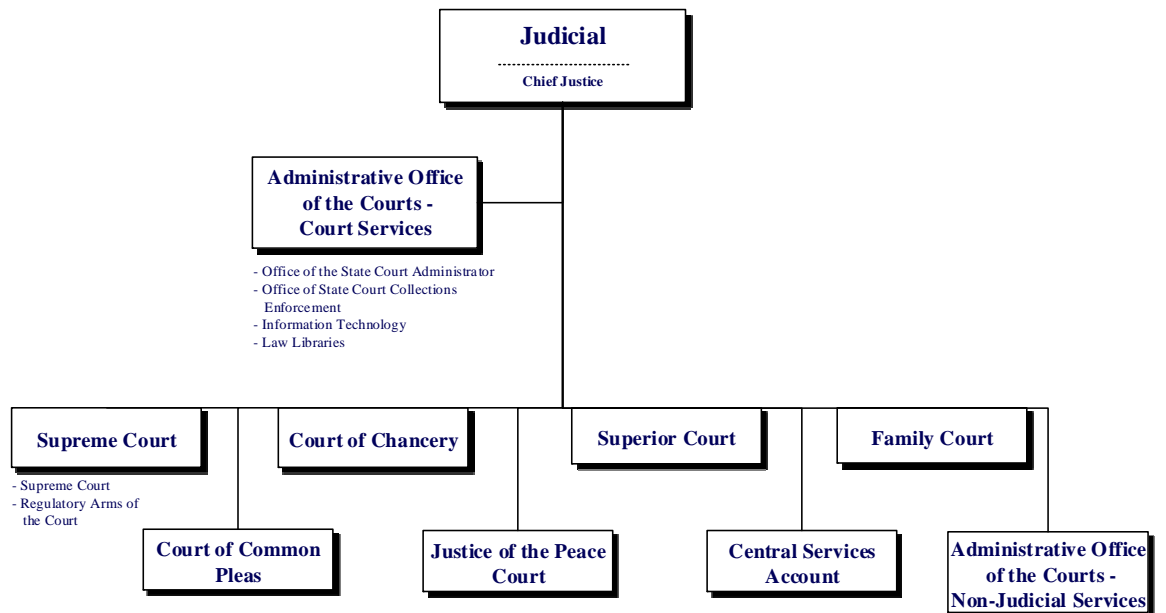


JUDICIAL

02-00-00



Footnotes: 1. This chart reflects the Judicial organization for budgeting purposes only.
The Administrative Office of the Courts recommends system-wide budget priorities to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and coordinates all budgeting activity.

2. Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Services and Administrative Office of the Courts - Non-Judicial Services report to Office of the State Court Administrator.

MISSION

The Judicial Branch is a co-equal, independent branch of government entrusted with the fair, just and efficient resolution of disputes under the rules of law and equity and with the protection of all rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitutions of the State of Delaware and the United States.

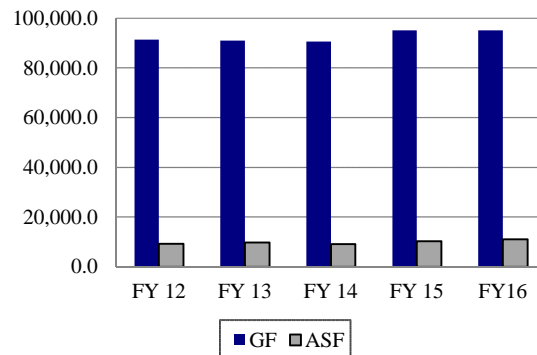
KEY OBJECTIVES

- Enhance options for cost-effective and timely dispute resolution practices.
- Improve access to justice for Delaware residents.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Goals and objectives contained within the Judiciary are based upon direction from the Chief Justice as outlined in various administrative orders, national goals promulgated by the American Bar Association (ABA) and individual objectives specific to the Delaware court system.

Five-Year Appropriation History



FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	92,718.9	95,121.5	95,693.6
ASF	9,938.5	10,975.0	12,193.4
TOTAL	102,657.4	106,096.5	107,887.0

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	1,120.5	1,120.5	1,112.5
ASF	113.5	116.5	130.5
NSF	13.3	13.3	13.3
TOTAL	1,247.3	1,250.3	1,256.3

JUDICIAL

02-00-00

SUPREME COURT

02-01-00

MISSION

- Provide fair, just and efficient resolution of disputes under the rules of law and equity and with the protection of all rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitutions of the State of Delaware and of the United States.
- Regulate the practice of law through various committees appointed by the Supreme Court.
- Establish statewide goals and implement appropriate policies for judicial administration and support operations.
- Supervise other state courts pursuant to the Chief Justice's authority under Article IV, Section 13 of the Delaware Constitution.

KEY OBJECTIVES

During Fiscal Year 2017, the court expects to accomplish the following:

- Continue to render final dispositions in most cases within 90 days from the under advisement date to the final decision date; and
- Continue to regulate the practice of law in Delaware.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Supreme Court was created by Article IV, Section 1 of the Delaware Constitution. The Supreme Court consists of a Chief Justice and four justices, each of whom is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Chief Justice, in consultation with the justices, is responsible for the administration of all courts in the State under Article IV, Section 13 and appoints a State Court Administrator of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to manage the non-judicial aspects of court administration.

Under Article IV, Section 11 of the Delaware Constitution, the Supreme Court has final appellate jurisdiction in criminal cases from the Superior Court in which the sentence shall be death, imprisonment exceeding one month or fine exceeding \$100 and in such other cases as shall be provided by law. In civil cases, the Supreme Court has final appellate jurisdiction as to final judgments and in certain other orders of the Court of Chancery, Superior Court and Family Court. Appeals are heard on the record established in the trial court.

Delaware is an appeal of right state. If an appeal is within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the court must accept the appeal. Appeal processing, from initial filing to final decision, is the primary activity of the Supreme Court.

The Court on the Judiciary, established by Article IV, Section 37 of the Delaware Constitution, consists of the five members of the Delaware Supreme Court, the Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, the President Judge of the Superior Court, the Chief Judge of the Family Court and the Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The purpose of the Court on the Judiciary is to investigate complaints filed against any judicial officer appointed by the Governor and take appropriate action as set forth in the Constitution.

The Supreme Court regulates the practice of law in Delaware through various committees referred to as the Arms of the Court. Each committee member is appointed by the court. Pursuant to Supreme Court rules, these committees are funded by annual assessments paid by Delaware lawyers, fees from applicants who take the Delaware Bar examination and assessments from non-Delaware lawyers who are admitted under Pro Hac Vice rules.

The Board on Professional Responsibility and Office of Disciplinary Counsel are authorized by Supreme Court Rules 62 and 64, respectively. Under Supreme Court Rule 62(c), the court appoints a Preliminary Review Committee. The Board on Professional Responsibility, Preliminary Review Committee and Office of Disciplinary Counsel are responsible for the regulation of the conduct of the members of the Delaware Bar. Matters heard by the board are subject to review by the Delaware Supreme Court.

The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection is authorized by Supreme Court Rule 66. The purpose of the fund is to establish, as far as is practicable, the collective responsibility of the legal profession with respect to losses caused to the public by defalcations of members of the Bar.

The Board of Bar Examiners is authorized by Supreme Court Rule 51. It is the duty of the board to administer Supreme Court Rules 51 through 55. These rules govern the testing and procedures for admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Delaware.

The Commission on Continuing Legal Education (CLE) is authorized by Supreme Court Rule 70 and Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Rule 3. The purpose of the commission is to ensure minimum requirements for continuing legal education are met by attorneys to maintain their professional competence throughout their active practice of law.

JUDICIAL 02-00-00

The Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program is authorized by Supreme Court Rule 65. The function of the committee is to oversee and monitor the operation of the Delaware IOLTA program, as established pursuant to Rule 1.15 of the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Professional Conduct. The committee reports annually to the Supreme Court on the status of the program and the work of the committee. It is the exclusive responsibility of the Delaware Bar Foundation, subject to the supervision and approval of the court, to hold and disburse all funds generated by the IOLTA program. The majority of these funds are used to provide legal representation to indigents.

The Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law is authorized by Supreme Court Rule 86. It is the duty of the board to administer Supreme Court Rule 86 and investigate matters sua sponte or matters referred to it from any source, respecting issues involving the unauthorized practice of law.

The Chief Justice, in consultation with the justices, has the responsibility to manage judicial administration for all courts. In this role, the Chief Justice monitors the performance of the entire judicial system by identifying areas for increased administrative focus, coordinating plans to deal with inter-court issues and reviewing individual court budgets.

The Supreme Court consistently maintains a disposition rate that is well under the 90-day standard the Court has set in accordance with ABA standards.

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	3,313.4	3,368.5	3,388.4
ASF	83.3	149.3	151.1
TOTAL	3,396.7	3,517.8	3,539.5

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	27.0	27.0	27.0
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	11.3	11.3	11.3
TOTAL	38.3	38.3	38.3

SUPREME COURT 02-01-10

ACTIVITIES

- Dispose of appeals.
- Monitor time schedules.

- Dispose of complaints against judicial officers appointed by the Governor.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of filings	703	735	735
# of dispositions	687	720	720
Average # of days from under advisement to final decision:			
criminal	38.3	26.0	26.0
civil	22.7	20.0	20.0
Average # of days from initial filing to final decision:			
criminal	170.6	145.0	145.0
civil	127.9	123.0	123.0
% of cases disposed of within:			
30 days of the date of submission	63.1	64.0	64.0
90 days of the date of submission	96.4	99.0	99.0
290 days of the date of filing of the notice of appeal	87.1	93.0	93.0
One year of filing of the notice of appeal	93.9	97.0	97.0

REGULATORY ARMS OF THE COURT 02-01-40

ACTIVITIES

- Office of Disciplinary Counsel and Board on Professional Responsibility dispose of complaints against lawyers.
- Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection processes claims with the fund and audits lawyers' financial accounts.
- Board of Bar Examiners processes applications to take the bar examination.
- CLE processes lawyer compliance affidavits and evaluates CLE programs.

JUDICIAL 02-00-00

PERFORMANCE MEASURES Office of Disciplinary Counsel

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of new matters filed	240	214	250
# of matters disposed	176	171	180
# of cases pending or stayed	80	63	80
# of private admonitions with or without probation	20	21	25
# of public reprimands with or without probation	2	2	2
# of suspensions and interim suspensions	2	6	5
# of disbarments	3	4	5
# of reinstatements	1	2	2

Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of claims:			
paid	4	10	10
denied or withdrawn	5	10	10
pending	0	0	0
\$ amount of claims:			
made	32,547	650,000	650,000
paid	7,534	230,000	230,000
pending	0	10,000	10,000

Board of Bar Examiners

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of applications processed	195	190	190
# of applicants passing Bar exam	124	115	115

Commission on Continuing Legal Education

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of transcripts processed	5,065	5,190	5,500
# of programs evaluated	5,852	6,100	6,200
\$ amount of fines and sponsor fees paid	112,350	120,000	115,000

COURT OF CHANCERY 02-02-00

MISSION

To render justice in matters relating to corporate litigation, fiduciary and other matters within its jurisdiction in a way that is fair, prompt, efficient and highly expert.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Maintain and enhance the court's reputation for excellence and promptness in judicial work.
- Maintain and enhance the court's automated capability to handle workload.
- Continue to improve the statewide functionality of the Register in Chancery.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Delaware's Court of Chancery is a non-jury trial court of limited jurisdiction and is the sole Delaware court with general power to issue temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions. Its jurisdiction includes both corporate and non-corporate litigation matters. The judges spend approximately 70 percent of their time on corporate, alternative entity and other complex commercial disputes involving Delaware businesses. This specialization and expertise contribute to the fact that Delaware is a preferred site for entity formation in the United States. The remainder of the court's resources are spent handling non-corporate litigation regarding the fiduciary administration of guardianships, trusts and estates and other non-litigation matters.

The Court of Chancery consists of one Chancellor, four Vice Chancellors and two Masters in Chancery. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors are nominated by the Governor and are confirmed by the Senate.

Many areas of the court's work are handled by the Masters in Chancery, who hold evidentiary hearings and write opinions in areas under the court's jurisdiction, such as wills, estates, real estate, guardianships and in cases involving corporate law. The Chancellor assigns various matters to the Masters in Chancery, and parties have a right to appeal to a judge if they so choose.

JUDICIAL

02-00-00

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	3,190.9	3,197.4	3,214.6
ASF	2,229.0	1,718.4	1,718.4
TOTAL	5,419.9	4,915.8	4,933.0

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	28.5	28.5	28.5
ASF	20.5	20.5	20.5
NSF	2.0	2.0	2.0
TOTAL	51.0	51.0	51.0

COURT OF CHANCERY ***02-02-10***

ACTIVITIES

- Schedule and dispose of requests for temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions in a prompt manner.
- Hold trials.
- Rule on attorneys' fees.
- Certify questions of law to Supreme Court.
- Order sales of real and personal property.
- Issue instructions to fiduciaries, executors, receivers, guardians or trustees to perform or refrain from performing deeds for which they lack the authority without court approval.
- Exercise powers of review on appeal from administrative proceedings.
- Review fiduciary accountings of guardianship and trust estates.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
% of decisions rendered within 90 days after readiness for adjudication	82	96	96
# of matters filed	4,542	4,502	4,570

SUPERIOR COURT **02-03-00**

MISSION

To serve the public and provide a fair and efficient system of justice, committed to excellence, fostering public trust, understanding and confidence.

