

YOUR SUPPORT



While in Early Childhood Court you will work with different team members who will support you and your children. They include:

CASE MANAGER

Name: _____

Phone: _____

CHILD PARENT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Name: _____

Phone: _____

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ATTORNEY

Name: _____

Phone: _____

ECC COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

Name: Dina Mezza

Phone: 321-635-5070

ECC DEPENDENCY JUDGE

Name: The Honorable Kelly J. McKibben

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT

BENEFITTING INFANTS, TODDLERS & FAMILIES

Early Childhood Court serves children ages three and younger involved in the child welfare court process and placed in out-of-home care. ECC is a problem-solving court that uses a national approach grounded in Florida Supreme Court approved best practice standards, providing guidance for a multidisciplinary team and based on the science of early childhood development, attachment, trauma, and resilience. It is a family-focused program that uses child parent psychotherapy to assist families during their involvement with the child welfare system. The goal is to improve safety, well-being, and permanency by focusing on healing trauma of both the parent and child to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Individualized trauma-focused counseling
- Assessments for individualized treatment plans
- Increased family time for parents and children
- Specialized family-focused therapeutic programs
- Significant parent and caregiver involvement
- Family team meetings with parents and ECC team
- Integrated team meetings and decision making
- Community resource navigation assistance
- More frequent court hearings to review progress
- Coaching to help parents succeed
- Child-focused program for timely child permanency



EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT

BREVARD COUNTY



Trauma Responsive Court Proceedings
Multidisciplinary Team Support
Healing Intergenerational Trauma
Achieving Timely Permanency

EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

MOORE JUSTICE CENTER
2825 JUDGE FRAN JAMIESON WAY
VIERA, FL 32940

ECC OFFICE & WEBSITE
321-635-5070



<https://flcourts18.org/brevardecc/>

YOUR ROLE AS PARENT



You know your baby best. You will be involved at every step of the way to plan the best services and outcomes for your child. You will be part of the team. You will have services and support available to achieve reunification or ensure your child is placed in an alternative safe home. This will include...

- Comprehensive treatment assessments
- Specialized case plan tasks
- Circle of Security parenting education to strengthen attachment
- Child Parent Psychotherapy to heal parent and child trauma and instill safe and nurturing parenting practices
- Frequent family time and co-parenting support
- Infant mental health focus to support children's well-being with social and emotional development
- Regular communication with the ECC Team
- Monthly family team meetings and court hearings

YOU ARE PART OF THE TEAM

Your commitment and engagement in the services offered through this program is crucial to your success. Data shows the ECC program most often results in parent reunification and child permanency several months sooner when parents are engaged and the ECC Team works collaboratively.

WHO ARE WE?

Judicial and child welfare leadership is a core component to this multidisciplinary, collaborative, and proactive team approach.

Judge McKibben

Judge Kelly J. McKibben will preside over Early Childhood Court setting aside a special docket for children age three and younger whose parent(s) participate in the program. She is a trauma-trained judicial leader committed to improving the lives of young children utilizing a collaborative court team to make informed decisions and decrease the length of time to reach permanency.



CASE MANAGEMENT

A designated Dependency Case Manager trained in infant/toddler mental health and biopsychosocial development is offered to each child and family. The DCM works with parents and children to coordinate services, make service referrals, monitor and support engagement in services.

CHILD PARENT PSYCHOTHERAPIST

A specially trained clinician specializing in trauma prevention and treatment while striving to keep children safe performs therapy with parents and children. This is an evidence based intervention shown to heal trauma and strengthen parental attunement and parent child bonding and attachment.

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

A specially trained therapist conducting an in-depth clinical assessment of the parent, child, and attachment relationship to help develop the case plan and treatment plan.

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

A Community Coordinator as a liaison who works with all parties, participants, and program stakeholders to ensure that appropriate services are offered to each child and family. The CC facilitates family team meetings and the overall program, maintaining focus on the child's needs.

CHILDREN'S LEGAL SERVICES

Attorneys with CLS assigned to cases to represent the State of Florida.

PARENT ATTORNEYS

Attorneys who represent the legal rights and interests of parents.

GUARDIANS AD LITEM

Child advocates representing the best interests of children.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Over half of children experiencing abuse/neglect in Brevard County's child welfare system are under the age of five with most being under age three.
- Special therapy used in Early Childhood Court focuses on healing trauma and strengthening relationships.
- The program includes services for parents and children to work with a multidisciplinary team dedicated to helping when it matters most -- during children's first 1000 days of life when brain and social development are key.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- PARENTS AND CHILDREN SERVED
- RELATIVE & NON-RELATIVE CAREGIVERS
- FOSTER PARENTS
- HEALTHY START
- EARLY STEPS
- THRIVE BY FIVE
- KINDER CONSULTING
- LIFETIME COUNSELING CENTER
- CHILD PARENT PSYCHOTHERAPISTS
- INFANT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS
- COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL
- CHILDREN'S LEGAL SERVICES
- DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
- GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM
- EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT