



STATISTICAL
AND
OPERATIONAL
REPORT
of
COURT PROGRAMS
& SERVICES



2016-17

JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017

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More information about the Judicial Branch is available in the Data and Information section of www.NCcourts.org.

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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 staff 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) 2016 – 17, 10,411 custody cases were mediated statewide and 20,077 people attended custody mediation orientation. Mediators conducted 11,310 mediation sessions and drafted 5,455 parenting agreements.

In 2006, the General Assembly enacted G.S. 7B-202, authorizing the NCAOC to establish in phases a statewide permanency mediation program for 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 in 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 (7/1/16) | 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 (6/30/17) |
| 1 | 58 | 256 | 62 | 376 | 421 | 224 | 58 | 136 | 0 | 0 | 106 | 118 | 84 | 308 | 68 |
| 2 | 3 | 44 | 4 | 51 | 86 | 37 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 24 | 10 | 46 | 5 |
| 3A | 13 | 167 | 86 | 266 | 350 | 173 | 6 | 73 | 4 | 0 | 53 | 125 | 74 | 252 | 14 |
| 3B | 13 | 59 | 7 | 79 | 123 | 65 | 1 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 61 | 0 | 68 | 11 |
| 4 | 123 | 332 | 74 | 529 | 481 | 293 | 17 | 114 | 18 | 8 | 47 | 253 | 46 | 346 | 183 |
| 5 | 71 | 577 | 197 | 845 | 904 | 467 | 37 | 265 | 23 | 23 | 101 | 341 | 294 | 736 | 109 |
| 6 | 53 | 166 | 37 | 256 | 288 | 120 | 12 | 72 | 4 | 1 | 44 | 74 | 74 | 192 | 64 |
| 7 | 194 | 222 | 43 | 459 | 483 | 214 | 3 | 180 | 0 | 0 | 109 | 115 | 45 | 269 | 190 |
| 8 | 82 | 176 | 37 | 295 | 352 | 161 | 7 | 92 | 4 | 0 | 65 | 110 | 21 | 196 | 99 |
| 9 | 88 | 138 | 3 | 229 | 259 | 62 | 4 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 37 | 25 | 77 | 152 |
| 9A | 23 | 33 | 2 | 58 | 63 | 24 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 0 | 16 | 42 |
| 10 | 154 | 1,183 | 698 | 2,035 | 1,925 | 1,059 | 98 | 399 | 79 | 0 | 320 | 759 | 842 | 1,921 | 114 |
| 11 | 101 | 368 | 85 | 554 | 628 | 306 | 23 | 91 | 30 | 11 | 0 | 300 | 178 | 478 | 76 |
| 12 | 89 | 915 | 474 | 1,478 | 1,410 | 749 | 54 | 386 | 0 | 48 | 272 | 474 | 557 | 1,303 | 175 |
| 13 | 55 | 197 | 74 | 326 | 379 | 206 | 5 | 113 | 2 | 0 | 43 | 156 | 70 | 269 | 57 |
| 14 | 170 | 383 | 247 | 800 | 650 | 397 | 19 | 144 | 39 | 4 | 143 | 258 | 248 | 649 | 151 |
| 15A | 43 | 146 | 64 | 253 | 268 | 170 | 36 | 95 | 5 | 4 | 84 | 81 | 41 | 206 | 47 |
| 15B | 57 | 106 | 24 | 187 | 166 | 83 | 29 | 52 | 2 | 0 | 26 | 63 | 34 | 123 | 64 |
| 16A | 58 | 157 | 52 | 267 | 327 | 152 | 9 | 57 | 9 | 3 | 45 | 113 | 65 | 223 | 44 |
| 16B | 48 | 177 | 29 | 254 | 279 | 136 | 5 | 51 | 1 | 2 | 39 | 99 | 68 | 206 | 48 |
| 17A | 2 | 83 | 18 | 103 | 167 | 89 | 3 | 37 | 1 | 0 | 26 | 64 | 11 | 101 | 2 |