The following statements of purpose are based on the six key performance areas in the Trial Court Performance Standards:

- To be accessible to all litigants and other court users within safe and convenient facilities;
- To provide prompt and efficient resolution of disputes and meet its responsibility to everyone affected by its actions;
- To provide due process and individual justice in each case, treat litigants similarly and ensure that the court's actions are consistent with established law;
- To be accountable for the use of resources at its disposal;
- To ensure the court's personnel practices and hiring decisions are directed toward establishing the highest standards of personal integrity and employee competency; and
- To instill public trust and confidence that the court is fairly and efficiently operated.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Increase the rate of compliance with the Chief Justice's Speedy Trial Directive for the disposition of criminal cases.
- Increase the rate of compliance with ABA standards for the disposition of civil cases.
- Incorporate conflict management into the scheduling process and establish greater adherence to court schedules.
- Reduce the number of outstanding capiases by monitoring and reviewing their status and undertaking efforts to apprehend those who fail to appear.
- Expand training opportunities for staff, particularly in management and supervisory skills.
- Reduce the number of violations of probation to reduce recidivism and prison populations.

JUDICIAL

02-00-00

- Develop recruitment and training programs for staff that recognize diversity as one of the core values of the court.
- Maximize staff productivity through team-building, innovation, training and technology.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Superior Court is Delaware's court of general jurisdiction. Some examples of the court's jurisdiction include:

- Criminal felony cases;
- Civil cases in any amount, including jury trials;
- Appeals arising from the decisions of more than 50 boards and commissions;
- Appeals from the Court of Common Pleas; and
- Applications for extraordinary writs, such as habeas corpus and mandamus.

Superior Court continues its dedication to its vision, mission and core values through the collaborative efforts of its judges and staff from across Delaware. Superior Court's core values are UNITED, which stands for Unity, Neutrality, Integrity, Timeliness, Equality and Dedication. The court is committed to continuing to build on both the quality of justice and the delivery of public service for which it is well known within Delaware and throughout the nation.

Superior Court has partnered with other criminal justice agencies to assist problem-solving courts in improving court outcomes for victims, litigants and communities. Some of the strategies employed in these courts include extended probation, frequent appearances before judges to monitor adherence, meetings with probation officers and regular alcohol and drug testing. The mission of problem-solving courts is to provide persons involved in the criminal justice system with intensive services and support to guide them to recovery and self-sufficiency as an alternative to repeated incarceration for violations of probation or commission of new offenses. Superior Court's problem-solving courts include Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Re-entry Court and Veterans Treatment Court.

The Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation program continues to serve those parties involved in mortgage foreclosure. The Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation program gives homeowners an opportunity to negotiate an alternative to foreclosure with the assistance of housing counselors.

Project Operation Rightful Owner is an initiative designed to assist homeowners who have lost their property due to a sheriff's sale by returning any excess proceeds to the rightful owners.

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
GF	24,089.3	25,024.0	25,348.8
ASF	86.0	92.0	120.0
TOTAL	24,175.3	25,116.0	25,468.8

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
GF	306.5	306.5	306.5
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	306.5	306.5	306.5

SUPERIOR COURT

02-03-10

ACTIVITIES

- Hear criminal matters, civil matters, administrative agency appeals and involuntary commitment cases.
- Maintain jury operations.
- Conduct civil and criminal trials.
- Manage case processing activities.
- Perform administrative tasks.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
Criminal case filings:			
New Castle	3,677	3,714	3,751
Kent	1,410	1,424	1,438
Sussex	1,955	1,975	1,994
Civil case filings:			
New Castle	8,381	8,465	8,549
Kent	1,541	1,556	1,572
Sussex	1,556	1,572	1,587
Criminal case dispositions:			
New Castle	3,831	3,869	3,908
Kent	1,446	1,460	1,475
Sussex	1,739	1,756	1,774
Civil case dispositions:			
New Castle	8,228	8,310	8,393
Kent	1,517	1,532	1,547
Sussex	1,593	1,609	1,625
Criminal cases pending:			
New Castle	813	821	829
Kent	330	333	337
Sussex	464	469	473
Civil cases pending:			
New Castle	7,816	7,894	7,973
Kent	1,300	1,313	1,326
Sussex	879	888	897

JUDICIAL

02-00-00

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

02-06-00

MISSION

The mission of the Court of Common Pleas is to provide a neutral forum for the people and institutions of Delaware in the resolution of everyday problems, disputes and more complex legal matters in a fair, professional, efficient and practical manner.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Adjudicate cases fairly and with integrity.
- Improve service to the residents of Delaware.
- Resolve cases timely and expeditiously.
- Provide a safe, accessible and secure environment for the residents of Delaware.
- Responsibly use and account for public resources.
- Ensure an environment free of bias and the perception of bias.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction over:

- All misdemeanors except certain drug-related crimes;
- Preliminary hearings in all felony cases;
- Certain traffic offenses;
- Civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$50,000 on the complaint;
- Civil and criminal appeals from the Justice of the Peace (JP) Court;
- Criminal appeals from Alderman Courts;
- Appeals from the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in license suspensions;
- Appeals from the Animal Control Panel; and
- Confirmation of arbitration awards in consumer credit cases.

The Court of Common Pleas receives most of its criminal caseload from JP Court and a small percentage of filings from Alderman Courts. Approximately 3 percent of cases are filed by the Attorney General.

Jury trials are available to all criminal defendants. Civil cases are tried without a jury. Appeals to the court are de novo appeals; appeals from the Court of Common Pleas are to the Superior Court on the record.

The Court of Common Pleas has nine judges and two commissioners. Five judges serve in New Castle County,

two serve in Kent County and two serve in Sussex County. One commissioner serves in New Castle County, and one is shared between Kent and Sussex Counties.

The court operates a court-supervised, comprehensive drug diversion program for non-violent offenders. This voluntary program includes regular appearances before a judge and participation in substance abuse education, drug testing and treatment. The court has handled 8,123 participants since the program's inception in 1998. In Fiscal Year 2015, 436 participants entered the program.

The court began a mediation dispute resolution program in 2001. In partnership with the Center for Community Justice and the Delaware Center for Justice, the court has referred more than 14,584 cases for mediation, with a success rate of nearly 94 percent. Mediation provides an alternative to criminal prosecution and leaves participants with an increased sense of satisfaction about the criminal justice process. The court's mediation program has been expanded and is available to parties in both civil and criminal cases. More than 1,499 referrals were made in Fiscal Year 2015.

In November 2003, the State's first Mental Health Court was instituted in New Castle County. The goal of the specialized court is to serve the special needs of the mental health population in the criminal justice system through continuous judicial oversight and intensive case management. In Fiscal Year 2012, the court received a federal grant to provide for the expansion of Mental Health Court to Kent and Sussex Counties. In Fiscal Year 2015, approximately 74 defendants entered Mental Health Court statewide.

The court introduced Traffic Court in New Castle County in November 2003 to reduce the number of court appearances for traffic offenses and to manage the large number of motor vehicle cases. Through the application of aggressive case management techniques, the court has reduced the time to disposition for these cases.

The Trauma Informed Probation (TIP) calendar, now in its third year, is a problem-solving court aimed at identifying defendants, including women in prostitution, who have experienced significant trauma in their past. The goal is to provide trauma-informed care to help improve outcomes for TIP participants and to reduce recidivism rates. In Fiscal Year 2015, 14 participants entered the TIP program.

