

*The Family
Violence Court
and Family Court
of Samoa*

Our Court



Structure of Presentation

- *Family Violence Court*
 - Reasons for FV cases in Samoa (personal perspective as FVC Judge since August last year)
 - Observations to date in data
 - The Intervention programs we use
 - Time Goals
-
- *Family Court*
 - Where are we now?
 - Salient features of the Family Court Bill
 - Family Protection Orders
-
- *Where are we heading?*

**“O le tele o sulu e maua ai
figota”**



The Vision



Reasons for Family Violence in Samoa

- **Universal:**
 - **jealousy**
 - **financial pressures**
 - **Intoxication**
 - **anger**

Samoan

Faalavelave



Church Contributions



Interference from in-laws and extended families

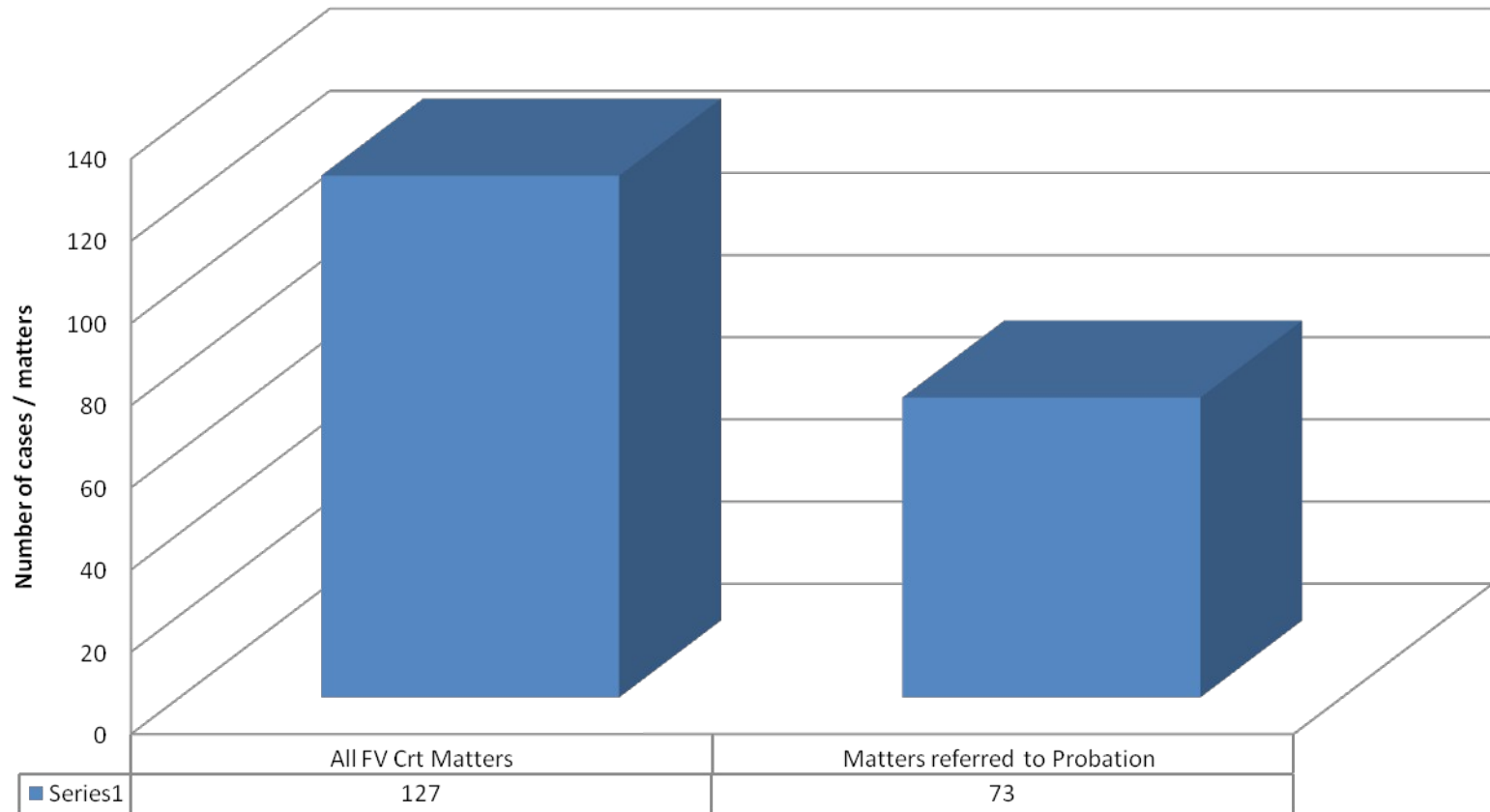


Religious

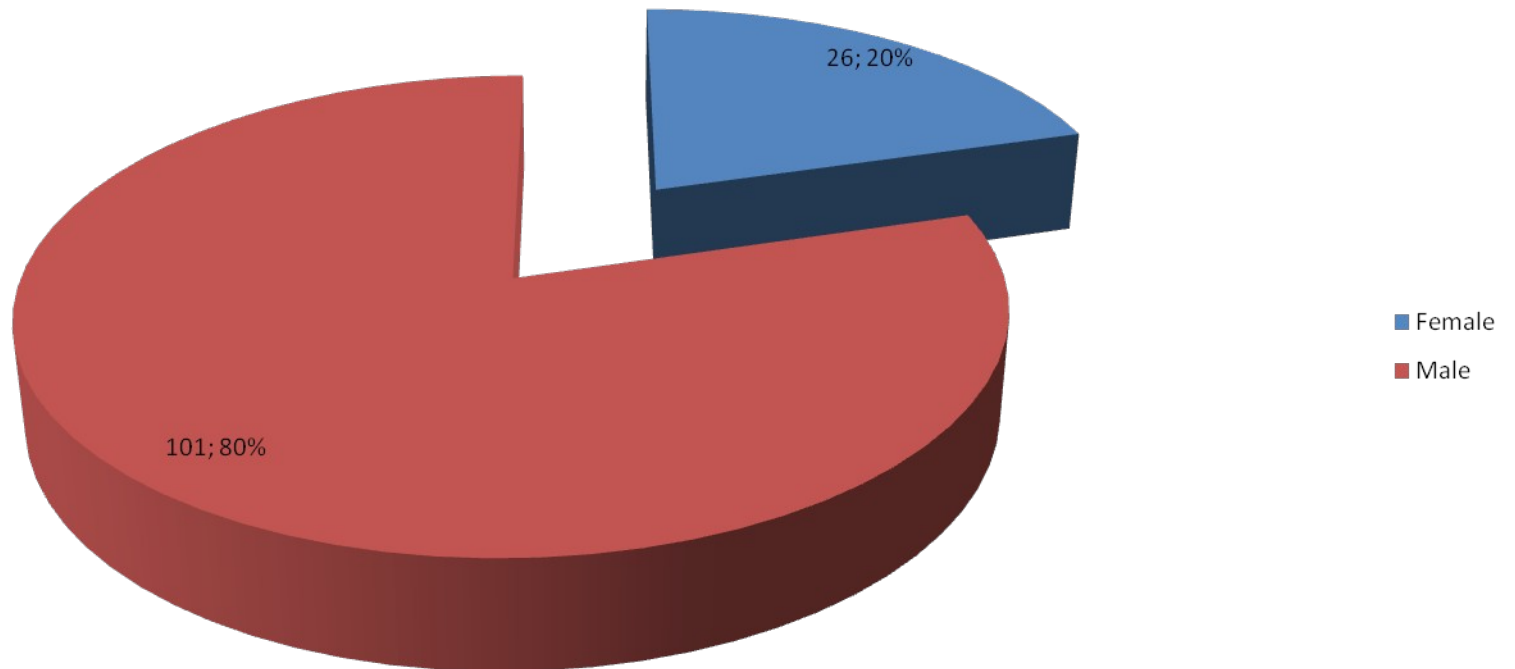
- **Ephesians 5:23** *For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, **so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.***

