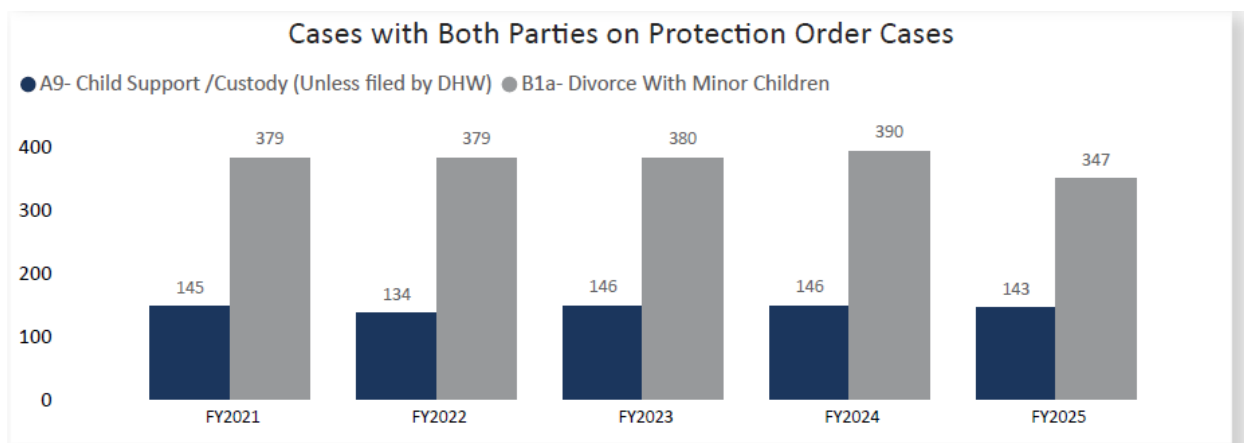
of divorce/child
support/custody
cases went to
trial

12.14%

of divorce/child
support/custody
cases had a
protection order
on both parties



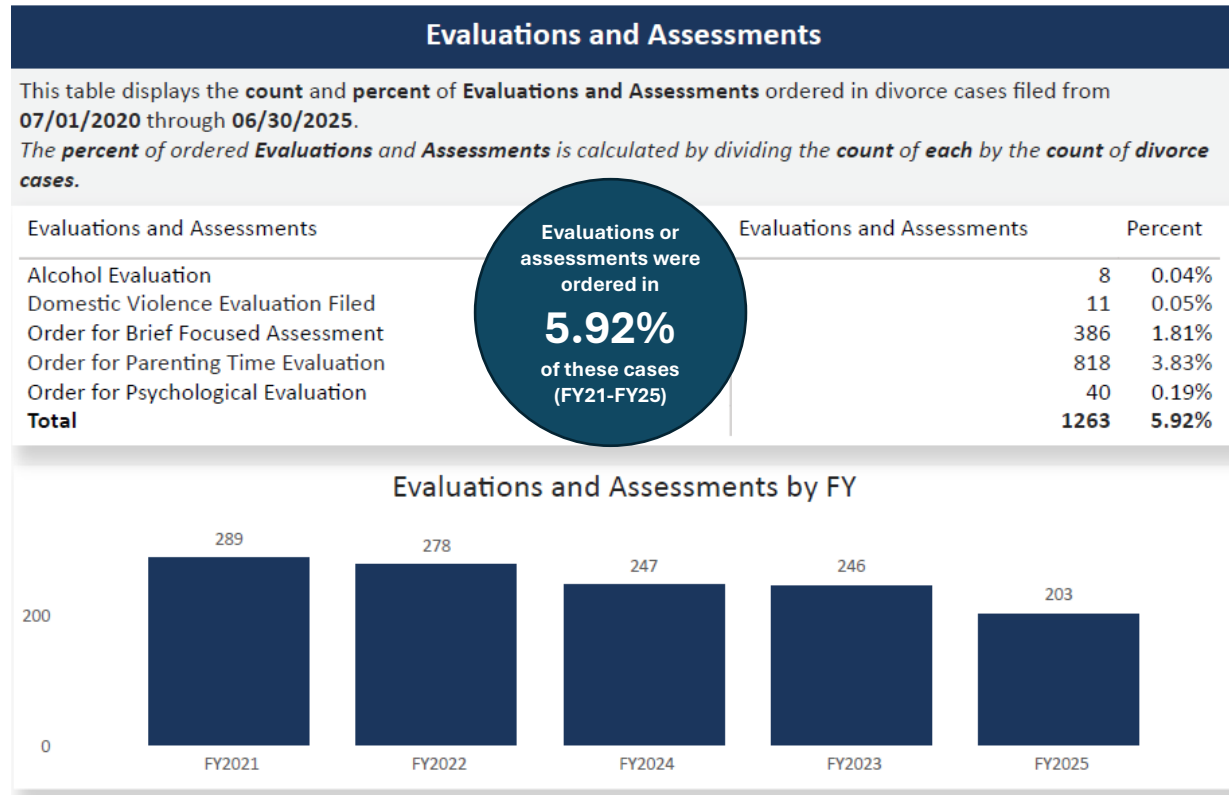
In the last five years, fewer cases went to trial



Cases where both parties are on a Protection Order remain steady over the last 5 years.

