

Anchorage Family CARE Court

A problem-solving court for families

What is the Family CARE Court Mission?

Our mission is to break the cycle of addiction, child abuse and neglect. We provide intensive judicial support and case management with treatment for parents and their children that will help them lead healthy and productive lives.

Who is Eligible?

An eligible parent must have an open Child in Need of Aid (CINA) case with no pending termination of parental rights petition, and be the primary caregiver for his/her child(ren). The parent must have an identified substance abuse problem, be motivated to achieve a lifetime of sobriety, provide a safe home for his/her child(ren) and must be able and willing to participate in the therapeutic court program.

Admission into the Family CARE Court (FCC) is voluntary, with referrals to the court reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Office of Children's Services (OCS) team social worker submits referrals for entry into the Family Care Court.

**Admission into the Family CARE
Court is Not automatic.**

How Does the Family CARE Court Work?

The program is intensive and requires commitment and honesty. Once a parent has been accepted into the program, s/he will be expected to follow the basic structure of the FCC:

- The team social worker assesses the parent's needs and develops a case plan.
- The parent is linked to an appropriate substance abuse treatment program, random drug testing, parenting skills training and other services such as mental health treatment, educational assistance and vocational training.
- As the parent progresses in treatment and maintains sobriety, increased visitation and ultimate reunification with his/her child(ren) occurs, if that is in the child(ren)'s best interest.
- Participants attend court regularly. Court appearances gradually decrease based upon the individual's progress.
- Participants attend the FCC support group regularly.
- A system of incentives and sanctions is used to reward progress and compliance, and respond to problems.

Successful completion of the Family CARE Court program takes 15-24 months.

How Do I Get Admitted to the Family CARE Court?

Every potential FCC participant must follow the steps outlined in the *Participant Checklist* enclosed in this brochure. Once those steps have been completed a referral is made to the OCS social worker. The social worker then gathers the additional information necessary to make an informed decision about the case and presents the information to the FCC team for consideration. The team and the FCC judge make the final determination about entry into the court. Applicants will be contacted within two weeks of the team's decision.

If there is no FCC Participant Checklist in this brochure, please contact the FCC coordinator for a copy.

What is Family CARE Court?

CARE:

Community Assisted

Recovery Efforts

The Family CARE Court (FCC) is a special court for Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases, where a child is in state custody because of parental substance abuse.

Referrals:

Office of Children's Services (OCS)
269-4025
Karlisa Hicks
CSS II
Karlisa.hicks@alaska.gov

