

FAMILY COURT
State of Delaware

2024 Annual Report Statistical Information

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024 - Adult Criminal Case Filings				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,635	2,705	70	2.7%
Kent County	1,024	1,041	17	1.7%
Sussex County	852	854	2	0.2%
State	4,511	4,600	89	2.0%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024 - Adult Criminal Dispositions				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,438	3,265	-173	-5.0%
Kent County	944	1,417	473	50.1%
Sussex County	859	844	-15	-1.7%
State	5,241	5,526	285	5.4%

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

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024 - Civil Case Filings				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	17,014	17,921	907	5.3%
Kent County	6,762	6,913	151	2.2%
Sussex County	7,521	7,657	136	1.8%
State	31,297	32,491	1,194	3.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024 - Civil Case Dispositions				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	16,439	18,684	2,245	13.7%
Kent County	6,834	7,031	197	2.9%
Sussex County	7,761	7,501	-260	-3.4%
State	31,034	33,216	2,182	7.0%

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

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Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2024 - Civil Case Filings								
	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/ Modifications		Child Support/ Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	2,740	15.3%	755	4.2%	1,289	7.2%	2	0.0%
Kent County	961	13.9%	377	5.5%	254	3.7%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	1,182	15.4%	310	4.0%	1,037	13.5%	0	0.0%
State	4,883	15.0%	1,442	4.4%	2,580	7.9%	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	153	0.9%	176	1.0%	143	0.8%	2,415	13.5%
Kent County	47	0.7%	54	0.8%	60	0.9%	746	10.8%
Sussex County	48	0.6%	61	0.8%	45	0.6%	1,431	18.7%
State	248	0.8%	291	0.9%	248	0.8%	4,592	14.1%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	6	0.0%	1,605	9.0%	155	0.9%	210	1.2%
Kent County	7	0.1%	681	9.9%	65	0.9%	60	0.9%
Sussex County	2	0.0%	612	8.0%	30	0.4%	77	1.0%
State	15	0.0%	2,898	8.9%	250	0.8%	347	1.1%
	Termination of Parental Rights		Cases with Ancillaries		Guardianship		Spousal Support	
New Castle County	121	0.7%	617	3.4%	786	4.4%	48	0.3%
Kent County	37	0.5%	280	4.1%	419	6.1%	23	0.3%
Sussex County	24	0.3%	273	3.6%	368	4.8%	10	0.1%
State	182	0.6%	1,170	3.6%	1,573	4.8%	81	0.2%
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment	
New Castle County	1,570	8.8%	16	0.1%	2,678	14.9%	1,542	8.6%
Kent County	382	5.5%	6	0.1%	1,398	20.2%	694	10.0%
Sussex County	433	5.7%	2	0.0%	762	10.0%	695	9.1%
State	2,385	7.3%	24	0.1%	4,838	14.9%	2,931	9.0%
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption	
New Castle County	452	2.5%	180	1.0%	132	0.7%	130	0.7%
Kent County	196	2.8%	68	1.0%	54	0.8%	44	0.6%
Sussex County	108	1.4%	57	0.7%	51	0.7%	39	0.5%
State	756	2.3%	305	0.9%	237	0.7%	213	0.7%
	Total							
New Castle County	17,921	100%						
Kent County	6,913	100%						
Sussex County	7,657	100%						
State	32,491	100%						

