

A complex network diagram with various sized nodes (black, blue, grey) connected by thin grey lines. Some nodes are highlighted with larger circles. The background is light blue with faint circular patterns.

WHAT IS ACCESS TO JUSTICE?

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THINKING DIFFERENTLY ABOUT ACCESS:
A M E T A P H O R |



CIVIL JUSTICE PROBLEMS ARE WIDESPREAD, AND FREQUENTLY EXPERIENCED.

- Over **100 million people** in the United States are living with civil justice problems, many involving basic human needs.
- Most civil justice problems are never taken to lawyers or to courts.
- Only **14%** of civil justice problems are taken to a court or hearing. Less than a quarter are taken to a lawyer for advice or representation.

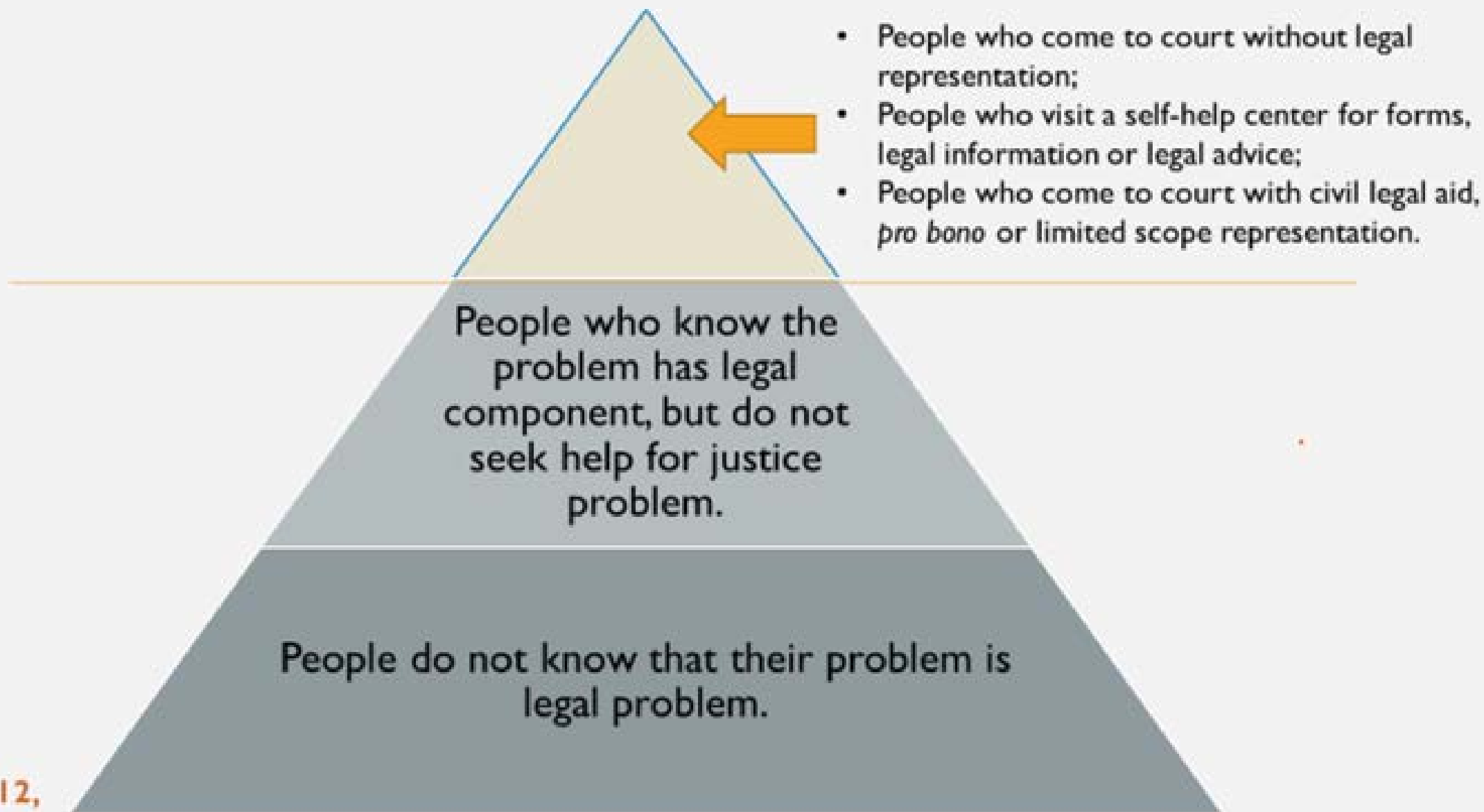
Most civil legal problems do not make it to the courts



What courts and lawyers see
(~20% of people's actual
justice needs)

What courts and lawyers never
see
(~80% of people's actual
justice needs)

To reach 100% access, need to focus on the needs of everyone with legal problems.



