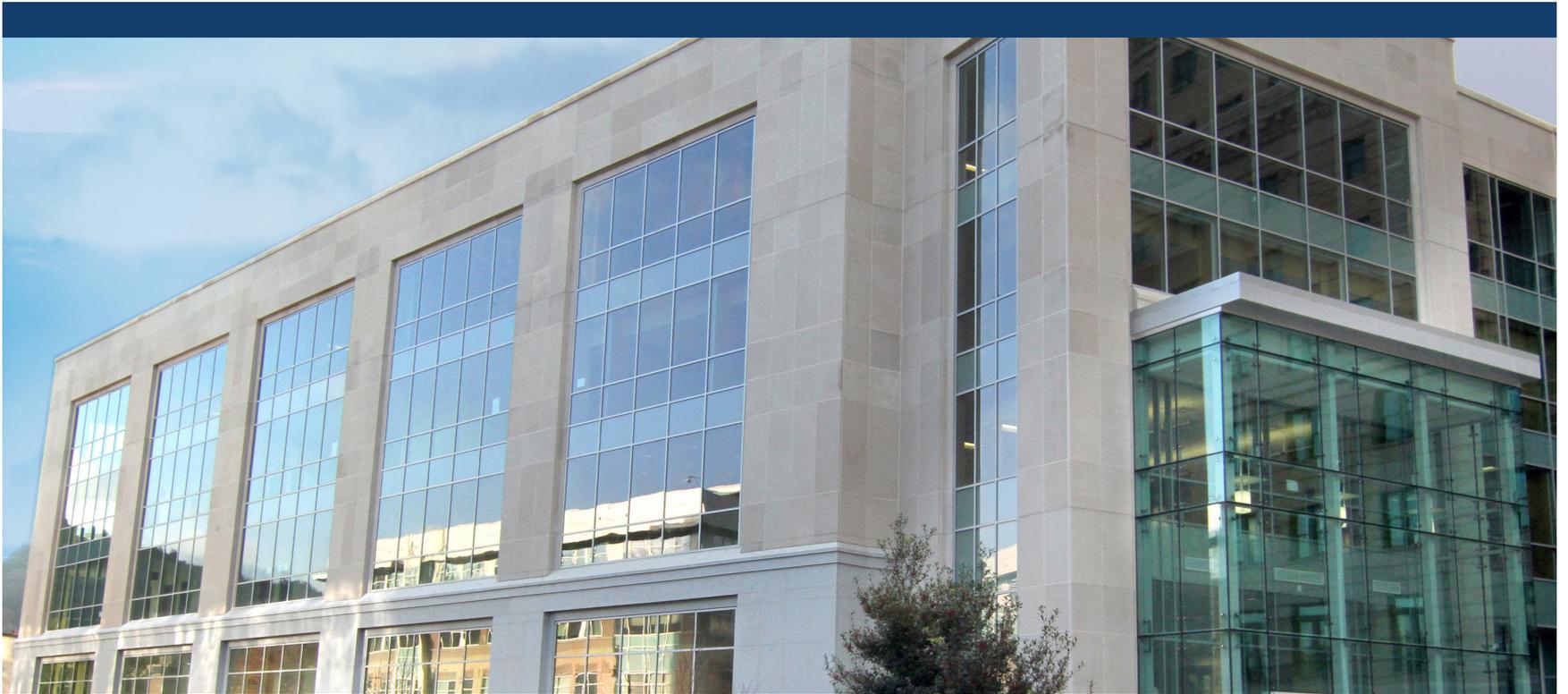




# NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

## *Court Programs and Management Services*



### **STATISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORT**

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

# Court Programs Report

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More information about the Judicial Branch is available in the Data and Information section of [www.NCcourts.org](http://www.NCcourts.org).

## Child Custody and Visitation Mediation and Permanency Mediation

In 1989, the General Assembly enacted G.S. 7A-494 requiring the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) to provide statewide, uniform child custody mediation services to assist parents in the resolution of custody and/or visitation lawsuits. The Custody Mediation Program provides a confidential and non-adversarial setting where parents meet with a professional mediator who is neutral to the outcome of their dispute. The mediator structures and facilitates a collaborative process that fosters a productive exchange of information. As a result, parents are afforded the opportunity to design a Parenting Agreement, which is incorporated into a court order, sparing the family from the stress and anxiety of extended litigation.

