

NORTH CAROLINA COURTS

Statistical and Operational Report



COURT PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Court Programs Report

Table of Contents

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

- 3 Child custody and visitation mediation
- 6 Drug treatment court
- 9 Family court
- 10 Family financial settlement
- 13 Superior court mediated settlement conferences
- 16 Court-ordered arbitration
- 20 Clerk's mediation program
- 22 Interpreting services
- 22 Court improvement program

Child Custody and Visitation Mediation

Pursuant to G.S. 7A-494, the NCAOC is required to provide statewide, uniform child custody mediation services to assist parents to resolve custody and/or visitation lawsuits. G.S. 7B-202 authorizes the NCAOC to establish in phases a statewide permanency mediation program in cases in which a juvenile is alleged or has been adjudicated to be abused, neglected, or dependent, or in which a petition or motion to terminate a parent's rights has been filed.

The Child Custody Mediation Program, first established in 1983, provides a professional and neutral third party to help parties develop a consensual parenting agreement and avoid a traditional adversarial trial by a judge to determine the best way to parent their children. During SFY 2010 - 2011, custody mediators conducted 10,035 mediation sessions and drafted 6,301 parenting agreements, resolving issues in over 50 percent of the cases sent to mediation.

For more information on these programs, including annual reports, rules and best practices, visit www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Child/Default.asp

Child custody and visitation mediation, caseload by district

District	Caseload information			Cases closed				Agreements			Sessions	
	Begin pending (7/1/10)	Cases referred (includes new and reopened cases)	Total caseload	Cases closed: Mediated*	Cases closed: Not mediated**	Total cases closed	End pending (6/30/11)	Agreements drafted (first draft only)***	Agreements signed	Consent orders (if known)	# of mediation sessions held	# of third party cases
1	28	233	261	202	24	266	35	115	82	4	199	15
2	1	115	116	60	52	112	4	53	3	24	96	1
3A	47	165	212	154	54	208	4	90	33	5	170	6
4	178	393	571	305	87	392	179	213	78	35	473	17
5	47	574	621	308	236	544	77	154	65	0	300	25
6A	13	95	108	70	23	93	15	48	43	0	96	11
6B	19	74	93	46	22	68	25	28	21	2	64	6
7	8	361	369	191	76	267	102	260	158	29	289	9
8	3	312	315	194	89	283	32	139	107	21	305	12
9	8	146	154	123	19	142	12	66	41	7	171	4
9A	4	51	55	43	6	49	6	33	23	2	75	5
10	91	1,596	1,687	905	724	1,629	58	513	414	3	1,184	7
11	62	472	534	314	172	486	48	143	0	0	314	4
12	567	1,371	1,938	644	1,010	1,654	284	386	258	211	634	24
13	20	340	360	328	25	353	7	295	169	68	337	17
14	81	285	366	193	94	287	79	73	73	14	167	9
15A	33	192	225	172	20	192	33	117	87	12	342	8
15B	3	167	170	156	7	163	7	128	92	25	159	4
16A	0	55	55	44	7	51	4	32	13	2	44	3
16B	6	222	228	182	37	219	9	199	113	42	250	17
17A	16	103	119	93	11	104	15	48	40	1	122	15
17B	10	152	162	127	14	141	21	67	60	1	156	9
18	112	850	962	706	153	859	103	459	362	0	797	30
19A	100	268	368	240	31	271	97	161	136	10	303	16