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

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

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Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2024 - Civil Case Dispositions							
	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/Modifications		Child Support/Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment
New Castle County	3,416	18.3%	745	4.0%	906	4.8%	2 0.0%
Kent County	983	14.0%	369	5.2%	314	4.5%	0 0.0%
Sussex County	1,116	14.9%	338	4.5%	896	11.9%	0 0.0%
State	5,515	16.6%	1,452	4.4%	2,116	6.4%	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	178	1.0%	202	1.1%	137	0.7%	2,398 12.8%
Kent County	75	1.1%	60	0.9%	58	0.8%	726 10.3%
Sussex County	51	0.7%	58	0.8%	39	0.5%	1,435 19.1%
State	304	0.9%	320	1.0%	234	0.7%	4,559 13.7%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation
New Castle County	10	0.1%	1,680	9.0%	186	1.0%	209 1.1%
Kent County	5	0.1%	716	10.2%	52	0.7%	83 1.2%
Sussex County	1	0.0%	632	8.4%	39	0.5%	80 1.1%
State	16	0.0%	3,028	9.1%	277	0.8%	372 1.1%
	Termination of Parental Rights		Cases with Ancillaries		Guardianship		Spousal Support
New Castle County	124	0.7%	373	2.0%	856	4.6%	50 0.3%
Kent County	37	0.5%	176	2.5%	447	6.4%	21 0.3%
Sussex County	28	0.4%	181	2.4%	423	5.6%	11 0.1%
State	189	0.6%	730	2.2%	1,726	5.2%	82 0.2%
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment
New Castle County	1,821	9.7%	13	0.1%	2,748	14.7%	1,727 9.2%
Kent County	394	5.6%	4	0.1%	1,385	19.7%	759 10.8%
Sussex County	425	5.7%	4	0.1%	777	10.4%	685 9.1%
State	2,640	7.9%	21	0.1%	4,910	14.8%	3,171 9.5%
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption
New Castle County	450	2.4%	212	1.1%	128	0.7%	113 0.6%
Kent County	189	2.7%	69	1.0%	70	1.0%	39 0.6%
Sussex County	129	1.7%	69	0.9%	48	0.6%	36 0.5%
State	768	2.3%	350	1.1%	246	0.7%	188 0.6%
	Total						
New Castle County	18,684	100%					
Kent County	7,031	100%					
Sussex County	7,501	100%					
State	33,216	100%					

Source: Court Administrator, Family Court; Administrative Office of the Courts.
Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,607	1,906	299	18.6%
Kent County	835	806	-29	-3.5%
Sussex County	719	1,029	310	43.1%
State	3,161	3,741	580	18.3%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,559	1,952	393	25.2%
Kent County	628	1,069	441	70.2%
Sussex County	817	1,018	201	24.6%
State	3,004	4,039	1,035	34.5%

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

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Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2024 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings								
	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Truancy	
New Castle County	681	35.7%	800	42.0%	141	7.4%	9	0.5%
Kent County	260	32.3%	334	41.4%	85	10.5%	14	1.7%
Sussex County	198	19.2%	522	50.7%	152	14.8%	7	0.7%
State	1,139	30.4%	1,656	44.3%	378	10.1%	30	0.8%
	VOP		All Other Charges		Total			
New Castle County	212	11.1%	63	3.3%	1,906	100%		
Kent County	46	5.7%	67	8.3%	806	100%		
Sussex County	38	3.7%	112	10.9%	1,029	100%		
State	296	7.9%	242	6.5%	3,741	100%		

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2024 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic		Truancy	
New Castle County	687	35.2%	864	44.3%	151	7.7%	7	0.4%
Kent County	205	19.2%	647	60.5%	103	9.6%	10	0.9%
Sussex County	150	14.7%	603	59.2%	147	14.4%	5	0.5%
State	1,042	25.8%	2,114	52.3%	401	9.9%	22	0.5%
	VOP		All Other Charges		Total			
New Castle County	184	9.4%	59	3.0%	1,952	100%		
Kent County	32	3.0%	72	6.7%	1,069	100%		
Sussex County	25	2.5%	88	8.6%	1,018	100%		
State	241	6.0%	219	5.4%	4,039	100%		

VOP = Violations of Probation.

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

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Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024- Mediation Hearings Scheduled

	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,327	5,667	3,340	143.5%
Kent County	1,132	2,642	1,510	133.4%
Sussex County	1,828	2,639	811	44.4%
State	5,287	10,948	5,661	107.1%

