



1 this code or as otherwise provided by general law. Additionally,  
2 the family court judge has the authority to:

- 3 (1) Manage the business before them;
- 4 (2) Summon witnesses and compel their attendance in court;
- 5 (3) Exercise reasonable control over discovery;
- 6 (4) Compel and supervise the production of evidence, including  
7 criminal background investigations when appropriate;
- 8 (5) Discipline attorneys;
- 9 (6) Prevent abuse of process; and
- 10 (7) Correct errors in a record.

11 (b) The family court judge has responsibility for the  
12 supervision and administration of the family court. A family court  
13 judge may promulgate local administrative rules governing the  
14 conduct and administration of the family court. In family court  
15 circuits with more than one family court judge, all family court  
16 judges must agree to the rules. If all of the family court judges  
17 in a family court circuit cannot agree, the chief judge of each  
18 circuit court in the counties in which the family court circuit is  
19 located shall promulgate the local administrative rules. If the  
20 chief judges of the circuit courts cannot agree, the Supreme Court  
21 of Appeals may promulgate the local administrative rules. Local  
22 administrative rules are subordinate and subject to the rules of  
23 the Supreme Court of Appeals or the orders of the chief justice.

1 Rules promulgated by the family or circuit court are made by order  
2 entered upon the order book of the circuit court and are effective  
3 when filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals.

4 (c) Prior to the 2003 regular session of the Legislature and  
5 annually thereafter, the Supreme Court of Appeals shall report to  
6 the Legislature on the caseload in each family court circuit and  
7 shall recommend changes to the management of the family court as  
8 the Supreme Court of Appeals deems warranted or necessary to  
9 improve the family court.

10 (d) The Supreme Court of Appeals shall promulgate a procedural  
11 rule to establish time-keeping requirements for family court  
12 judges, family case coordinators and secretary-clerks of family  
13 court judges so as to assure the maximum funding of incentive  
14 payments, grants and other funding sources available to the state  
15 for the processing of cases filed for the location of absent  
16 parents, the establishment of paternity and the establishment,  
17 modification and enforcement of child support orders.

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(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to grant family court judges the authority to compel and supervise the production of criminal background investigations when appropriate.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.)