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District	Caseload information			Cases closed				Agreements			Sessions	
	Begin pending (7/1/09)	Cases referred (includes new and reopened cases)	Total caseload	Cases closed: Mediated*	Cases closed: Not mediated**	Total cases closed	End pending (6/30/10)	Agreements drafted (first draft only)***	Agreements signed	Consent orders (if known)	# of mediation sessions held	# of third party cases
19B	45	450	495	318	132	450	45	205	131	24	445	15
19C	68	237	305	200	30	230	75	135	113	2	268	14
20A	26	210	236	149	69	218	18	108	77	6	194	7
20B	55	339	394	246	122	368	26	170	111	1	288	2
21	73	434	507	339	103	442	65	179	32	5	417	11
22A	37	100	137	60	30	90	47	52	23	3	69	0
22B	26	135	161	80	23	103	58	68	36	3	131	0
23	36	220	256	174	62	236	20	110	85	1	230	9
24	49	139	188	101	26	127	61	81	73	22	123	0
25	81	629	710	435	119	654	56	215	142	0	434	20
26	96	1,519	1,615	823	665	1,488	127	493	330	16	854	46
27A	131	207	338	241	37	278	60	97	67	35	216	12
27B	113	185	298	188	34	222	76	37	37	26	184	9
28	260	633	893	423	203	626	267	261	189	20	661	19
29A	25	174	199	153	22	175	24	127	70	12	187	20
29B	4	225	229	182	46	228	1	115	68	31	208	3
30	54	204	258	152	71	223	35	68	26	0	186	18
Total	2,636	14,632	17,268	10,064	4,887	14,951	2,317	6,341	4,081	725	12,142	479

* Cases mediated includes at least one face to face session with both parties and a two hour group orientation session.

** Cases not mediated includes a party's failure to appear, a voluntary dismissal, court exemption, inappropriate cases (domestic violence, serious substance abuse, etc.), or consent order signed in lieu of a parenting agreement. In most districts, parties living 50 miles or more from the district are exempt from mediation.

*** Parenting Agreement drafted includes complete parenting agreements, temporary agreements, partial agreements, or modified agreements. An unknown percentage of parenting agreements are drafted by the Mediators and are not signed, but are included in consent orders submitted to the court by private attorneys. An unknown percentage of agreements are drafted by the mediator and the parent decides not to continue the court proceedings but uses the mutual agreement with the other parent to structure their custody and visitation arrangements.

Sidenote: District 11 Agreements are generally signed in the attorney's offices, not in the mediation office. Therefore, the mediation staff cannot capture accurate numbers of signed agreements. Cases mediated result in full permanent parenting agreements, temporary agreements, partial agreements or modified agreements. Mediation sessions may also result in no signed agreements, or determinations that mediation is inappropriate (documented domestic violence, serious substance abuse, etc.)

Drug Treatment Court

Drug Treatment Court (DTC) is an intensive, judicially supervised court sanction that targets addicted, high-risk and high-need adult offenders, juvenile delinquents, and parents involved in the abuse/neglect/dependency cases. DTC is comprised of a team of court and community professionals who closely manage cases so that participants can become healthy, law-abiding and productive family and community members. Adult DTC is an intermediate punishment in the community that targets repeat offenders. Family DTC works with parents and guardians who are in danger of termination of parental rights due to the abuse or neglect of their children. Juvenile DTC works with community-based, high-risk, high-need juvenile offenders whose drug and/or alcohol use is negatively impacting their lives at home, in school, and in their community.

Drug treatment court typically lasts a minimum of one year and includes intensive outpatient treatment, frequent and random drug/alcohol testing, intensive case management, and for adult and juvenile offenders, probation supervision. The DTC participant works with the DTC team of community professionals to develop a single, comprehensive, treatment case plan addressing the individual's specific needs in regards to substance abuse, mental health, occupational/vocational, educational, housing, parenting and other areas of concern. Participants appear in court every two weeks before a specially trained judge who monitors the individual's progress on his/her treatment plan and compliance with other court conditions. The judge may order sanctions and/or incentives as appropriate to promote success. In SFY 2010 - 2011 Alamance County opened a Family drug treatment court.. New Hanover, Cumberland and Union Counties opened DWI courts. During SFY 2010-11 there were 46 operational adult, family and youth drug treatment courts in 22 districts.