The Court of Common Pleas is a high volume court that manages a diverse caseload. Keeping pace with the caseload requires the commitment of judges and staff and the implementation of aggressive case management techniques to ensure prompt and fair justice for all litigants.

JUDICIAL

02-00-00

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	9,619.6	10,121.9	10,278.2
ASF	480.5	408.4	476.5
TOTAL	10,100.1	10,530.3	10,754.7

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	130.0	130.0	131.0
ASF	6.0	7.0	7.0
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	136.0	137.0	138.0

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

02-06-10

ACTIVITIES

- Oversee courtroom activities.
- Manage case processing activities.
- Oversee accounting and collections activities.
- Provide court security.
- Manage statewide court operations management.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Criminal Filings/Dispositions/Collections

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of misdemeanor: filings	103,176	104,208	105,250
dispositions	87,366	88,240	89,122
# of felony filings	8,621	8,707	8,794
\$ amount collected (thousands)	7,056.7	7,092.2	7,127.4

Criminal Misdemeanor Filings

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
New Castle	45,885	46,344	46,807
Kent	27,824	28,102	28,383
Sussex	29,467	29,762	30,060

Civil Case Filings

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
New Castle	4,453	4,497	4,542
Kent	1,366	1,380	1,394
Sussex	1,477	1,492	1,507

Time from Arraignment to Trial by Case Type New Castle County (# of weeks)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
Traffic	7	7	7
Non-jury	13	13	13
DUI	19	19	19
Domestic violence	8	8	8
Drug	6	6	6
Jury trial	14	14	14

Time from Arraignment to Trial by Case Type Kent County (# of weeks)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
Non-jury	4	4	4
Jury trial	11	11	11
Drug diversion	2	2	2

Time from Arraignment to Trial by Case Type Sussex County (# of weeks)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
Non-jury	11	11	11
Jury trial	12	12	12
Drug diversion	2	2	2

JUDICIAL

02-00-00

FAMILY COURT

02-08-00

MISSION

To provide equal access to justice for the families and children under Family Court's jurisdiction in a manner that is fair and efficient and that maintains the public's trust and confidence in an independent and accountable Judiciary.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Comply with all scheduling and dispositional standards in civil and criminal matters as prescribed by the Chief Justice and Chief Judge.
- Improve access to the court with an emphasis on those who elect to represent themselves.
- Increase the effectiveness of calendaring and continuance practices.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Family Court was created by Article IV, Section 1 of the Delaware Constitution. Family Court has its origin in the Juvenile Court for the City of Wilmington founded in 1911. In 1933, the Juvenile Court expanded to include all three counties in Delaware. A statewide Family Court with jurisdiction over all family matters was achieved with the statutory authorization of the court in 1971.

Family Court is a unified statewide court with facilities in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties. The court consists of a Chief Judge, 16 judges and 16 commissioners, each of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Family Court has both criminal and civil jurisdiction and disposes of adult misdemeanor crimes against a child; intra-family misdemeanor crimes; juvenile delinquency matters; child neglect, abuse and dependency matters; child and spousal support matters; paternity determinations; custody and visitation of children; adoptions; terminations of parental rights; divorces and annulments; property divisions; specific enforcement of separation agreements; guardianship over minors; imperiling the family relationship; orders of protection from abuse; child abuse substantiation matters; and other legal matters involving the family unit. Family Court judges review the decisions of Family Court commissioners upon the filing of a timely request. Family Court decisions are appealed directly to the Supreme Court with the exception of adult criminal cases, which are appealed to the Superior Court.

Family Court requires court mediation in a number of its case filing types facilitated by court-employed mediators in recognition of the importance of empowering individuals to make decisions regarding their families in a non-adversarial setting. In Fiscal Year 2015, more than 12,500 matters were scheduled for mediation statewide.

Arbitration is available for eligible first-time juvenile offenders. Arbitration allows eligible juveniles who accept responsibility for their conduct and who comply with specific conditions to have their charges dismissed.

Family Court has several specialty courts designed to meet the needs of the populations they serve effectively. These specialty courts are the Juvenile Drug Court and Mental Health Diversion Court.

Family Court administers the Court Appointed Special Advocate program to recruit, train and assign volunteers to represent the best interests of children in the child welfare system.

Family Court provides services to self-represented litigants in its resource centers and through its website.

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	19,699.8	20,947.8	20,188.6
ASF	5,125.8	5,044.5	6,132.3
TOTAL	24,825.6	25,992.3	26,320.9

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	274.0	274.0	265.0
ASF	68.0	70.0	84.0
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	342.0	344.0	349.0

FAMILY COURT

02-08-10

ACTIVITIES

- Accept and decide criminal, delinquency and civil matters under Family Court's jurisdiction.
- Conduct alternative dispute resolution.
- Administer the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.
- Exercise powers of review on orders issued by Family Court commissioners.

JUDICIAL 02-00-00

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
% of adult and juvenile criminal cases disposed of within 45 days of filing	35	90	90
% of adult and juvenile criminal cases disposed of within 90 days of filing	63	100	100
% of protection from abuse petitions disposed of within 90 days of filing	100	99	99
% of child support matters disposed of within 180 days of positive service excluding capias and genetic testing time	83	75	75
% of child support matters disposed of within 365 days of positive service excluding capias and genetic testing time	95	90	90
% of civil decisions rendered within 90 days of taking the matter under advisement	100	90	90
Average number of days from adjudication decision date to permanency decision date for proceedings involving dependent, neglected or abused children in the custody of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF)	322	290	290

Adult Criminal Case Filings

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
New Castle	2,231	2,276	2,320
Kent	708	722	736
Sussex	669	682	696

Juvenile Delinquency Case Filings

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
New Castle	2,725	2,780	2,834
Kent	1,107	1,129	1,151
Sussex	1,167	1,190	1,214

Civil Case Filings by County

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
New Castle	19,688	20,082	20,476
Kent	8,283	8,449	8,614
Sussex	10,103	10,305	10,507

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT 02-13-00

MISSION

As the place where justice starts, the following is the mission of the JP Court:

- Serve the people of Delaware through the efficient and accessible administration of justice for all; and
- Treat all persons with integrity, fairness and respect.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Provide exemplary customer service.
- Improve the infrastructure of the court.
- Provide reasonable court access and locations.
- Provide convenient, safe and secure facilities for the public and court employees.
- Improve efficiency and the quality of justice.
- Improve security for all court facilities.
- Work in conjunction with DMV, law enforcement agencies, other courts and the Department of Safety and Homeland Security to reduce the flow of paperwork between the courts and other agencies.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JP Court is authorized by Article IV, Section 1 of the Delaware Constitution. JP Court is Delaware's entry-level court, through which the great majority of all criminal cases pass. JP Court has criminal jurisdiction to hear:

- Criminal misdemeanor cases as listed in 11 Del. C. § 2702 and all criminal violations;
- Most 21 Del. C. traffic offenses, which do not involve physical injury or death;
- County code violations;
- Many Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control offenses;
- Truancy cases;
- Alcoholic beverage violations; and
- Miscellaneous violations initiated by other state agencies.

