

CUSTODY IN THE "FAMILY LAW ADJUDICATION SYSTEM"

*(sec. 7212.; sec. 7213; sec. 7214)*

*The following represents a basic outline for a custody case proceeding through the proposed Family Law adjudication system.*

FAMILY ACTION FILED

FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

*(Filed by each party w/in 60 days)*

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

*(Parties and Case Management Team)*

ORDER BY JUDGE

*(Assigning case to track, setting all requirements and trial date)*

DIFFERENTIAL CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Priority Track-----Complex Track-----Expedited Track-----Standard Track  
Custody Cases

Separating Parents Seminar

Mediation

Trial Date     NOT MORE THAN 6 MONTHS FROM FILING

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COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS:

1. I suggest that the case management conference be set no more than 30 - 45 days from the date the family action is filed.
2. The Bill provides no direction as to the role of the attorney at various steps of the process. In particular, at the time of the case management conference clarification is needed as to whether the attorney attends and participates as an advisor or advocate on behalf of the client. I suggest that whenever possible that the clients present their issues, concerns, and potential areas of agreement in keeping with a nonadversarial proceeding and that attorneys assist in legal issues and advise.

Thank you for making family law a priority.