



MASS FAMILY ADVOCACY COALITION

Working Together to Improve Family Court

Current reality of the cost of divorce

04May2026

Suffolk Law School Symposium

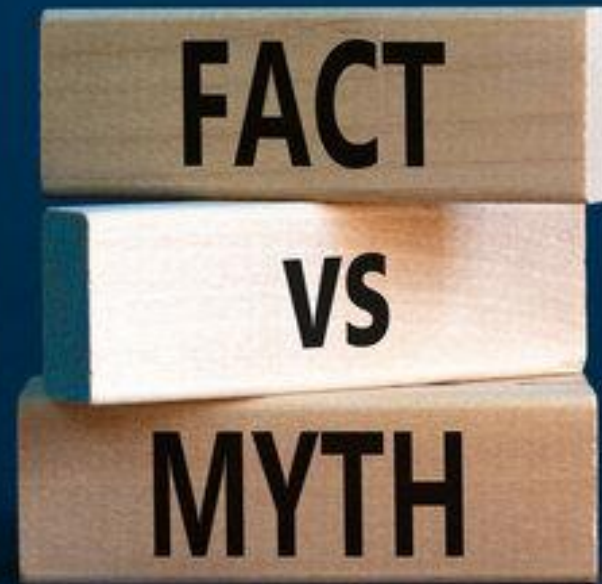
Agenda

- Introduction
- Myth #1
- Myth #2
- Conclusion



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**

Working Together to Improve Family Court



Myth 1

Divorce cuts your wealth in half



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**

Working Together to Improve Family

Reality 1

**The DIVORCE
PROCESS itself
causes financial ruin.**



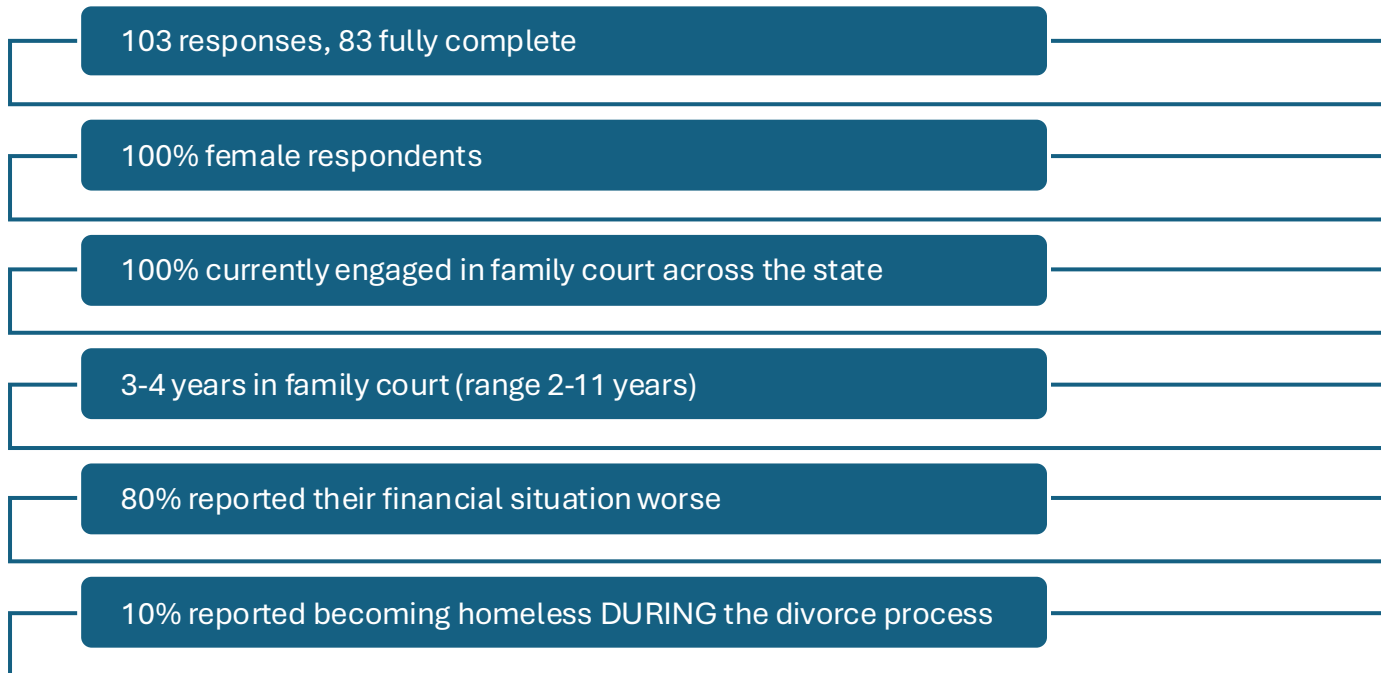
**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**
Together to Improve Family