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Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

| District | Caseload Information | | | | Sessions | | | Agreements Drafted | | | Cases Mediated and Closed | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|--|---|----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | Begin Pending (7/1/16) | 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 (6/30/17) |
| 17B | 25 | 125 | 27 | 177 | 238 | 124 | 3 | 48 | 3 | 0 | 21 | 106 | 28 | 155 | 22 |
| 18 | 171 | 483 | 270 | 924 | 874 | 633 | 53 | 224 | 126 | 22 | 281 | 359 | 193 | 833 | 91 |
| 19A | 143 | 168 | 71 | 382 | 325 | 205 | 38 | 94 | 8 | 0 | 86 | 123 | 38 | 247 | 135 |
| 19B | 44 | 314 | 212 | 570 | 712 | 349 | 27 | 169 | 25 | 0 | 125 | 222 | 168 | 515 | 55 |
| 19C | 54 | 177 | 46 | 277 | 399 | 195 | 55 | 111 | 10 | 0 | 86 | 105 | 15 | 206 | 71 |
| 20A | 24 | 87 | 36 | 147 | 173 | 97 | 5 | 36 | 22 | 0 | 26 | 69 | 34 | 129 | 18 |
| 20B | 83 | 267 | 112 | 462 | 417 | 215 | 20 | 92 | 4 | 0 | 61 | 155 | 197 | 413 | 49 |
| 21 | 98 | 436 | 100 | 634 | 809 | 373 | 17 | 193 | 0 | 1 | 85 | 289 | 152 | 526 | 108 |
| 22A | 64 | 151 | 35 | 250 | 235 | 112 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 90 | 79 | 190 | 60 |
| 22B | 24 | 150 | 21 | 195 | 255 | 126 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 94 | 44 | 169 | 26 |
| 23 | 26 | 172 | 72 | 270 | 391 | 201 | 20 | 96 | 5 | 1 | 91 | 117 | 44 | 252 | 18 |
| 24 | 105 | 129 | 17 | 251 | 227 | 100 | 43 | 46 | 1 | 0 | 27 | 66 | 45 | 138 | 113 |
| 25 | 41 | 486 | 286 | 813 | 1,032 | 432 | 10 | 207 | 7 | 0 | 147 | 282 | 335 | 764 | 49 |
| 26 | 145 | 1,167 | 511 | 1,823 | 1,593 | 780 | 15 | 349 | 23 | 31 | 269 | 517 | 887 | 1,673 | 150 |
| 27A | 54 | 148 | 28 | 230 | 316 | 167 | 32 | 70 | 4 | 1 | 50 | 121 | 32 | 203 | 27 |
| 27B | 46 | 177 | 41 | 264 | 356 | 171 | 32 | 69 | 5 | 1 | 53 | 115 | 44 | 212 | 52 |
| 28 | 348 | 377 | 308 | 1,033 | 806 | 410 | 63 | 169 | 61 | 8 | 151 | 272 | 299 | 722 | 311 |
| 29A | 51 | 158 | 67 | 276 | 258 | 177 | 26 | 75 | 41 | 3 | 85 | 99 | 52 | 236 | 40 |
| 29B | 35 | 146 | 43 | 224 | 251 | 137 | 55 | 65 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 114 | 50 | 194 | 30 |
| 30 | 37 | 215 | 53 | 305 | 401 | 171 | 8 | 64 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 138 | 106 | 278 | 27 |
| Total | 3,116 | 11,418 | 4,673 | 19,207 | 20,077 | 10,362 | 948 | 4,702 | 576 | 177 | 3,320 | 7,091 | 5,629 | 16,040 | 3,167 |

*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 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 regard 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 2016 – 17, 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 2016 – 17.

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 family court, one judge, or a team of judges, is assigned to one family.

