

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN**



COURT PUBLISHES REPORT ON FAMILY COURT

Marin County Superior Court is pleased to announce its first *Report on Family Court*, highlighting the many programs and services that the Family Court offers to individuals and families to improve their overall experiences with the justice system. The Report is also a useful resource guide for the public. Over the last decade, the Court has redoubled its efforts to ensure that court hearings and procedures are tailored to the needs of the litigants, many of whom are self-represented, in Family Court. The Report on Family Court may be viewed on the Court's website at:

www.marincourt.org/pdf/Family_Court_Report.pdf

The *Report on Family Court* includes descriptions of the many programs and initiatives that have been developed solely to demystify the court processes for families and to increase the availability of resources for families during stressful transitions, such as divorce, child custody and visitation, family support and when there are allegations of domestic violence. The Family Court has designed programs to help parents successfully file and conclude family law matters in court with the help of volunteer attorneys; develop parenting plans for sharing custody of children; determine financial support for minors; and work through difficult agreements with assistance from mental health professionals in settlement conferences. The Family Court also implemented a Family Violence Court over a year ago to ensure that defendants convicted of domestic violence offenses successfully complete all court ordered conditions of probation and do not commit further domestic violence offenses.

Other highlights of the Family Court's work are also noted in the Report. These accomplishments include:

- Court website has been greatly enhanced in the areas of Family Court and Domestic Violence;
- Court's strategic partnership with the Legal Self Help Center of Marin, which provides family law assistance to more than 3,500 people per year;
- Court's membership on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council;
- In collaboration with the State, Court's piloting of a statewide domestic violence registry that will eventually be used by all 58 trial courts.

The Report also contains filing and disposition data for the most recent two years, as well as a section with answers to frequently asked questions in the Family Court.

Copies of the Report may be downloaded from the Court's website or may be purchased from Court Administration.