Sources:
Sandefur, 2012,
2014

A PERSONAL TANGENT

BABY

THREE STRATEGIES FOR EXPANDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

- (1) Increasing access to plainly written, understandable legal information;
- (2) Rethinking court procedure and requirements and attempting diversion programs in higher volume case types; and
- (3) Improving how courts engage with communities.



(1) CLEAR COMMUNICATION



EVEN WELL-INTENTIONED
INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE CONFUSING.

IS THIS REALLY HELPFUL?

MISCELLANEOUS FORMS

Form #	Form Name	Form Type	Revision Date
DC-25	CIRCUIT COURT CASE TRANSMITTAL AND FEES REMITTANCE SHEET	Master	07/14
DC-30	COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT FORM	Master	12/05
DC-32	DELINQUENT PAYMENT RECORD	Printed	07/13
DC-33	DELINQUENT COLLECTIONS REPORT	Master	05/09
DC-40	LIST OF ALLOWANCES	Printed	04/13 (front) 07/12 (reverse)
DC-40(a)	APPLICATION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR WAIVER OF FEE CAP	Master	01/08 (p. 1) 04/13 (p. 2)
DC-42	LIST OF ALLOWANCES FOR COMMONWEALTH WITNESS	Printed	10/08
DC-43	LIST OF ALLOWANCES FOR JURORS	Printed	12/08
DC-43(y)	LIST OF ALLOWANCES FOR JURORS – CONTINUATION SHEET	Printed	12/08
DC-44	LIST OF ALLOWANCES – INTERPRETER	Printed	04/11 (front) 07/08 (reverse)
DC-52	PUBLIC DEFENDER TIMESHEET	Printed	07/01
DC-60	INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION HEARING INVOICE	Printed	07/08 (front) 07/14 (reverse)
DC-80	ORDER DESIGNATING DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, RETIRED JUDGE OR SUBSTITUTE JUDGE TO PRESID IN A DISTRICT COURT	Master	10/08
DC-91	ORDER OF DISQUALIFICATION/WAIVER OF DISQUALIFICATION	Master	12/01

COURT CASE FORMS – TRAFFIC

DC-200s

Form #	Form Name	Form Type	Revision Date
DC-201	NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE/DRIVING PRIVILEGE	Printed	07/14 (front) 11/06 (reverse)
DC-202	MOTION FOR REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE/DRIVING PRIVILEGE	Master	10/08
DC-210	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF DRIVER'S LICENSE	Printed	07/12 (front) 07/13 (reverse)
DC-215	NOTICE OF DISHONORED CHECK OR CREDIT CARD CHARGE	Master	11/06
DC-216	COMPLIANCE WITH LAW CERTIFICATE	Master	07/11

A

abstract of record

A complete history in short; abbreviated form of the case as found in the record.

acquit

To find a defendant not guilty in a criminal trial.

adversary system

The system of trial practice in the U.S. and some other countries in which each of the opposing or adversary, parties has full opportunity to present and establish its opposing contentions before the court.

affidavit

A written, sworn statement of facts made voluntarily, usually in support of a motion or in response to a request of the court.

affirm

The assertion of an appellate court that the judgment of lower court is correct and should stand.

allegation

The assertion, declaration or statement of a party to a lawsuit often made in a pleading or legal document, setting out what the party expects to prove at the trial.

amicus curiae

A friend of the court; one who interposes and volunteers information upon some matter of law.

answer

A pleading by which defendant endeavors to resist the plaintiff's allegation of facts.

appeal

Divorce with Children Overview

This is an overview of the court process in Illinois. This entire divorce process may often take between six months – 2 years, and often involves multiple court visits.