For more information on Drug Treatment Court, including legislative reports, minimum standards and best practices, visit www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/DTC

Drug treatment court activity

Adult sentencing offenders drug treatment court

District – county	Number served	Number of exits	Of exits, percent graduated	Of exits, percent accessed more than six months of treatment
3A – Pitt	47	26	27	54
3B – Carteret	8	1	0	100
3B – Craven	9	1	100	100
5 – New Hanover	93	34	21	76
9A – Person	62	25	52	84
10 – Wake A	91	49	31	69
B	62	21	24	76
C	9	0	0	0
12 – Cumberland	48	28	39	96
13B – Brunswick	63	33	33	70
14 – Durham	47	15	27	87
15B – Orange	46	16	50	75
18 – Guilford	68	42	43	60
18 – High Point	44	29	28	52
19B – Randolph	38	9	44	89
21 – Forsyth	52	33	42	76
24 – Avery/Watauga	54	26	38	58
25 – Catawba	49	21	62	95
26 – Mecklenburg	57	35	43	77
28 – Buncombe	62	32	47	78
29A – Rutherford	41	20	50	90
29A – McDowell	37	17	41	100
Total/Average %	1,087	513	38%	76%

Adult DWI treatment court

District – county	Number served	Number of exits	Of exits, percent graduated	Of exits, percent accessed more than six months of treatment
26 – Mecklenburg A	85	56	61	82
B	88	62	65	82
12 – Cumberland	17	1	0	0
5 – New Hanover	25	2	0	50
20B – Union	20	4	50	50
Total/Average %	235	125	44%	66%

Adult deferred prosecution treatment court

District – county	Number served	Number of exits	Of exits, percent graduated	Of exits, percent accessed more than six months of treatment
26 – Mecklenburg A	56	35	57	83
B	51	29	76	90
Total/Average %	107	64	67%	87%

Family drug treatment court

District – county	Number served	Number of exits	Of exits, percent graduated	Of exits, percent accessed more than six months of treatment
3A – Pitt	4	1	0	0
5 – New Hanover	7	0	0	0
6A – Halifax	6	2	50	50
8 – Lenoir	18	12	50	50
8 – Wayne	22	13	31	62
12 – Cumberland	43	33	30	73
14 – Durham	29	22	56	86
15A – Alamance	2	0	0	0
15B – Chatham	3	0	0	0
15B – Orange	24	13	77	92
16B – Robeson	43	21	43	86
20B – Union	13	10	20	80
26 – Mecklenburg	56	34	32	59
28 – Buncombe	24	12	50	83
Total/Average %	294	173	31%	52%

Juvenile drug treatment court

District – county	Number served	Number of exits	Of exits, percent graduated	Of exits, percent accessed more than six months of treatment
14 – Durham	24	10	20	80
21 – Forsyth	34	7	43	71
26 – Mecklenburg	55	35	29	77
Total/Average %	113	52	31%	76%

Total drug treatment court activity

Type of DTC	Total number served	Total number of exit
Adult	1,125	513
DWI	235	125
Pre-sentencing	107	64
Family	294	173
Juvenile	113	52
Total	1,874	927

Family Court

Directed by Session Law 1998-202 §25, the NCAOC established pilot family court programs in 1999 in three judicial districts to bring consistency, efficiency and fairness to the resolution of family matters and to positively impact caseloads in the district court division.

Family courts are primarily guided by recommendations in the North Carolina Best Practices for Family Courts (October 2006) and national court performance standards promulgated by the National Center for State Courts. At the core of a Unified Family Court Model is the consolidation of a single family's legal issues before their assigned judge or team of judges. In a family court, one judge, or a team of judges, is assigned to one family.

As of July 1, 2011, the General Assembly has funded thirteen family court districts that serve 22 counties and 45 percent of North Carolina's population. Family court staff members provide active case management to monitor and support time standard goals for legal issues or specific hearings/events in the life of domestic cases and juvenile abuse, neglect and dependency and termination of parental rights cases.

The median pending age of cases is an indicator of how quickly domestic lawsuits move through the court system from the filing of the initial legal claim(s) to the disposition of these legal claim(s). For SFY 2010–2011, the median age of pending domestic relation cases (excluding IV-D child support) was 99 days in Family Court districts as compared to 322 days in non-family court districts.