As of 2014, the Custody Mediation Program is available statewide. In fiscal year (FY) 2013–14, 10,445 custody cases were mediated statewide and 19,206 people attended custody mediation orientation. Mediators conducted 11,507 mediation sessions and drafted 5,824 parenting agreements.

In 2006, the General Assembly enacted G.S. 7B-202 authorizing 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. Goals for the program include the permanent placement of children in a timely manner within the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) guidelines, improving the participants understanding of the nature and purpose of the proceeding, as well as a reduction in the number and length of court hearings and a decline of re-litigation. Mediators are contract employees and utilize a co-mediation model.

For more information on Child Custody Mediation and Permanency Mediation Programs, visit [www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Child](http://www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Child).

## Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	Caseload information			Sessions			Agreements drafted			Cases mediated and closed				End pending 6/30/2014	
	Begin pending 7/1/2013	Initial custody mediation cases opened	*Returning custody mediation cases opened	Total caseload	Number of people attended orientation	Number of first mediation sessions	Number of subsequent mediation sessions	Number of full parenting agreements drafted	Number of temporary parenting agreements drafted	Number of partial parenting agreements drafted	Number of cases mediated and closed with parenting agreement	Number of cases mediated and closed with no agreement	**Number of cases not mediated		Total cases closed
1	77	226	89	392	367	185	16	121	0	1	90	85	133	308	84
2	4	107	9	120	199	94	1	53	0	0	14	68	21	103	17
3A	37	130	22	189	249	112	10	56	1	2	24	73	26	123	66
3B	0	71	0	71	123	44	2	18	0	1	3	35	23	61	10
4	181	340	61	582	571	324	9	137	15	18	55	263	66	384	198
5	49	471	149	669	745	377	34	201	4	35	75	285	213	573	96
6A	17	85	17	119	128	83	3	56	1	1	46	31	22	99	20
6B	17	62	9	88	80	52	2	32	0	0	31	19	16	66	22
7	261	212	21	494	420	197	3	142	0	0	115	149	83	347	147
8	78	150	52	280	300	171	2	79	17	0	71	93	29	193	87
9	66	154	21	241	287	143	21	58	15	2	49	87	22	158	83
9A	20	51	5	76	90	47	7	23	3	2	13	29	4	46	30
10	175	1,109	562	1,846	1,717	1,005	275	457	58	0	385	627	717	1,729	117
11	97	410	89	596	647	341	23	118	20	11	0	353	156	509	87
12	194	1,034	395	1,623	1,268	668	82	354	0	53	319	360	822	1,501	122
13	40	244	87	371	362	244	6	155	0	0	70	175	71	316	55
14	129	307	223	659	577	350	23	143	25	7	116	223	169	508	151

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## Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	Caseload information				Sessions			Agreements drafted			Cases mediated and closed				
	Begin pending 7/1/2013	Initial custody mediation cases opened	*Returning custody mediation cases opened	Total caseload	Number of people attended orientation	Number of first mediation sessions	Number of subsequent mediation sessions	Number of full parenting agreements drafted	Number of temporary parenting agreements drafted	Number of partial parenting agreements drafted	Number of cases mediated and closed with parenting agreement	Number of cases mediated and closed with no agreement	**Number of cases not mediated	Total cases closed	End pending 6/30/2014
15A	39	129	54	222	264	142	42	86	2	2	73	73	21	167	55
15B	60	92	24	176	141	74	31	57	2	1	31	55	33	119	57
16A	14	54	7	75	95	47	1	13	0	0	12	40	6	58	17
16B	66	209	30	305	310	144	13	76	0	3	48	106	87	241	64
17A	20	85	13	118	170	101	1	47	0	0	34	64	9	107	11
17B	35	111	31	177	215	140	1	63	0	0	29	96	9	134	43
18	171	501	300	972	880	686	66	309	82	17	361	350	179	890	82
19A	140	161	62	363	350	223	32	126	10	4	105	107	35	247	116
19B	42	364	87	493	676	341	4	165	0	0	109	239	114	462	31
19C	52	154	60	266	341	194	49	99	18	2	94	107	12	213	53
20A	29	173	54	256	287	143	4	88	3	2	67	79	65	211	45
20B	51	286	88	425	425	226	13	131	11	1	112	115	151	378	47
21	88	383	108	579	700	373	26	179	2	0	113	257	91	461	118
22A	30	134	8	172	191	85	0	26	0	0	16	73	44	133	39
22B	37	170	19	226	273	127	2	73	0	0	42	95	59	196	30
23	29	156	52	237	292	159	21	79	5	2	69	90	53	212	25
24	105	159	15	279	272	122	24	61	8	2	34	93	57	184	95