As of June 30, 2017, the General Assembly has funded 14 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 claims. For FY 2016 – 17, the median age of pending domestic relation cases (excluding IV-D child support) was 115 days in family court districts as compared to 442 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 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 | *Begin Pending (7/1/16) | Cases Ordered to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) | | | | Total Caseload | Cases Exiting from ADR Process | | | | | Cases Completing Process | End Pending (6/30/17) | |
|----------|-------------------------|---|--|---|---|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Ordered to Mediation Settlement Conference | Voluntarily Submitted to Mediation Settlement Conference | Ordered to Judicial Settlement Conference | Submitted to Other Settlement Procedure | | 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 |
| 2 | 13 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 20 | 14 |
| 3A | 37 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 12 | 22 | 54 | 13 |
| 3B | 37 | 142 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 179 | 2 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 6 | 11 | 45 | 134 |
| 4 | 20 | 1 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 43 | 3 | 0 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 32 | 11 |
| 5 | 185 | 252 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 437 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 2 | 15 | 169 | 254 | 183 |
| 6 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 5 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 8 | 3 | 36 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 40 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 23 | 17 |
| 9A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 129 | 274 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 424 | 0 | 4 | 96 | 15 | 49 | 85 | 249 | 175 |
| 11 | 104 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 213 | 9 | 1 | 32 | 8 | 15 | 100 | 165 | 48 |
| 12 | 218 | 267 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 486 | 40 | 0 | 51 | 3 | 19 | 181 | 294 | 192 |
| 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 7 | 34 | 5 | 19 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 46 | 19 |
| 15A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16A | 5 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 14 | 2 |
| 16B | 1 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 43 |
| 17A | 14 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 25 | 17 |
| 18 | 216 | 278 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 498 | 6 | 8 | 80 | 10 | 31 | 215 | 350 | 148 |
| 19A | 10 | 40 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 54 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 31 | 23 |

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Family Financial Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

| District | Cases Ordered to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) | | | | | Total Caseload | Cases Exiting from ADR Process | | | | | Cases Completing Process | End Pending (6/30/17) | |
|--------------|---|--|--|---|---|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| | *Begin Pending (7/1/16) | Ordered to Mediation Settlement Conference | Voluntarily Submitted to Mediation Settlement Conference | Ordered to Judicial Settlement Conference | Submitted to Other Settlement Procedure | | 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 |
| 19B | 71 | 104 | 7 | 26 | 0 | 208 | 3 | 44 | 52 | 2 | 22 | 5 | 128 | 80 |
| 19C | 14 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 28 | 12 |
| 20A | 7 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 33 | 2 |
| 20B | 125 | 138 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 263 | 0 | 0 | 122 | 1 | 0 | 56 | 179 | 84 |
| 21 | 128 | 195 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 340 | 6 | 0 | 52 | 2 | 21 | 117 | 198 | 142 |
| 22A | 2 | 1 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 6 | 29 | 0 | 51 | 0 |
| 22B | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 23 | 15 | 51 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 2 | 8 | 16 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 45 | 23 |
| 24 | 20 | 42 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 30 | 35 |
| 25 | 85 | 128 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 219 | 10 | 5 | 40 | 1 | 24 | 72 | 152 | 67 |
| 26 | 10 | 24 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 49 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 40 |
| 27A | 24 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 5 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 26 | 37 | 7 |
| 27B | 45 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 120 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 72 | 48 |
| 28 | 64 | 84 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 148 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 3 | 7 | 49 | 105 | 43 |
| 29A | 14 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 25 | 36 |
| 29B | 31 | 11 | 5 | 29 | 0 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 2 | 12 | 20 | 47 | 29 |
| 30 | 20 | 52 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 0 | 4 | 22 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 41 | 34 |
| Total | 1,693 | 2,572 | 164 | 105 | 6 | 4,540 | 89 | 82 | 931 | 78 | 364 | 1,263 | 2,807 | 1,733 |

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.

