

FAMILY COURT
State of Delaware

2023 Annual Report Statistical Information

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023 - Adult Criminal Case Filings

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,811	2,635	-176	-6.3%
Kent County	1,077	1,024	-53	-4.9%
Sussex County	843	852	9	1.1%
State	4,731	4,511	-220	-4.7%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023 - Adult Criminal Dispositions

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	2,394	3,438	1,044	43.6%
Kent County	835	944	109	13.1%
Sussex County	826	859	33	4.0%
State	4,055	5,241	1,186	29.2%

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

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023 - Civil Case Filings

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	15,735	17,014	1,279	8.1%
Kent County	7,076	6,762	-314	-4.4%
Sussex County	7,052	7,521	469	6.7%
State	29,863	31,297	1,434	4.8%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023 - Civil Case Dispositions

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	15,572	16,439	867	5.6%
Kent County	7,166	6,834	-332	-4.6%
Sussex County	7,603	7,761	158	2.1%
State	30,341	31,034	693	2.3%

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

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2023 - Civil Case Filings

	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/Modifications		Child Support/Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	2,680	15.8%	622	3.7%	696	4.1%	4	0.0%
Kent County	829	12.3%	332	4.9%	140	2.1%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	1,158	15.4%	340	4.5%	513	6.8%	1	0.0%
State	4,667	14.9%	1,294	4.1%	1,349	4.3%	5	0.0%
	Child Support/Determination of Parentage		Child Support/Revocation		Child Support/Registration of Foreign Order		Child Support/Notice of Adm.in. Adjustment	
New Castle County	155	0.9%	188	1.1%	91	0.5%	2,403	14.1%
Kent County	69	1.0%	91	1.3%	39	0.6%	847	12.5%
Sussex County	68	0.9%	66	0.9%	51	0.7%	1,508	20.1%
State	292	0.9%	345	1.1%	181	0.6%	4,758	15.2%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	7	0.0%	1,628	9.6%	193	1.1%	189	1.1%
Kent County	6	0.1%	748	11.1%	73	1.1%	90	1.3%
Sussex County	3	0.0%	573	7.6%	47	0.6%	74	1.0%
State	16	0.1%	2,949	9.4%	313	1.0%	353	1.1%
	Termination of Parental Rights		Cases with Ancillaries		Guardianship		Spousal Support	
New Castle County	145	0.9%	655	3.8%	786	4.6%	51	0.3%
Kent County	39	0.6%	286	4.2%	448	6.6%	14	0.2%
Sussex County	28	0.4%	299	4.0%	399	5.3%	10	0.1%
State	212	0.7%	1,240	4.0%	1,633	5.2%	75	0.2%
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment	
New Castle County	1,463	8.6%	13	0.1%	2,572	15.1%	1,630	9.6%
Kent County	393	5.8%	5	0.1%	1,242	18.4%	723	10.7%
Sussex County	529	7.0%	0	0.0%	833	11.1%	733	9.7%
State	2,385	7.6%	18	0.1%	4,647	14.8%	3,086	9.9%
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption	
New Castle County	417	2.5%	170	1.0%	147	0.9%	109	0.6%
Kent County	165	2.4%	62	0.9%	79	1.2%	42	0.6%
Sussex County	121	1.6%	68	0.9%	65	0.9%	34	0.5%
State	703	2.2%	300	1.0%	291	0.9%	185	0.6%
Total								
New Castle County	17,014	100%						
Kent County	6,762	100%						
Sussex County	7,521	100%						
State	31,297	100%						

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

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdown - Fiscal Year 2023 - Civil Case Dispositions

