

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to court actions involving families;
 3 amending ss. 39.001, 61.001, and 985.02, F.S.; providing
 4 additional purposes relating to implementing a unified
 5 family court program in the circuit courts; providing
 6 legislative intent; providing an effective date.

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 8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 10 Section 1. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (1) of
 11 section 39.001, Florida Statutes, to read:

12 39.001 Purposes and intent; personnel standards and
 13 screening.--

14 (1) PURPOSES OF CHAPTER.--The purposes of this chapter
 15 are:

16 (n) To provide all children and families affected by the
 17 legal process with a coordinated judicial system that minimizes
 18 multiple actions and provides one decisionmaker for each child
 19 or family and a coordinated approach in dealing with the
 20 applicable issues of the child or family. It is the intent of
 21 the Legislature to encourage the circuit courts of this state to
 22 implement a unified family court program as endorsed by the
 23 Florida Supreme Court and establish such a unified family court
 24 by local rule or administrative order to be submitted to the
 25 Florida Supreme Court for approval as directed by the Florida
 26 Supreme Court. It is the intent of the Legislature to improve
 27 the resolution of disputes within the judicial system for
 28 children and families by promoting the implementation of the

29 Coordinated Management Model as established by the Florida
 30 Supreme Court and the concept of "one family, one judge" to
 31 coordinate multiple cases involving one family.

32 Section 2. Section 61.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 33 read:

34 61.001 Purpose of chapter.--

35 (1) This chapter shall be liberally construed and applied.

36 (2) Its purposes are:

37 (a) To preserve the integrity of marriage and to safeguard
 38 meaningful family relationships;

39 (b) To promote the amicable settlement of disputes that
 40 arise between parties to a marriage; and

41 (c) To mitigate the potential harm to the spouses and
 42 their children caused by the process of legal dissolution of
 43 marriage.

44 (d) To provide all children and families affected by the
 45 legal process with a coordinated judicial system that minimizes
 46 multiple actions and provides one decisionmaker for each child
 47 or family and a coordinated approach in dealing with the
 48 applicable issues of the child or family. It is the intent of
 49 the Legislature to encourage the circuit courts of this state to
 50 implement a unified family court program as endorsed by the
 51 Florida Supreme Court and establish such a unified family court
 52 by local rule or administrative order to be submitted to the
 53 Florida Supreme Court for approval as directed by the Florida
 54 Supreme Court. It is the intent of the Legislature to improve
 55 the resolution of disputes within the judicial system for
 56 children and families by promoting the implementation of the

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57 Coordinated Management Model as established by the Florida
 58 Supreme Court and the concept of "one family, one judge" to
 59 coordinate multiple cases involving one family.

60 Section 3. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (1) of
 61 section 985.02, Florida Statutes, to read:

62 985.02 Legislative intent for the juvenile justice
 63 system.--

64 (1) GENERAL PROTECTIONS FOR CHILDREN.--It is a purpose of
 65 the Legislature that the children of this state be provided with
 66 the following protections:

67 (j) To all children and their families affected by the
 68 legal process, a coordinated judicial system that minimizes
 69 multiple actions and provides one decisionmaker for each child
 70 or family and a coordinated approach in dealing with the
 71 applicable issues of the child or family. It is the intent of
 72 the Legislature to encourage the circuit courts of this state to
 73 implement a unified family court program as endorsed by the
 74 Florida Supreme Court and establish such a unified family court
 75 by local rule or administrative order to be submitted to the
 76 Florida Supreme Court for approval as directed by the Florida
 77 Supreme Court. It is the intent of the Legislature to improve
 78 the resolution of disputes within the judicial system for
 79 children and families by promoting the implementation of the
 80 Coordinated Management Model as established by the Florida
 81 Supreme Court and the concept of "one family, one judge" to
 82 coordinate multiple cases involving one family.

83 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.