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## Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	Caseload information				Sessions			Agreements drafted			Cases mediated and closed				
	Begin pending 7/1/2013	Initial custody mediation cases opened	*Returning custody mediation cases opened	Total caseload	Number of people attended orientation	Number of first mediation sessions	Number of subsequent mediation sessions	Number of full parenting agreements drafted	Number of temporary parenting agreements drafted	Number of partial parenting agreements drafted	Number of cases mediated and closed with parenting agreement	Number of cases mediated and closed with no agreement	**Number of cases not mediated	Total cases closed	End pending 6/30/2014
25	72	475	228	775	924	492	20	249	14	1	163	343	215	721	54
26	217	1,147	234	1,598	1,764	868	28	463	29	38	373	486	383	1,242	356
27A	59	161	28	248	309	192	32	72	5	1	59	127	27	213	35
27B	60	139	43	242	282	152	43	58	16	3	55	79	38	172	70
28	286	385	315	986	787	378	39	154	71	17	184	218	282	684	302
29A	34	204	55	293	375	185	10	72	40	3	77	93	61	231	62
29B	30	180	51	261	293	184	58	80	1	0	29	140	49	218	43
30	49	173	36	258	337	154	13	56	7	3	36	126	62	224	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>11,348</b>	<b>3,813</b>	<b>18,418</b>	<b>19,083</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>5,085</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>6,606</b>	<b>4,735</b>	<b>15,142</b>	<b>3,276</b>

\* Custody/visitation issues that come to custody mediation office after the initial claim was resolved

\*\* Cases are not mediated for a variety of reasons: exemption, dismissal, entry of consent order, lack of service and failure of parties to attend mediation

## 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 comprises 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 affecting 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, and intensive case management, as well as probation supervision for adult and juvenile offenders. 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. During FY 2013–14, there were 30 operational adult, family, and youth drug treatment courts in 19 districts.

The North Carolina Drug Treatment Court Act of 1995 (G.S. 7A-790 et seq.) directs the NCAOC director to provide necessary staff for planning, organizing, and administering the Drug Treatment Court Program. A state advisory committee was created to recommend guidelines to the director and monitor local programs. NCAOC, along with the state Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee, has developed best practices and minimum standards for the operation of North Carolina drug treatment courts. Judicial districts desiring to operate an adult, juvenile, or family drug treatment court program must operate under the North Carolina Drug Treatment Court Act of 1995 and established guidelines.

As of July 1, 2011, the General Assembly eliminated all state funding for drug treatment court coordinators responsible for managing local drug treatment courts. However, the majority of drug treatment courts were able to continue after July 2011. County, municipal, and other government entities recognized the value of these treatment courts to their communities and secured funding to continue the staff management of these courts.

Due to inconsistencies in current data collection practices at the local level, official data will not be published for FY 2013–14.

For more information about Drug Treatment Court, including legislative reports, minimum standards, and best practices, visit [www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/DTC](http://www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/DTC).

## 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 June 30, 2014, the General Assembly has funded 13 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.

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 claims to the disposition of these legal claim(s). For FY 2013–14, the median age of pending domestic relation cases (excluding IV-D child support) was 96 days in family court districts as compared to 362 days in non-family court districts.

For more information about family court, including annual reports and best practices, visit [www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Family](http://www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Family).

## Family Financial Settlement Conferences

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 pending litigation to linger 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 about family financial settlement, including program rules, visit [www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/FFS](http://www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/FFS).

