



# IDAHO JUDICIARY

Idaho Supreme Court  
451 W. State Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-2246  
[www.isc.idaho.gov](http://www.isc.idaho.gov)

*Sara B. Thomas*  
Administrative  
Director  
of the Courts

[sthamas@idcourts.net](mailto:sthamas@idcourts.net)

## Coordinated Family Services

Coordinated Family Services—Meeting the Needs of Families and Children in Court

### Report to the 2020 Legislature

Title 32, Chapter 14 of the Idaho Code established Coordinated Family Services in 2001. Coordinated Family Services responds to the needs of children and families during the court process with the goal to promote a timely and effective resolution of related disputes involving both civil and criminal cases.

Coordinated Family Services has three collaborative yet distinct service areas:

- Family Court Services (FCS)
- Court Assistance Offices (CAO)
- Domestic Violence Courts (DV)

### Trainings

Coordinated Family Services has a long history of providing training to support judges, court staff, attorneys, treatment providers, and the community. Last year, Coordinated Family Services hosted three regional multi-disciplinary trainings. The topic of the training was trauma-informed practices. Over 400 people across the state attended the trainings.

Additional trainings on topics this past year included:

- High conflict management;
- Domestic violence evaluator orientation;
- Co-parenting;
- Working with different cultures and diverse families; and
- Child custody mediation.

### Language Access

Access to the courts through language services is vital. Administrative Office of the Court staff coordinated a statewide interpreter training for over 30 court-approved interpreters. The training provided interpreters with knowledge and insights about domestic violence and sexual assault to increase their ability to interpret in sensitive cases. Protection orders and a child custody modification class have recently been translated into Spanish.

### Supervised Visitation

FCS provided multiple trainings and support to supervised visitation providers to ensure this service is delivered by skilled professionals. These providers allow a parent without custody to have visitation with his or her child(ren). Providers supervised over 140 visits last year. Without providers, those parents may not have visited their children safely.

## Guide & File

Victims of domestic violence, stalking, and harassment can now complete the court paperwork required for a protection order online. Guide & File uses plain language questions to collect necessary information for court forms; it identifies and generates the necessary court forms which can be printed and filed with the court.

Surveys reported the majority of filers who used Guide & File found it was easy and helpful, and 82% reported the interviews made them feel comfortable about handling their legal issue. Guide & File serves to open the courthouse doors to more families in need of legal services.

## Family Law Legal Clinic

The CAO set up a new family law legal clinic in Canyon County to provide free, brief legal advice to individuals without attorneys. Clinics are also offered in Twin Falls and Bonneville Counties.

## Domestic Violence Courts

Idaho's DV courts are dedicated to ensuring offenders are carefully monitored, victims have access to comprehensive services, and judges have the information they need to make prompt and effective decisions. In FY2019, Idaho's DV court coordinators provided referrals to and assisted over 1,250 domestic violence victims. DV courts conducted over 3,100 judicial review hearings during the same time period.



### Mission Statement of the Idaho Courts

*As the Third Branch  
of Government, we  
provide access to  
justice by ensuring  
fair processes and  
the timely, impartial  
resolution of cases.*

### *The Idaho Judiciary Stands For:*

*Integrity  
Fairness  
Independence  
Respect  
Excellence  
Innovation*

### *The Idaho Judiciary Strives To:*

*Provide Timely,  
Impartial Case  
Resolution Through  
Legally Fair  
Procedures*

*Ensure Access to  
Justice*

*Promote Effective,  
Innovative Services*

*Increase Public  
Trust and  
Confidence In  
Idaho's Courts*

*For more information please contact Sara B. Thomas  
Administrative Director of the Courts  
sthomas@idcourts.net Office 208-334-2246*