

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas  
Division of Domestic Relations**

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**Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court Receives \$80,000 Grant to Support  
Families First Program**

**Cleveland, Ohio, November 29, 2018-** The Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County has awarded an \$80,000 grant to the Cuyahoga County Division of Domestic Relations Court’s Families First Program. The grant is designed to assist participants with accessing the treatment and supportive services necessary to overcome substance abuse, mental health and parenting issues.

“The Families First Program represents a collaborative effort between the Domestic Relations Court, the ADAMHS Board and our community partners to bridge the gap between the working class and much needed treatment services in our communities,” said Judge Tonya R. Jones, who founded and will preside over the Families First Program.

“We are very excited to launch this program with the support of the ADAMHS Board. This grant will assist parents reach a healthy point which makes co-parenting not only possible, but successful.”

The Families First Program is a voluntary intervention program designed to support parents who are experiencing substance abuse and/or mental health issues that may impact their ability to co-parent. The program is a partnership between community mental health and substance abuse treatment providers including, Moore Counseling and Mediation Services, Wingspan Group (Bellefaire JCB and Applewood Centers, Inc), Laurelwood Hospital, Glenbeigh Hospital, Change of Direction and Signature Health (ORCA House).

Graduates will be linked with community supports and develop a sustainable parenting time schedule that benefits both parents and children. “We believe that healthy relationships with both parents are essential to the success of a child. With the appropriate supports in place, parents can continue to raise healthy children even after divorce.”

The Families First Program is the first program of its type in the state of Ohio. Typically, intervention programs of this sort are reserved for individuals with criminal cases pending. Judge Jones adds, “The Families First Program seeks to break the mold of who can access supportive services in Cuyahoga County. This grant provides funding for under-insured and uninsured working-class individuals in need of help.” The program will assist residents throughout the county.

For more information on the Families First Program, please contact Bianca Smith, Bailiff for Judge Tonya R. Jones at (216) 443-8809.

For more information about Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Division of Domestic Relations services and programs, please visit us on the web: <http://domestic.cuyahogacounty.us/> and Follow us on Twitter and Facebook: [@CuyDomRelations](https://twitter.com/CuyDomRelations)

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