

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.

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