

Some of our Community Partners



Want more information on our
treatment programs?



HERNANDO COUNTY DRUG COURT EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT PROGRAM

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If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this program, you are entitled, at no cost to you, the provision of certain assistance, please contact the ADA coordinator at the Office of the Trial Court Administrator, Marion County Judicial Center, 110 NW First Avenue, Ocala, FL 34475, Telephone 352-401-6710. If you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711.

The Hernando County Drug Courts do not discriminate against qualified applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, marital status, disability, veteran status or as otherwise prohibited by federal, state or local law.

HERNANDO COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT



The goal of Hernando County's Early Childhood Court (ECC) is to improve child safety and well-being, heal trauma, and develop a stronger parent/child relationship.

The ECC program works with families who have children between the ages of 0-5 who have been removed from their homes.

ECC is voluntary. Your commitment is crucial to your success.

What to expect with Early Childhood Court:

- Stay on track with your case plan.
- Monthly "check-ups" with the Magistrate.
- Develop a relationship with your child that will promote healthy brain development.
- Community Resource information.
- Family-focused therapeutic programs.
- Receive and give open and honest feedback about case progress.
- How long could this last? ECC may last for a year; however, your child may be returned to you or placed in an alternative safe home at any point.
- Create safety and security for your child physically and within the parent/child relationship.
- Post-reunification support.
- Family Team meetings.



Benefits of Early Childhood Court

- Access to a Community Coordinator who assists with coordinating the right services.
- Increased visits with your child.
- Specialized family therapy sessions.
- Parenting education.
- Coaching to help you succeed.



Your Role...

YOU know your baby best.

You will help at every step of the way to plan the best services for your child. You will be part of the team. You will develop a support system and keep the Case Manager informed.

Monthly Team Meetings

The Early Childhood Court (ECC) team meets monthly to review your case and connect with services. The team shares and celebrates your accomplishments and helps you continue to make progress.



Why Infants and Toddlers?

There are more infants and toddlers in foster care than any other age group. Helping babies now can result in longer, healthier lives. Many parents of children in the Dependency System were also in the system as children themselves. Research has shown that the cycle can be broken with early intervention and family support. ECC includes a team dedicated to help break that cycle.