

JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015



STATISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORT

of

COURT PROGRAMS
& MANAGEMENT



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.

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) 2014–15, 10,124 custody cases were mediated statewide and 19,227 people attended custody mediation orientation. Mediators conducted 11,100 mediation sessions and drafted 5,486 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.

Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	Caseload information				Sessions			Agreements drafted			Cases mediated and closed				
	Begin pending (7/1/2014)	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 (6/30/2015)
1	84	234	89	407	390	211	18	122	0	0	85	109	115	309	98
2	14	87	19	120	165	76	0	34	0	0	18	62	32	112	8
3A	66	164	28	258	279	152	7	68	5	0	39	112	34	185	73
3B	33	90	1	124	169	66	0	23	0	0	7	67	35	109	15
4	198	360	48	606	570	291	3	105	18	10	54	245	73	372	234
5	96	487	144	727	729	368	39	202	2	35	63	307	255	625	102
6	42	172	18	232	241	138	14	81	2	0	64	64	53	181	51
7	147	210	26	383	441	196	3	144	0	0	99	73	11	183	200
8	87	159	45	291	318	180	20	103	11	0	75	95	27	197	94
9	83	123	17	223	266	121	4	38	13	2	32	81	22	135	88
9A	30	42	3	75	77	34	2	19	2	0	10	28	7	45	30
10	117	1,141	549	1,807	1,712	941	140	417	25	0	322	625	739	1,686	121
11	87	421	63	571	642	324	16	92	34	16	0	318	169	487	84
12	122	896	394	1,412	1,367	710	62	387	0	68	309	440	599	1,348	64
13	55	263	75	393	454	271	0	155	0	0	83	193	67	343	50
14	151	337	224	712	592	352	26	159	46	1	132	211	176	519	193
15A	55	127	67	249	253	175	38	96	7	2	92	79	37	208	41
15B	57	93	34	184	149	87	35	51	0	7	18	59	37	114	70
16A	40	121	27	188	230	115	1	54	5	1	39	68	36	143	45
16B	64	187	43	294	329	166	8	78	0	0	49	121	69	239	55
17A	11	81	23	115	164	86	6	53	0	0	36	53	9	98	17
17B	43	106	44	193	202	138	1	65	0	0	52	93	17	162	31

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Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	Caseload information				Sessions			Agreements drafted			Cases mediated and closed				
	Begin pending (7/1/2014)	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 (6/30/2015)
18	82	540	248	870	995	640	63	249	99	16	273	354	151	778	92
19A	116	178	61	355	333	199	34	107	8	1	89	107	29	225	130
19B	31	298	96	425	589	264	18	140	12	2	86	169	148	403	22
19C	53	141	57	251	315	172	37	95	19	3	80	111	3	194	57
20A	22	99	37	158	202	101	1	49	11	0	40	56	40	136	22
20B	47	268	60	375	395	159	8	94	5	1	62	95	156	313	62
21	118	348	127	593	666	376	17	192	0	0	125	244	100	469	124
22A	39	151	15	205	220	96	0	37	0	0	20	73	63	156	49
22B	30	166	17	213	262	116	0	51	0	0	27	89	61	177	36
23	25	168	54	247	347	194	23	103	4	0	86	104	34	224	23
24	95	113	26	234	175	92	25	23	6	6	20	67	39	126	108
25	54	406	297	757	905	445	56	220	4	1	144	304	247	695	62
26	356	1,023	294	1,673	1,545	811	32	338	25	46	294	523	354	1,171	502
27A	35	174	42	251	351	169	36	72	7	4	60	109	20	189	62
27B	70	159	43	272	332	156	28	61	5	0	45	135	32	212	60
28	302	389	335	1,026	797	408	45	193	74	5	206	202	321	729	297
29A	62	158	53	273	304	176	29	90	25	3	80	102	42	224	49
29B	43	155	30	228	282	154	67	58	0	0	28	135	37	200	28
30	34	243	59	336	473	199	13	54	7	3	32	167	110	309	27
Total	3,296	11,078	3,932	18,306	19,227	10,125	975	4,772	481	233	3,475	6,649	4,606	14,730	3,576

*Custody/visitation issues that come to the 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 2014–15, 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 2014–15.

For more information about Drug Treatment Court, including legislative reports, minimum standards, and best practices, visit 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, 2015, 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 2014–15, the median age of pending domestic relation cases (excluding IV-D child support) was 97 days in family court districts as compared to 350 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.

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.