For more information on Family Court, including annual reports and best practices, visit www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Family/

Family Financial Settlement (FFS)

In 1997, the General Assembly authorized the design and implementation of a pilot program for pretrial mediation of equitable distribution and other family financial cases (G.S. 7A-38.4A). The Supreme Court of North Carolina adopted rules on December 30, 1998, which became effective March 1, 1999, for pilot sites to use to implement the program. The Supreme Court revised these rules to make the program mandatory statewide by March 1, 2007.

The Family Financial Settlement Program creates a settlement opportunity for parties and their attorneys who might otherwise fight a protracted court battle over issues of property division, child support or alimony. Parties referred to the program will participate in mediation or another dispute resolution alternative such as early neutral evaluation or judicial settlement procedure. Once a settlement procedure is ordered, the parties and their counsel must attend, unless excused by the court. During mediation, the most commonly used procedure, the parties and their attorneys will sit down with a mediator to discuss and attempt to resolve the issues in dispute. If they are successful, the parties will settle their dispute on their own terms. They will also eliminate the need for their litigation to drag on or to result in a costly and often bitterly-fought trial. Parties who have been victims of domestic violence may be excused by the court from physically attending or participating in a mediated settlement conference or other settlement procedure.

For more information on Family Financial Settlement, including program rules, visit www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/FFS/

Family financial settlement conferences, caseload by district

District	Cases entering family financial settlement					Resolution of cases attending ADR conference				Cases not attending ADR conference			Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/11)
	Begin pending (7/1/10)	Ordered to mediated settlement conference	Ordered to judicial settlement conference	Ordered or submitted or other settlement procedure	Total cases pending	Resolved with ADR conference	Partially resolved with ADR conference	Not resolved with ADR conference	Disposed without ADR	Ordered removed from ADR	Disposed without ADR			
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	21	19	0	0	40	1	0	3	2	5	0	11	29	
3A	27	90	0	0	117	35	0	17	25	0	0	77	40	
3B	631	385	0	0	1,016	55	4	13	72	12	96	252	764	
5	182	268	0	0	450	53	5	19	101	0	0	178	272	
6A	3	18	4	0	25	14	0	3	3	2	0	22	3	
7	0	126	71	30	227	16	12	13	9	13	64	127	100	
8	14	39	0	0	53	9	0	5	22	0	0	36	17	
9	13	23	0	0	36	19	3	1	0	0	1	24	12	
10	209	342	0	1	552	60	16	65	97	6	39	283	269	
11	29	301	0	8	338	80	36	38	25	57	64	300	38	
12	300	399	150	0	849	64	17	66	266	67	0	480	369	
13	614	385	0	0	999	55	4	13	72	12	96	252	764	
14	2	40	17	2	61	26	4	11	12	0	5	58	3	
16A	50	28	0	0	78	14	0	8	0	5	21	48	30	
17A	12	44	0	0	56	14	1	10	7	0	13	45	11	
18	182	355	2	1	540	49	9	23	5	1	198	284	256	
19A	0	48	0	0	48	11	2	15	5	0	3	36	12	
19B	54	81	77	0	160	44	11	34	31	0	17	137	75	
19C	11	28	0	0	39	14	0	7	0	0	1	22	17	
20A	19	53	0	0	72	32	1	13	13	2	6	67	5	
20B	84	46	0	0	130	51	0	19	6	0	0	76	54	

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District	Cases entering family financial settlement				Total cases pending	Resolution of cases attending ADR conference				Cases not attending ADR conference		Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/11)
	Begin pending (7/1/10)	Ordered to mediated settlement conference	Ordered to judicial settlement conference	Ordered or submitted or other settlement procedure		Resolved with ADR conference	Partially resolved with ADR conference	Not resolved with ADR conference	Disposed without ADR	Ordered removed from ADR	Disposed without ADR		
21	67	14	0	0	81	4	0	1	0	0	34	39	42
24	34	41	0	0	75	17	2	13	24	0	0	56	19
25	141	156	0	0	297	40	6	30	44	21	1	142	155
26	535	72	126	0	733	61	2	28	0	3	56	150	583
27A	52	28	0	0	80	10	0	1	17	3	15	46	34
27B	93	117	22	1	233	0	1	2	113	0	7	123	110
28	62	217	0	0	279	24	3	9	131	1	0	168	111
29A	0	61	0	0	61	5	0	14	7	0	0	26	35
29B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	57	60	0	0	117	32	1	16	6	0	6	61	56
Total	3,498	3,884	469	43	7,842	909	140	510	1,115	210	743	3,626	4,216

