

Unified Family Courts of North Carolina

Family Court Counties

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Anson | Buncombe |
| Burke | Caldwell |
| Catawba | Cumberland |
| Durham | Greene |
| Halifax | Lenoir |
| Mecklenburg | Montgomery |
| Moore | New Hanover |
| Pender | Pitt |
| Randolph | Richmond |
| Stanly | Union |
| Wake | Wayne |



OUR MISSION

To help resolve cases involving children and families through combined efforts of the family, the Court, and community services.

To approach each case in a way that is not overly adversarial or intrusive but always in a just, timely and efficient manner.

To be courteous, safe, and accessible and to provide quality service to those in need.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FAMILY COURT: SUPERVISED VISITATION AND EXCHANGE CENTER

Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Center, a part of Cumberland County Family Court, started serving clients in October 2004.

The purpose of Safe Havens is to provide a safe and neutral environment where children and the non-custodial parent can maintain a relationship that might otherwise not be possible. The majority of cases are court ordered although services are also provided on a voluntary basis. Services are made available to surrounding counties.

Safe Havens is open seven days a week with supervised visits and monitored exchanges occurring Tuesday through Friday from 4pm to 8pm; Saturday from 10am to 6pm; and Sunday from 1pm to 6pm. Staff consists of two full time employees and six part time visitation monitors. There is always a deputy from the sheriff's department on site when the center is open for visits and exchanges. Safe Havens currently serves 95 families.

In conjunction with the Care Center Family Violence Program and Fort Bragg ACS, Safe Havens holds an annual "Remember My Name" domestic violence vigil in October in recognition

of Domestic Violence Month. The vigil is a time to remember the previous year's domestic violence homicide victims.

A "Halloween Hustle Against Domestic Violence" 1 mile walk, 5K run, 10K run and family activities are planned for October 31, 2009 as part of Domestic Violence Month. The Care Center Family Violence Program and the Fayetteville YMCA have partnered with Safe Havens to plan this event. - *Debbie Norman, Safe Havens Director*



To register for the race, or for more information, please go to: active.com
Questions?
halloweenhustle@gmail.com

STATEWIDE STATISTICS

July 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009

PENDING DOMESTIC CASES

| Districts | Median Age | > 365 Days |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Family Court | 96 Days | 19 % |
| Non-Family Court | 292 Days | 45 % |

FAMILY COURT NEWS

Anson/Richmond/Stanly-Judicial District 20A: The district welcomes its newest judge, William C. Tucker. Judge Tucker has been a certified Family Law specialist since 1995 and was appointed to the bench by Governor Perdue in March. The year 2009 marks ten years of Family Court in our district. In April, celebrations were held in each county to thank all those who have helped and continue to help make Family Court such a success. **Tennelle.W.Hann@nccourts.org**

Buncombe-Judicial District 28: It's been an educational few months for Buncombe! A Lunch and Learn was held for the domestic family bar on March 31st to discuss the newly revised local Family Court Domestic Rules. On May 6th another Lunch and Learn was held for the juvenile parent attorney bar, entitled Raising the Bar in Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Court. An expert spoke to the Family Drug Treatment Court leadership and operational team about methadone as pharmacological replacement therapy for opioid dependence. At the end of this month, Family Court is sponsoring a Meet and Greet opportunity for the family domestic bar to meet new Parent Coordinators.

Ellen.G.Rose@nccourts.org

Greene/Lenoir/Wayne-Judicial District 8: In March, the Family Court Staff attended the annual "State of the Child Conference" held at Mt. Olive College to hear speeches from the Honorable Judge Paul Hardison of Onslow County and NC Senator Don Davis. In April, Family Court partnered with the Department of Social Services, GAL, Child Fatality Committee and Eastpointe Human Services to make presentations in all three county courthouses honoring Child Abuse Awareness month. **Laura.H.Smith@nccourts.org**

Halifax-Judicial District 6A: Family Court is sponsoring a CLE on ethics and professionalism on August 31, 2009. A committee selected from the local bar will meet with Mel Wright, Executive Director of the NC Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, to tailor the program to the needs of District 6A. Mr. Wright is striving to secure Chief Justice Sarah Parker or NC Court of Appeals Chief Judge John Martin as the keynote speaker. Attendance at this program is open to surrounding districts.

Susan.W.Horrell@nccourts.org

Montgomery/Moore/Randolph-Judicial District 19B: Family Court has officially been open for one year! Prior to Family Court, in April of 2008, the district had 750 domestic cases that were older than one year (54%) with a pending median age of 432 days. One year later, as of May 1, 2009, there were 126 domestic cases that were older than one year (19%) with a pending median age of 84 days. It has been a challenging year with many changes, but the Family Court staff and judges remain excited about this opportunity to join the other established districts in making real improvements in the court system.

Nancy.M.Butler@ncourts.org

Pitt-Judicial District 3A: Pitt County Family Court has been busy since its implementation on March 1, 2008. In domestic court the median age of domestic cases has continued to decrease. In juvenile court, a court based truancy court has been established for truant juveniles' cases to be heard in the same court setting as the parents who are charged with school attendance violations. A Family Drug Treatment Court is being developed for parents in abuse, neglect and dependency court where substance abuse is an issue. **Mona.N.Williams@nccourts.org**

Union-Judicial District 20B: The Honorable Sanford Steelman of the North Carolina Court of Appeals was the presenter at a CLE entitled Preserving Appellant Issues for Trial on May 14, 2009. The district is in the process of establishing a Pro Se Clinic for Custody and Visitation Cases. On May 1, 2009, a CLE about this clinic was offered to the local bar. Attorneys volunteered to staff the clinic which is scheduled to begin in July. **Martha.S.Hall@nccourts.org**

Wake-Judicial District 10: Wake County Family Court is in the process of creating a link to Family Court on the AOC's web site, complete with forms and instructions to better assist pro se litigants in everything from filing for absolute divorce to moving for an order to show cause. Moreover, Family Court is striving to continue improving case management principles, including instituting a continuous calendaring philosophy, to reduce the age of domestic cases and close old cases. **Melissa.C.Levine@nccourts.org**

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