Evaluations and Assessments

Evaluations and assessments can be ordered by a judge at any point in a case. These can be used to help the judge make decisions about the case. The number of evaluations ordered by a Judge in divorce with children and child support cases over the last 5 years are listed below:

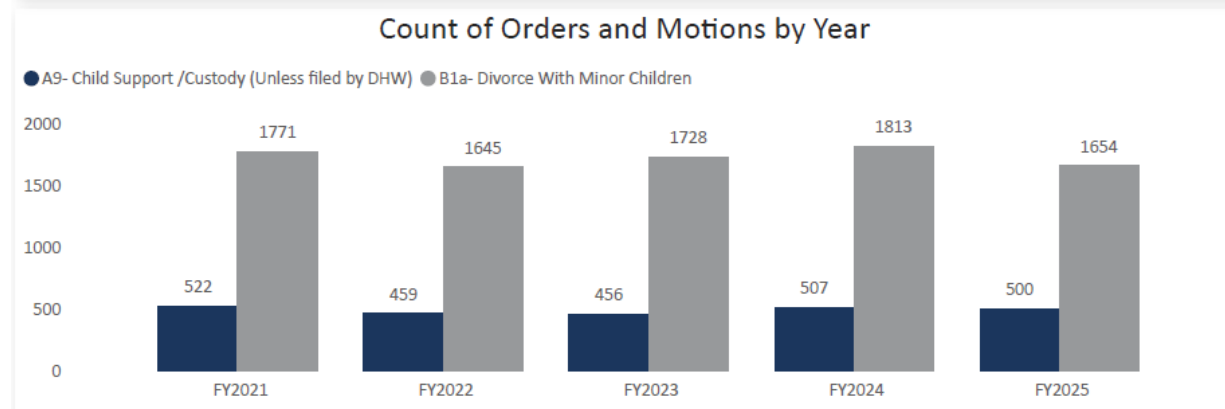


Orders and Motions

The following is an account of the various orders and motions that were made in divorce with children and child support cases over the last 5 years.

Other Orders and Motions		
This table displays the count and percent of other orders and motions filed in Divorce and Child Support/Custody cases . The percent of other orders is calculated by dividing the count of each by the the count of cases .		
Event	Count - Orders	Percent
Motion for Contempt	88	0.41%
Order Appointing Guardian Ad Litem	87	0.41%
Order Appointing Parenting Coordinator	132	0.62%
Order for Child Protection Investigation Report	197	0.92%
Order for Co-Parent Education	2	0.01%
Order for Drug Testing	71	0.33%
Order for Family Intake Screening	847	3.97%
Order for Mediation	6626	31.06%
Order for Substance Abuse Evaluation	1	0.00%
Order to Attend Parenting Classes	3004	14.08%
Total	11055	51.82%

31.06%
of divorce/child
support/custody
cases are ordered
mediation
[FY21-FY25]



Provider Requirements

In accordance with title 32, chapter 14, Idaho code, the Idaho Supreme Court established rosters to list individuals that have met the requirements set forth in court rule to qualify for certain roles.

Supervised Visitation Providers

What they do: Supervised Access and Exchange are services ordered by the court to facilitate access between children and the noncustodial parent when circumstances prevent routine access or exchange of children.

Authority: Supervised Access Providers are governed by [I.R.F.L.P. 1003](#).

Qualifications: For more information on the qualifications for Supervised Access Providers in Idaho, see I.R.F.L.P. 1003.

Roster: The Administrative Office of the Courts does not maintain a roster of qualified Supervised Access Providers; this list is maintained at the district level Family Court Services.

Mediators

What they do: Mediation is used to help parents resolve problems and create a parenting plan through the use of a neutral mediator. The mediator helps parents identify the issues, reduce misunderstandings, clarify priorities, explore areas of compromise, and find points of agreement. If the parents can work out an agreement about custody and visitation, they are in control of the decisions, and not the court. Mediation can resolve most disputes during a divorce.

Authority: Mediators are governed by [I.R.F.L.P. 602](#) and [I.R.E. 507](#).

Qualifications: For more information on the qualifications for Mediators in Idaho, see I.R.F.L.P. 602(f). Effective January 1, 2026, qualifications will be in I.C.A.R. 76.