## Family Financial Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

District	Cases ordered to alternative dispute resolution (ADR)					Cases exiting from alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process								
	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	Ordered to mediation settlement conference	Voluntarily submitted to mediation settlement conference	Ordered to judicial settlement conference	Submitted to other settlement procedure	Total caseload	Ordered exempt from ADR	Settled prior to or during ADR recess	All issues resolved with ADR	Some issues resolved with ADR	No issues resolved with ADR	Disposed without ADR	Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/2014)
2	22	20	0	0	0	42	1	0	3	2	1	0	7	35
3A	14	43	0	0	0	57	0	0	24	0	9	11	44	13
3B	1,155	329	0	0	0	1,484	1	0	32	9	11	4	57	1,427
4	50	0	35	0	1	86	1	2	16	1	3	0	23	63
5	302	241	0	0	0	543	0	0	49	0	16	174	239	304
6A	5	6	0	3	0	14	0	0	8	1	2	3	14	0
7	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
8	15	35	0	0	0	50	4	0	5	0	18	6	33	17
9A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
10	175	253	6	6	12	452	0	1	61	7	39	163	271	181
11	252	29	5	0	0	286	15	6	28	2	27	15	93	193
12	116	338	0	53	0	507	34	0	33	14	31	180	292	215
13	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14	4	59	0	0	0	63	0	0	3	2	2	0	7	56
16A	12	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	11
16B	0	59	0	0	0	59	0	0	3	2	2	0	7	52
17A	24	37	2	0	0	63	0	2	11	4	11	14	42	21

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## Family Financial Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

District	Cases ordered to alternative dispute resolution (ADR)					Cases exiting from alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process									End pending (6/30/2014)
	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	Ordered to mediation settlement conference	Voluntarily submitted to mediation settlement conference	Ordered to judicial settlement conference	Submitted to other settlement procedure	Total caseload	Ordered exempt from ADR	Settled prior to or during ADR recess	All issues resolved with ADR	Some issues resolved with ADR	No issues resolved with ADR	Disposed without ADR	Cases completing process		
18	501	257	0	0	0	758	1	3	43	6	16	192	261	497	
19A	5	61	0	0	0	66	0	0	22	6	20	18	66	0	
19B	60	57	6	37	0	160	8	40	43	4	21	6	122	38	
19C	1	38	1	0	0	40	0	0	16	2	8	9	35	5	
20A	13	48	0	0	0	61	1	2	30	0	6	10	49	12	
20B	94	136	0	0	0	230	0	0	52	0	0	34	86	144	
21	312	34	0	0	12	358	0	0	32	101	43	136	312	46	
22A	0	0	41	0	0	41	0	0	17	9	15	0	41	0	
22B	1	0	87	0	0	88	0	0	21	5	13	0	39	49	
23	0	51	3	0	0	54	3	1	9	2	11	20	46	8	
24	48	56	13	0	0	117	0	1	11	0	6	14	32	85	
25	221	165	30	0	0	416	13	2	32	7	33	72	159	257	
26	740	64	0	134	0	938	7	0	63	0	100	14	184	754	
27A	102	12	7	0	0	121	0	0	2	0	4	4	10	111	
27B	29	77	6	3	0	115	0	0	8	0	0	67	75	40	
28	71	123	0	0	0	194	0	0	39	12	21	79	151	43	
29A	44	52	0	0	0	96	0	2	5	2	11	28	48	48	
29B	91	10	1	0	0	102	0	0	1	1	1	10	13	89	
30	50	20	0	2	0	72	2	11	19	5	14	4	55	17	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,534</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7,749</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>4,833</b>	

Other districts reported no activity, or did not report status.  
 Note: Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

## Superior Court Mediated Settlement Conference

A Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC) 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 about the Mediated Settlement Conference Program, visit [www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/MSC](http://www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/MSC).

## Mediated Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	Cases entering mediated settlement conference (MSC)				Cases exiting from mediated settlement conference process							
	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	Ordered to MSC	Voluntarily submitted to MSC	Ordered or submitted to other settlement procedure	Total caseload	Ordered removed from MSC	Reported settled prior to or during MSC recess	Resolved through MSC	Not resolved through MSC	Disposed without MSC session	Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/2014)
1	111	57	8	1	177	3	0	35	27	14	79	98
2	128	71	0	0	199	0	0	25	24	12	61	138
3A	82	142	15	0	239	0	28	52	62	23	165	74
3B	446	90	0	0	536	0	0	24	35	8	67	469
4A	27	45	1	0	73	0	0	13	15	30	58	15
4B	115	108	3	0	226	0	0	21	20	79	120	106
5	945	115	0	0	1,060	0	21	68	47	224	360	700
6A	22	44	0	0	66	0	1	10	5	2	18	48
6B	79	6	0	0	85	0	0	1	4	5	10	75
7A	14	34	0	0	48	0	3	4	6	0	13	35
7BC	184	159	1	0	344	2	20	78	38	21	159	185
8A	62	36	0	0	98	4	1	16	10	16	47	51
8B	209	153	0	1	363	8	9	23	19	106	165	198
9	113	103	3	3	222	2	0	49	22	36	109	113
9A	72	28	0	0	100	1	3	6	9	0	19	81
10	163	994	8	0	1,165	8	188	308	153	66	723	442
11A	237	129	4	1	371	1	12	23	22	21	79	292
11B	272	290	0	0	562	8	0	32	34	12	86	476
12	115	354	0	0	469	37	102	123	93	0	355	114