Family Financial Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

District	Cases ordered to alternative dispute resolution (ADR)					Cases exiting from ADR process									End pending (6/30/2015)
	*Begin pending (7/1/2014)	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		
2	35	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	31	
3A	13	67	0	0	0	80	0	0	19	0	22	21	62	18	
3B	1,427	350	0	0	0	1,777	1	1	39	5	14	0	60	1,717	
4	63	0	17	0	0	80	1	0	11	1	4	2	19	61	
5	304	256	0	0	0	560	0	0	44	1	13	129	187	373	
6A	0	12	0	3	0	15	2	0	8	0	3	1	14	1	
7	1	11	2	0	0	14	0	0	11	1	2	0	14	0	
8	17	21	0	0	0	38	5	1	4	0	6	9	25	13	
9A	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	
10	181	224	10	13	10	438	1	2	70	7	43	126	249	189	
11	193	32	1	0	0	226	2	9	16	6	16	1	50	176	
12	215	373	0	31	0	619	93	0	44	20	24	175	356	263	
13	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
14	56	57	0	0	0	113	0	0	1	12	5	0	18	95	
16A	11	14	0	0	0	25	0	0	9	1	1	4	15	10	
16B	52	57	0	0	0	109	0	0	1	12	5	0	18	91	
17A	21	38	0	0	0	59	0	1	13	3	10	11	38	21	

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Family Financial Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

District	Cases ordered to alternative dispute resolution (ADR)						Cases exiting from ADR process								
	*Begin pending (7/1/2014)	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 (6/30/2015)	
18	497	278	0	1	1	777	3	5	76	9	20	185	298	479	
19A	0	55	0	0	0	55	0	0	24	2	16	9	51	4	
19B	38	87	5	28	0	158	3	30	35	7	16	5	96	62	
19C	5	34	0	0	0	39	0	0	26	2	6	1	35	4	
20A	12	34	0	0	0	46	2	0	10	0	3	17	32	14	
20B	144	166	0	0	0	310	1	0	122	0	0	54	177	133	
21	105	2	49	0	2	158	8	0	44	4	11	91	158	0	
22A	0	4	28	0	0	32	0	0	12	6	14	0	32	0	
22B	49	2	81	0	0	132	0	3	9	5	7	0	24	108	
23	8	36	4	0	0	48	4	2	13	1	17	9	46	2	
24	85	41	1	0	0	127	0	0	9	0	8	6	23	104	
25	257	114	21	0	0	392	11	3	29	9	27	115	194	198	
26	754	79	0	67	0	900	2	0	47	2	69	9	129	771	
27A	111	3	20	0	0	134	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	132	
27B	40	56	1	3	1	101	2	0	22	0	1	53	78	23	
28	43	100	0	0	0	143	0	0	33	3	16	60	112	31	
29A	48	2	0	0	0	50	0	2	5	3	6	7	23	27	
29B	89	36	5	33	0	163	2	0	5	1	7	15	30	133	
30	22	22	0	0	0	44	0	5	28	1	6	4	44	0	
Total	4,833	2,663	245	179	14	7,934	143	64	846	125	418	1,119	2,715	5,219	

Other districts reported no activity, or did not report status.

*Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

Superior Court Mediated Settlement Conferences

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.

Mediated Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	*Begin pending (7/1/2014)	Cases entering mediated settlement conference (MSC)			Total caseload	Cases exiting from MSC process						Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/2015)
		Ordered to mediated settlement conference	Voluntarily submitted to mediated settlement conference	Ordered or submitted to other settlement procedure		Ordered exempt from MSC	Settled prior to or during MSC recess	All issues resolved with MSC	No issues resolved with MSC	Disposed without MSC			
1	98	35	2	0	135	0	0	10	14	1	25	110	
2	138	54	0	0	192	1	0	26	11	10	48	144	
3A	74	148	6	4	232	0	33	40	38	18	129	103	
3B	469	99	0	0	568	0	0	35	28	4	67	501	
4A	20	6	2	0	28	0	0	20	7	1	28	0	
4B	106	87	10	0	203	0	5	20	19	79	123	80	
5	700	0	6	0	706	0	23	79	61	149	312	394	
6A	48	42	0	1	91	0	1	13	8	13	35	56	
6B	75	0	0	0	75	0	0	2	1	0	3	72	
7A	35	41	1	0	77	0	1	7	6	3	17	60	
7B/C	185	130	0	0	315	8	7	72	41	16	144	171	
8A	51	42	0	0	93	0	3	7	10	15	35	58	
8B	198	120	0	3	321	4	10	37	29	83	163	158	
9	113	72	1	0	186	0	3	40	22	26	91	95	
9A	81	21	0	0	102	0	1	9	4	0	14	88	
10	442	689	4	0	1,135	7	306	257	160	1	731	404	
11A	292	107	6	2	407	2	5	38	24	26	95	312	
11B	476	292	0	0	768	5	0	45	28	10	88	680	
12	114	216	0	0	330	30	79	81	59	0	249	81	
13A	214	84	0	0	298	0	5	34	16	35	90	208	
13B	64	124	2	0	190	0	2	33	1	28	64	126	
14	380	297	1	0	678	3	0	106	48	25	182	496	
15A	120	111	1	2	234	0	2	30	27	29	88	146	
15B	298	129	0	8	435	2	8	33	16	51	110	325	
16A	20	87	2	0	109	0	11	32	18	16	77	32	
16B	21	21	0	0	42	0	1	24	17	0	42	0	