Data not available from districts: 4, 6B, 9A, 15A, 15B, 16B, 17B, 22A, 22B, 23

Superior Court Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC)

A Mediated Settlement Conference facilitates pre-trial court ordered mediations for civil cases filed in superior court. Pursuant to G.S. 7A-38.1 and the Supreme Court of North Carolina's Rules Implementing Mediated Settlement Conferences (MSC Rules), referral to mediated settlement is mandatory for civil actions pending in superior court, unless the parties agree to participate in one of the other options available to them through the dispute resolution menu. The only cases excluded from mandatory referral are actions in which a party is seeking the issuance of an extraordinary writ or is appealing the revocation of a motor vehicle operator's license.

For more information on the Mediated Settlement Conference Program, visit www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/MSC/

Mediated settlement conferences, caseload by district

District	Cases entering mediated settlement conference			Cases exiting from mediated settlement conference process				Cases not attending ADR conference		Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/11)
	Begin pending (7/1/10)	Ordered to MSC	Ordered or submitted to other settlement procedure	Total cases pending	Reported settled prior to or during ADR recess	Resolved through ADR conference	Not resolved with ADR conference	Ordered removed from ADR	Disposed without ADR		
1	92	148	9	249	24	63	40	3	32	162	87
2	188	80	0	268	16	16	21	0	29	102	166
3B	457	179	0	636	17	67	67	0	9	160	476
4A	304	102	0	406	0	29	17	0	22	68	338
4B	0	109	0	109	0	22	13	1	2	38	71
5	830	393	0	1,223	0	66	50	3	253	372	851
6A	18	14	0	32	1	6	0	0	23	30	2
6B	42	53	0	95	0	45	0	0	0	45	50
7A	283	126	25	434	32	16	10	4	9	71	363
7B	91	179	0	270	38	50	44	1	15	148	122
7C	37	28	0	65	6	15	11	3	5	40	25
8A	31	43	1	75	0	10	6	3	17	36	39
8B	211	249	1	461	10	49	46	5	179	289	172
9	90	127	0	217	10	54	23	0	42	129	88
9A	33	38	0	71	1	7	3	7	4	22	49
10	365	957	0	1,322	21	326	217	25	386	975	347
11A	88	197	3	288	78	68	48	2	0	196	92
11B	157	449	0	606	21	63	47	7	186	324	282
12	74	374	0	448	167	121	65	34	0	387	61
13A*	229	66	0	295	2	17	15	0	32	66	229
14	288	367	0	655	37	122	75	1	146	381	274
15A	109	129	0	238	26	32	50	7	0	115	123

