

FAMILY COURT
State of Delaware

2021 Annual Report Statistical Information

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Adult Criminal Case Filings				
	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,803	2,737	-66	-2.4%
Kent County	893	907	14	1.6%
Sussex County	804	725	-79	-9.8%
State	4,500	4,369	-131	-2.9%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Adult Criminal Dispositions				
	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,943	1,333	-610	-31.4%
Kent County	695	792	97	14.0%
Sussex County	684	659	-25	-3.7%
State	3,322	2,784	-538	-16.2%

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

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Civil Case Filings				
	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	16,676	16,508	-168	-1.0%
Kent County	7,524	7,153	-371	-4.9%
Sussex County	8,235	7,286	-949	-11.5%
State	32,435	30,947	-1,488	-4.6%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Civil Case Dispositions				
	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	18,054	16,004	-2,050	-11.4%
Kent County	7,849	7,275	-574	-7.3%
Sussex County	8,674	7,433	-1,241	-14.3%
State	34,577	30,712	-3,865	-11.2%

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

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2021 - Civil Case Filings

	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/ Modifications		Child Support/ Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	3,190	19.3%	735	4.5%	385	2.3%	2	0.0%
Kent County	1,512	21.1%	318	4.4%	82	1.1%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	1,373	18.8%	280	3.8%	285	3.9%	1	0.0%
State	6,075	19.6%	1,333	4.3%	752	2.4%	3	0.0%
	Child Support/ Determination of Parentage		Child Support/Revocation		Child Support/ Registration of Foreign Order		Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment	
New Castle County	143	0.9%	290	1.8%	90	0.5%	2,953	17.9%
Kent County	60	0.8%	132	1.8%	66	0.9%	1,501	21.0%
Sussex County	47	0.6%	77	1.1%	68	0.9%	2,139	29.4%
State	250	0.8%	499	1.6%	224	0.7%	6,593	21.3%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	7	0.0%	1,759	10.7%	136	0.8%	225	1.4%
Kent County	6	0.1%	698	9.8%	43	0.6%	76	1.1%
Sussex County	4	0.1%	603	8.3%	37	0.5%	72	1.0%
State	17	0.1%	3,060	9.9%	216	0.7%	373	1.2%
	Termination of Parental Rights		Civil Dissolution*		Guardianship		Spousal Support	
New Castle County	99	0.6%	0	0.0%	673	4.1%	50	0.3%
Kent County	44	0.6%	0	0.0%	336	4.7%	29	0.4%
Sussex County	19	0.3%	0	0.0%	324	4.4%	10	0.1%
State	162	0.5%	0	0.0%	1,333	4.3%	89	0.3%
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment	
New Castle County	753	4.6%	9	0.1%	2,282	13.8%	1,842	11.2%
Kent County	228	3.2%	1	0.0%	954	13.3%	714	10.0%
Sussex County	309	4.2%	0	0.0%	640	8.8%	739	10.1%
State	1,290	4.2%	10	0.0%	3,876	12.5%	3,295	10.6%
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption	
New Castle County	470	2.8%	137	0.8%	168	1.0%	110	0.7%
Kent County	181	2.5%	49	0.7%	69	1.0%	54	0.8%
Sussex County	108	1.5%	37	0.5%	75	1.0%	39	0.5%
State	759	2.5%	223	0.7%	312	1.0%	203	0.7%
	Total							
New Castle County	16,508	100%						
Kent County	7,153	100%						
Sussex County	7,286	100%						
State	30,947	100%						

