

Determinants of Case Outcomes in Family Dependency Treatment Court

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Family dependency treatment courts (FDTC) have emerged in response to the increasing number of child welfare cases related to parental substance misuse. FDTCs initiate the pathway to substance misuse treatment for the parent and assist in obtaining permanency for the child. This study acts as an evaluation of the FDTC in Hillsborough County's Thirteenth Judicial Court System through the analysis of case outcome frequencies and predictor(s). In the current study, the characteristics and case lifespan of 344 Hillsborough County FDTC participants between 2014 and mid-2019 were collected and analyzed. Findings revealed that reunification and termination of parental rights were the most prevalent outcomes. In addition, the only significant determinant of either outcome was the amount of time spent in the treatment phase of FDTC (intake to discharge). Our findings strongly contradicts prior research and may reveal greater implications for FDTCs upon completion of further research.