

FAMILY COURT  
State of Delaware

2025 Annual Report Statistical  
Information

## FAMILY COURT

### Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025 - Adult Criminal Case Filings

	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,705	2,776	71	2.6%
Kent County	1,041	1,064	23	2.2%
Sussex County	854	939	85	10.0%
<b>State</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,779</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

### Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025 - Adult Criminal Dispositions

	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,265	2,746	-519	-15.9%
Kent County	1,417	1,242	-175	-12.4%
Sussex County	844	815	-29	-3.4%
<b>State</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>4,803</b>	<b>-723</b>	<b>-13.1%</b>

### Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025 - Civil Case Filings

	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	17,921	20,283	2,362	13.2%
Kent County	6,913	7,906	993	14.4%
Sussex County	7,657	8,726	1,069	14.0%
<b>State</b>	<b>32,491</b>	<b>36,915</b>	<b>4,424</b>	<b>13.6%</b>

### Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025 - Civil Case Dispositions

	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	18,684	19,168	484	2.6%
Kent County	7,031	7,477	446	6.3%
Sussex County	7,501	7,983	482	6.4%
<b>State</b>	<b>33,216</b>	<b>34,628</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>4.3%</b>

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

## FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2025 - Civil Case Filings								
	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/ Modifications		Child Support/ Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	2,716	13.4%	692	3.4%	2,327	11.5%	4	0.0%
Kent County	978	12.4%	378	4.8%	352	4.5%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	1,141	13.1%	354	4.1%	1,074	12.3%	0	0.0%
<b>State</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	Child Support/ Determination of Parentage		Child Support/Revocation		Child Support/ Registration of Foreign Order		Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment	
New Castle County	154	0.8%	164	0.8%	137	0.7%	2,329	11.5%
Kent County	68	0.9%	97	1.2%	59	0.7%	794	10.0%
Sussex County	66	0.8%	34	0.4%	54	0.6%	1,600	18.3%
<b>State</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>12.8%</b>
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	5	0.0%	1,565	7.7%	126	0.6%	206	1.0%
Kent County	15	0.2%	658	8.3%	43	0.5%	72	0.9%
Sussex County	2	0.0%	622	7.1%	25	0.3%	62	0.7%
<b>State</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
	Termination of Parental Rights		Cases with Ancillaries		Guardianship		Spousal Support	
New Castle County	103	0.5%	571	2.8%	720	3.5%	41	0.2%
Kent County	35	0.4%	237	3.0%	387	4.9%	15	0.2%
Sussex County	19	0.2%	335	3.8%	343	3.9%	11	0.1%
<b>State</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment	
New Castle County	3,309	16.3%	19	0.1%	2,767	13.6%	1,528	7.5%
Kent County	1,381	17.5%	5	0.1%	1,330	16.8%	684	8.7%
Sussex County	1,154	13.2%	2	0.0%	849	9.7%	728	8.3%
<b>State</b>	<b>5,844</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption	
New Castle County	428	2.1%	154	0.8%	106	0.5%	112	0.6%
Kent County	152	1.9%	74	0.9%	41	0.5%	51	0.6%
Sussex County	106	1.2%	63	0.7%	49	0.6%	33	0.4%
<b>State</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
	<b>Total</b>							
New Castle County	20,283	100%						
Kent County	7,906	100%						
Sussex County	8,726	100%						
<b>State</b>	<b>36,915</b>	<b>100%</b>						