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## Mediated Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	Cases entering mediated settlement conference (MSC)				Cases exiting from mediated settlement conference process							
	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	Ordered to MSC	Voluntarily submitted to MSC	Ordered or submitted to other settlement procedure	Total caseload	Ordered removed from MSC	Reported settled prior to or during MSC recess	Resolved through MSC	Not resolved through MSC	Disposed without MSC session	Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/2014)
13A	229	84	0	0	313	0	1	29	20	49	99	214
13B	72	102	0	1	175	0	2	33	31	45	111	64
14	522	294	0	0	816	0	1	89	43	30	163	653
15A	110	112	0	1	223	2	34	34	26	7	103	120
15B	249	189	1	13	452	5	26	34	27	62	154	298
16A	7	58	1	0	66	0	1	18	21	6	46	20
16B	6	56	0	0	62	0	2	35	25	0	62	0
17A	26	48	0	0	74	0	2	0	0	0	2	72
17B	365	58	1	0	424	0	1	18	21	6	46	378
18	136	536	0	0	672	0	0	169	124	117	410	262
19A	76	125	11	0	212	1	24	38	62	27	152	60
19B	55	101	2	0	158	3	4	30	48	14	99	59
19C	71	130	1	0	202	1	14	30	44	37	126	76
19D	392	130	1	0	523	1	14	30	44	37	126	397
20A	36	53	14	0	103	0	2	19	20	15	56	47
20B	72	155	0	1	228	2	0	43	36	36	117	111
21	1,634	530	4	9	2,177	1	0	87	82	39	209	1,968
22A	217	151	0	16	384	2	17	59	50	42	170	214
22B	334	76	12	0	422	0	5	22	19	7	53	369

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## Mediated Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	Cases entering mediated settlement conference (MSC)				Cases exiting from mediated settlement conference process							
	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	Ordered to MSC	Voluntarily submitted to MSC	Ordered or submitted to other settlement procedure	Total caseload	Ordered removed from MSC	Reported settled prior to or during MSC recess	Resolved through MSC	Not resolved through MSC	Disposed without MSC session	Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/2014)
23	79	84	6	0	169	3	14	19	24	13	73	96
24	133	91	10	0	234	3	4	36	30	34	107	127
25A	248	80	0	46	374	0	0	19	21	0	40	334
25B	234	109	0	0	343	0	0	0	0	56	56	287
26	639	1,129	81	12	1,861	29	168	343	333	45	918	943
27A	248	119	0	0	367	0	0	42	36	14	92	275
27B	2	76	8	0	86	0	0	29	16	10	55	31
28	333	98	1	1	433	0	1	4	17	7	29	404
29A	196	55	10	1	262	0	3	21	5	24	53	209
29B	228	83	10	0	321	1	28	36	29	3	97	224
30A	138	111	0	2	251	2	0	23	18	84	127	124
30B	240	118	0	0	358	2	0	26	20	11	59	299
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,723</b>	<b>8,099</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>19,148</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>6,703</b>	<b>12,445</b>

Note: Some begin pending numbers changed by 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 71 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.

By rule, the arbitration hearing is scheduled to begin within 60 days after (i) the docketing of an appeal from a magistrate's judgment, (ii) the filing of the last responsive pleading, or (iii) the expiration of the time allowed for the filing of such pleading. 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 pro rata share of 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.

For more information about Court-Ordered Arbitration, visit [www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Arbitration/Default.asp](http://www.NCcourts.org/Citizens/CPrograms/Arbitration/Default.asp).

## Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

District	Cases ordered to court-ordered arbitration			Cases exiting from arbitration process						
	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	District court cases ordered to arbitration	Total caseload	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 (6/30/2014)
1	4	38	42	37	2	27	7	0	36	6
3A	16	63	79	43	0	29	13	0	42	37
3B	9	23	32	20	0	15	6	0	21	11
5	45	133	178	111	0	54	7	0	61	117
6A	2	9	11	9	0	4	3	0	7	4
8	5	43	48	18	5	17	20	2	42	6
10	64	508	572	515	3	292	92	69	387	185
12	66	664	730	275	3	124	542	7	669	61
14	20	124	144	111	1	108	35	13	144	0
15A	5	15	20	15	1	9	6	0	16	4
16A	5	14	19	12	3	10	3	0	16	3
17A	0	15	15	15	0	11	3	0	14	1
18*	52	13	65	10	0	5	0	0	5	60
19B	38	36	74	31	1	13	10	1	24	50
19C	7	66	73	56	0	27	32	0	59	14
20A	14	32	46	23	2	10	5	0	17	29
20B	103	178	281	137	2	70	101	6	173	108

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## Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

District	Cases ordered to court-ordered arbitration			Cases exiting from arbitration process						
	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	District court cases ordered to arbitration	Total caseload	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 (6/30/2014)
22A	12	28	40	35	5	16	12	1	33	7
22B	9	21	30	23	1	16	8	3	25	5
23	4	13	17	10	3	11	3	1	17	0
24	18	78	96	53	11	23	25	0	59	37
25	63	660	723	200	0	102	519	0	621	102
26	134	463	597	517	1	330	117	81	448	149
27B	16	55	71	36	0	32	17	1	49	22
30	38	41	79	28	5	9	7	1	21	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>3,333</b>	<b>4,082</b>	<b>2,340</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>1,076</b>
<b>Percent Resolved</b>					<b>2%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>53%</b>			

\* High Point division only

Note: Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

## Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

District	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	Appeals filed	Trial by judge	Trial by jury	Dismissal / other	End pending (6/30/2014)
1	1	12	8	0	0	5
3A	2	10	1	1	2	8
3B	0	2	0	0	1	1
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6A	0	2	1	0	1	0
8	1	4	2	0	3	0
10	12	71	31	3	38	11
12	8	29	16	0	15	6
14	6	28	8	2	11	13
15A	0	0	0	0	0	0
16A	0	4	1	0	0	3
17A	1	3	2	0	0	2
18*	0	2	1	0	1	0

District	Begin pending (7/1/2013)	Appeals filed	Trial by judge	Trial by jury	Dismissal / other	End pending (6/30/2014)
19B	1	22	6	0	1	16
19C	7	11	2	0	8	8
20A	2	7	0	0	0	9
20B	14	14	5	0	4	19
22A	0	3	2	0	0	1
22B	0	2	0	0	1	1
23	6	5	6	3	0	2
24	0	6	3	0	0	3
25	5	16	9	0	6	6
26	18	92	21	9	47	33
27B	13	7	3	1	11	5
30	0	4	0	0	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>156</b>

\* High Point division only

Note: Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

## Clerk Mediation Program

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](http://www.NCcourts.org/courts/CRS/Councils/DRC/Clerks/Default.asp).

## Clerk Mediation Program, Caseload by District

County	Cases ordered to Clerk Mediation Program (CMP)				Cases completing mediation process																				
	Begin pending (7/1/13)	Guardianship (G)	Estate (E)	Boundary (B)	Other (O)	Total # of CMP cases	G - Complete	G - Partial	G - Impasse	G - Settled outside mediation	E - Complete	E - Partial	E - Impasse	E - Settled outside mediation	B - Complete	B - Partial	B - Impasse	B - Settled outside mediation	O - Complete	O - Partial	O - Impasse	O - Settled outside mediation	# of cases completing process	End pending (6/30/14)	Unsuccessful mediation; heard by clerk
Forsyth	0				5	5															1	1	4		
Orange	0				1	1																	0	1	
Wake	0	1				1	1																1	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>														<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>		

Sixty-three counties reported that they had no cases currently pending or are not using CMP at this time. Those counties are: Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Burke, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Henderson, Hoke, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lee, McDowell, Macon, Martin, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Polk, Richmond, Robeson, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Warren, Washington, Watauga, Wayne, and Wilson.

Thirty-four counties did not report status.