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

*As of FY19, Family Court no longer handles these cases. Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2021 - Civil Case Dispositions								
	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/ Modifications		Child Support/ Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	2,626	16.4%	838	5.2%	550	3.4%	2	0.0%
Kent County	1,516	20.8%	350	4.8%	374	5.1%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	1,177	15.8%	288	3.9%	824	11.1%	0	0.0%
State	5,319	17.3%	1,476	4.8%	1,748	5.7%	2	0.0%
	Child Support/ Determination of Parentage		Child Support/Revocation		Child Support/ Registration of Foreign Order		Child Support/Notice of Admin. Adjustment	
New Castle County	102	0.6%	273	1.7%	72	0.4%	2,953	18.5%
Kent County	42	0.6%	135	1.9%	64	0.9%	1,499	20.6%
Sussex County	45	0.6%	80	1.1%	63	0.8%	2,141	28.8%
State	189	0.6%	488	1.6%	199	0.6%	6,593	21.5%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	11	0.1%	1,809	11.3%	158	1.0%	199	1.2%
Kent County	8	0.1%	686	9.4%	59	0.8%	90	1.2%
Sussex County	3	0.0%	553	7.4%	34	0.5%	66	0.9%
State	22	0.1%	3,048	9.9%	251	0.8%	355	1.2%
	Termination of Parental Rights		Civil Dissolution*		Guardianship		Spousal Support	
New Castle County	108	0.7%	0	0.0%	673	4.2%	58	0.4%
Kent County	40	0.5%	0	0.0%	290	4.0%	16	0.2%
Sussex County	30	0.4%	0	0.0%	297	4.0%	10	0.1%
State	178	0.6%	0	0.0%	1,260	4.1%	84	0.3%
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment	
New Castle County	677	4.2%	8	0.0%	2,312	14.4%	1,774	11.1%
Kent County	196	2.7%	1	0.0%	916	12.6%	639	8.8%
Sussex County	291	3.9%	0	0.0%	637	8.6%	669	9.0%
State	1,164	3.8%	9	0.0%	3,865	12.6%	3,082	10.0%
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption	
New Castle County	483	3.0%	140	0.9%	120	0.7%	58	0.4%
Kent County	170	2.3%	48	0.7%	81	1.1%	55	0.8%
Sussex County	109	1.5%	27	0.4%	61	0.8%	28	0.4%
State	762	2.5%	215	0.0%	262	0.9%	141	0.5%
	Total							
New Castle County	16,004	100%						
Kent County	7,275	100%						
Sussex County	7,433	100%						
State	30,712	100%						

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

*As of FY19, Family Court no longer handles these cases. Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings

	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,980	1,384	-596	-30.1%
Kent County	699	373	-326	-46.6%
Sussex County	717	494	-223	-31.1%
State	3,396	2,251	-1,145	-33.7%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions

	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,925	1,393	-532	-27.6%
Kent County	821	477	-344	-41.9%
Sussex County	726	535	-191	-26.3%
State	3,472	2,405	-1,067	-30.7%

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

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2021 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
New Castle County	551	39.8%	542	39.2%	180	13.0%
Kent County	131	35.1%	147	39.4%	68	18.2%
Sussex County	145	29.4%	187	37.9%	154	31.2%
State	827	36.7%	876	38.9%	402	17.9%
	VOP				Total	
New Castle County	111	8.0%			1,384	100%
Kent County	27	7.2%			373	100%
Sussex County	8	1.6%			494	100%
State	146	6.5%			2,251	100%

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2021 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
New Castle County	438	31.4%	759	54.5%	108	7.8%
Kent County	114	23.9%	255	53.5%	72	15.1%
Sussex County	85	15.9%	307	57.4%	133	24.9%
State	637	26.5%	1,321	54.9%	313	13.0%
	VOP				Total	
New Castle County	88	6.3%			1,393	100%
Kent County	36	7.5%			477	100%
Sussex County	10	1.9%			535	100%
State	134	5.6%			2,405	100%

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

*VOP = Violations of Probation.

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

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021- Mediation Hearings Scheduled

	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,802	3,689	-113	-3.0%
Kent County	1,574	2,202	628	39.9%
Sussex County	1,468	2,538	1,070	72.9%
State	6,844	8,429	1,585	23.2%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Mediation Dispositions

	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,198	2,003	-195	-8.9%
Kent County	784	1,007	223	28.4%
Sussex County	787	858	71	9.0%
State	3,769	3,868	99	2.6%

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.