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

## FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2025 - Civil Case Dispositions								
	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/ Modifications		Child Support/ Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	2,780	14.5%	669	3.5%	2,314	12.1%	2	0.0%
Kent County	893	11.9%	427	5.7%	348	4.7%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	963	12.1%	323	4.0%	1,141	14.3%	0	0.0%
<b>State</b>	<b>4,636</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	Child Support/ Determination of Parentage		Child Support/Revocation		Child Support/ Registration of Foreign Order		Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment	
New Castle County	184	1.0%	174	0.9%	150	0.8%	2,326	12.1%
Kent County	48	0.6%	91	1.2%	45	0.6%	797	10.7%
Sussex County	53	0.7%	41	0.5%	56	0.7%	1,597	20.0%
<b>State</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>4,720</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	5	0.0%	1,614	8.4%	146	0.8%	220	1.1%
Kent County	16	0.2%	683	9.1%	67	0.9%	66	0.9%
Sussex County	3	0.0%	613	7.7%	29	0.4%	74	0.9%
<b>State</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>8.4%</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
	Termination of Parental Rights		Cases with Ancillaries		Guardianship		Spousal Support	
New Castle County	95	0.5%	359	1.9%	765	4.0%	37	0.2%
Kent County	45	0.6%	186	2.5%	385	5.1%	18	0.2%
Sussex County	23	0.3%	180	2.3%	358	4.5%	7	0.1%
<b>State</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment	
New Castle County	2,251	11.7%	25	0.1%	2,675	14.0%	1,548	8.1%
Kent County	976	13.1%	6	0.1%	1,375	18.4%	676	9.0%
Sussex County	682	8.5%	3	0.0%	842	10.5%	747	9.4%
<b>State</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>4,892</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>2,971</b>	<b>8.6%</b>
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption	
New Castle County	456	2.4%	157	0.8%	134	0.7%	82	0.4%
Kent County	171	2.3%	68	0.9%	46	0.6%	44	0.6%
Sussex County	112	1.4%	61	0.8%	54	0.7%	21	0.3%
<b>State</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
	<b>Total</b>							
New Castle County	19,168	100%						
Kent County	7,477	100%						
Sussex County	7,983	100%						
<b>State</b>	<b>34,628</b>	<b>100%</b>						

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

## FAMILY COURT

<b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings</b>				
	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,906	1,814	-92	-4.8%
Kent County	806	728	-78	-9.7%
Sussex County	1,029	904	-125	-12.1%
<b>State</b>	<b>3,741</b>	<b>3,446</b>	<b>-295</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>

<b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions</b>				
	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,952	1,848	-104	-5.3%
Kent County	1,069	998	-71	-6.6%
Sussex County	1,018	1,006	-12	-1.2%
<b>State</b>	<b>4,039</b>	<b>3,852</b>	<b>-187</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>

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

## FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2025 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Truancy	
New Castle County	503	27.7%	931	51.3%	143	7.9%	6	0.3%
Kent County	215	29.5%	333	45.7%	83	11.4%	11	1.5%
Sussex County	180	19.9%	396	43.8%	156	17.3%	5	0.6%
<b>State</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>48.2%</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
	VOP		All Other Charges		Total			
New Castle County	180	9.9%	51	2.8%	1,814	100%		
Kent County	45	6.2%	41	5.6%	728	100%		
Sussex County	29	3.2%	138	15.3%	904	100%		
<b>State</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>3,446</b>	<b>100%</b>		

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2025 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Truancy	
New Castle County	566	30.6%	863	46.7%	174	9.4%	8	0.4%
Kent County	322	32.3%	458	45.9%	111	11.1%	9	0.9%
Sussex County	191	19.0%	469	46.6%	167	16.6%	11	1.1%
<b>State</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
	VOP		All Other Charges		Total			
New Castle County	180	9.7%	57	3.1%	1,848	100%		
Kent County	50	5.0%	48	4.8%	998	100%		
Sussex County	26	2.6%	142	14.1%	1,006	100%		
<b>State</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>3,852</b>	<b>100%</b>		

VOP = Violations of Probation.

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

## FAMILY COURT

<b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025- Mediation Hearings Scheduled</b>				
	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	5,667	6,276	609	10.7%
Kent County	2,642	2,676	34	1.3%
Sussex County	2,639	2,624	-15	-0.6%
<b>State</b>	<b>10,948</b>	<b>11,576</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

Note: 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..

