

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019 - Total Case Filings				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	25,682	25,872	190	0.7%
Kent County	10,123	10,428	305	3.0%
Sussex County	11,664	11,083	-581	-5.0%
State	47,469	47,383	-86	-0.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2018-2019- Total Case Dispositions				
	2018	2019	Change	% Change
New Castle County	28,390	25,781	-2,609	-9.2%
Kent County	10,875	10,602	-273	-2.5%
Sussex County	12,135	12,079	-56	-0.5%
State	51,400	48,462	-2,938	-5.7%

Notes:

*A civil filing is defined as one petition or one single civil incident filed with the Family Court. In a divorce matter, although the petition may contain multiple ancillary matters to the divorce, it is counted as only one filing.

*A criminal or delinquency filing is defined as one incident filed against one individual or defendant. A single criminal or juvenile delinquency filing may be comprised of a single or of multiple charges relating to a single incident.

*Mediation is the process prior to adjudication in which a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a Commissioner or Judge.

*Custody, support, visitation, paternity, guardianship, imperiling family relations, and rule to show cause filings are scheduled for mediation unless bypass mediation rules apply as indicated in 13 Del. C. § 711A and 13 Del. C. § 728A; Family Court Procedures OCI-914 and OCI-902.

*Automatic Expungements/Pardons resulting in Automatic Juvenile Expungements are counted as filings in this report due to the amount of staff effort to process them. Although there is not a disposition from a Hearing Officer for Automatic Expungements, the directive letter from SBI is acted upon by our staff. Therefore, the resolution of these types of filings are added to the same month they are received in the Disposition sections of this report.

*Due to expungements, Criminal Filings / Dispositions stats were taken from reports ran each month throughout the year. While this method will not catch all filing and dispositions that may have been expunged, this is the method that will allow us to capture the most. The volume of expungements will affect all data regarding juvenile criminal charges. Any decreases from prior FYs should not be assumed to be actual decreases as we don't have a definitive way to measure the impact of all the charges immediately expunged.

(Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.)