

FAMILY DIVISION: DOMESTIC RELATIONS - 03

The Domestic Relations Section of the Family Division consists of five masters and the equivalent of four Circuit Court judges. The masters hear uncontested divorces, annulments, and paternity actions and contested matters including the custody of children, alimony, child support, and visitation. The masters also hear dependents lite requests (requests for relief until the merits of the case can be heard), as well as child support contempt cases. Each recommendation by a Domestic Relations Master is reviewed and signed by a Circuit Court judge. Hearings on more complex cases that will take longer than three hours are scheduled before a judge. In addition, through the State Family Division Legislative Initiative grant, services have been expanded to include a Family Division Information and Referral Center, staff to provide free procedural assistance, and clinical assessment services to assist in judicial decision-making.

FY 2005 major changes include an increase in compensation and fringe benefits increase as a result of the reassignment of an additional employee to this division and a 22.6% operating expenses related to digital recorder maintenance.

	FY2003 ACTUAL	FY2004 BUDGET	FY2004 ESTIMATED	FY2005 APPROVED	CHANGE FY04-FY05
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
Compensation	\$ 1,032,352	\$ 1,051,100	\$ 1,051,100	\$ 1,219,600	16%
Fringe Benefits	274,376	256,900	256,900	314,700	22.5%
Operating Expenses	408,220	35,800	30,600	43,900	22.6%
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0%
Sub-Total	\$ 1,714,948	\$ 1,343,800	\$ 1,338,600	\$ 1,578,200	17.4%
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	\$ 1,714,948	\$ 1,343,800	\$ 1,338,600	\$ 1,578,200	17.4%
STAFF					
Full Time - Civilian	-	21	-	22	4.8%
Full Time - Sworn	-	0	-	0	0%
Part Time	-	0	-	0	0%
Limited Term Grant	-	0	-	0	0%