

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 pendente 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.

	FY2002 ACTUAL	FY2003 BUDGET	FY2003 ESTIMATED	FY2004 PROPOSED	CHANGE FY2003-FY2004
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
Compensation	\$ 970,619	\$ 1,168,500	\$ 1,038,400	\$ 1,051,100	-10%
Fringe Benefits	223,246	265,800	235,700	256,900	-3.3%
Operating Expenses	372,767	24,900	24,800	35,800	43.8%
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0%
Sub-Total	\$ 1,566,632	\$ 1,459,200	\$ 1,298,900	\$ 1,343,800	-7.9%
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	\$ 1,566,632	\$ 1,459,200	\$ 1,298,900	\$ 1,343,800	-7.9%
STAFF					
Full Time - Civilian	-	22	-	21	-4.5%
Full Time - Sworn	-	0	-	0	0%
Part Time	-	0	-	0	0%
Limited Term Grant	-	0	-	0	0%