Superior Court Mediated Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

| Superior Court District | *Begin Pending (7/1/16) | Cases Entering Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC) | | | Total Caseload | Cases Exiting from MSC Process | | | | | Cases Completing Process | End Pending (6/30/17) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|--|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | 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 | 41 | 41 | 10 | 1 | 93 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 29 | 1 | 67 | 26 |
| 2 | 20 | 47 | 1 | 0 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 12 | 5 | 32 | 36 |
| 3A | 57 | 99 | 14 | 3 | 173 | 1 | 20 | 40 | 26 | 18 | 105 | 68 |
| 3B | 28 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 19 | 2 | 48 | 54 |
| 4A | 11 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 23 | 1 |
| 4B | 80 | 94 | 1 | 0 | 175 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 12 | 64 | 105 | 70 |
| 5 | 155 | 222 | 1 | 0 | 378 | 0 | 10 | 61 | 45 | 129 | 245 | 133 |
| 6A | 11 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 14 | 18 |
| 6B | 7 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 9 |
| 7A | 21 | 45 | 1 | 0 | 67 | 0 | 5 | 11 | 15 | 3 | 34 | 33 |
| 7BC | 62 | 208 | 0 | 0 | 270 | 5 | 15 | 65 | 33 | 42 | 160 | 110 |
| 8A | 25 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 38 | 18 |
| 8B | 66 | 111 | 0 | 0 | 177 | 0 | 7 | 20 | 5 | 70 | 102 | 75 |
| 9 | 53 | 97 | 12 | 0 | 162 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 20 | 41 | 99 | 63 |
| 9A | 6 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 12 |
| 10 | 242 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 242 | 15 | 21 | 105 | 76 | 19 | 236 | 6 |
| 11A | 40 | 93 | 6 | 1 | 140 | 2 | 9 | 40 | 29 | 17 | 97 | 43 |
| 11B | 138 | 245 | 0 | 0 | 383 | 36 | 0 | 28 | 27 | 138 | 229 | 154 |
| 12 | 125 | 257 | 0 | 0 | 382 | 38 | 77 | 63 | 49 | 0 | 227 | 155 |
| 13A | 53 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 123 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 11 | 39 | 84 | 39 |
| 13B | 57 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 112 | 0 | 16 | 1 | 13 | 37 | 67 | 45 |
| 14 | 107 | 219 | 0 | 0 | 326 | 5 | 24 | 81 | 26 | 66 | 202 | 124 |
| 15A | 42 | 132 | 0 | 0 | 174 | 2 | 0 | 31 | 24 | 15 | 72 | 102 |
| 15B | 58 | 105 | 0 | 1 | 164 | 0 | 13 | 37 | 18 | 45 | 113 | 51 |
| 16A | 42 | 66 | 2 | 1 | 111 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 71 | 40 |
| 16B | 32 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 4 | 23 | 14 | 0 | 41 | 5 |

[continued on next page]

