**Family Court Services (FCS) – Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Where do I go for Child Custody Recommending Counseling (CCRC)?**  
**A:** Family Court Services (FCS) is located on the first floor of the courthouse, in **Suite 157**, across from Jury Assembly. A CCRC will meet you in the waiting room inside the FCS suite at your appointment time.

**Q: What documents should I bring?**  
**A:** FCS does not accept any documents directly. All documents, evidence, or pictures must be filed with the court at least **10 days before** your scheduled appointment.

**Q: Is there an orientation for CCRC?**  
**A:** FCS does not provide live orientation. You can watch **“Orientation to Family Court Mediation/Child Custody Recommending Counseling”** on YouTube before your appointment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?y=wJOcjP5RikQ>

**Q: What happens if I miss my appointment or arrive late?**  
**A:** If a parent arrives 10 minutes late or more (with or without children), they may not be seen. You must notify FCS **48 hours in advance** if you cannot attend. There is a **$200 fee** ($100 per parent if both do not appear) if an appointment is missed without proper notice.

**Q: What is the CCRC Review fee?**  
**A:** If you have participated in Formal CCRC within the last 12 months, there is a **$200 fee** for repeat participation. Unless otherwise ordered, each parent pays **half** ($100 each).

**Q: Who should I bring to my appointment?**  
**A:** Do **not** bring your child(ren), friends, relatives, spouses, or significant others. Only people directly involved in the case may attend, unless there is a Criminal or Domestic Violence Restraining Order that requires otherwise.

**Q: What if my child needs to be interviewed?**  
**A:** The CCRC will decide if a child interview is necessary. This helps determine custody arrangements in the child’s best interest. There is a **$200 Minor Interview fee** ($100 per parent) unless ordered otherwise.

**Q: Should I bring my child to court to speak with the judge or CCRC?**  
**A:** No, unless the court specifically tells you to. If a child interview is required, you will be instructed to bring them to FCS, not to the court hearing.

**Q: What does the CCRC do with their findings?**  
**A:** The CCRC makes a recommendation to the judge or commissioner. It is not a final decision—only the court can make orders. CCRC staff will not pressure parents into agreements.

**Q: Can I talk to the CCRC after my appointment?**  
**A:** No. Communication after the meeting is not allowed, per California Rules of Court §5.235(b)(2) on Ex Parte communication, unless it follows the Domestic Violence Protocol.

**Q: What happens if the other parent doesn’t go to the appointment?**  
**A:** Inform your attorney if you have one. The judge or commissioner will decide the next steps at the court hearing.

If you have questions, call **FCS at (559) 582-1010 ext. 6147**.