## Office of Language Access Services (OLAS)

The purpose of the Office of Language Access Services (OLAS) is to facilitate access to justice in North Carolina courts for limited-English proficient (LEP) 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 LEP speakers statewide by providing 10 staff court interpreters (for the Spanish language) in eight districts and an accessible online Registry of Spoken Foreign Language Court Interpreters, coordinating the assignment of foreign language interpreters for languages other than Spanish (LOTS), and providing a link to the regional lists of licensed interpreters 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 standards for judicial officials, court personnel, and interpreters, advising the courts on the proper use of interpreters, training judicial officials, and court personnel on cultural and interpreting issues, and translating court forms and vital documents. During FY 2013–14, the program trained 128 prospective court interpreters on the code of ethics and professionalism required of the court interpreter and facilitated access to both live and online approved skills building workshops to those who qualified to sit for the North Carolina Court Interpreter Certification Examination (NCCICE). Seventy-four state and/or federally certified Spanish court interpreters, one state certified French interpreter, one state certified Mandarin, one state certified Vietnamese interpreter, 12 conditionally qualified Spanish, three conditionally qualified Mandarin, and two conditionally qualified Russian language court interpreters work throughout the state.

North Carolina is one of 45 member states of the National Center for State Courts' Council of Language Access Coordinators (CLAC). OLAS administers the CLAC's oral proficiency examination for court interpreters as the NCCICE in all languages for which CLAC offers an examination.

For more information on OLAS, including policies and training information, visit [www.NCcourts.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.NCcourts.org/LanguageAccess).

## Foreign Language Court Interpreters, Spanish

Certification level	Number of interpreters
A1 – Master Certified	19
A2 – Certified	55
B – Conditionally Qualified	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

## Languages Other Than Spanish

Certified court interpreters	Number of interpreters
French	1
Mandarin	1
Vietnamese	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

Conditionally qualified court interpreters	Number of Interpreters
Mandarin	3
Russian	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

## Staff Court Interpreter Usage

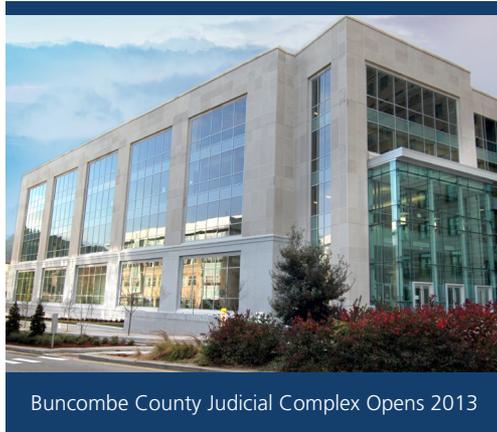
Type of proceeding	Number of proceedings	Percentage of proceedings
Criminal	9,378	84%
Civil	1,336	12%
Juvenile	372	3%
Special Proceedings	69	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,155</b>	

## Languages Other Than Spanish Interpreters (January – December 2013)

Language	Number of events	Language	Number of events	Language	Number of events	Language	Number of events
Albanian	1	Greek	1	Mandarin	68	Rhade (Montagnard)	10
Amharic	12	Gujarati	15	Marathi	1	Romanian	1
Arabic	81	Haitian Creole	25	Marshallese	1	Russian	57
Baanar (Montagnard)	15	Hindi	6	Mende	3	Somali	1
Bengali	5	Hmong	41	Mnong (Montagnard)	5	Soninke	1
Bosnian	7	Hungarian	4	Moldovan	1	Tagalog	5
Bulgarian	1	Japanese	1	Montagnard (unspecified)	2	Thai	3
Burmese	49	Jarai (Montagnard)	19	Nepali	26	Tibetan	1
Cantonese	7	Karen	10	Oromo	8	Tigrinya	19
Chinese (unspecified)	1	Karenni	2	Pashto	1	Twi	2
Chuukese	1	Khmer (Cambodian)	7	Pohnpeian	3	Urdu	5
Czech	1	Kohó (Montagnard)	1	Polish	4	Vietnamese	210
Farsi	6	Korean	32	Portuguese	3	Wolof	3
French	61	Lao	16	Punjabi	2	Zarma	2
German	2	Mam	1	Q'anjob'al (Kanjobal)	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>

## Forms Translations

Of the 60 NCAOC forms previously translated into Spanish, 40 have now been translated into Vietnamese as well.



Buncombe County Judicial Complex Opens 2013

*Photo by Cataldo Perrone, Buncombe County Public Relations*

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