

MILESTONES

2004

Established as a pilot project to test alternative approaches to family and child justice and the first problem-solving court in Trinidad and Tobago

2015

Received the Diamond Standard Award for Excellence in Service from the Ministry of Public Administration

2018

The FCD was established and the Family Court moved from having a dual jurisdiction (i.e. a Magistrates' Court and High Court in the same building) to a single High Court jurisdiction

2018

CourtPay for court ordered maintenance was launched

2019

Family Court, Tobago was opened

2021

Family Court, Princes Town was operationalised

OVERVIEW

The Family Court falls under the **Family and Children Division (FCD)** of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago. It is a problem-solving court which seeks to resolve conflict in family matters by providing specialist support, as per legislation or as ordered. **Family matters include divorce, domestic violence, legal custody and access, maintenance, property settlement and wardship matters among others.** In dealing with these matters, the Family Court facilitates the following:

- ✓ Court proceedings for family matters including divorce, applications for protection orders, variations to existing court orders and requests for copies of court orders
- ✓ CourtPay registration for court-ordered maintenance
- ✓ Family mediation to resolve family disputes
- ✓ Court-ordered psychosocial enquiries for evidence-based decision-making
- ✓ Court-ordered referrals for assessments and evaluations
- ✓ Court-ordered counselling for parents/guardians, children and other family members
- ✓ DNA testing as ordered by the Court

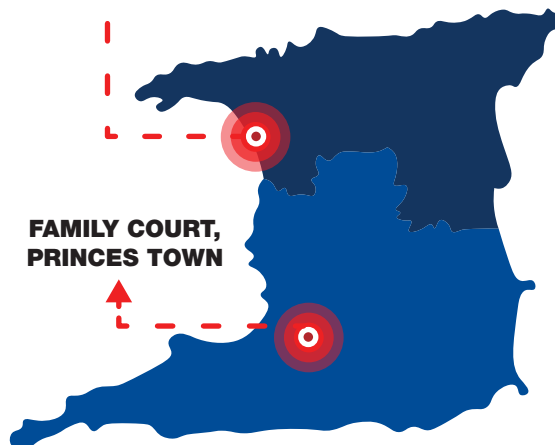


→ FAMILY COURT, TOBAGO

FAMILY COURT, PORT OF SPAIN



FAMILY COURT, PRINCES TOWN



GEOGRAPHIC JURISDICTION FOR SUMMARY MATTERS

FAMILY COURT, PORT OF SPAIN

- Port of Spain
- Chaguanas
- San Juan/ Laventille
- Diego Martin

FAMILY COURT, PRINCES TOWN

- Princes Town
- Rio Claro
- Mayaro

FAMILY COURT, TOBAGO

- All of Tobago

A FAMILY FOCUSED ENVIRONMENT

SPECIALISED COURT FACILITIES

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Family Court is a 'one-stop-shop' which offers a range of support services for court customers at the same location such as family mediation and court-ordered counselling. The Court also recognises that certain family issues require support which may not be available at the Court. In those instances, persons in need of specialist services can be referred by the Court to professionals including psychologists and psychiatrists among others.



HEARING ROOMS

In-person hearings are conducted in Hearing Rooms which are designed to provide a more comfortable and less intimidating environment for all parties. This atmosphere facilitates more open discussion of issues and affords the parties an opportunity to speak directly to the Judge or Master when required.

CHILD-FRIENDLY WAITING ROOMS

The Family Court provides appropriate child-friendly waiting spaces which are utilised when parents or guardians are conducting business at the Court, including attending a court hearing, filing an application or attending a session with the Social Services or Mediation Units. Well-trained court staff supervise children in this room. The waiting rooms are equipped with books, toys and educational material for child occupants.



LEGAL REPRESENTATION

You can file an application and have your matter heard by the Court without legal representation. Persons who represent themselves are called **SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS**. However, in some cases, it may be better to have an attorney-at-law to guide and represent you during this process. Your attorney will take your instructions, prepare the required documents, and represent you during the life of the matter or as agreed.

For more information, please contact the Family Court:

- **Family Court, Port of Spain** | Cipriani Place, 4 Cipriani Boulevard, Port of Spain
224 5182 or 62-TTLAW (628-8529) or 23-LAWTT (235-2988) Ext. 1254-1258 | fcn.response@ttlawcourts.org
- **Family Court, Princes Town** | 271 Naparima Mayaro Road, Princes Town
224 5182 or 62-TTLAW (628-8529) or 23-LAWTT (235-2988) Ext. 6400 | fcp.response@ttlawcourts.org
- **Family Court, Tobago** | 54 Calder Hall Main Road, Scarborough, Tobago
224 5182 or 62-TTLAW (628-8529) or 23-LAWTT (235-2988) Ext.1259-1261/1265 | fct.response@ttlawcourts.org