JP Court has civil jurisdiction over:

- Contractual disputes in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$15,000;
- Replevin actions (actions brought to recover possession of personal property unlawfully taken) in

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which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$15,000;

- Negligence cases (not involving physical injury) in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$15,000;
- Landlord/tenant cases, including summary proceedings for possession where jury trials are authorized and appeals from landlord/tenant cases to special courts consisting of a three-judge panel; and
- Traffic cases with civil penalties.

JP Court also has jurisdiction to:

- Issue summonses and arrest and search warrants for all criminal offenses based upon findings of probable cause;
- Conduct initial appearances to set bond for all criminal offenses and conduct bond review hearings when requested;
- Issue and execute capiases; and
- Process capiases issued by Family Court, Court of Common Pleas and Superior Court.

There are 15 JP trial court sites located in 13 court facilities, with one court in each county open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Delaware Code authorizes 60 Justices of the Peace and one Chief Magistrate to serve as the administrative head of the court. Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

JP Court is unique in that it is the only Delaware court that employs constables, a quasi-police force charged with carrying out its judicial orders.

Truancy Court

Truancy Court operates in cooperation with schools and social service agencies to reduce truancy. Court efforts are aimed at addressing school attendance by working with students to determine what support and incentives they need to comply with Delaware attendance laws.

Statewide Videophone Court

The statewide Videophone Court at JP Court 2 in Rehoboth Beach, creates time and staffing efficiencies by providing specialized one-stop videophone proceedings for law enforcement. Videophone arraignments, initial presentments, capias returns and warrant requests by police throughout the State are processed through JP Court 2. The statewide Videophone Court currently handles over 2,500 videophone cases each month.

Procedural Fairness

The JP Court is focused on improving processes and approaches so that people appearing in court leave

feeling that they were treated fairly and given an equal opportunity. To accomplish this, the court has partnered with the Center for Cost Innovation to initiate a long-term training program for staff.

Police Prosecution

JP Court established the Police Prosecution Process to facilitate the goal of speedy resolution of traffic and minor criminal cases. The Police Prosecution Process was initiated at JP Court 6 in Harrington and has since expanded to 12 JP Courts throughout New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties. Speedy resolution provides significant cost savings, convenience and procedural benefits to the court, law enforcement agencies, attorneys, Department of Correction (DOC), victims, defendants and the public in general.

Facilities

In an effort to reduce operating expenses and increase operational efficiency, JP Court has developed and implemented plans to consolidate facilities over the past several years. In Fiscal Year 2010, for example, JP Court consolidated the locations of JP Court 11, JP Court 15, JP Court Administrative Office and Constable Central to one location. Efforts are still under way to continue to consolidate and find more effective and efficient locations for JP Courts statewide.

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	17,842.3	18,320.2	18,765.7
ASF	1,737.0	2,192.2	2,224.9
TOTAL	19,579.3	20,512.4	20,990.6

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	246.5	246.5	246.5
ASF	18.0	18.0	18.0
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	264.5	264.5	264.5

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

02-13-10

ACTIVITIES

- Process criminal cases by conducting bond hearings, initial appearances, arraignments, trials and adjudicated cases.
- Process civil cases by accepting filings and scheduling trials.
- Process voluntary assessments for payment of traffic violations.

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- Input case-related information, including, but not limited to, summonses, warrants, capias, subpoenas, continuances, commitments, judgments, appearance notices and docket entries.
- Accept money representing fines, court costs, Victim Compensation Fund assessments or restitution.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
% of shifts per week with security coverage*	94	95	95
% of warrant applications statewide reviewed by JP Court	99	99	99
% of videophone proceedings that take place within 45 minutes of receipt	100	100	100

*Includes casual/seasonal support.

Criminal and Traffic Filings (by defendant)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
New Castle	53,429	53,963	54,503
Kent	27,850	28,129	28,410
Sussex	40,116	40,517	40,922
Voluntary Assessment Center	129,227	130,519	131,824

Civil Case Filings

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
New Castle	17,545	17,720	17,897
Kent	7,666	7,743	7,821
Sussex	7,170	7,242	7,314

CENTRAL SERVICES ACCOUNT 02-15-00

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 144th General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 75, establishing a separate fund to provide supplemental funding for court security personnel, equipment and training based upon a plan submitted by the Chief Justice and approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Controller General and Joint Finance Committee. Monies for this fund shall come from court security assessments imposed as a part of court costs for civil initial filings and criminal and traffic convictions.

Fiscal Year 2009 was the first year the security assessment funds were accessible to the courts through the implementation of a security plan that enhanced physical security structures in several courthouses, as well as established new court security positions to cover additional shifts of operation.

In Fiscal Year 2014, the administration of court security funds was moved to the individual courts. Court security reserve funds for the New Castle, Kent and Sussex County Courthouses continue to be administered in the Central Services Account.

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	--	--	--
ASF	101.1	60.1	60.1
TOTAL	101.1	60.1	60.1

CENTRAL SERVICES ACCOUNT 02-15-10

ACTIVITY

Administer the Court Security Fund as set forth in 10 Del. C. § 8505.

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS - COURT SERVICES 02-17-00

MISSION

To assist the Judicial Branch and others in delivering the highest quality of justice by providing effective and efficient administrative support and information services.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AOC was established in 1971 pursuant to 10 Del. C. § 128. The office assists the Chief Justice in carrying out the responsibilities as administrative head of all courts in the Judicial Branch.

The role and responsibilities of the AOC are outlined in the Operating Procedures for the Delaware Judicial Branch, Section IV, and include delivering services to courts, judicial organizations and external customers in the areas of budget development, personnel policies, fiscal policies, collections, technology policies and services, records management, interpreters, planning and research, facilities, education and law libraries.

To fulfill its responsibilities, AOC is divided into three components that provide direct services to the Supreme Court, Court of Chancery, Superior Court, Family Court, Court of Common Pleas and JP Court and limited services to several non-judicial agencies. The components are the Office of the State Court Administrator, Office of State Court Collections Enforcement (OSCCE) and the Information Technology (IT) division. AOC provides limited fiscal and administrative services to several agencies that receive policy direction and oversight from boards and governing bodies outside the Judicial Branch. These agencies establish their own missions, objectives and performance measures. This group of agencies is composed of the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), the Child Placement Review Board (CPRB), the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA), the Child Death Review Commission (CDRC) and the Delaware Nursing Home Residents Quality Assurance Commission.