Data with observations

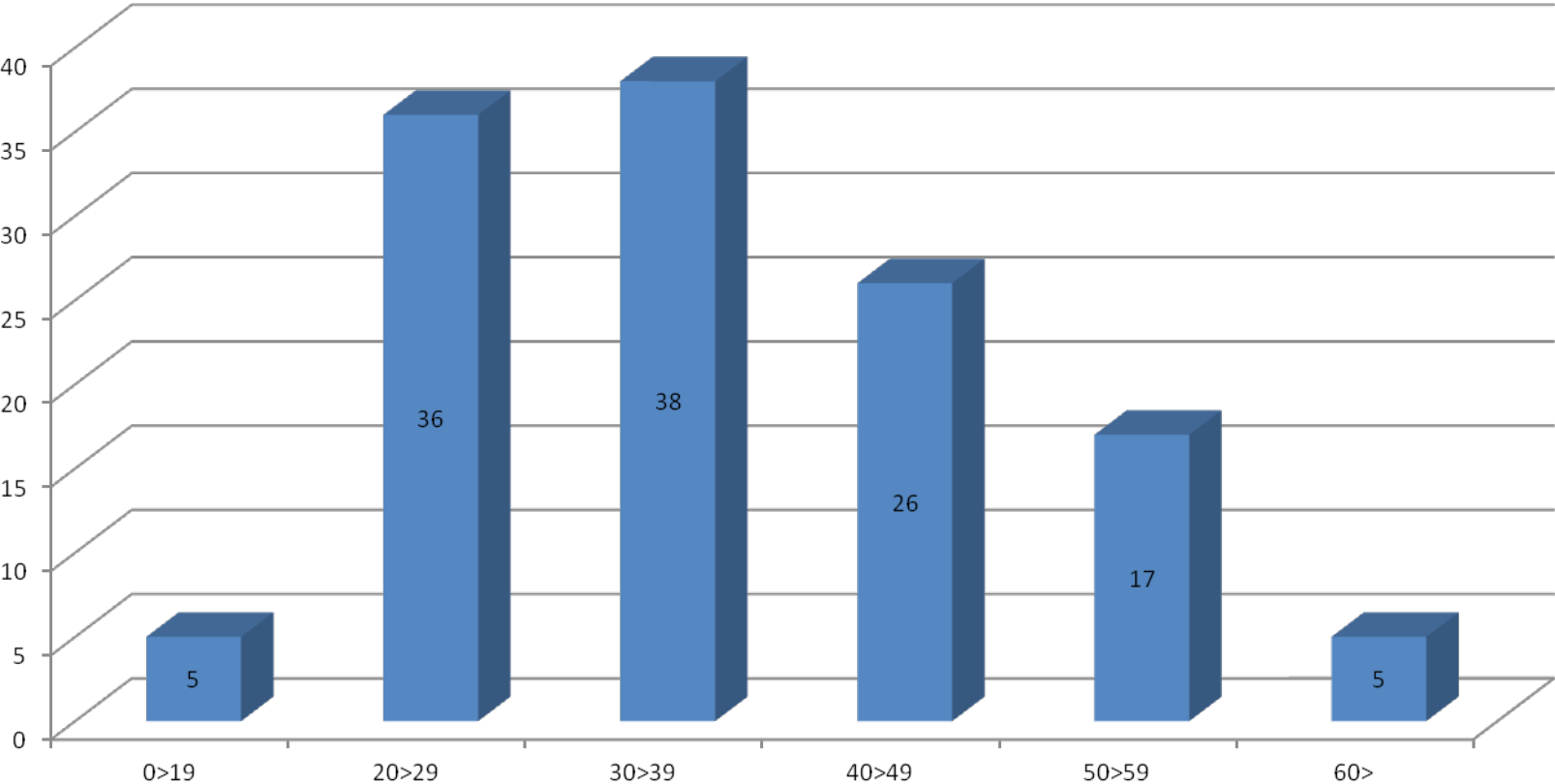
Number of matters referred to Probation in relation to overall FV Court cases