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

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021 - Total Case Filings				
	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	21,459	20,629	-830	-3.9%
Kent County	9,116	8,433	-683	-7.5%
Sussex County	9,756	8,505	-1,251	-12.8%
State	40,331	37,567	-2,764	-6.9%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2020-2021- Total Case Dispositions				
	2020	2021	Change	% Change
New Castle County	21,922	18,730	-3,192	-14.6%
Kent County	9,365	8,544	-821	-8.8%
Sussex County	10,084	8,627	-1,457	-14.4%
State	41,371	35,901	-5,470	-13.2%

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 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.

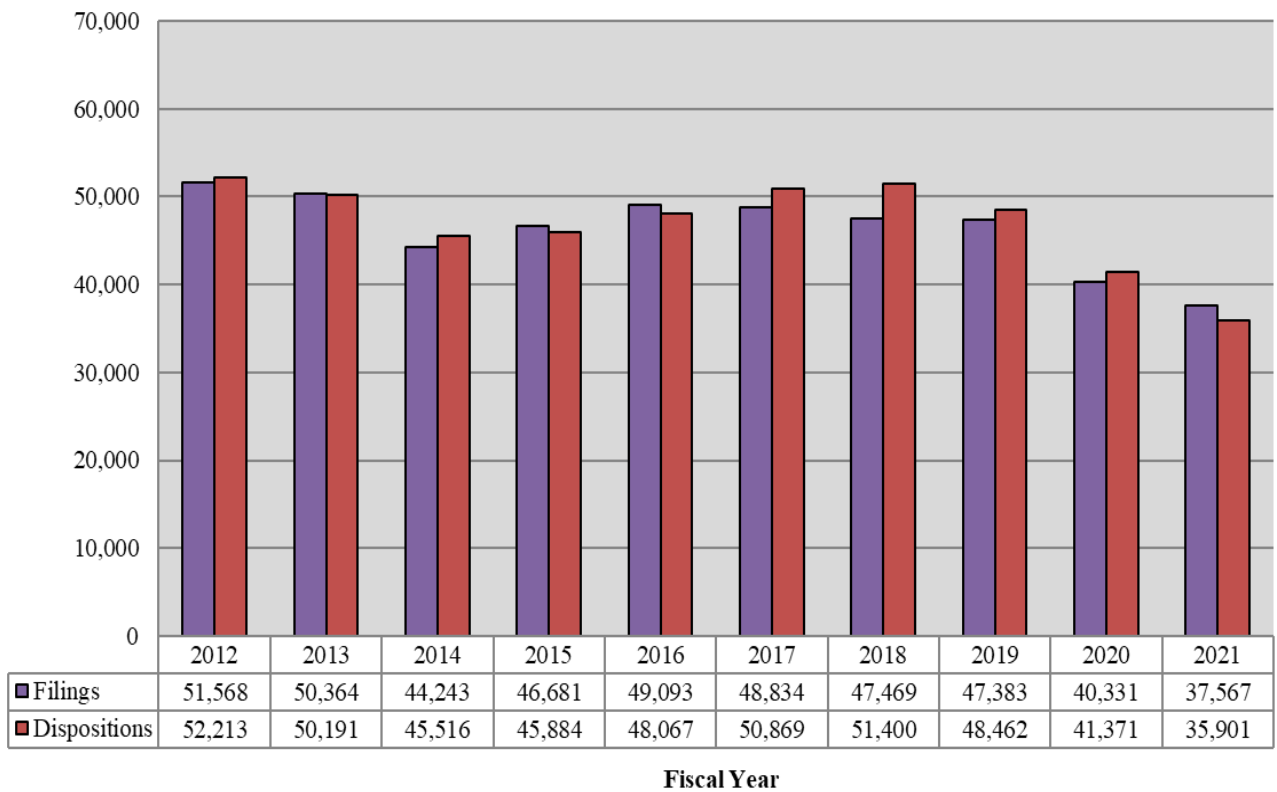
*Custody, support, visitation, paternity, guardianship, imperiling family relations, and rule to show cause filings are scheduled for mediation unless bypass mediation rules apply as indicated in 13 Del. C. § 711A and 13 Del. C. § 728A; Family Court Procedures OCI-914 and OCI-902.

*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.

Family Court 10-Year Total Caseload Trend



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