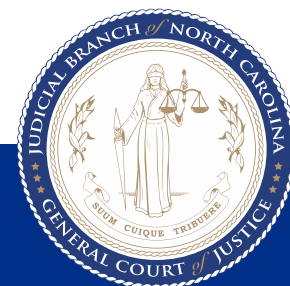


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# DOMESTIC CASE MANAGEMENT

DECEMBER 5, 2019



# COURT MANAGEMENT



- National Association for Court Management (NACM)
  - Core Competencies
- National Center for State Courts (NCSC)



**Caseflow management** is the coordination of court processes and resources so that court cases progress in a timely fashion from filing to disposition.

Judges and administrators can enhance justice when a court **supervises case progress from the time of filing, sets meaningful events and deadlines throughout the life of a case, and provides credible trial dates.**

Source: National Center for State Courts

As of 12/4/19, <https://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Court-Management/Caseflow-Management/Resource-Guide.aspx>



# CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT

Proven practices in caseflow management include:

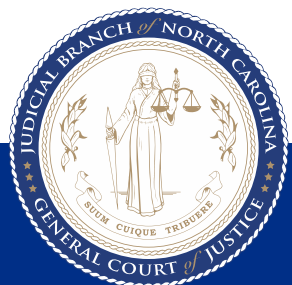
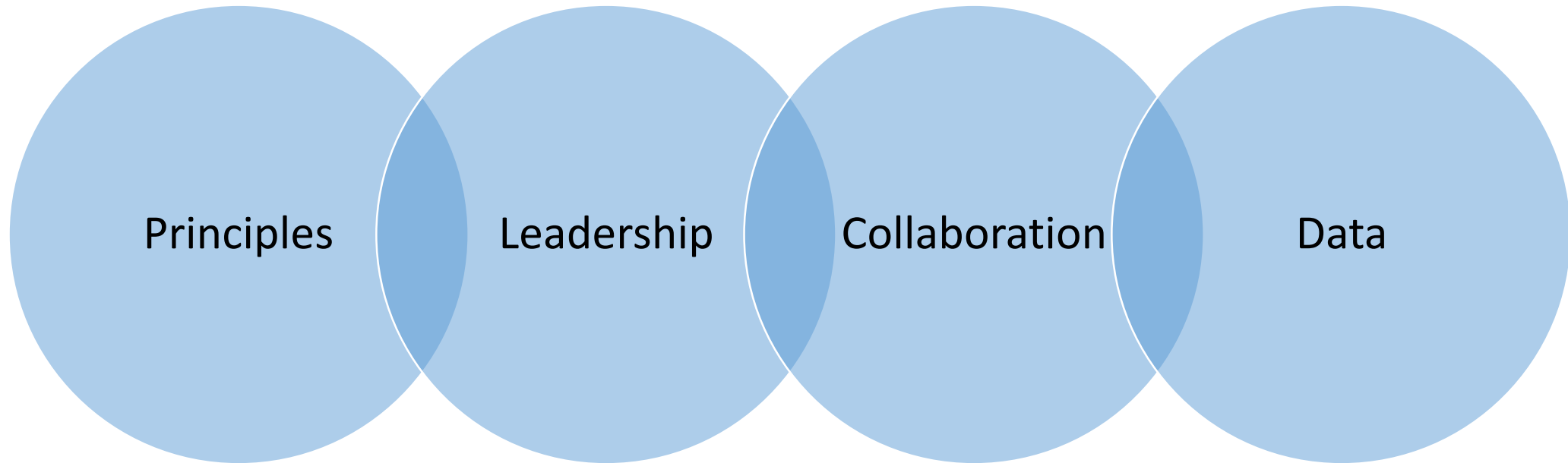
- Case disposition time standards
- Early court intervention and continuous court control of case progress
- Use of differentiated case management
- Meaningful pretrial events and schedules
- Limit continuances
- Effective calendaring and docketing practices
- Use of information systems to monitor age and status of cases
- Control post disposition case events

Source: National Center for State Courts

As of 12/4/19, <https://www.ncsc.org/Topics/Court-Management/Caseflow-Management/Resource-Guide.aspx>

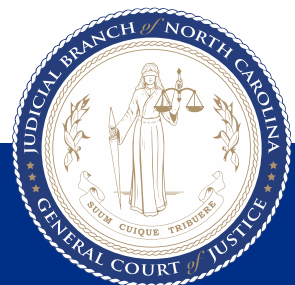


# CONCEPTUAL STRUCTURE



# PRINCIPLES OF ACTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

- Court-driven scheduling
  - Continuous calendaring
  - Require and enforce time estimates
- Culture of predictability
  - Time certain events
  - Fixed, firm dates for trial/conference
  - Continuances rarely sought/granted
  - Expectation to be present/prepared
- Create opportunity for early resolution
- Eliminate unnecessary hearings, events, and requirements