Roster: [Child Custody Mediators Roster](#)

Parenting Coordinators

What they do: A “Parenting Coordinator” is a qualified impartial person appointed by the court to perform any or all of the following functions:

- (1) decide certain discretionary issues specified in the order of appointment relating to custody of a minor child;
- (2) assist the parties with reaching an agreement to resolve certain custody issues; or
- (3) make recommendations to the court and parties.

Parenting Coordinators help with day-to-day issues like schedules, holidays, school or medical decisions, and pick-up or drop-off logistics. They guide communication between parents to keep it respectful and productive, and they work to help prevent disagreements from escalating or needing to go back to court to resolve. In some cases, if parents cannot agree, courts may give the parenting coordinator more decision-making abilities. The focus is to support the child's well-being by creating a more stable and peaceful co-parenting situation.

Authority: Parenting Coordinators are governed by rule [I.R.F.L.P. 1002](#).

Qualifications: There are eleven private Parenting Coordinators in the state that meet the requirements of I.R.F.L.P. 1002 and are listed on the Roster of Parenting Coordinators: <https://isc.idaho.gov/main/parenting-coordinators>.

Roster: [Parenting Coordinator Roster](#)

Domestic Violence Evaluators

What they do: Any person who pleads guilty to or is found guilty of domestic violence (DV) under Idaho code § 18-918 or attempted strangulation under Idaho code § 18-923, must undergo, at the person's own expense, an evaluation by a person, agency or organization approved by the court in accordance with Idaho code § 18-918(c) to determine whether the offender should be required to obtain counseling or other appropriate treatment. The evaluation sent to the court includes a risk assessment, looks to see if there is any substance abuse or mental health issues, and provides the judge some recommendations in key areas.

Authority: Domestic Violence Evaluators are governed by I.C.R. 33.3 and I.C.A.R. 75.

Qualifications: More information regarding the qualifications of an evaluator and the reports submitted to the court is located in [Idaho Criminal Rule 33.3](#) and [Idaho Court Administrative Rule 75](#).

Roster: [Domestic Violence Evaluator Roster](#)

Parenting Time Evaluators

What they do: A Parenting Time Evaluator conducts a detailed, court-ordered assessment to help determine what parenting schedule and arrangements will best support a child's safety, well-being, and healthy development.

Authority: Parenting Time Evaluators are governed by I.R.F.L.P. 1004.

Qualifications: A PTE is conducted by a qualified evaluator who meets the requirements set forth in I.R.F.L.P. 1004(d).

Roster: The Administrative Office of the Courts does not maintain a roster of qualified Parenting Time Evaluators; this list is maintained at the district level Family Court Services.

Brief Focused Assessment Providers

What they do: A Brief Focused Assessment (BFA) provider conducts a short-term, court-ordered evaluation to help the court understand specific issues affecting a child or family, usually within the context of a custody or parenting-time dispute.

Authority: Brief Focused Assessment providers are governed by I.R.F.L.P. 1005.

Qualifications: A BFA is conducted by a qualified mental health professional who meets the qualifications set forth in [I.R.F.L.P. 1004\(d\)\(1\)](#).

Roster: The Administrative Office of the Courts does not maintain a roster of qualified Brief Focused Assessment Providers; this list is maintained at the district level Family Court Services.

Judicial Training in Domestic Violence and Family Law

The Idaho Judicial Branch prioritizes ongoing education for court personnel regarding intimate partner violence and coercive control. The Administrative Office of the Courts regularly hosts conferences such as the Children and Families Institute, Domestic Violence Court Conference, and Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases training to provide cutting edge information to judges and other court staff.

Over 300 judges, attorneys, court staff, and service providers attended the 2025 **Children and Families Institute** where local and national experts presented on topics such as identifying stalking in family court cases, conflict, defending domestic violence cases without the victim, integrating procedural justice in domestic violence cases, successful prosecution in domestic violence, cross-system collaboration, and ways to identify the dynamics abusers exercise in family court.

Over 140 judges, attorneys, court staff, and service providers attended the **2024 Domestic Violence Court Conference**, where they received training on language accessibility for trauma victims, victimless prosecution and defense, and recognizing and responding to stalking within court cases. In 2024, a three-day **Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases** judicial workshop was attended by over 45 judges. Judges were provided specialized training focused on improving handling of DV cases — including facilitation techniques, victim and perpetrator behavior, fact-finding, fairness, and enhancing access to justice.

Newly appointed Magistrate Judges are required to attend **New Judges Orientation (NJO)** training, which is provided in two separate sessions over seven days. Judges also have the opportunity to attend national conferences such as the [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#) and the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges \(NCJFCJ\)](#).

In addition to trainings provided by the AOC, Family Court Services staff in each district regularly provide training on issues in Family Law cases.



Ada County Domestic Violence Court Judges Michael Dean and Laurie Fortier and Fourth District DV Court Program Coordinator Jeniffer Rae drew a full house of professionals Sept. 19 for the Judge Carolyn Minder Domestic Violence Community Training.