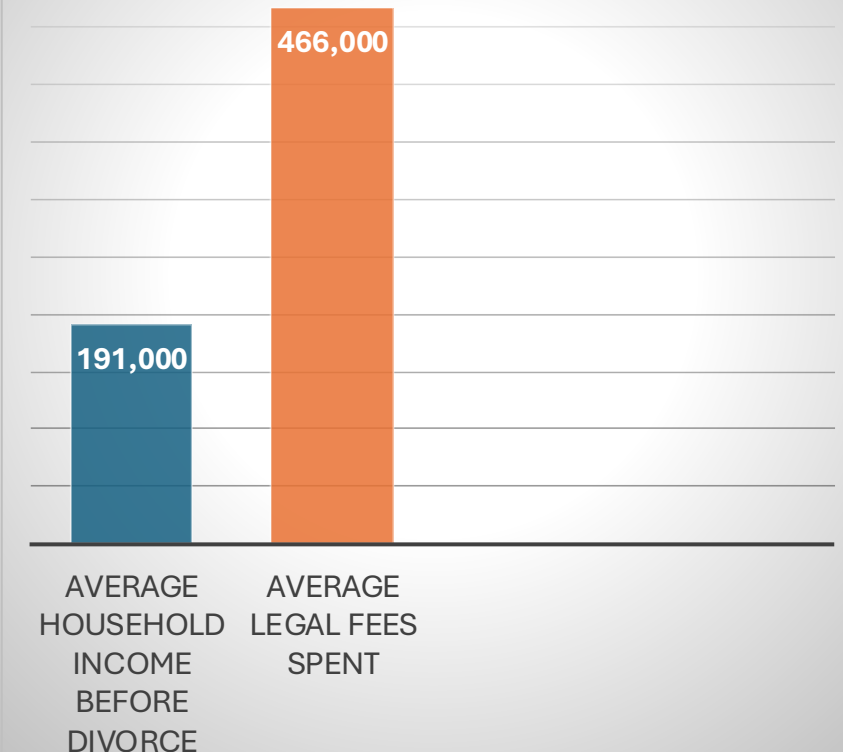
Reality 1 – Money spent in family court



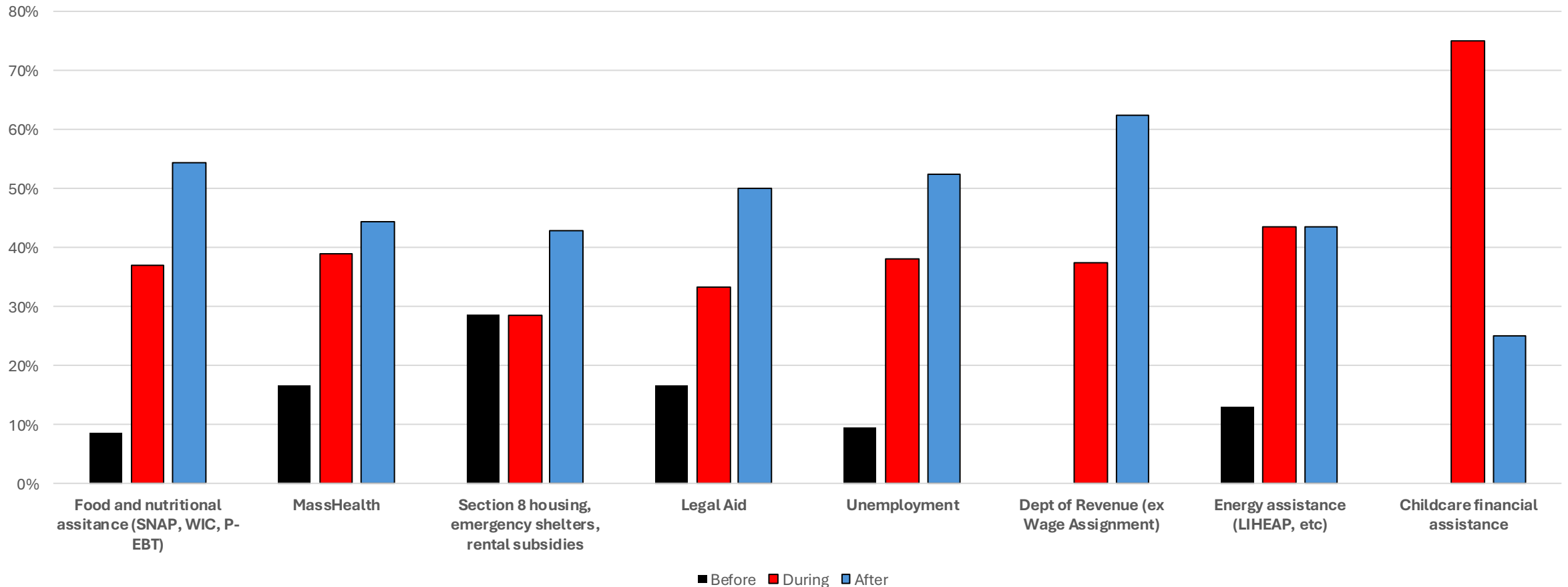
**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**
Working Together to Improve Family Court



