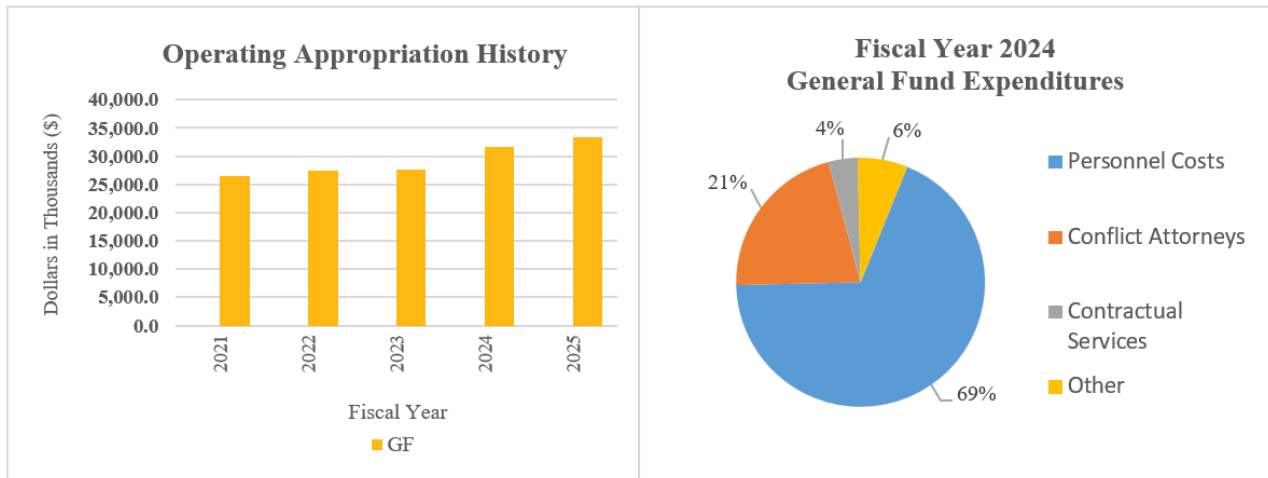


At a Glance

- Provide effective and conflict-free counsel to every indigent person accused of a crime in Delaware.



Overview

The primary mission of the Office of Defense Services (ODS) is to provide effective and conflict-free assistance of counsel to its clients by utilizing a business model that consolidates the management of the Public Defender's Office (PDO) and Office of Conflicts Counsel (OCC), via ODS' Central Administration.

Composed of three divisions, the ODS is divided into Central Administration, PDO and OCC. Central Administration handles non-case related functions, including intake, information technology, fiscal, payroll, human resources, and staff development. The PDO is a full-service law firm providing representation to a substantial majority of the people accused of crimes in Delaware. The OCC is a network of lawyers who are independent contractors and represent clients ineligible for representation by PDO due to legally recognized conflicts of interest.

On the Web

For more information, visit ods.delaware.gov.



Performance Measures

IPU	Performance Measure Name	Fiscal Year 2024 Actual	Fiscal Year 2025 Budget	Fiscal Year 2026 Governor's Recommended
15-02-02	<i>Public Defender</i>			
	# of appeals closed statewide*	43	60	60
	Average # of cases per attorney per year:			
	Superior Court	285	429	429
	Court of Common Pleas	677	689	689
	Family Court	262	288	288
	# of client service items produced per Forensic Social Specialist	44	60	60
	# of days from imprisonment to intake interview for incarcerated clients	3.1	3	2.5
	# of days from interview to date client file is opened	1.2	1	1
Partners For Justice Advocates:	# of cases supported	512	487	487
	% of service goals successfully met	81	65	65
15-02-03	<i>Office of Conflicts Counsel</i>			
	Total # of conflict cases per year:			
	Family Court	2,114	2,000	2,000
	Court of Common Pleas	2,203	2,500	2,500
	Superior Court	1,100	1,300	1,300
	# of Rule 61 post-conviction cases	25	25	25
# of capital and non-capital cases	25	30	30	