Plaintiff files for divorce §

Plaintiff gives notice to spouse of divorce case §

Defendant responds to the divorce case §

Both must complete parenting class §

If agreement: tell the judge your agreement in a hearing called a "prove up" §

OR

If no full agreement: case goes to trial and judge will make decisions for you. §

Both update judge about divorce issues

- Both negotiate: property and debt
- spousal support
- child support
- custody
- parenting time

If both do not agree about all issues, parties can be sent to mediation or a lawyer for children may be appointed §

§ Means this step may cost a fee, unless judge grants fee waiver

For the necessary forms and information about how to complete each step, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/divorceselfhelp>.



FORMS ARE THE WINDOW TO THE SOUL, MAYBE?

APPLICATION TO WAIVE FILING FEES AND SERVICE COSTS

Case Name: _____

Name: (First & Last) _____
 Street Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Mailing Address: (if different from street address) _____
 Email Address: _____
 Telephone Number: _____

Total Number Living in Household (spouse, partner & dependents) _____

Employment

Are you employed? Yes No *if Yes, list Employers' Name & Address*

Employer Name	Employer Address

Public Assistance:

Do you receive Public Assistance (including TANF/Reach UP, SS, General Assistance)? Yes No

Type of Assistance: _____ Monthly Amount \$ _____

IF YOU RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, SKIP TO SIGNATURE SECTION

Income	Expenses
<p>Your Current Monthly Income</p> <p>Gross Income from Wages \$ _____</p> <p>Unemployment Compensation \$ _____</p> <p>Child Support \$ _____</p> <p>Other Income \$ _____ <small>(including Disability Insurance & Social Security)</small></p> <p>Self-Employment/Business Income \$ _____ <small>(other than wages)</small></p> <p>Total Monthly Income \$ _____</p> <p>Total Income in the past 12 months \$ _____</p>	<p>Enter your monthly household expenses</p> <p>Rent or Mortgage Payment \$ _____</p> <p>Electric Service \$ _____</p> <p>Phone \$ _____</p> <p>Fuel (heating and/or gas) \$ _____</p> <p>Food \$ _____</p> <p>Clothing \$ _____</p> <p>Medical \$ _____</p> <p>Child Support \$ _____</p> <p>Auto Loan Payment \$ _____</p> <p>Property Taxes \$ _____</p> <p>Insurance (health, auto, etc.) \$ _____</p> <p>Other Expenses \$ _____</p> <p>Total Expenses \$ _____</p>

IN

)	CASE NO.
Plaintiff,)	JUDGE
vs.)	
Defendant.)	<u>FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE / FEE- WAIVER AFFIDAVIT AND ORDER</u>

Pursuant to R.C. 2323.311, the below-named Applicant requests that the Court determine that the Applicant is an indigent litigant and be granted a waiver of the prepayment of costs or fees in the above captioned matter. The Applicant submits the following information in support of said request.

Personal Information			
Applicant's First Name	Applicant's Last Name		
Applicant's Date of Birth	Last 4 Digits of Applicant's SSN		
Applicant's Address			
Other Persons Living in Your Household			
First Name	Last Name	Is this person a child under 18?	Relationship (Spouse or Child)
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Public Benefits			
I receive the following public benefits and my gross income, including the cash benefits marked below, does not exceed 187.5% of the federal poverty guidelines.			
Place an "X" next to any benefits you receive.			
Ohio Works First ¹ : <input type="checkbox"/> SSI ² : <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid ³ : <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Pension Benefit ⁴ : <input type="checkbox"/> SNAP / Food Stamps ⁵ : <input type="checkbox"/>			
Monthly Income			
I am NOT able to access my spouse's income <input type="checkbox"/>			
	Applicant	Spouse (if Living in Household)	Total Monthly Income

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Expunging Your Court Record

An expungement is the removal, sealing, or destruction of all records on file with any court, detention or correctional facility, law enforcement or judicial agency. A court-ordered expungement can remove the following information:

- your arrest
- all court proceedings related to your case
- your criminal or juvenile conviction
- the outcome of your case, including your sentence

You can apply for an expungement using the Courts Expungement System. It's free. You will need your case number to get started.

[Find Case Number](#)
[Apply for Expungement](#)

[Create a Courts Account](#)
[Log In to Courts](#)

Search using your case number?

Instructions

Once you have registered, you can follow the user guide for file an expungement petition (help). The user guide is in English only.

Need Help?

