

Conditions that might prevent your participation in FIT Court:

- You have pending serious criminal charges or are involved in an active criminal investigation.
- You do not live in the Mat-Su Borough.
- You want your children placed in a home outside of the Mat-Su Borough.
- You might be in jail for a long period of time which would make it difficult or impossible to participate in the program.
- You have a medical, behavioral, or psychiatric condition that would make it difficult for you to participate in the program.

If you have an attorney, please speak to them about participating in this court. The project coordinator will be at your next court hearing to provide you with more details.

Families with Infants and Toddlers Court is a cooperative effort of:

- Alaska Court System
- Alaska Department of Law
- Alaska Public Defender Agency
- Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
- Alaska Office of Children’s Services
- Tribal Partners
- Community members

The Court is funded in part by a grant from the Mat-Su Health Foundation, R.O.C.K. Mat-Su, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Casey Family Programs, and the Rasmuson Foundation.

For more information:

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Palmer Families with Infants and Toddlers Court

What is FIT Court?

FIT Court is a therapeutic court serving families with infants and toddlers who are involved with the Office of Children's Services (OCS). The Court Team is made up of the judge, OCS caseworker, attorneys, guardians ad litem/court-appointed special advocates, and a project coordinator. When appropriate, there is an Indian Child Welfare Advocate. The team works together to help families receive services and support.

What are the goals of FIT Court?

The primary goals are to achieve permanency within twelve months and to reunify young children with their families of origin. The Court seeks to build strong supports around the family.

Who is eligible for FIT Court?

Families with at least one child in OCS custody younger than 36 months may be eligible to participate in the court. Families must apply to be considered for FIT Court.

What are the benefits of FIT Court?

- You will see your child more often than you would in a standard OCS case.
- You may have a parent navigator assigned to help you.
- The FIT Court Team will help create a case plan just for the needs of you and your child(ren).
- You may be able to access services sooner because of your participation in FIT Court.
- You and your child(ren) may participate in special family therapy sessions.
- There will be Family Team Meetings where everyone will have a chance to talk.
- Your OCS caseworker only works with families in FIT Court.
- You will have more contact with your OCS caseworker and they will help guide you through the steps of the case plan.

What FIT Court means for you...

- There is a court system project coordinator who will work to make sure the services offered are just right for you and your family.
- You will be assigned a specially trained OCS caseworker to help get the services your family needs.
- You will also have monthly Family Team Meetings to help keep your case on track.
- You will have court hearings every month to help make sure you are on track and to review whether the team is providing your family with services and support.