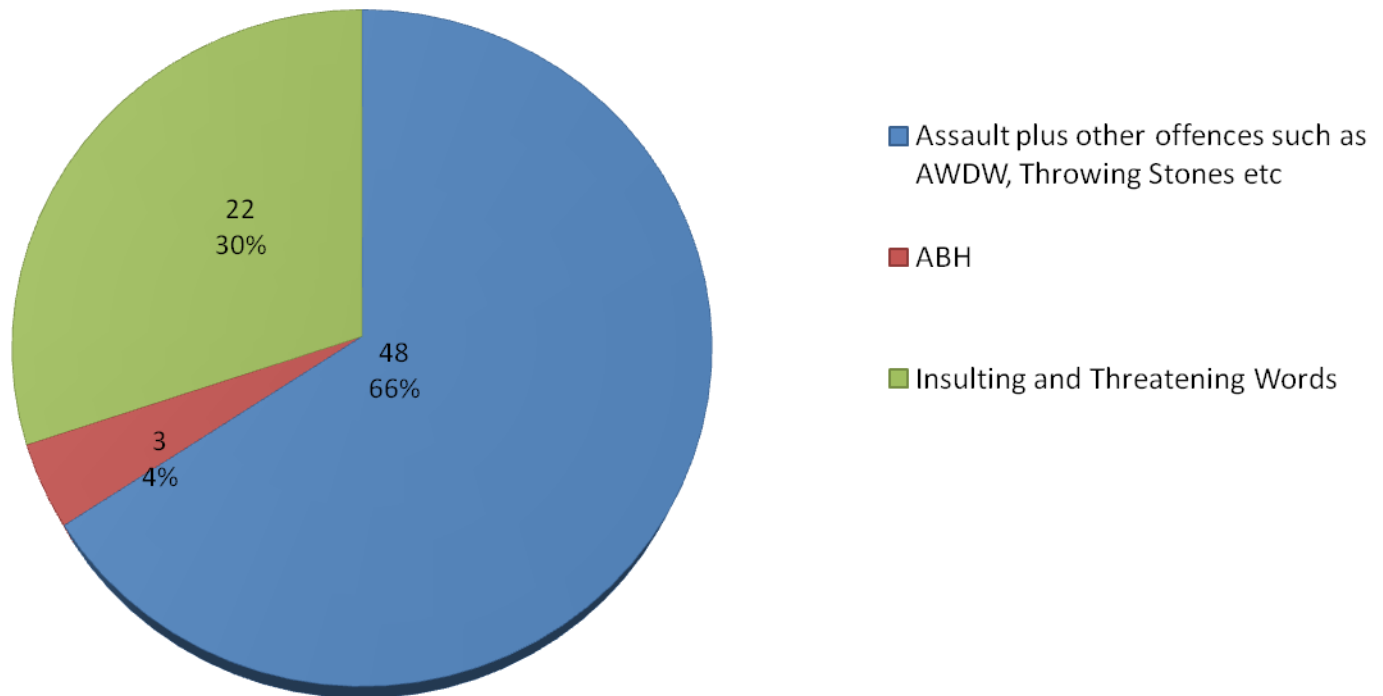
All Family Violence Court Matters by Gender