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District	Begin pending (7/1/10)	Cases entering mediated settlement conference		Total cases pending	Cases exiting from mediated settlement conference process			Cases not attending ADR conference		Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/11)
		Ordered to MSC	Ordered or submitted to other settlement procedure		Reported settled prior to or during ADR recess	Resolved through ADR conference	Not resolved with ADR conference	Ordered removed from ADR	Disposed without ADR		
15B	209	209	4	422	25	62	40	8	84	219	203
16A	18	40	0	58	3	6	8	1	6	24	34
17A	44	66	1	111	12	21	21	4	6	64	47
19A	114	162	0	276	21	45	42	2	40	150	126
19B	77	150	0	227	41	63	64	4	5	177	50
19C	82	130	0	212	24	38	41	1	21	125	87
19D	320	109	2	431	9	29	25	4	24	91	340
20A	63	78	0	141	25	26	27	0	7	85	56
20B	90	220	0	310	9	88	57	1	24	179	131
21	986	350	5	1,341	38	130	90	0	16	274	1,067
22A	724	253	48	1,025	23	76	61	0	48	208	817
22B	417	112	0	529	17	41	29	2	7	96	433
23	39	113	0	152	9	40	31	3	20	103	49
24	141	127	0	268	14	48	46	2	19	129	139
25A*	0	57	0	57	0	4	10	0	3	17	40
25B	200	173	1	374	94	35	36	9	0	174	200
26	630	1,557	45	2,232	330	430	440	8	204	1,412	820
27A**	200	170	0	370	28	49	60	2	32	171	199
27B	81	132	3	216	6	49	37	0	22	114	102
28	395	130	6	631	20	146	30	7	20	223	408
29A	62	109	0	171	0	17	7	4	21	49	122
29B	173	141	2	316	44	37	18	4	18	121	195
30A	124	105	0	229	0	17	22	12	78	129	100
30B	161	102	0	263	0	24	37	0	4	65	198
Total	9,367	9,302	156	18,825	1,299	2,785	2,147	184	2,140	8,555	10,270

Data not available from districts: 3A, 13B, 16B, 17B, 18 *District reflects Jan.-Jun. 2011 only **District adjusted begin pending number after local audit

Court-Ordered Arbitration

In 1989, following successful experience in a pilot program, the General Assembly authorized court-ordered, non-binding arbitration statewide. The program is currently operating in 68 counties. In these counties, civil cases involving claims for money damages of \$15,000 or less are subject to court-ordered, nonbinding arbitration in accordance with the Supreme Court's "Rules for Court-Ordered Arbitration in North Carolina," pursuant to G.S. 7A-37.1. The rules specifically exclude from arbitration certain property disputes, family law matters, estates, special proceedings, collections on an account, and class actions. Parties may, however, voluntarily submit many civil disputes to arbitration, with court approval.

According to statistical data reported by 60 counties in SFY 2010 - 2011, approximately 3,964 court cases were ordered to arbitration and 2,191 cases were arbitrated. The remaining cases were either exempt from arbitration or settled prior to the arbitration hearing. By rule, the arbitration hearing is conducted within 60 days of the filing of the last responsive pleading or the expiration of the time to file such pleadings. Parties may stipulate to an arbitrator or, if no agreement is reached, the court will appoint an arbitrator from its list of trained attorneys who have been approved to serve as arbitrators. Unless determined to be indigent, parties are required to pay a \$100 arbitration assessment fee for each arbitration hearing. Upon making application for payment to the NCAOC, arbitrators are paid a \$100 fee for each arbitration hearing they conduct.

As a rule, arbitration hearings take place in the courthouse and are limited to one hour. The hearings are conducted in a serious but relaxed atmosphere, with the rules of evidence serving only as a guide. Once the hearing is concluded, the arbitrator renders an award, which is filed with the court. A party dissatisfied with the award may proceed to a trial de novo by filing a written request with the court; otherwise, the court enters judgment on the award. According to statistical data reported by 60 counties in SFY 2010–2011, approximately 439 trial de novo appeals were filed.

For more information on Court-Ordered Arbitration, visit www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Arbitration/Default.asp

