

# Services Offered by TADRO members

## February 2009

### Bexar

- The Bexar County Domestic Relations Office, through its ACCESS Program, provides intervention assistance where non-custodial parents with final orders are experiencing access/visitation enforcement difficulties and are without the means to hire a private attorney. Assistance includes screening assessment, access resolution, cooperative parenting, counseling, and enforcement proceedings.
- Referrals for mental health services related to custody and access issues, such as Social Studies, Psychological Evaluations, Parent Coordination, Counseling and Parenting Classes, are available upon request.
- Bexar County Domestic Relations Office provides funding to support safe neutral exchanges and supervised visitation services through Center for Family Relations and San Antonio Kids Share programs.
- Sliding fee Cooperative Parenting Classes are also subsidized through contract with Bexar Family Solution agency.
- The Bexar County Child Support Probation Unit, through its *Children First Jail Intervention Program*, provides alternatives to lengthy jail stays for a selected group of incarcerated non-custodial parents who are not making their child and medical support payments.
- The *Community Supervision Program* receives cases transitioned from *Children First* on probation or outright placed on probation by the courts for non-payment of child and medical support.

### Brazoria

- The Brazoria County Child Support Office collects, posts, and disburses court ordered child support payments to the payee or to the State Disbursement Unit.
- Provide payment records for the court ordered support that was paid through this office and provide a payment history from the Texas Attorney General's Office and the State Disbursement Unit.
- Update information as necessary for the State Disbursement Unit and the Texas Attorney General's Office as well as for Brazoria County.

### Dallas

- The Dallas County Domestic Relations Office serves as a local rule office in conjunction with the Texas Attorney General's Office by conducting enforcements, establishing paternity, and performing SAPCRS (temporary and final orders).

## **El Paso**

- The El Paso County Domestic Relations Office provides child support services consisting of state case registry and local customer service by contract with the Texas Attorney General and enforcement of all forms of child support, including probation.
- In addition, the El Paso County DRO offers other services, including mediation, social studies in adoptions and contested parent-child cases, cooperative parenting groups, and classes on parenting order orientation.

## **Fort Bend**

- The Ft. Bend County Child Support Office processes child support payments, conducts case audits, processes terminations of income withholding orders, provides payment records, and appoints attorneys to enforce child support, medical support, and visitation.

## **Harris**

- *Family Court Services Division* - custody evaluations, issue based investigations, adoption investigation, parenting coordination, parent conferences, substance abuse testing, and high conflict parenting class.
- *Legal Enforcement Division* - enforcing final child support orders, enforcing final visitation orders, establishing paternity, terminating income withholding orders, providing child support accountings, and conducting attorney consultations.
- *Family Dispute Resolution Division* - family mediation and access facilitation.
- *Community Supervision Unit* - supervision of parents placed on probation for failure to pay child support or for violation of a visitation order.

## **Lubbock**

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Services

- Conducts court ordered mediation
- Provides parent coordination services

### Community Intervention Services

- Serves as a local rule office in conjunction with the Texas Attorney General's Office by enforcing final orders for child support and health insurance
- Provides enforcement services for parents with a Lubbock County order prior to April 1, 2009 that have not been on TANF. Services include telephone and letter collection, license suspension, contempt of court, community supervision (probation), incarceration, and administrative income withholding
- Supervises parents placed on Community Supervision for failure to pay child support
- Conducts court ordered social studies

## **Tarrant**

- *Legal Enforcement* provides services to applicants requesting enforcement of final Tarrant County child and medical support (non IV-D) and visitation orders. In addition, *Legal Enforcement* provides comprehensive litigation services as the legal department of the Local Rule Office (IV-D Child Support Monitoring Program).
- Services provided by the *Family Court Services Division* include court ordered social study investigations, court ordered mediation, court ordered visitation monitoring and access facilitation.
- Services provided by the *Community Supervision Unit* include supervision of parents placed on probation for failure to pay child support or for violation of a visitation order.
- Services provided by the *Child Support Division* include customer service, complete certified payment records and arrearage computations, issuance of income withholding orders and writs, processing of child, medical and spousal support payments and fees. Services provided by the *Monitoring Division*, a sub-division of the *Child Support Division*, of the include enforcement of child and medical support orders through administrative efforts, review of child support orders for adjustment and/or modification, refer cases to *Legal Enforcement* for legal action.

## **Taylor**

- The Taylor County Domestic Relations Office serves as a Local Rule Office.
- This office also monitors registry-only cases and provides complete payment records (including interest calculations and arrearages) for both parties and their attorneys.

## **Travis**

- *Child Support Registry* - Travis County DRO serves as the child support registry for Travis County. This includes collecting, posting and disbursing child support payments, medical support payments, spousal support payments and fees. We download a copy of all private payments collected by the Office of the Attorney General, State Disbursement Unit in order to provide a full pay record of payments to parents, attorneys and the courts.
- *Child and Medical Support Enforcement* - Parents with a Travis County order that have not been on TANF can apply for enforcement services with Travis County DRO. Services include telephone and letter collection, license suspension, contempt of court, community supervision (probation), incarceration, administrative income withholding and criminal non-support referrals.
- *Visitation Enforcement* - Parents with a Travis County order can apply for visitation enforcement services. Services include forums for parents to enhance cooperative parenting skills, telephone conferences, appointments with parents, referral to limited fee mediations, referral to monitored neutral child exchange sites or supervised visitation, counseling services, judicial actions through motions for counseling, and civil contempt for denial of possession.
- *Family Court Services* – Guardians ad litem are appointed by the District Courts to assist in custody disputes, termination of parental rights, non-agency adoptions,

emancipation cases and some abuse cases. They perform custody evaluation, make home and school visits, and perform functions necessary to make a recommendation to the court.

- *Child Abuse Statistical Database & Docketing* - DRO gathers information on all child abuse cases prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office in Travis County. We also docket all of the child abuse cases and attend every hearing. We track federal case processing timelines for Child Protective Services, the District Attorney's Office and the courts. Monthly statistical reports are furnished to the District Judges, the District Attorney's Office, CPS, CASA and the Children's Rights Clinic and UT Law School.
- *Cooperative Parenting Classes* - Domestic Relations furnishes parenting forums for parents going through divorce. Most participants are court ordered to attend.
- *Community Supervision (Probation)* - Domestic Relations Probation Officers monitor parents placed on community supervision for failure to appear in court, failure to pay child support and failure to allow the other parent court ordered visitation rights. Through a contract with the Office of the Attorney General, Child Support Division, Travis County Domestic Relations also supervises all Attorney General child support probationers in Travis County.

### **Wharton County Child Support Office**

- The Wharton County Child Support Office inputs case information and updates into the State Disbursement Unit System.
- Court appoints local attorney's to CP's when the NCP is more than 60 days behind in child support.
- Collects, posts and disburses court ordered child support payments to the payee or the State Disbursement Office. Also withholds court ordered fees (court cost, court appointed attorney's fees, & annual service fees) and distributes them to the proper person or entity.
- Provides pay records for the court ordered support that is paid through Wharton County or the State Disbursement for local registry cases only.
- Monitors cases for ending collection dates and sends letters to CP's to verify that child has turned 18 and has graduated.