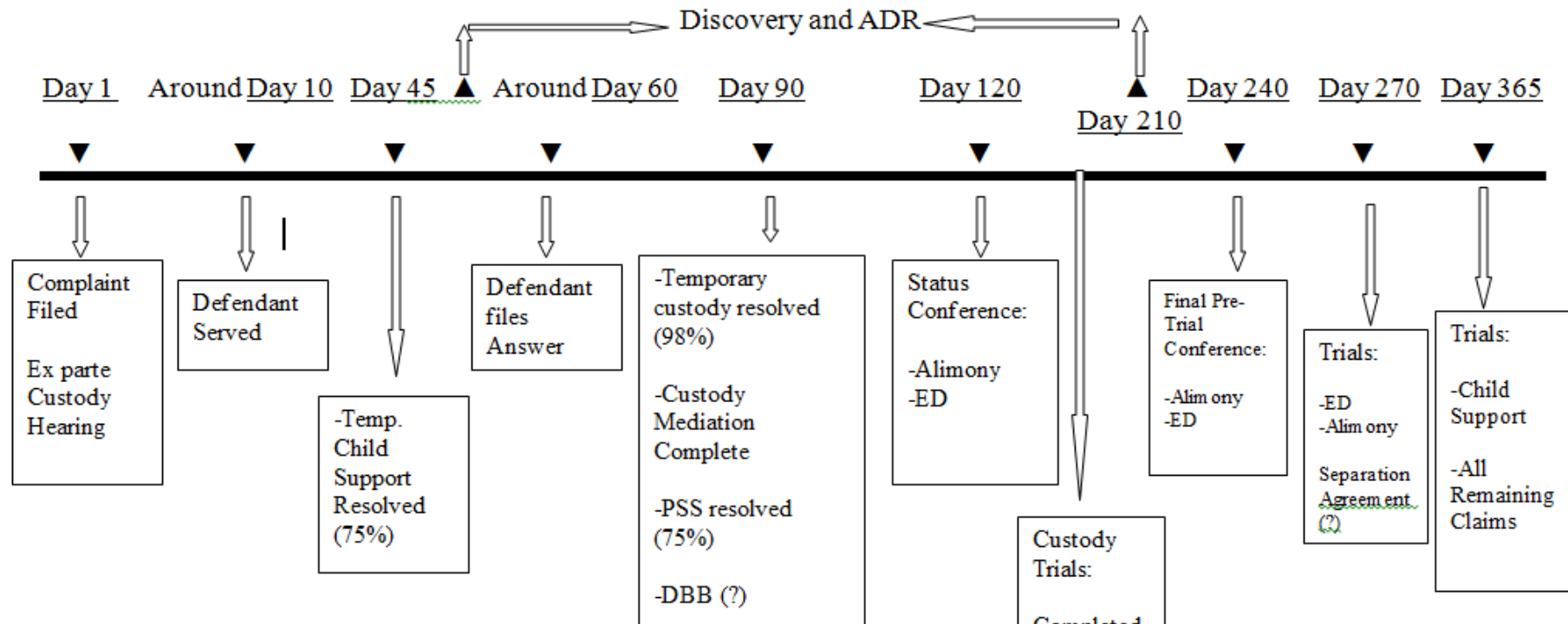
# PRINCIPLES, CONTINUED

- Use technology to improve efficiency
- Set case processing goals using court data to monitor compliance
  - Litigants want case decided quickly
  - **Impact of uncertainty is greatest on children (ACEs study)**
- Strive for continuous improvement
  - Collect and monitor time to disposition data





# “TYPICAL” DIVORCE CASE



Plaintiff's Complaint Requests: Divorce from Bed and Board (DBB)  
 Custody, including ex parte relief  
 Child Support  
Postseparation Support (PSS) and Alimony  
 Equitable Distribution (ED)

