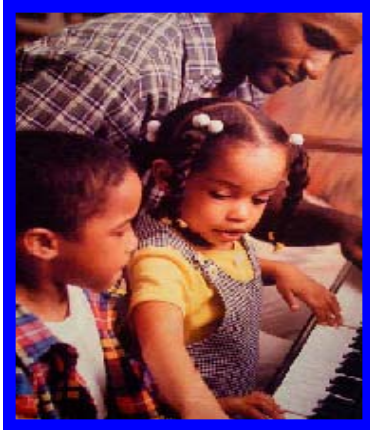


DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT



FAMILY COURT'S Fathering Court Initiative An Opportunity To Make A Difference

500 INDIANA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

PHONE: 202-879-1010

www.dccourts.gov

What is the Fathering Court Initiative ?

It is a program that offer parents who have not been making child support payments in the District of Columbia, for a long time, a chance to make a fresh start.

The Fathering Court offers job training, counseling, job placement, and



support to get lives back on track.

Parents will be educated, counseled and encouraged to place the needs of their children first.

Why should I join the Fathering Court?

It's really about helping children and families. The Fathering Court is geared to help prepare non-custodial parents to become financially and emotionally responsible for their children and to become more accountable members of society.



What services does Fathering Court offer?

- Job training & job placement
- Bi-weekly support group meetings. A chance to discuss re-entry issues with other parents in the re-entry process
- Counseling & Treatment
- Personal financial management training
- Parenting classes
- Program graduation
- Case management
- Court supervision
- A chance to build a relationship with your child(ren)
- Mediation Services
- Attend special events
- Fresh Start Program
- Forbearance on some child support administrative enforcement tools (i.e., Contempt, Driver's License Revocation)



How do I get accepted into Fathering Court?

To be eligible for Fathering Court, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old and reside in the District of Columbia
- The legal custodian/guardian of the child (or children) must agree to support the overall efforts of the program
- Have an active child support obligation in the District of Columbia
- Not have any prior convictions of child or sexual abuse. Anyone currently on the Child Offender Registry is not allowed to participate
- Not have any prior convictions or findings of domestic violence
- Not have any ongoing chemical or substance abuse. Participants may be subject to drug testing if substance abuse issues arise
- Not be currently receiving SSI or SSDI
- Not be currently enrolled in high school



What is the Fathering Court “Fresh Start Program”?

Arrears owed to government (TANF arrears) may be forgiven for participants who:

- Get accepted into Fathering Court; and
- Make at least six (6) non-consecutive payments; and
- Graduate from Fathering Court.

After satisfying these requirements, 25% of TANF arrears will be forgiven (wiped off the books). Thus giving the participants a *fresh start*. Graduates will then be referred to the standard Fresh Start Program, where additional percentage of arrears may be forgiven.



Fathering Court Partners

- Child Support Services Division of the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia
- Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency
- Department of Human Services
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
- Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council
- University of the District of Columbia
- Educational Data Systems, Inc.

Do I still have to go to court? Where are the hearings held?

Yes, you will still have to attend court hearings while you are in Fathering Court. Most hearings will be held on Fridays at District of Columbia Superior Court Family Court, 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W, Washington, D.C. 20001.

How do I get to the courthouse?

The courthouse is metro accessible by taking the Red Line to Judiciary Square Metro Stop.

Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact the Fathering Court Program Manager, Ron Scott, via email at Ron.Scott@dscs.gov or by telephone on 202-879-1010.

Usted puede solicitar **totalmente gratis** servicios de interpretación por teléfono o en persona, así como pedir que se le traduzcan algunos documentos. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este documento, por favor llámenos al (202) 442-9900.

“Parents do make a difference”

Partnership with
**THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**
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