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	12,259.1	11,509.0	11,655.9
ASF	25.2	1,233.4	1,233.4
TOTAL	12,284.3	12,742.4	12,889.3

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	77.5	77.5	77.5
ASF	--	--	--
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	77.5	77.5	77.5

OFFICE OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR 02-17-01

MISSION

To assist the Judicial Branch and others in delivering the highest quality of justice by providing effective and efficient administrative support and information services.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Enhance public trust and confidence in the courts through the provision of information to the public about the court system and initiatives to promote fairness and the perception of fairness.
- Increase public access to the courts through the provision of interpreters and assistance to unrepresented litigants.
- Ensure continuity of operations in the event of an emergency.
- Enhance service to the public by providing staff support for judicial education and staff training programs.
- Promote safety and security of courthouses.
- Assist courts in developing and reporting statistical measurements.
- Support efforts to recruit, hire and retain the most qualified candidates and provide promotional opportunities.
- Provide administrative support for Judicial Branch agencies.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Office of the State Court Administrator provides a variety of support services to the courts, as well as limited fiscal and administrative assistance to Judicial Branch agencies.

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Several accomplishments during the past fiscal year included:

- Provided administrative support for a variety of initiatives spearheaded by the Supreme Court to improve access to justice and the court system, including the Access to Justice Commission responsible for reviewing the hurdles that prevent litigants from accessing the civil justice system and assessing fairness in the criminal justice system;
- Assisted in making the rules and procedures that govern the Judicial Branch's administration more readily accessible to the general public;
- Secured funding to support the development of a database collection platform tailored to the needs of Delaware's problem-solving courts;
- Implemented a single e-filing system that should make the process easier for litigants, maximize sharing and accessibility of information and minimize archiving costs; and
- Supported the Judicial Branch's newly established partnership with the University of Delaware's Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics to implement a single, high quality approach to process improvement throughout the Judiciary.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide centralized services to the New Castle County Courthouse, including safety and security planning and coordination and management of operations for the information desk, filing and payment center, Limited Legal Assistance program (LLAP) and mail room.
- Provide education and staff training services for the Judiciary.
- Administer the statewide Court Interpreter program.
- Conduct research and analysis related to all issues affecting the Judicial Branch.
- Prepare the Annual Report of the Judiciary.
- Administer the Judicial Branch Public Information program.
- Assist in policy coordination and development for issues affecting all courts.
- Coordinate preparation, review and submission of the Judicial Branch budgets.
- Serve as liaison to the Legislative and Executive Branches.
- Provide staff support and administrative assistance to Judicial Branch courts and committees.
- Provide staff support and administrative assistance to various courts and committees within the Judicial Branch.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of court litigants for which interpreter services were provided	10,800	11,400	12,100
# of pro bono attorney volunteers	70	82	94
# of pro bono attorney volunteer hours	130	140	164

OFFICE OF STATE COURT COLLECTIONS ENFORCEMENT 02-17-03

MISSION

To assist the Delaware Judiciary and the criminal justice community through collection enforcement of court-ordered financial sanctions and assessments.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Assist in the collection of court-ordered financial assessments, which include victim restitution, Victims' Compensation Assistance Program funds, Drug Education Fund fees, Delaware Criminal Justice Information System fees, court security fees, court fees and DOC supervision/interstate compact fees.
- Develop policies and procedures to support one-stop judicial payment centers.
- Develop and implement new initiatives to assist in the collection of delinquent receivables.
- Participate in efforts to develop and implement standard financial policies and procedures related to the courts' processes.
- Improve operational efficiency and effectiveness.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OSCCE functions as a one-stop judicial collections center. There are four judicial payment centers and five payment kiosk locations that provide cashiering services for Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas, Family Court, JP Court, DOC and Child Support.

In an effort to provide efficient services to state residents, OSCCE continues to collaborate with all branches of government. OSCCE assists DOC with the collection of supervision and interstate compact fees, the Department of Elections with felony voting restoration

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rights, the Division of Revenue with offsetting state tax refunds and lottery winnings against outstanding court receivables, and Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Child Support Enforcement for outstanding child support orders.

OSCCE continues to implement and/or expand several new programs to improve collection efforts. These include:

- Expanding the wage garnishment program to enforce the collection of outstanding Superior Court and JP Court receivables;
- Expanding the use of payment kiosks to increase payment accessibility to the public for judicial receivables through DOC and DMV facilities;
- Expanding payment options within OSCCE's kiosk program; and
- Completing implementation of the DOC probationary fees automated system to include Interstate Compact fees.

OSCCE continues to research, develop and implement new technologies to assist the Judiciary and State with the handling of delinquent receivables. These efforts include:

- Developing procedures to improve client repayment accountability through financial reporting, focusing on delinquent restitution cases within the courts; and
- Exploring the acceptance of court receivable payments through retail locations.

ACTIVITIES

- Accept payment of court-ordered financial assessments.
- Use a variety of alternative payment processing tools to expand public payment options.
- Document and record all financial transactions promptly and accurately.
- Pursue the collection of financial obligations referred by the courts.
- Refer offenders to programs administered by DOC to address court-ordered financial sanctions (excluding restitution).
- Work with statewide criminal justice agencies to promote cooperation and share automated data.
- Assist staff in the issuance of restitution funds collected against referred delinquent Family Court receivables.
- Provide financial reports as requested.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of contacts made to administer accounts:			
face-to-face	8,619	9,000	9,500
verbal	9,793	10,000	10,200
written	63,638	65,000	60,000
\$ collected on behalf of:			
Superior Court	2,785,221	2,800,000	2,850,000
Court of Common Pleas	612,477	615,000	620,000
Family Court	452,712	455,000	460,000
Pre-2002 Family Court	40,946	35,000	30,000
JP Court	109,630	110,000	115,000
DOC	661,539	660,000	665,000

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 02-17-04

MISSION

To provide strategic vision, leadership and enterprise solutions to the Judicial Branch and its customers, ensuring efficient operations and secure, reliable and timely access to information.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Provide technology solutions to achieve the courts' goals and objectives.
- Provide leadership and oversight of technology efforts supporting the courts' business needs.
- Develop systems that integrate with other criminal justice agencies and stakeholders in the exchange of information.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Throughout Fiscal Year 2015, IT remained focused on addressing longstanding infrastructure and personnel needs.

Recent accomplishments include:

- Continuing systems stabilization and infrastructure improvements; and
- Continuing to support judiciary technology planning.

ACTIVITIES

- Analyze business issues and processes related to the flow, management and use of information.
- Drive process improvement efforts.
- Manage development of and support applications to enhance the operations of the courts and agencies.

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- Provide telephone and audiovisual installation and desktop support services.
- Manage, design and support local area network resources.
- Lead initiatives related to technology planning, use and effective implementation.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
% cyber security training compliance	100	100	100
% customer satisfaction	92	90	90
% system availability	100	100	100

LAW LIBRARIES

02-17-05

MISSION

To provide legal information resources for the Judicial Branch, Office of the Attorney General, Office of Defense Services, other state agencies, members and prospective members of the Delaware Bar Association and *pro se* litigants and function as the official depository of state laws, agency rules and regulations, administrative and board regulations, court opinions, advisory memoranda and policy directives.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Effectively manage all types of legal information.
- Provide assistance and comprehensive legal resources to a variety of library users.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The primary purpose of the law libraries is to provide legal information to the Judicial Branch. The libraries also support other legal agencies within the State, as well as members of the legal community and *pro se* litigants. Each law library strives to maintain as many current and archival Delaware legal resources as possible. A law library is maintained in each county in Delaware as outlined in 10 Del. C. § 1941.

