



Families Matter Triage Program Overview **(Summer 2024 Pilot)**

Please read carefully

Welcome!

We are pleased to serve you in our Families Matter Triage Program (FMTP). The FMTP is a product of a collaboration between Floyd County Superior Court 3 and University of Illinois at Chicago's [CAPACITY Lab](#). The main goal of the FMTP is to support you in the divorce and child support legal process. We know that navigating the law is hard without an attorney. Our program is designed to help connect you to services and resources that will help you get your case resolved faster.

FMTP Services

As part of the program, a Legal Navigator will discuss a range of topics such as your plan for parenting time, child support, finances, and more. The Legal Navigator will learn more about the levels of agreement or disagreement on these topics. Given the Legal Navigator is an employee of the court, everything you say to them will become part of the court record and will be shared with the Judge.

The Judge will ultimately make a decision regarding the next steps in your case. The Judge may determine that a case needs the help of a family mediator. Family mediators are a neutral party and helpful for instances when both parties are not in full agreement on a range of topics in a divorce or child support cases. The goal of mediation is to assist both parties in coming to an agreement without waiting for a Judge to decide. If you decide to participate in the FMTP and the Judge determines that a family mediation is the right service for your case, in most cases, you will be granted a low-cost Mediator. The Judge may determine that a hearing is most appropriate for your case. If you decide to participate in the FMTP, these hearings will be expedited to resolve your case as quickly as possible.

Participant Rights

This program is completely voluntary, and time commitments will depend on the services provided to you. By attending the mandatory conference, you are automatically enrolled in this program. By participating in the FMTP, your case will be resolved in an expedited and fair manner. Should you wish to opt out of this service, you must file a notice with the court.

Families Matter Triage Program Conference will take up to an hour. We will inform you of time commitments as services are offered. Your participation in the program will not affect the outcome of your proceedings in any way. Should you choose not to participate in FMTP, you would be responsible for completing the Dissolution of Marriage on your own or obtaining your own legal counsel to complete the process and will not be able to rely on FMTP assistance.

Confidentiality



The FMTP program complies with state and federal laws as well as professional ethical codes regulating confidentiality. Parties' personal information will not be shared outside of this program unless they are documented court records which will be publicly available.

Limits of Confidentiality

All Legal Navigators and other members of FMTP are mandated reporters; therefore, confidentiality must be waived under the following conditions:

1. If the navigator believes that a party is at risk of harming oneself or anyone else;
2. If the navigator believes that a child is at risk of being neglected or abused; or
3. If the navigator believes that an elder or an adult with disability is being neglected, abused, or financially exploited.

Subpoena Laws

No party shall attempt to subpoena any testimony or records of the FMTP for a disposition or a court hearing of any kind for any reason.

Parties Must Verbally Agree to the Following to Proceed with the FMTP:

- Parties have had sufficient time to consider the above information and ask necessary questions.
- Parties understand the social service processes, their rights, the expectations, and the limits to confidentiality of participation.
- Parties understand that the Families Matter Triage Program (FMTP) offered by the Floyd County, Superior Court 3 in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago is voluntary and that they may withdraw participation at any time by filing notice with the court.
- Parties understand the obligation to attend meetings/sessions to the best of their abilities, talk openly and honestly with their Legal Navigator, and provide feedback about how the services are working for them.
- Parties agree to not subpoena any testimony or records of the FMTP for a disposition or a court hearing of any kind for any reason including after completion or withdrawal of program.