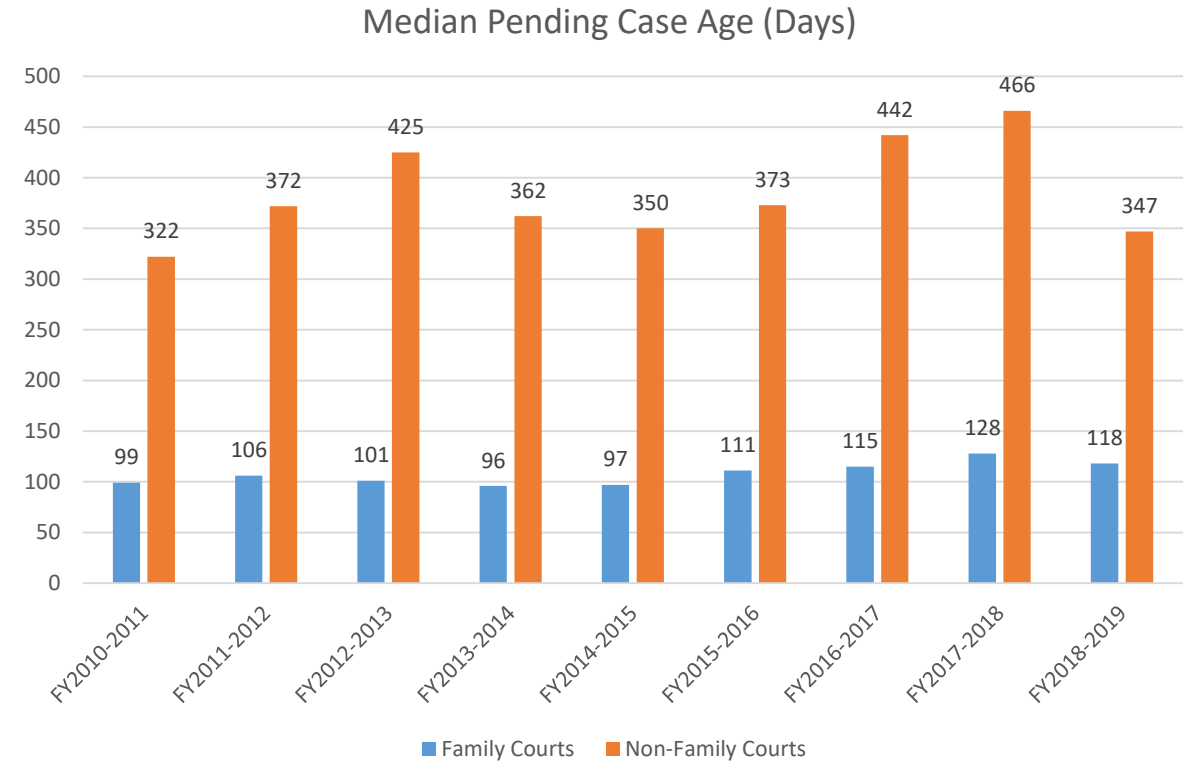
Defendant's Answer and Counterclaim: Denies DBB  
 Requests Custody and Child Support  
 Raises Separation Agreement as Bar to Alimony and ED

Source: Cheryl Howell,  
 SOG Professor



# DATA

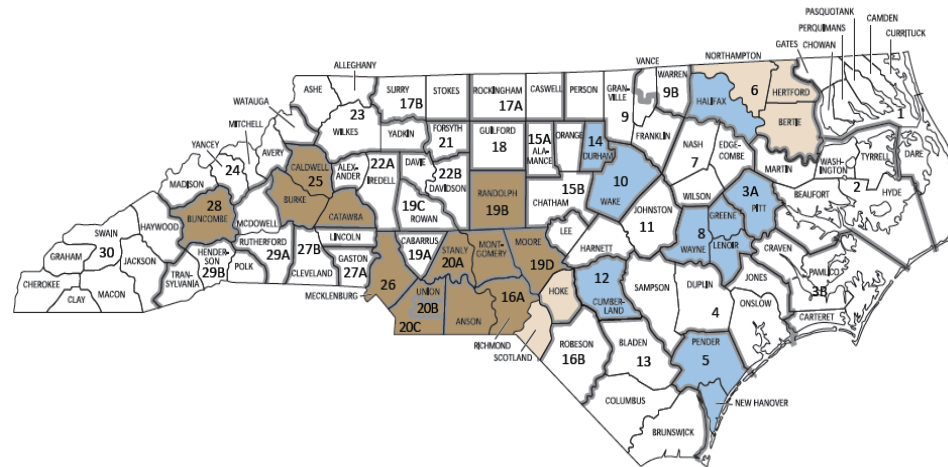
- Domestic Aging Analysis Report (includes Non IV-D and Dom Rel-No Child Support)
  - Divorce from Bed and Board
  - Divorce
  - Equitable Distribution
  - Custody
  - Post-Separation Support
  - Alimony
  - DOES NOT include modifications
- Family Financial Settlement (FFS)



# CHANGING A CULTURE OF DELAY



- Create a sense of urgency
- Change expectations of judges, lawyers, and staff
- Implement and support case management principles and practice





“The introduction of Family Court in North Carolina has provided parties in domestic cases with equal and timely access to justice thereby reducing the trauma for all involved.

The philosophy of “One Judge, One Family” and strict hearing guidelines have brought significantly faster resolutions for families in crisis, especially displaced children.”

~G. Galen Braddy, Chief District Court Judge, Pitt County





THANK YOU

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