The New Castle County Law Library maintains a collection of 25,000 volumes. The library has multiple computer terminals and a hybrid of both print and electronic resources available to patrons free of charge. The New Castle County Law Library accommodates other state agencies and organizations by providing the use of rooms for meetings, conferences and the weekly LLAP for Family Court.

The Kent County Law Library is designated as the State Law Library pursuant to 10 Del. C. § 1942. The library incorporates both print and electronic media and maintains a legal reference collection of approximately 22,000 volumes. Some books in the collection are quite rare and considered invaluable in terms of their historical significance. The library offers computer-assisted online legal research and wireless access services.

The Sussex County Law Library in Georgetown maintains approximately 10,000 legal resources in a hybrid of print and electronic form. The Sussex County Law Library works with other legal and non-legal libraries across the country to procure legal information for the Judiciary via the inter-library loan program. The Sussex County Law Library has implemented new procedures, as well as conventional methods, to further assist patrons by providing wireless computer access, multiple computer terminals and a wide spectrum of legal online databases and print resources.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide legal tools and information to the Judiciary, legal community, *pro se* applicants and other state agencies.
- Structure, organize and evaluate the library inventory based on current legal needs of the Judiciary, while maintaining and preserving archival materials.
- Collaborate with other organizations and libraries to provide a diverse and comprehensive coverage of legal materials.
- Conduct yearly law library tours to familiarize judicial law clerks and staff with the law libraries.
- Research and retrieve information from books, periodicals, reference materials, other law libraries or commercial databases in response to judicial requests.
- Provide and maintain a physical environment conducive to researching the law.

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS - NON-JUDICIAL SERVICES 02-18-00

FUNDING

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	2,704.5	2,632.7	2,853.4
ASF	70.6	76.7	76.7
TOTAL	2,775.1	2,709.4	2,930.1

POSITIONS

	FY 2015 ACTUAL	FY 2016 BUDGET	FY 2017 GOV. REC.
GF	30.5	30.5	30.5
ASF	1.0	1.0	1.0
NSF	--	--	--
TOTAL	31.5	31.5	31.5

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN 02-18-01

MISSION

To provide quality, comprehensive and protective guardianship services to adult residents of Delaware who are severely mentally or physically disabled; are unable to manage their personal and financial affairs, are at risk for exploitation, neglect, abuse and victimization; and have no one else able or willing to serve as a guardian.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Provide guardianship services, enabling individuals to receive the best care in the least restrictive environment.
- Monitor private guardianships at the direction of and in cooperation with the Court of Chancery through maintenance and strengthening of the Guardianship Monitoring program.
- Provide education to private guardians appointed by the Court of Chancery in the form of online and in person educational opportunities.
- Support various agencies in their work protecting the rights of those with disabilities.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OPG was created in 1974 and serves as interim and permanent guardian for persons with severe disabilities. Referring agencies include the Court of Chancery, Adult Protective Services, Division of Developmental

Disabilities Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, other state agencies, long-term care facilities, hospitals and private nursing care facilities.

ACTIVITIES

OPG is working collaboratively with other state agencies and entities to provide advocacy and ensure that wards receive the best care and care transition. Due to the increasing complexity of property and financial issues, OPG is working to improve property and financial case management thus allowing quality decision-making.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of referrals received	143	150	150
# of referrals accepted for public guardianship	40	50	50
# of current guardianships	242	230	230
# of Guardianship Monitoring Program (GMP) appointments	59	75	75

Legal Case Management

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of OPG/GMP legal filings	259	275	275
# of reports filed	242	230	230
# of accountings prepared	78	85	85
# of inventories performed	13	25	25

Financial Case Management

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of individuals to whom OPG has been appointed guardian of property	78	80	80
# of checks written	2,029	2,500	2,500
# of bank accounts managed	117	125	125

CHILD PLACEMENT REVIEW BOARD 02-18-03

MISSION

CPRB administers a volunteer-based review board that provides an independent monitoring system charged with identification and periodic review of all children in out-of-home-placements. The purpose of these reviews is to ensure every child in care has effective plans for permanency, receives adequate care for both physical and emotional needs and participates, at an appropriate age, in educational programs to increase independent living skills.

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KEY OBJECTIVES

- Perform the tasks and functions defined in 31 Del. C. c. 38 in a professional, informed and efficient manner to have a positive impact on the State's effort to promptly provide quality services to children in out-of-home placements.
- Collect, record and distribute statistical information regarding children in out-of-home placements with the goal of addressing systemic issues and advocating for the unmet needs of individual children.
- Administer the Ivyane Davis Memorial Scholarship and, in partnership with the Division of Family Services, Delaware's Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) program to support the higher education and training goals of eligible young adults who have been in or aged out of Delaware's foster care system.
- Perform functions as defined in 10 Del. C. § 1009(j)(4) to assure the safety and wellbeing of children when adjudicated and non-adjudicated youth are placed together.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CPRB is a statewide child advocacy agency. It is chartered by Delaware's General Assembly with three main tasks:

- Use resident-based panels to complete regular reviews of children placed by Family Court in Delaware's foster care system;
- Use resident-based panels to complete reviews of adjudicated youth placed by Family Court in out-of-home, non-detention placements; and
- File an annual report with the General Assembly regarding the work of CPRB.

In carrying out these directives, CPRB:

- Meets federal mandates requiring independent reviews of children in foster care;
- Submits review reports to Family Court and to the state agency responsible for the care of children in the foster care system;
- Studies and highlights trends affecting children in care;
- Develops and implements advocacy positions relating to children in care; and
- Combines the efforts of trained volunteers and the work of a small professional staff, creating a cost-effective, independent review system.

Since 1979, CPRB has been serving Delaware's child welfare system by holding independent reviews of the status of individual children in foster care. The board was chartered to advocate for a permanent home or placement for each child in foster care and monitor provision of services to children in foster care to avoid "foster care drift," in which children remain in care year after year without plans or progress toward adoption or other permanent placement.

CPRB administers the Ivyane Davis Memorial Scholarship and administers the ETV program, both of which support post-secondary education for Delaware's former foster children. In Fiscal Year 2015, 53 recipients received scholarships and grants with a value of \$201,820, of which, 32 students used their grants at four-year colleges; 18 attended two-year colleges; and 3 award recipients attended vocational schools.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of volunteer hours generated	2,582	2,750	2,750
# of volunteer training hours	314	500	500
# of children being served	681	700	700

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

02-18-05

MISSION

To safeguard the welfare of Delaware's children through educational advocacy, system reform, public awareness, training and legal representation of children as set forth in 29 Del. C. c. 90A.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Secure legal representation for every dependent, neglected and abused child in the custody of DSCYF.
- Accomplish the goals and objectives of the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC), including multi-disciplinary collaboration on child protection system issues and the development of and participation in quality training programs for the child protection community.
- Advocate for legislative, policy and procedure initiatives designed to improve the safety, permanency and wellbeing of Delaware's dependent, neglected and abused children.