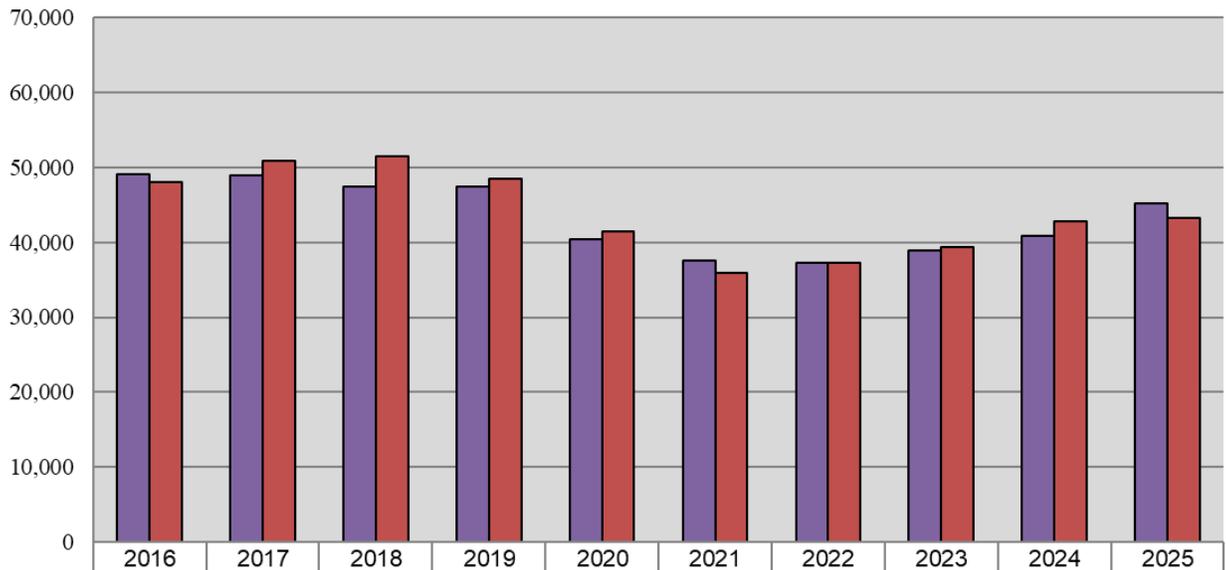
## FAMILY COURT

<b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025 - Total Case Filings</b>				
	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	22,532	24,873	2,341	10.4%
Kent County	8,760	9,698	938	10.7%
Sussex County	9,540	10,569	1,029	10.8%
<b>State</b>	<b>40,832</b>	<b>45,140</b>	<b>4,308</b>	<b>10.6%</b>

<b>Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2024-2025- Total Case Dispositions</b>				
	2024	2025	Change	% Change
New Castle County	23,901	23,762	-139	-0.6%
Kent County	9,517	9,717	200	2.1%
Sussex County	9,363	9,804	441	4.7%
<b>State</b>	<b>42,781</b>	<b>43,283</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

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

## Family Court 10-Year Total Caseload Trend



■ Filings	49,093	48,834	47,469	47,383	40,331	37,567	37,259	38,969	40,832	45,140
■ Dispositions	48,067	50,869	51,400	48,462	41,371	35,901	37,295	39,279	42,781	43,283

Fiscal Year

### 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 civil filing categorized as a "Case with Ancillary" is defined as a divorce with at least one ancillary, although the petition may contain multiple ancillary matters to the divorce, it is counted as only one filing. These were first counted in SFY2023. Ancillaries have always been a filing type; however, these were not included in prior years' filing counts.

For example, if a divorce is filed with a property division ancillary and a temporary alimony ancillary, it is counted once under the "Divorce" category and once under the "Cases with Ancillary" category.

Beginning in January 2024, some civil cases that originated in Kent and Sussex Counties were being handled by New Castle Judges as part of an effort to equitably distribute cases across all of Family Court's Judges. This process concluded in April 2025.

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 multiple charges relating to a single incident.

During the course of reviewing the SFY2024 report, it was discovered that Juvenile Truancy, Juvenile Civil Citations, and Juvenile Violations were not consistently being counted when these statutes represent the first charge sequence. Family Court worked with the Judicial Information Center to correct these incongruities for the SFY2024 report and moving forward. As part of this correction, it was decided that Adult Truancy would be broken out from the 'All Other Charges' section to remain consistent with the Juvenile section.

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 or the mediation does not occur as scheduled, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a Commissioner or Judge or rescheduled back to a mediation calendar.

Custody, support, visitation, determination of parentage, 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, Delinquency and Criminal Filing/Disposition 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. The Expungement filing has gone up by 145% from FY24 to FY25 due to Clean Slate Initiative.

FY 2020 through FY 2024 Stats were most likely impacted by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and changes from past or future years should consider this impact.