	Child Support/New Non-support		Child Support/Modifications		Child Support/Arrearages		Child Support/Verified Notice of Income Attachment	
New Castle County	2,117	12.9%	524	3.2%	698	4.2%	2	0.0%
Kent County	1,092	16.0%	340	5.0%	170	2.5%	0	0.0%
Sussex County	1,260	16.2%	350	4.5%	687	8.9%	1	0.0%
State	4,469	14.4%	1,214	3.9%	1,555	5.0%	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	110	0.7%	172	1.0%	67	0.4%	2,392	14.6%
Kent County	54	0.8%	97	1.4%	39	0.6%	899	13.2%
Sussex County	74	1.0%	75	1.0%	55	0.7%	1,507	19.4%
State	238	0.8%	344	1.1%	161	0.5%	4,798	15.5%
	Child Support/Other Support		Custody		Dependency/Neglect		Visitation	
New Castle County	5	0.0%	1,601	9.7%	192	1.2%	203	1.2%
Kent County	7	0.1%	666	9.7%	65	1.0%	77	1.1%
Sussex County	5	0.1%	628	8.1%	32	0.4%	71	0.9%
State	17	0.1%	2,895	9.3%	289	0.9%	351	1.1%
	Termination of Parental Rights		Cases with Ancillaries		Guardianship		Spousal Support	
New Castle County	114	0.7%	394	2.4%	776	4.7%	61	0.4%
Kent County	34	0.5%	164	2.4%	437	6.4%	14	0.2%
Sussex County	32	0.4%	172	2.2%	401	5.2%	12	0.2%
State	180	0.6%	730	2.4%	1,614	5.2%	87	0.3%
	Expungements (Juv. & Adult)		Imperiling Family Relationships		Protection from Abuse		Divorce/Annulment	
New Castle County	1,484	9.0%	10	0.1%	2,561	15.6%	2,081	12.7%
Kent County	399	5.8%	5	0.1%	1,258	18.4%	719	10.5%
Sussex County	540	7.0%	1	0.0%	824	10.6%	746	9.6%
State	2,423	7.8%	16	0.1%	4,643	15.0%	3,546	11.4%
	Rules to Show Cause/Other Civil Contempt		Minor Name Change		Miscellaneous Civil		Adoption	
New Castle County	440	2.7%	186	1.1%	169	1.0%	80	0.5%
Kent County	135	2.0%	68	1.0%	55	0.8%	40	0.6%
Sussex County	124	1.6%	56	0.7%	83	1.1%	25	0.3%
State	699	2.3%	310	1.0%	307	1.0%	145	0.5%
	Total							
New Castle County	16,439	100%						
Kent County	6,834	100%						
Sussex County	7,761	100%						
State	31,034	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 2022-2023 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,525	1,607	82	5.4%
Kent County	528	835	307	58.1%
Sussex County	612	719	107	17.5%
State	2,665	3,161	496	18.6%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	1,655	1,559	-96	-5.8%
Kent County	553	628	75	13.6%
Sussex County	691	817	126	18.2%
State	2,899	3,004	105	3.6%

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

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2023 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
New Castle County	498	31.0%	793	49.3%	129	8.0%
Kent County	234	28.0%	492	58.9%	89	10.7%
Sussex County	133	18.5%	396	55.1%	171	23.8%
State	865	27.4%	1,681	53.2%	389	12.3%
	VOP				Total	
New Castle County	187	11.6%			1,607	100%
Kent County	20	2.4%			835	100%
Sussex County	19	2.6%			719	100%
State	226	7.1%			3,161	100%

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Caseload Breakdowns - Fiscal Year 2023 - Juvenile Delinquency Case Dispositions

	Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
New Castle County	512	32.8%	752	48.2%	147	9.4%
Kent County	166	26.4%	380	60.5%	64	10.2%
Sussex County	161	19.7%	465	56.9%	176	21.5%
State	839	27.9%	1,597	53.2%	387	12.9%
	VOP				Total	
New Castle County	148	9.5%			1,559	100%
Kent County	18	2.9%			628	100%
Sussex County	15	1.8%			817	100%
State	181	6.0%			3,004	100%

VOP = Violations of Probation.

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

Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023- Mediation Hearings Scheduled

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	3,272	2,327	-945	-28.9%
Kent County	1,940	1,132	-808	-41.6%
Sussex County	2,293	1,828	-465	-20.3%
State	7,505	5,287	-2,218	-29.6%

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.