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BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

OCA was created in 1999 in response to numerous child abuse-related deaths in Delaware. These cases pointed to deficiencies in the child protection system that could not be remedied solely by one entity. The General Assembly determined that an office to oversee these efforts, staff CPAC and provide legal representation on behalf of children was necessary.

ACTIVITIES

- Secure legal representation for DSCYF children by employing Deputy Child Advocates and recruiting volunteer attorneys to represent children.
- Provide support to CPAC, chair committees, participate on committees and workgroups and draft reports and legislation.
- Educate the public on the services and accomplishments of OCA and CPAC.
- Develop, participate and provide quality training and education to the child protection community.
- Review relevant policies, procedures and laws and make recommendations for change with a view toward the rights of children.
- Collect and analyze data to determine how many children are not receiving services or representation in Delaware and why.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of appropriate referrals	607	593	570
# of DSCYF children represented by OCA:			
New Castle	323	370	331
Kent	218	242	218
Sussex	50	61	53
Sussex	55	67	60
# of DSCYF children unrepresented:			
New Castle	0	5	3
Kent	0	3	3
Kent	0	1	0
Sussex	0	1	0
# of children represented by OCA	659	778	681
# of volunteer attorneys	322	370	351
# of volunteer attorneys with over five years of OCA service	197	215	210

CHILD DEATH REVIEW COMMISSION

02-18-06

MISSION

To safeguard the health and safety of all Delaware children as set forth in 31 Del. C. c. 3.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Review, in a confidential manner, the deaths of children under the age of 18, stillbirths occurring after at least 20 weeks of gestation and maternal deaths occurring within one year of pregnancy.
- Provide the Governor and the General Assembly with recommendations to alleviate those practices or conditions that impact the mortality of children and mothers.
- Assist in facilitating appropriate action in response to recommendations.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Delaware's child death review process was established by legislation on July 19, 1995, after a pilot project showed the effectiveness of such a review process for preventing future child deaths. CDRC provides meaningful system-wide recommendations to prevent the deaths and/or near-deaths of children and improve services to children. The process brings professionals and experts from a variety of disciplines together to conduct retrospective case reviews, create multi-faceted recommendations to improve systems and encourage interagency collaboration to end the mortality of children in Delaware.

In Fiscal Year 2015, reviews were conducted by each of the three panels (consisting of New Castle County, Kent/Sussex Counties and Abuse/Neglect) to determine whether reasonable standards of practice were met by the systems involved. The Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) teams in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties continue to meet monthly to review cases of any fetus over 20 weeks gestation or infant through one year of age. The Maternal Mortality Review (MMR) panel met twice during Fiscal Year 2015. The goal of MMR is to conduct in-depth, multidisciplinary reviews of pregnancy-related deaths and some pregnancy-associated deaths to make system recommendations to decrease maternal mortality.

In Fiscal Year 2015, CDRC began a partnership with the Division of Public Health after receiving a grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to implement the Sudden Death in the Young Registry. This specific panel will review all deaths that were unexpected and will include a secondary higher level medical review.

In addition, House Bill 136, passed by the 148th General Assembly, transfers oversight of the deaths and near deaths of children due to abuse/neglect to the Child Protection Accountability Commission.

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Statistics for Fiscal Year 2015 include:

- 50 deaths were reviewed by the child death panels;
- Six initial cases were reviewed by the child abuse/neglect panel;
- 19 final cases were reviewed by the child abuse/neglect panel and approved at the commission meeting; of those, one of the 19 was a child abuse/neglect death;
- 109 fetal and infant deaths were referred to CDRC;
- 58 cases were reviewed by FIMR case review teams;
- 16 maternal interviews were conducted with mothers who have had a fetal/infant loss;
- Five maternal deaths were reviewed by MMR; and
- 338 Cribs for Kids referrals were received, and 144 cribs were delivered.

ACTIVITIES

- Identify and triage cases for review.
- Prepare and review child death cases that meet the criteria for review.
- Make recommendations to decrease child and maternal mortality.
- Collect and analyze data related to child deaths and maternal deaths.
- Issue annual reports on recommendations and data.
- Engage community partners for prevention programs, such as Cribs for Kids and the statewide hospital abusive head trauma education program.
- Collaborate with CPAC and the Delaware Healthy Mother Infant Consortium.
- Oversee the Delaware Cribs for Kids program.
- Oversee the Direct on Scene Education program for first responders to educate the community on Infant Safe Sleeping.
- Oversee Delaware's Sudden Death in the Young Registry in collaboration with the Division of Public Health and the CDC.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
% of triage cases reviewed within the office	100	100	100
% of Cribs for Kids referrals receiving a crib and training	43	55	55
% of eligible FIMR cases reviewed by case review teams	54	55	55
% of FIMR cases with a completed maternal interview	15	25	25

DELAWARE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION 02-18-07

MISSION

To monitor Delaware's quality assurance system for nursing home residents and assisted living facilities in both privately-operated and state-operated facilities so complaints of abuse, neglect, mistreatment, financial exploitation and other complaints are responded to in a timely manner to ensure the health and safety of residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Examine the policies and procedures and evaluate the effectiveness of the quality assurance system for nursing home residents.
- Monitor data and analyze trends in the quality of care and life of individuals receiving long-term care in Delaware.
- Review and make recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of DHSS and the General Assembly concerning the quality assurance system and improvements to the overall quality of life and care of nursing home residents.
- Protect the privacy of nursing home residents.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Delaware Nursing Home Residents Quality Assurance Commission was established in response to the numerous complaints from long-term care residents in Delaware. These cases pointed to numerous deficiencies in Delaware's quality assurance system for nursing home residents. The General Assembly determined a commission would oversee these efforts and advocate on behalf of nursing home residents.

The commission reviews various legislative and policy initiatives and provides comments. Members work closely with the Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection and other agencies to aid in enhancing the quality of care for residents.

ACTIVITIES

- Review relevant policies, procedures and laws and make recommendations for change with a view toward the rights of the long-term care residents.

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- Review the performance of various agencies charged with protecting long-term care residents and provide recommendations for change and improvement.
- Visit long-term care and assisted living facilities to aid in promoting the quality of care for residents.
- Analyze trends to assess the value and efficacy of current procedures intended to improve the quality of care and life of individuals receiving long-term care in Delaware.
- Prepare and publish an annual report, including aggregate data with comprehensive analysis and monitoring of trends in the quality of care and quality of life of nursing home residents.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Budget	FY 2017 Gov. Rec.
# of reviews performed	12	14	12
# of legislative recommendations made	3	2	3
# of long-term care facility visits	39	34	33
# of assisted living facility visits	20	20	21