Superior Court Mediated Settlement Conferences, Caseload by District

| Superior Court District | *Begin Pending (7/1/16) | Cases Entering Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC) | | | Total Caseload | Cases Exiting from MSC Process | | | | | Cases Completing Process | End Pending (6/30/17) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|--|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | 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 | | |
| 17A | 7 | 28 | 1 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 23 |
| 17B | 21 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 21 | 9 |
| 18 | 138 | 469 | 0 | 0 | 607 | 0 | 0 | 155 | 101 | 105 | 361 | 246 |
| 19A | 44 | 155 | 8 | 0 | 207 | 0 | 16 | 50 | 37 | 24 | 127 | 80 |
| 19B | 52 | 98 | 2 | 0 | 152 | 3 | 14 | 47 | 23 | 15 | 102 | 50 |
| 19C | 51 | 92 | 2 | 0 | 145 | 1 | 10 | 37 | 24 | 28 | 100 | 45 |
| 19D | 20 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 14 | 13 | 50 | 40 |
| 20A | 14 | 13 | 2 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 22 | 7 |
| 20B | 51 | 152 | 6 | 0 | 209 | 1 | 0 | 44 | 34 | 41 | 120 | 89 |
| 21 | 93 | 521 | 1 | 5 | 620 | 1 | 0 | 69 | 58 | 42 | 170 | 450 |
| 22A | 45 | 148 | 0 | 0 | 193 | 2 | 15 | 54 | 38 | 33 | 142 | 51 |
| 22B | 21 | 59 | 6 | 0 | 86 | 0 | 6 | 20 | 18 | 0 | 44 | 42 |
| 23 | 33 | 45 | 6 | 0 | 84 | 0 | 6 | 23 | 16 | 0 | 45 | 39 |
| 24 | 69 | 81 | 15 | 1 | 166 | 3 | 0 | 38 | 31 | 32 | 104 | 62 |
| 25A | 20 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 70 | 1 | 0 | 18 | 11 | 1 | 31 | 39 |
| 25B | 55 | 126 | 5 | 0 | 186 | 0 | 15 | 33 | 27 | 16 | 91 | 95 |
| 26 | 405 | 942 | 28 | 15 | 1,390 | 3 | 233 | 341 | 308 | 50 | 935 | 455 |
| 27A | 57 | 99 | 4 | 0 | 160 | 1 | 0 | 46 | 29 | 25 | 101 | 59 |
| 27B | 32 | 129 | 6 | 2 | 169 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 31 | 8 | 70 | 99 |
| 28 | 149 | 119 | 5 | 1 | 274 | 0 | 2 | 50 | 35 | 91 | 178 | 96 |
| 29A | 5 | 37 | 3 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 39 |
| 29B | 37 | 89 | 8 | 1 | 135 | 1 | 4 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 79 | 56 |
| 30A | 34 | 63 | 0 | 0 | 97 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 17 | 9 | 49 | 48 |
| 30B | 34 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 85 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 14 | 11 | 49 | 36 |
| Total | 3,066 | 6,015 | 166 | 33 | 9,280 | 132 | 566 | 2,028 | 1,450 | 1,359 | 5,535 | 3,745 |

*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.

Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

| District | Cases Ordered to Court-Ordered Arbitration | | | Cases Exiting from Arbitration Process | | | | | |
|--------------|--|---|----------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| | *Begin Pending (7/1/16) | 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 | End Pending (6/30/17) |
| 1 | 8 | 12 | 20 | 9 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 9 |
| 3A | 32 | 44 | 76 | 33 | 1 | 32 | 12 | 3 | 31 |
| 3B | 16 | 35 | 51 | 31 | 2 | 22 | 18 | 0 | 9 |
| 5 | 164 | 238 | 402 | 186 | 3 | 84 | 79 | 1 | 236 |
| 6 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 12 | 47 | 59 | 30 | 0 | 27 | 25 | 1 | 7 |
| 10 | 0 | 725 | 725 | 659 | 2 | 409 | 181 | 80 | 133 |
| 12 | 117 | 544 | 661 | 410 | 5 | 208 | 382 | 21 | 66 |
| 14 | 31 | 138 | 169 | 137 | 7 | 86 | 42 | 10 | 34 |
| 15A | 14 | 32 | 46 | 37 | 0 | 37 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| 16A | 11 | 18 | 29 | 18 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| 18 | 7 | 100 | 107 | 77 | 0 | 65 | 11 | 14 | 31 |
| 19B** | 6 | 21 | 27 | 19 | 0 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 19C | 18 | 78 | 96 | 80 | 0 | 42 | 30 | 0 | 24 |
| 20A | 0 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| 20B | 156 | 309 | 465 | 188 | 10 | 85 | 173 | 12 | 197 |
| 21 | 10 | 74 | 84 | 59 | 0 | 59 | 15 | 0 | 10 |
| 22A | 0 | 85 | 85 | 42 | 1 | 22 | 53 | 6 | 9 |
| 22B | 0 | 25 | 25 | 12 | 0 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| 23 | 4 | 12 | 16 | 14 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 24 | 30 | 35 | 65 | 28 | 3 | 8 | 27 | 0 | 27 |
| 25 | 63 | 723 | 786 | 381 | 0 | 190 | 503 | 23 | 93 |
| 26 | 180 | 461 | 641 | 573 | 2 | 481 | 112 | 69 | 46 |
| 27B | 38 | 22 | 60 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 44 |
| 30 | 43 | 37 | 80 | 17 | 0 | 15 | 18 | 1 | 47 |
| Total | 960 | 3,839 | 4,799 | 3,076 | 38 | 1,958 | 1,726 | 254 | 1,077 |

*Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

**Randolph County only

Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

| District | *Begin Pending (7/1/16) | Appeals Filed | Trial by Judge | Trial by Jury | Dismissal / Other | End Pending (6/30/17) |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3A | 8 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 13 |
| 3B | 2 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| 5 | 5 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 10 | 0 | 103 | 19 | 1 | 59 | 24 |
| 12 | 9 | 50 | 14 | 0 | 36 | 9 |
| 14 | 20 | 36 | 7 | 2 | 27 | 20 |
| 15A | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 16A | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| 18 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 19B** | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 19C | 11 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 10 |
| 20A | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 20B | 25 | 27 | 9 | 0 | 22 | 21 |
| 21 | 13 | 22 | 7 | 0 | 17 | 11 |
| 22A | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 22B | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 23 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 24 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | 7 | 28 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 17 |
| 26 | 47 | 137 | 41 | 8 | 73 | 62 |
| 27B | 1 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 30 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Total | 169 | 502 | 133 | 14 | 290 | 233 |

*Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

**Randolph County 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.

Clerk Mediation Program, Caseload by District

| County | Begin Pending (7/1/16) | Cases Ordered to Clerk Mediation Program (CMP) | | | | Cases Completing CMP | | | | | | | | | | | | Cases Completing Process During FY 2016 - 17 | End Pending (6/30/17) | Unsuccessful Mediation; Heard by CSC | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|--|----------|----------|----------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | | Guardianship | Estate | Boundary | Other | Total 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 | | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Buncombe | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Caswell | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Forsyth | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Macon | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Mecklenburg | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Montgomery | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onslow | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Stanly | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Wake | 1 | | 2 | | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 0 | | |
| Wayne | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Wilkes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Total | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 13 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 0 |

Forty-eight (48) counties reported no cases mediated: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Bertie, Caldwell, Camden, Catawba, Chowan, Clay, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Duplin, Gaston, Graham, Granville, Halifax, Hoke, Jackson, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lincoln, Martin, McDowell, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Orange, Pamlico, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Polk, Richmond, Rockingham, Rutherford, Scotland, Stokes, Surry, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Warren, and Wilson.

Forty (40) counties did not report status.

OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES (OLAS)



The Office of Language Access Services (OLAS) facilitates 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 2016 – 17, the program trained 122 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). Eighty-five state and / or federally certified Spanish court interpreters, one state certified French interpreter, two state certified Mandarin interpreters, one state certified Vietnamese interpreter, two conditionally qualified Spanish interpreters, three conditionally qualified Mandarin interpreters, one conditionally qualified Portuguese interpreter, and three conditionally qualified Russian interpreters work throughout the state.