Watch this brief user video on how to request an expungement online.

This more detailed video will walk you through the features of the online expungement system.

You can also view this step-by-step guide from Legal Services of New Jersey.

Email your local embassies if you have any questions.

Learn More About Expungements

Legal Services of New Jersey has a helpful encyclopedia of the expungement process.

Learn more about Courts and Court Records.

[Texas Law Help](#)
[Help](#)
[Legal Assistance](#)

Search for help.

ABOUT ABOUT

How to Serve the Initial Court Papers (Family Law)

This article tells you how to serve the initial court papers on a family law case (such as a divorce, custody, modification, child name change, or paternity case).

Contents: How to serve your respondent

What papers?

- You must serve the respondent with the initial court papers.
- What papers do I need to serve?
- Can I serve myself?
- How can I get papers served?
- How do I get notified of my next court date?
- Can you file someone's petition through self-service?

Do I have to serve the respondent(s) with the initial court papers?

The filer (person named as respondent in your petition) must file the forms you file to start your case. **These** documents must be served with the initial court papers.

Examples: If respondents **absent** must be served with the initial court papers if have the will documents filed and sign.

- a **Respondent's Original Answer** form or
- a **Waiver of Service Only (Optional Waiver)** form (this form must be signed in front of a notary).

You can skip the cost of the petition with respondent will you, please file our self sign on answer or waiver of service.

What papers do I have served?

Each respondent must be served with the initial court papers, which include:

- a **Waiver of Service Only (Optional Waiver)** form for your case;
- a copy of your petition (the form you file to start your case); and
- a copy of any other forms you file with your petition.

Can I be the server?

We have more coverage for a consensual, in-court or private process server or someone listed court papers. You may need to ask the clerk's clerk to issue the citation so that you can give it to a consensual server, or private-process server.

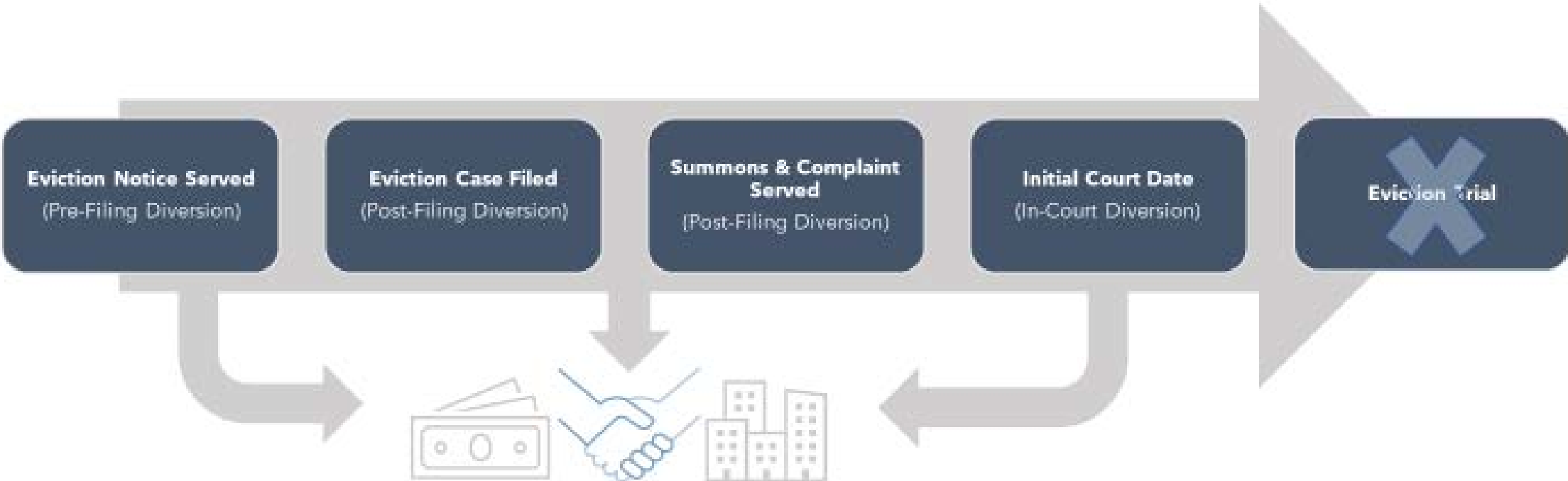


(2) DIVERSION PROGRAMS

WHAT IS DIVERSION?

