

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Family Court Holds Ceremony to Place Time Capsule
For New Georgetown Courthouse**

In a ceremony led by Family Court Chief Judge Michael K. Newell on Thursday August 21, 2025, a time capsule was placed inside what will become the new Family Court building in Georgetown Delaware.

“We are excited to see this new home for Family Court in Sussex County taking shape and placing this time capsule is one of the last major architectural milestones on our way to opening this facility later this year,” said Chief Judge Newell.

The structure of the new courthouse, located east of the Sussex County Courthouse at Race and East Market streets, along with an adjacent parking garage, is largely complete. In the coming months the final work to outfit the interior will take place.

Contents of the time capsule, which was installed behind the building’s dated commemorative stone at the conclusion of the ceremony, include the book of Delaware Laws that created the unified Family Court in 1971, a 2021 history of the Family Court in Delaware, commemorative tiles depicting the current courthouse on the Circle, and tile from the 50th anniversary of the court in 2021. Additionally, there are copies of news stories and official documents relating to the construction, the program and remarks by Chief Judge Newell from the building’s groundbreaking ceremony and copies of the Judiciary’s Annual Reports detailing the progress of the project.

Attendees at the short ceremony Thursday included Georgetown, Sussex County and state elected officials, along with members of the Delaware Judiciary. Following the time capsule ceremony, guests toured the facility to see the progress that has been made.

Groundbreaking for this new, larger Family Court building in Georgetown was held in June 2022 to replace the current, outdated Family Court building located on the circle in Georgetown. The new building is almost triple the size of the existing facility, allowing for a number of key safety and security enhancements, including larger courtrooms, additional rooms and space to allow for meetings between litigants and their attorneys, secure hallways and elevators for judges, and improved holding facilities and secure corridors for individuals in custody.

The expectation is that the new courthouse will be ready for occupancy by the end of October and the court hopes to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony once the facility is ready to open to the public.