North Carolina is one of 47 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 | 25 |
| A2 – Certified | 60 |
| B – Conditionally Qualified | 2 |
| Total | 87 |

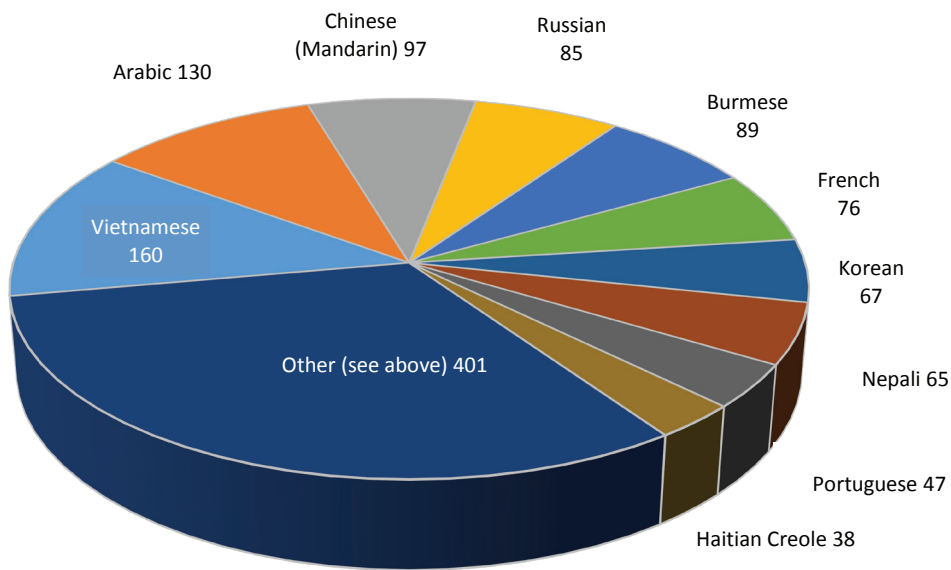
Languages Other Than Spanish

| Certified Court Interpreters | Number of Interpreters |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| French | 1 |
| Mandarin | 2 |
| Vietnamese | 1 |
| Total | 4 |

| Conditionally Qualified Court Interpreters | Number of Interpreters |
|--|------------------------|
| Mandarin | 3 |
| Portuguese | 1 |
| Russian | 3 |
| Total | 7 |

Events Covered for Languages Other Than Spanish
 FY 2016 – 17

| Language | Number of Events | Language | Number of Events | Language | Number of Events |
|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Montagnard (Jarai) | 40 | Montagnard (Bunong / Mnong) | 7 | Khmer | 2 |
| Urdu | 31 | Albanian | 6 | Kinyarwanda | 2 |
| Hmong | 30 | Japanese | 6 | Moldovian | 2 |
| Lao | 29 | Thai | 6 | Tamil | 2 |
| Karen | 23 | Serbian | 5 | Tarasco | 2 |
| Marshallese | 21 | Telugu | 5 | Ukrainian | 2 |
| Gujarati | 17 | Bosnian | 4 | Cambodian | 1 |
| Tigrinya | 16 | Chinese (Cantonese) | 4 | Chin Falam | 1 |
| Amharic | 15 | German | 4 | Chin Mara | 1 |
| Romanian | 15 | Italian | 4 | Chin Tedim | 1 |
| Swahili | 15 | Polish | 4 | Chuukese | 1 |
| Hindi | 12 | Aguacateco / Awakateko | 3 | Haka Chin | 1 |
| Bengali | 10 | French Creole | 3 | Hindko | 1 |
| Farsi | 9 | Montagnard (Rhade) | 3 | Lingala | 1 |
| Somali | 9 | Tagalog | 3 | Macedonian | 1 |
| Q'anjob'al (Kanjobal) | 8 | Chatino | 2 | Slovak | 1 |
| Dari | 7 | Filipino | 2 | Taiwanese | 1 |
| | | | TOTAL | 401 | |



| Forms Translations | Total |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Spanish Forms Available | 225 |
| Vietnamese Forms Available | 201 |

| Interpreting Events | Total |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Spanish | 40,000 |
| Languages Other Than Spanish (LOTS) | 1,255 |



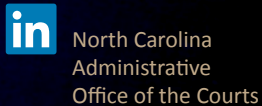
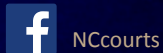
justice for all

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OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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