Diversion programs use the formal court process to provide litigants with the **time, information and resources** to resolve disputes in a less harmful way.

Eviction Diversion in State Courts



Holistic Solutions to Housing Problems

Resolving the Immediate Problem

Legal Aid & Pro Bono Organizations -

Identify meritorious defenses, procedural defects, and settlement opportunities

Mediation Services -

Help landlords and tenants find common ground and work together towards a resolution

Financial Assistance Programs -

Connect to rental assistance, utility assistance, landlord incentives, and other programs

Preventing Future Crises

Housing Counseling & Education -

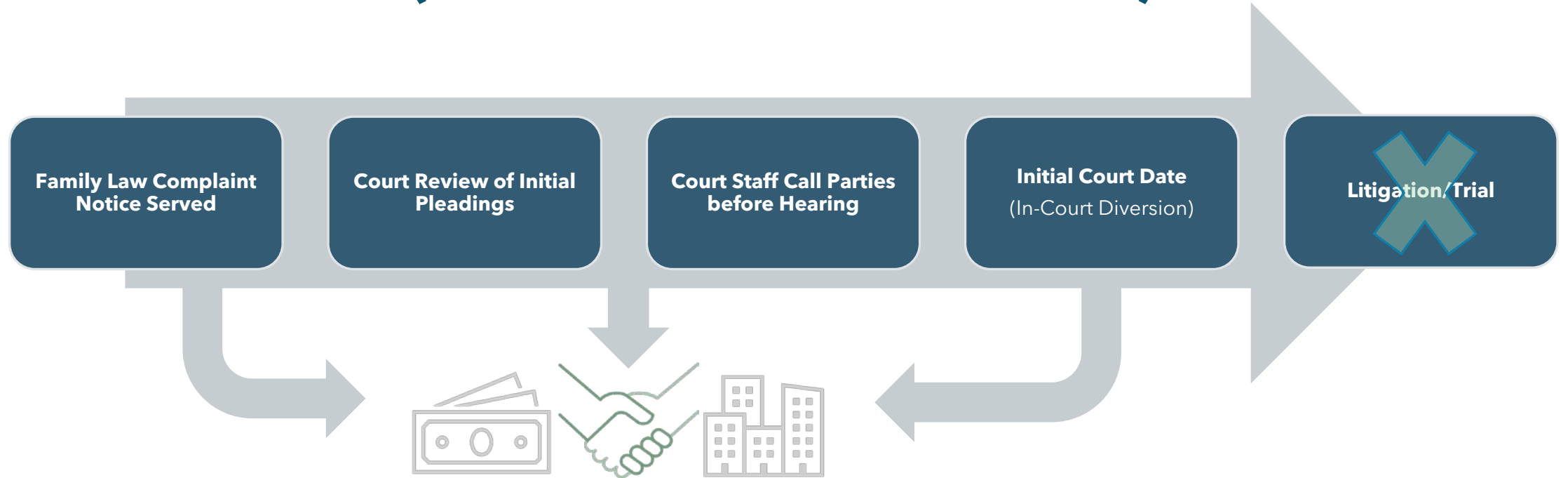
Support tenants in securing new housing and creating stronger landlord-tenant relationships

Financial Counseling & Empowerment -

Educate litigants about financial management and budgeting

Wraparound Supportive Services - Support access to education, employment, food, jobs, healthcare, public benefits, mental health services & more

ALASKA'S EARLY RESOLUTION PROGRAM (DOMESTIC RELATIONS)



Holistic Solutions to Family Law Problems

Identifying Areas of Consensus Quickly

Legal Aid & Pro Bono Organizations -

Identify areas of potential friction and legal strategies to address

Mediation Services -

Help parties find common ground and work together towards a resolution

Child Support Calculations -

Assist families with understanding what each party will be responsible for according to the law

Preventing Future Crises

Model Collaboration -

Prevent protracted, often unnecessary fighting

Financial Counseling & Empowerment -

Educate litigants about financial management and budgeting

Wraparound Supportive Services - Support access to education, employment, food, jobs, healthcare, public benefits, mental health services & more

**Lancaster County, Pa
Consumer Credit Card Diversion Program**





**(3) COMMUNITY
CONNECTED**