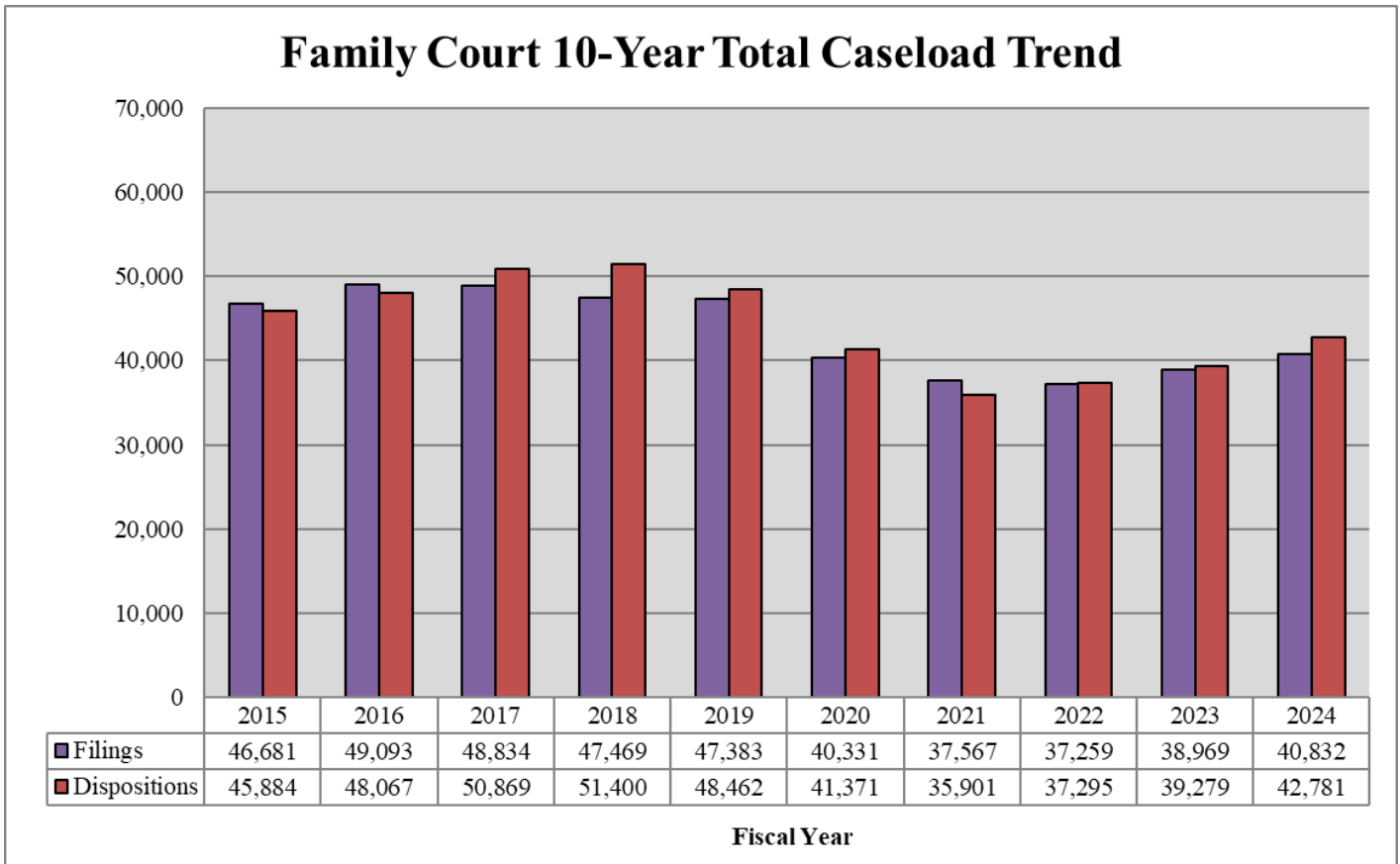
Note: Mediation is the process prior to adjudication in which a trained mediator attempts to assist the parties in reaching an agreement. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the matter is scheduled to be heard before a Commissioner or Judge.

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

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Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024 - Total Case Filings				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	21,256	22,532	1,276	6.0%
Kent County	8,621	8,760	139	1.6%
Sussex County	9,092	9,540	448	4.9%
State	38,969	40,832	1,863	4.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2023-2024- Total Case Dispositions				
	2023	2024	Change	% Change
New Castle County	21,436	23,901	2,465	11.5%
Kent County	8,406	9,517	1,111	13.2%
Sussex County	9,437	9,363	-74	-0.8%
State	39,279	42,781	3,502	8.9%



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

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.
- 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.
- 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.

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