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Mediated Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	Cases entering mediated settlement conference (MSC)				Cases exiting from MSC process							
	*Begin pending (7/1/2014)	Ordered to mediated settlement conference	Voluntarily submitted to mediated settlement conference	Ordered or submitted to other settlement procedure	Total caseload	Ordered exempt from MSC	Settled prior to or during MSC recess	All issues resolved with MSC	No issues resolved with MSC	Disposed without MSC	Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/2015)
17A	72	37	0	1	110	0	2	26	6	0	34	76
17B	378	16	5	0	399	0	6	13	19	12	50	349
18	262	490	0	0	752	1	0	162	112	168	443	309
19A	60	127	6	0	193	1	21	41	32	31	126	67
19B	59	86	3	0	148	3	5	39	22	18	87	61
19C	76	93	0	0	169	1	16	35	32	27	111	58
19D	397	75	0	0	472	0	0	18	16	14	48	424
20A	47	20	5	0	72	0	0	5	8	8	21	51
20B	111	114	0	1	226	0	0	50	51	52	153	73
21	1,968	460	12	11	2,451	2	1	84	108	29	224	2,227
22A	214	133	0	1	348	1	17	38	43	38	137	211
22B	369	45	11	0	425	0	6	31	19	2	58	367
23	96	56	3	0	155	2	8	20	15	14	59	96
24	127	79	10	0	216	1	2	20	29	30	82	134
25A	334	75	0	10	419	0	0	26	24	3	53	366
25B	287	105	4	1	397	1	23	30	33	16	103	294
26	451	957	65	44	1,517	18	242	408	379	36	1,083	434
27A	275	138	0	1	414	0	0	43	35	35	113	301
27B	31	115	4	0	150	0	0	35	29	4	68	82
28	404	137	8	2	551	1	3	53	25	12	94	457
29A	209	20	3	0	232	1	1	13	3	26	44	188
29B	224	112	5	0	341	0	22	24	23	6	75	266
30A	124	87	0	1	212	2	0	34	6	17	59	153
30B	299	81	0	0	380	1	0	17	17	8	43	337
Total	11,706	6,712	188	93	18,699	98	881	2,395	1,799	1,245	6,418	12,281

*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.

Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

District	Cases ordered to court-ordered arbitration			Cases exiting from arbitration process						
	*Begin pending (7/1/2014)	District court cases ordered to arbitration	Total caseload	Cases scheduled for hearing	Cases exempt from arbitration	Cases arbitrated	Cases dismissed prior to hearing	Cases dismissed prior to entry of judgment	Cases completing process	End pending (6/30/2015)
1	6	24	30	16	4	19	2	1	25	5
3A	37	47	84	33	1	36	14	4	51	33
3B	11	31	42	29	0	20	6	1	26	16
5	117	182	299	139	0	88	63	5	151	148
6A	4	7	11	7	0	5	1	0	6	5
8	6	47	53	32	1	25	21	1	47	6
10	185	786	971	660	4	370	159	63	533	438
12	61	615	676	342	3	139	423	24	565	111
14	15	175	190	132	5	94	41	6	140	50
15A	4	17	21	20	0	18	0	0	18	3
16A	3	22	25	19	0	10	6	1	16	9
18	60	87	147	80	3	92	25	11	120	27
19B**	50	55	105	33	1	23	1	2	25	80
19C	14	92	106	88	0	44	48	7	92	14
20A	29	26	55	28	1	22	8	2	31	24
20B	108	204	312	148	0	88	88	8	176	136
21	13	72	85	58	1	58	12	0	71	14
22A	7	73	80	26	0	19	43	1	62	18
22B	5	21	26	16	0	14	5	1	19	7
23	0	14	14	13	0	13	1	0	14	0
24	37	49	86	40	4	21	15	0	40	46
25	102	659	761	285	0	142	560	0	702	59
26	149	502	651	592	2	368	114	86	484	167
27B	22	35	57	23	1	15	20	1	36	21
30	58	40	98	36	2	13	16	43	31	67
Total	1,103	3,882	4,985	2,895	33	1,756	1,692	268	3,481	1,504
Percent Resolved					1%	50%	49%			

*Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

**Moore and Randolph counties only

Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

District	*Begin pending (7/1/2014)	Appeals filed	Trial by judge	Trial by jury	Dismissal / other	End pending (6/30/2015)
1	5	11	12	0	1	3
3A	8	13	2	2	4	13
3B	1	4	0	0	2	3
5	0	0	0	0	0	0
6A	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	6	1	0	3	2
10	11	79	19	3	34	34
12	6	24	11	0	11	8
14	13	31	5	0	11	28
15A	0	0	0	0	0	0
16A	3	1	0	0	1	3
18	5	16	7	0	14	0
19B**	16	7	1	0	2	20
19C	8	23	5	0	13	13
20A	9	5	1	0	6	7
20B	19	24	7	0	12	24
21	3	21	8	3	2	11
22A	1	10	1	0	2	8
22B	1	2	1	0	0	2
23	2	2	2	0	0	2
24	3	7	2	0	3	5
25	6	21	7	0	9	11
26	33	118	32	16	53	50
27B	5	2	0	0	2	5
30	4	12	2	0	4	10
Total	162	439	126	24	189	262

*Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

**Moore and Randolph counties only

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.

Clerk Mediation Program, Caseload by District

County	Cases ordered to Clerk Mediation Program (CMP)				Cases completing CMP													# of cases completing process	End pending (6/30/15)	Unsuccessful mediation; heard by clerk							
	Begin pending (7/1/14)	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		
Avery			1	1		2									1				1						2	0	
Caswell			1			1					1														1	0	
Chatham			1			1				1															1	0	
Durham	1					1			1																1	0	
Mecklenburg		1				1						1													1	0	
Montgomery		1				1			1																1	0	
Orange	2					2	1		1																2	0	
Wake				2		2													1						1	1	
Wilkes		1	1			2							1				1								2	0	
Total	0	4	4	2	3	13	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12	1	

Sixty-one counties reported no cases mediated: Alexander, Anson, Ashe, Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Burke, Caldwell, Camden, Carteret, Catawba, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Graham, Granville, Greene, Halifax, Haywood, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Moore, New Hanover, Pamlico, Person, Pitt, Polk, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Union, Washington, Wayne, Wilson, Yadkin, and Yancey.

Thirty 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 2014–15, the program trained 109 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-eight state and/or federally certified Spanish court interpreters, one state certified French interpreter, one state certified Mandarin, one state certified Vietnamese interpreter, four conditionally qualified Spanish, four conditionally qualified Mandarin, and three 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.

Foreign Language Court Interpreters, Spanish

Classification levels	Number of interpreters
A1 – Master Certified	19
A2 – Certified	59
B – Conditionally Qualified	4
Total	82

Languages Other Than Spanish

Certified court interpreters	Number of interpreters
French	1
Mandarin	1
Vietnamese	1
Total	3

Conditionally qualified court interpreters	Number of Interpreters
Mandarin	4
Portuguese	1
Russian	3
Total	8

Languages Other Than Spanish Interpreters (January – December 2014)

Language	Number of events
Amharic	11
Arabic	115
Bosnian	5
Bulgarian	1
Burmese	46
Cantonese	13
Chuukese	5
Czech	2
Farsi	10
French	62
German	4
Gujarati	13
Haitian	25
Haka Chin	2
Hindi	11
Hmong	44

Language	Number of events
Italian	6
Japanese	1
Jarai	48
Karen	22
Khmer	11
Kinyarwanda	3
Kirundi	2
Koho	1
Korean	60
Lao	2
Laotian	17
Lingala	1
Mandarin	107
Mende	2
Moldovan	1
Montagnard	2

Language	Number of events
Nepali	30
Oromo	3
Pashto	11
Pohnpeian	2
Portuguese	1
Rhade	6
Russian	52
Swahili	5
Tagalog	6
Tarasco	7
Telugu	6
Thai	2
Tigrinya	15
Urdu	7
Vietnamese	170
Total	978

Forms Translations

133 NCAOC forms translated into Spanish

113 NCAOC forms translated into Vietnamese

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