

JUDICIAL BRANCH
Family Division Task Force—2013

Type:	Task Force
Established:	March 7, 2013
Revised:	September 20, 2013
Chair:	Honorable Daniel Driscoll
Report Date:	May 30, 2014
Reports to:	Maine Supreme Judicial Court, Trial Court Chiefs

I. Purpose

The purpose of establishing the Family Division Task Force—2013 is twofold: First, to review and update the status of changes recommended by the Family Division Task Force—2006 Report; second, to make recommendations to the Chief Judge of the District Court, and to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court regarding any changes to procedures, law, or rules necessary to advance the Family Division’s mission.¹ Toward this end, the Task Force will:

- A. Review the Family Division Task Force—2006 Report, and evaluate the progress towards implementation of any recommendations;
- B. Receive the input of the public, the Bar, and additional Stakeholders;
- C. Study and make recommendations regarding the timing, scheduling, and processing of family matters in the District Courts;
- D. Study and make recommendations regarding the scheduling and management of family matters as those activities relate to the scheduling and management of other case types;
- E. Study and make recommendations for improving the allocation of resources and/or the management of family matters;
- F. Study and make recommendations regarding statistical information compiled by the Family Division; and
- G. Examine such other related topics as are identified by the Task Force.

The overarching goal of the Task Force is to review the processing of family matter cases in Maine, and to recommend any changes that will best serve the needs of children and families. This may include recommendations that would: eliminate magistrate or judicial events that create unnecessary costs or delays, create different or improved procedures that promote prompt and effective resolution of disputes, and allow for better allocation of magistrate and judicial resources.

¹ The Family Division of the Maine District Court was established in 1998. The Division adopted a case management process to achieve its stated mission of “providing a system of justice that is responsive to the need of families and support of their children.” 4 M.R.S. § 183 (2005).

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Hon. Daniel Driscoll, Maine District Court, Chair
Hon. Bruce Jordan, Maine District Court
Hon. A. Mark Horton, Maine Superior Court
Magistrate Maria Woodman
Gail Merritt, Family Division Manager, Cumberland County Clerk's Office
Diana Durgin, Assistant Clerk, Newport District Court
Representative Kimberly Monaghan-Derrig
Senator Roger J. Katz, Esq.
Diane Dusini, Esq.
Anthony A. Trask, Esq.
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Staff Consultant:

Tracie Adamson, Family Division Manager

Supreme Judicial Court Liaison:

Hon. Jon D. Levy, Associate Justice