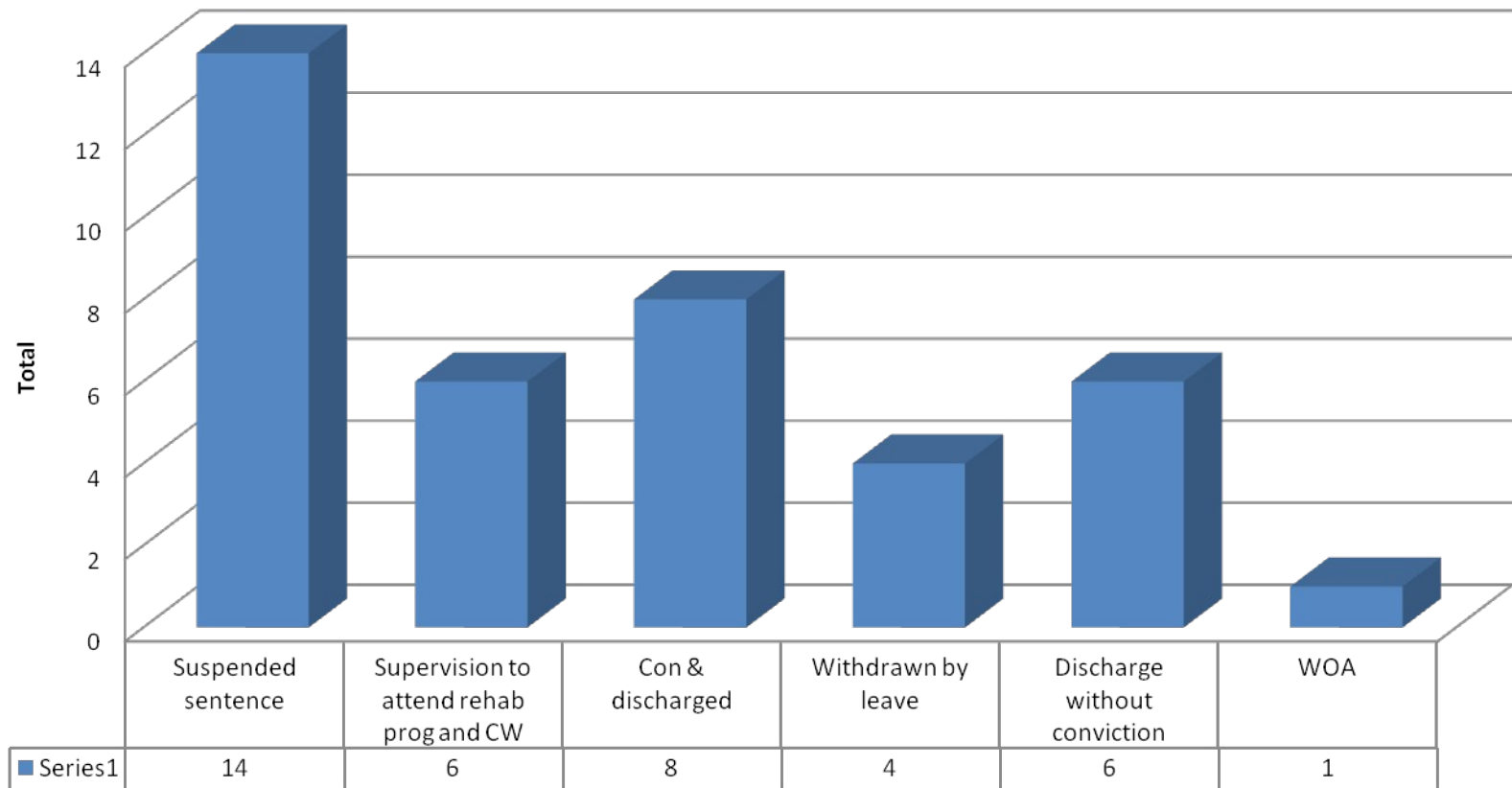
All Family Violence Court Matters by Age Group