Court-ordered arbitration, caseload by district

District	Begin pending (7/1/09)	Cases ordered to court ordered arbitration		Total cases pending	Cases exiting from arbitration process							End pending (6/30/10)
		District court cases ordered to arbitration	Superior court cases ordered to arbitration		Cases scheduled for hearing	Cases exempted from arbitration	Cases arbitrated	Cases dismissed prior to hearing	Cases dismissed prior to entry of judgment	Cases completing process		
1	5	57	0	62	37	4	33	12	0	49	13	
3A	4	32	0	36	11	1	11	6	2	18	18	
3B*	19	13	0	32	20	0	11	5	0	16	16	
5	3	129	0	132	115	4	77	11	3	92	40	
6A	3	10	0	13	7	0	7	4	0	11	2	
8	7	48	0	55	36	5	30	13	2	48	7	
10	23	360	0	383	366	8	223	109	76	340	43	
12	7	834	0	841	568	29	223	311	19	563	278	
13	1	304	0	305	299	0	259	32	10	291	14	
14	0	150	0	150	103	1	71	32	13	104	46	
15A	19	32	0	41	34	0	29	4	0	33	8	
16A	4	6	0	10	4	1	4	4	0	9	1	
17A	4	21	0	25	20	4	16	3	1	23	2	
18	27	91	0	118	110	0	102	0	0	102	16	
19B	51	100	0	51	89	6	47	15	5	68	93	
19C	8	62	0	70	56	1	49	10	5	90	10	
20A	4	81	0	85	99	2	60	32	3	94	5	
20B	61	299	0	360	247	11	151	130	12	292	68	
21**	0	62	0	62	57	0	40	3	0	43	19	
22A	0	54	0	54	50	6	28	10	1	44	10	
22B	0	47	0	47	41	0	30	9	0	39	8	
23	12	28	0	40	29	4	25	8	0	37	3	

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District	Begin pending (7/1/09)	Cases ordered to court ordered arbitration			Cases exiting from arbitration process						
		District court cases ordered to arbitration	Superior court cases ordered to arbitration	Total cases pending	Cases scheduled for hearing	Cases exempted from arbitration	Cases arbitrated	Cases dismissed prior to hearing	Cases dismissed prior to entry of judgment	Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/10)
24	0	74	0	74	67	4	24	22	2	50	24
25	52	436	0	488	262	2	171	262	0	435	53
26	161	543	0	704	726	9	417	455	92	581	123
27A	44	61	0	105	82	1	47	17	0	65	40
27B	14	48	0	62	47	0	36	22	2	58	4
29A	0	7	0	7	11	0	6	0	0	6	1
30	0	56	1	57	44	10	24	10	3	44	13
Total	523	4,045	1	4,569	3,637	113	2,251	1,251	251	3,615	968
% resolved						3.13%	62.27%	34.61%	6.94%		

Data not available from districts: 15B, 16B, 29B

*Data reflects case activity from July 2010 to January 2011

**Data reflects case activity from July 2010 to October 2010. Program was suspended in January 2011 due to lack of staff.

Court-ordered arbitration trial de novo, caseload by district

District	Begin pending (7/1/09)	Appeals filed	Trial by judge	Trial by jury	Dismissal / other	End pending (6/30/10)	District	Begin pending (7/1/09)	Appeals filed	Trial by judge	Trial by jury	Dismissal / other	End pending (6/30/10)
1	1	3	3	0	0	1	19C	2	16	4	1	4	9
3A	4	4	0	0	1	7	20A	0	13	5	0	1	7
3B*	0	1	0	0	0	1	20B	30	25	17	3	9	26
5	0	13	0	0	0	13	21**	2	8	0	0	0	10
6A	3	1	2	0	2	0	22A	0	5	0	0	1	4
8	2	4	2	0	2	2	22B	0	4	1	0	1	2
10	0	58	13	2	27	16	23	9	11	7	0	2	11
12	16	20	5	0	6	25	24	0	9	2	0	4	3
13	0	14	12	0	1	1	25	10	18	8	0	11	9
14	0	19	3	2	3	11	26	127	137	25	23	42	174
15A	1	0	0	0	1	0	27A	4	21	4	3	17	1
16A	0	0	0	0	0	0	27B	10	11	3	0	10	8
17A	0	7	3	0	2	2	29A	0	3	2	0	0	1
18	2	12	4	0	6	4	30	0	8	4	0	3	1
19B	0	10	6	0	1	3	Total	222	452	132	34	157	351

Data not available from districts: 15B, 16B, 29B

*Data reflects case activity from July 2010 to January 2011

**Data reflects case activity from July 2010 to October 2010. Program was suspended in January 2011 due to lack of staff.