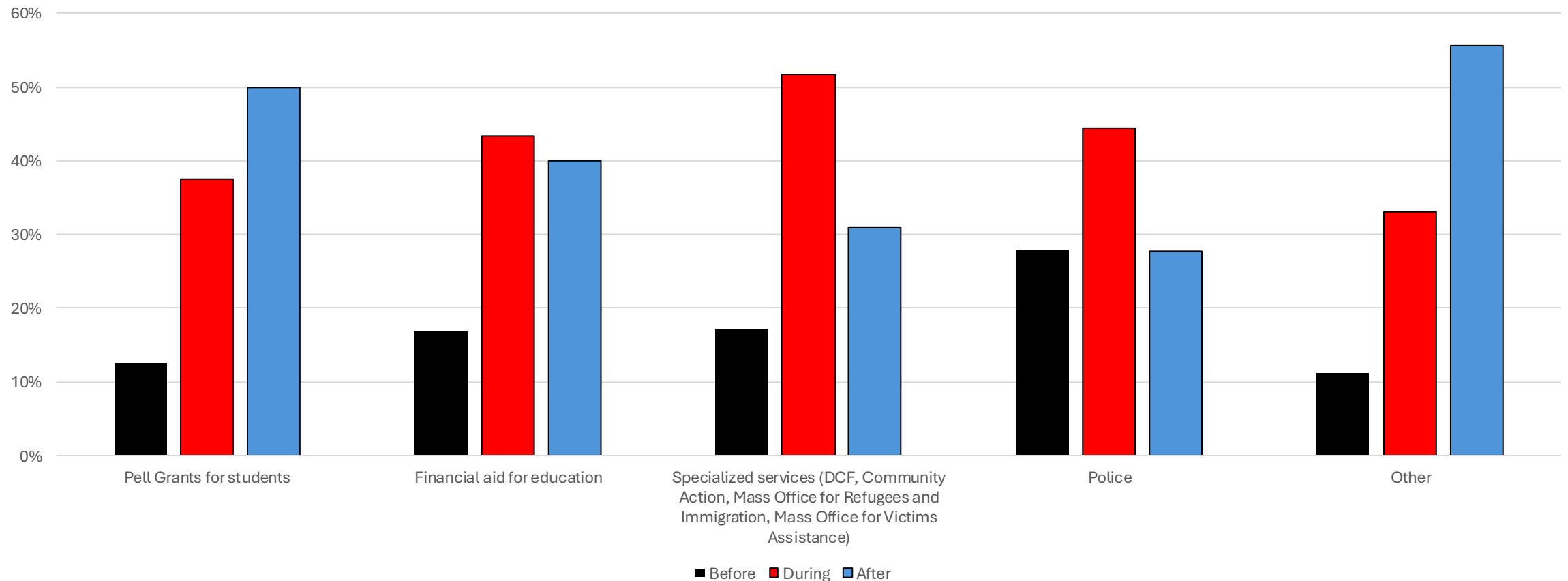
Income and Amount spend on divorce



Reality 1 – Reliance on Social Services BEFORE-DURING-AFTER



Reality 1 – Reliance on Social Services BEFORE-DURING-AFTER



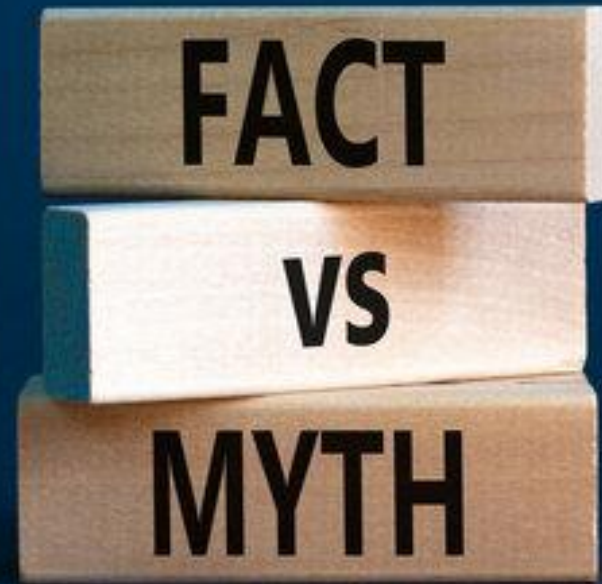
Reality 1

**The DIVORCE
PROCESS itself
causes financial ruin.**



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**
Together to Improve Family





Myth 2

“High conflict” divorce is voluntary.



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**

Working Together to Improve Family

Reality 2

High conflict individuals prolong divorce proceedings and use the court as a playground for further abuse and control.



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**
Together to Improve Family



High conflict individuals drive the cost of divorce



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**
Working Together to Improve Family Court

Expense	Number respondents who reported breakdown analysis	Average cost per respondent \$USD	Range \$USD
Attorney Fees	76	157,415	0-775,000
GAL – Guardian Ad Litem	36	12,229	0-60,000
PC- Parent Coordinators	17	10,576	0-50,000
Conciliators	14	8,939	0-30,000
Mediators	28	4,087	0-15,000
Court-Ordered Therapy	10	29,320	0-200,000
Court-ordered parent class	15	350	0-1,000
Masters	16	9,876	0-50,000
Other...	18	59,564	0-500,000

Reality 2

High conflict individuals prolong divorce proceedings and use the court as a playground for further abuse and control.



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**
Together to Improve Family



Thank you for your time.



**MASS FAMILY
ADVOCACY COALITION**
Working Together to Improve Family Court