Types of Offences before Family Violence Court



Types of Sentences passed for Family Violence Court Matters



The Intervention Programs we use

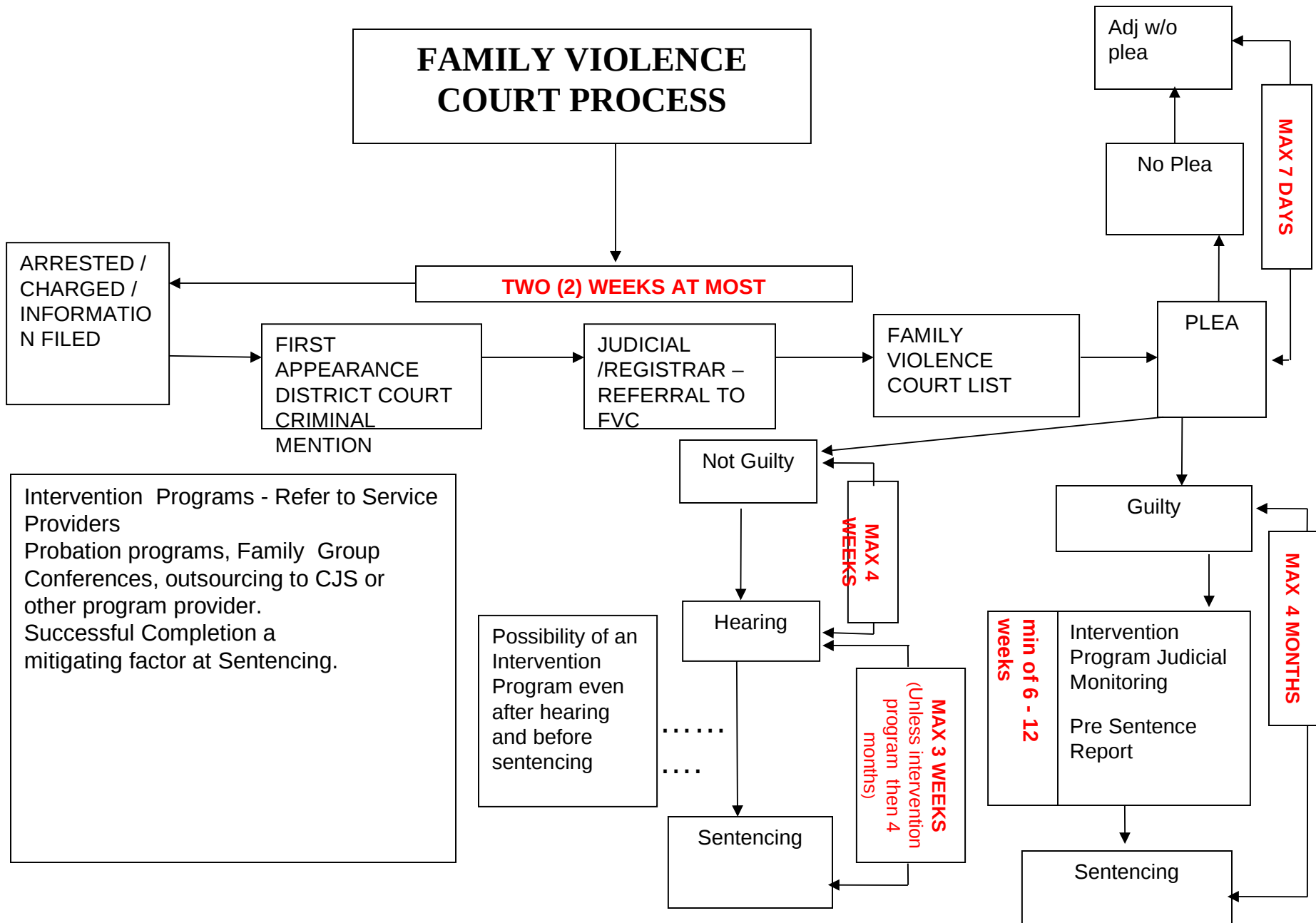
- Provided by Probation Services within the Ministry:
 - Anger Management counselling
 - Couples Counselling
 - Family Group Conferences

- Provided by other service providers;
 - Spiritual counselling by local church group
 - Alcoholics Anonymous counselling
 - Ministers of Religion
 - Samoa Victim Support Group
 - Community Justice Supervisors

Community Justice Supervisors



FAMILY VIOLENCE COURT PROCESS



Family Court

- Where are we now?
- Salient Features of the Family Court Bill
- Family Protection Orders

Where are we heading?

- Family Violence Court
 - Timeframes
 - Users of the Court
 - Staff of the Court
 - Awareness

Family Court

The views of Children and Young Persons



Conciliation and Mediation



Strong and Stable families



Tackling Family Violence