FAMILY COURT

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023 - Total Case Filings

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	20,071	21,256	1,185	5.9%
Kent County	8,681	8,621	-60	-0.7%
Sussex County	8,507	9,092	585	6.9%
State	37,259	38,969	1,710	4.6%

Caseload Comparison - Fiscal Years 2022-2023- Total Case Dispositions

	2022	2023	Change	% Change
New Castle County	19,621	21,436	1,815	9.3%
Kent County	8,554	8,406	-148	-1.7%
Sussex County	9,120	9,437	317	3.5%
State	37,295	39,279	1,984	5.3%

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.

*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.

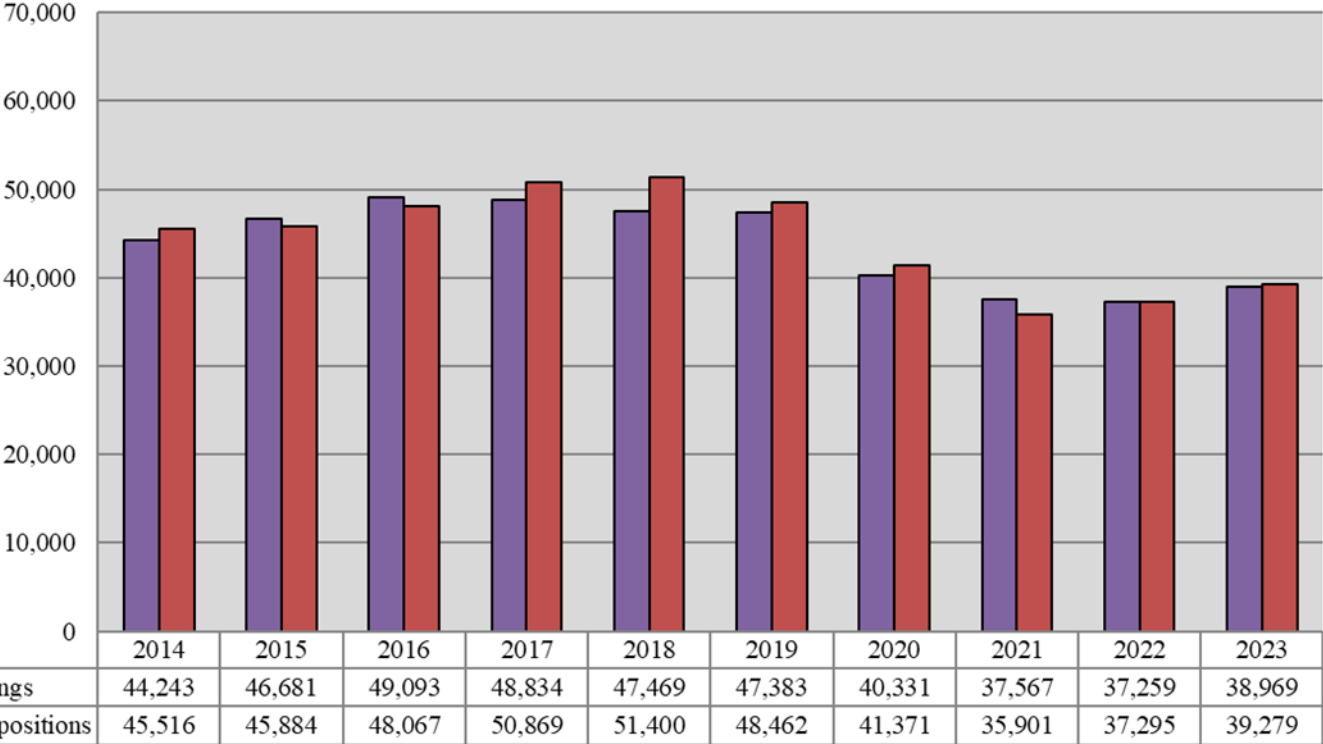
*Custody, support, visitation, paternity, guardianship, imperiling family relations, and rule to show cause filings are scheduled for mediation unless bypass mediation rules apply as indicated in 13 Del. C. § 711A and 13 Del. C. § 728A; Family Court Procedures OCI-914 and OCI-902.

*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 Fiscal Years 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 2023 Stats were most likely impacted by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and changes from past or future years should consider this impact.

Family Court 10-Year Total Caseload Trend



Fiscal Year

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