How long does FDAC take?

The FDAC process usually takes 26 weeks, however, it could take longer.

Children grow up fast so they can't wait too long for a settled home.

However, if things are going well and you need a bit longer to be ready to care for your children it can be extended for a short period.

What do other parents say?

Feedback from other parents who have worked with FDAC said: "life-changing" helpful" "listened to" "not judged straight away"

For any more information please contact:

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Centre for Justice Innovation



FDAC
The problem-solving court

FDAC
Information for families

What is the Family Drug and Alcohol Court?

The Family Drug and Alcohol Court is a different way of working with parents when the family court is asked to make an order because of concerns about your alcohol or substance misuse.
It provides a specialist team that will work with you to find answers to your problems.

The FDAC team work separately from the local authority social workers and will complete an independent assessment.

The team are linked to a specialist judge; everyone's aim is to support you to be the best carers you can for your children. They offer encouragement, support and motivation but also challenge over poor choices.

Why have you been invited to join FDAC?

You are asked to join FDAC if substance misuse and/or alcohol misuse is one of the main worries.

You might be experiencing other difficulties such as domestic abuse or mental health issues.

You must feel that you are ready and want to make changes in your life.

Do parents get a choice about joining FDAC?

Yes!
You will be given time to hear from the FDAC team about how it works and then discuss it with your solicitor and family. If by the 2nd hearing you are not happy working with FDAC you can opt out and go back to the usual way of doing care proceedings.

What can I expect if I join FDAC?

It is important that you have a trusting relationship with the FDAC team so that we can all work openly and honestly together.

You and the FDAC team will work together to make a plan that aims to find solutions to any current issues. The plan will also support you to work towards achieving your future goals for you and your children.

The FDAC team works well because it offers support and praises successes big and small. The FDAC team will ask a lot of you and you might find it hard, but they will be with you every step of the way supporting and guiding you. The FDAC team will have honest conversations with you and seek to understand when things are not going so well.

The FDAC Team

The FDAC Team is made up of multi-disciplinary professionals that bring their own expertise such as therapeutic social workers, domestic abuse workers, substance use workers, and parenting workers.

When you work with the FDAC Team you will be allocated a key worker but will also work with other members of the team.

What families have said about FDAC?

It helps you stay positive, … doing all the homework helped… it was good to have questions to think about personally.

They actually listen to you instead of trying to build a case against you.

FDAC has been the best adventure ever, it's a journey… You have to lay it all out on the table, strip yourself bare and unravel yourself and get to know yourself again… getting on with someone so different to me, with different life experiences has been really great for me, shown me another world. I haven't felt judged by anyone at FDAC. I'm so pleased the kids social worker encouraged me to do it, I wouldn't have had the same opportunities without FDAC and I don't think I would have got my kids back in normal court. I've found myself again, I'm happy and enjoying life.