Clerk Mediation Program (CMP)

On May 23, 2005, the General Assembly adopted legislation, G.S. 7A-38.3B, establishing a mediation program for matters referred to mediation by Clerks of Superior Court. Rules implementing the new legislation were adopted by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, effective March 1, 2006, and the program began to operate. A clerk may refer any eligible matter to mediation, including guardianship, estate, and boundary and partition disputes. Some matters are not eligible for referral, including adoptions and foreclosures.

For more information on the Clerk Mediation Program, including program rules, visit www.nccourts.org/courts/CRS/Councils/DRC/Clerks/Default.asp

Clerk mediation program, caseload by county

County	Begin pending (7/1/10)	Cases ordered to Mediation			Total # of cases	Cases completing mediation						End pending (6/30/11)	Unsuccessful mediation	
		Estate	Boundary	Other		Estate impasse	Boundary complete	Other complete agreement	Other impasse	Other settled outside mediation	# of cases completing process			
Ashe	1	1			2							0	2	
Avery	2			2	4			2	1	1		4	0	1
Caswell	4				4							0	4	
Gaston	1				1							0	1	
Johnston	0		1		1		1					1	0	
Macon	0	2			2							0	2	
Wake	0	1			1	1						1	0	1
Wilkes	0	1			1	1						1	0	1
Total	8	5	1	2	16	2	1	2	1	1		7	9	3

29 counties reported no clerk mediation program (CMP) activity: Buncombe, Camden, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland, Craven, Currituck, Davie, Duplin, Durham, Franklin, graham, granville, Greene, Halifax, Hyde, Jackson, Lee, martin, McDowell, Moore, Montgomery, Nash, Orange, Person, Rockingham, Samson, Surry, Tyrrell, Union, Watauga, Wayne

Interpreting Services

The purpose of Interpreting Services is to facilitate access to justice in North Carolina courts for non-English speaking persons, with a particular emphasis on the state's sizeable Hispanic/Latino population. The program strives to meet the needs of the court and non-English speakers statewide by providing staff court interpreters (for Spanish language) in eight districts and, an easily accessible online Spanish Foreign Language Registry of NCAOC registered contract court interpreters for Spanish language interpreting needs, coordinating the assignment of foreign language interpreters for languages other than Spanish, and providing a link to the regional lists of licensed inter-preters maintained by the Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

The program is involved in the development of policy and guidelines for interpreters, advising the courts on the proper use of interpreters, training court officials on cultural and interpreting issues, and translating court forms. During SFY 2010 - 2011, the program trained more than 111 prospective court interpreters on the code of ethics and professionalism required of the court interpreter and provided skills-building workshops to those who qualified to sit for the North Carolina Court Interpreter Certification Examination (NCCICE). Seventy-two state and/or federally certified spanish court interpreters and 109 qualified court interpreters work throughout the state.

North Carolina is one of 43 member states of the National Center for State Courts' Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (CLAC). Interpreting Services administers the CLAC's oral proficiency examination as the NCCICE in all languages for which CLAC offers an examination.

For more information on Interpreting Services, including policies and training information, visit www.nccourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Foreign/Interpreters/Default.asp

Court Improvement Program

The NCAOC began using federal funds in 1995 to improve the performance of North Carolina's juvenile courts in abuse and neglect cases to achieve safety, permanence and well being for children in a fair and timely manner. Funds are used for local court improvement projects, conducting assessments, coordinating training, supporting and cosponsoring comprehensive skills-based training for judges and attorneys, improving technology and providing technical assistance.

In SFY 2010 - 2011 six district courts (1, 15A, 17B, 19A, 21, 22A) received federal funds for staff to provide case management activities and training. These districts focus on implementing best practices in juvenile court including one judge-one family case assignment, child planning conferences, and shared decision-making. During this period, more than 400 judges, juvenile court clerks, child welfare professionals, child advocates and attorneys for all parties in juvenile abuse/neglect/dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings participated in state, regional and district level trainings to improve their knowledge of juvenile law, best child welfare practices and court procedures.

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Court Programs and Management Services

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