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STATISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORT OF  
**COURT PROGRAMS**



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More information about the Judicial Branch is available at [www.NCcourts.gov](http://www.NCcourts.gov).

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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 Child Custody and Visitation 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. 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.

The Child Custody and Visitation Mediation Program is available in each judicial district. In fiscal year (FY) 2020-21, 8,739 custody cases were mediated statewide and 17,870 people attended custody mediation orientation. Mediators conducted 9,424 mediation sessions and drafted 4,046 parenting agreements.

For more information on the Child Custody and Visitation Mediation Program, visit [www.NCcourts.gov/programs/child-custody-and-visitation-mediation-program](http://www.NCcourts.gov/programs/child-custody-and-visitation-mediation-program).

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 of re-litigation. Permanency mediators are contract employees and often utilize a co-mediation model.

**Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District**

District	Caseload Information				Sessions			Agreements Drafted			Cases Mediated and Closed				End Pending (6/30/21)
	Begin Pending (7/1/20)	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 Parenting Agreement	**Number of Cases Not Mediated	Total Cases Closed	
1	39	153	36	228	210	71	3	28	0	0	18	73	108	199	29
2	40	88	17	145	114	51	0	21	0	1	11	44	65	120	25
3A	55	181	73	309	400	184	13	58	0	0	37	144	72	253	56
3B	21	144	8	173	154	75	0	17	0	45	8	67	66	141	32
4	242	192	28	462	475	239	9	92	10	4	40	223	82	345	117
5	93	478	224	795	772	406	57	188	27	9	97	289	288	674	121
6	47	135	49	231	235	92	8	40	4	3	37	55	92	184	47
7	114	164	37	315	338	114	3	87	0	0	57	42	48	147	168
8	111	161	90	362	291	214	19	102	7	0	78	129	47	254	108
9	149	218	55	422	418	215	28	58	26	0	82	145	51	278	144
10	172	1,121	479	1,772	1,596	757	80	291	20	0	170	596	779	1,545	227
11	97	347	91	535	663	261	28	65	29	8	0	258	169	427	108
12	114	801	315	1,230	1,183	524	56	273	0	13	222	333	487	1,042	188
13	44	145	73	262	299	193	6	96	0	0	65	127	23	215	47
14	143	336	194	673	530	276	36	87	39	1	73	185	229	487	186
15A	64	154	83	301	217	144	25	54	16	5	45	95	75	215	86
15B	95	80	21	196	101	57	24	29	1	1	12	35	23	70	126
16A	36	122	48	206	172	103	6	42	3	0	21	75	69	165	41
16B	49	176	36	261	305	131	14	50	3	5	38	96	90	224	37
17A	15	102	28	145	201	106	4	47	8	0	43	63	25	131	14
17B	17	106	37	160	198	129	3	56	1	0	49	82	28	159	1
18	80	480	203	763	757	506	38	136	103	10	190	354	196	740	23
19A	149	175	58	382	320	192	60	91	9	0	75	115	39	229	153
19B	33	216	131	380	319	148	9	76	3	0	59	88	172	319	61
19C	38	139	45	222	302	156	28	89	4	0	72	84	12	168	54
19D	53	216	101	370	326	147	8	62	4	0	36	101	160	297	73

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## Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	Caseload Information				Sessions			Agreements Drafted			Cases Mediated and Closed				End Pending (6/30/21)
	Begin Pending (7/1/20)	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 Parenting Agreement	**Number of Cases Not Mediated	Total Cases Closed	
20A	38	113	64	215	233	122	12	54	8	4	35	85	59	179	36
20B	108	235	88	431	311	136	5	32	8	0	23	101	184	308	123
21	100	392	146	638	715	356	16	159	21	1	108	259	168	535	103
22A	75	133	33	241	172	70	1	22	0	0	4	67	95	166	75
22B	40	136	35	211	205	89	1	30	0	0	16	79	79	174	37
23	60	141	65	266	263	112	18	60	3	0	38	82	54	174	92
24	159	116	1	276	203	103	13	25	4	0	7	77	24	108	168
25	49	469	307	825	978	414	13	153	0	2	96	328	344	768	57
26	74	1,041	379	1,494	1,539	696	20	233	9	4	126	607	675	1,408	86
27A	34	151	62	247	324	180	14	73	19	5	61	114	19	194	53
27B	51	136	62	249	354	160	17	76	9	4	49	108	39	196	53
28	47	347	282	676	723	309	29	134	42	6	123	199	307	629	47
29A	78	164	75	317	261	143	14	68	21	4	55	89	71	215	102
29B	69	270	88	427	365	163	20	48	0	0	22	143	177	342	85
30	34	149	56	239	328	115	7	42	6	0	12	93	96	201	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,126</b>	<b>10,623</b>	<b>4,303</b>	<b>18,052</b>	<b>17,870</b>	<b>8,659</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>3,444</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>6,329</b>	<b>5,886</b>	<b>14,625</b>	<b>3,427</b>

\*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.

## TREATMENT / RECOVERY COURTS



Treatment Courts are an intensive, judicially supervised court sanction that target addicted, high-risk and high-need adult offenders, juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent, and parents involved in abuse / neglect / dependency cases. Treatment courts utilize 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 Drug Treatment Court (DTC) is an intermediate punishment in the community that targets repeat offenders. 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. 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. Other treatment / recovery courts in North Carolina include DWI courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts.

DTCs typically last a minimum of one year and include 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 2020-21, there were 61 operational treatment / recovery courts in 32 counties.

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 DTC 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 DTCs. Judicial districts desiring to operate an adult, juvenile, or family DTC 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 DTC coordinators responsible for managing local DTCs. However, the majority of courts were able to continue after July 2011 because they found county, city, or other resources for staff to manage their courts locally.

Currently, there is no uniform data collection method for treatment / recovery courts so data collection practices differ at the local level. For this reason, official data will not be published for FY 2020-21.

For more information about treatment / recovery courts, including legislative reports, minimum standards, and best practices, visit [www.NCcourts.gov/courts/recovery-courts](http://www.NCcourts.gov/courts/recovery-courts).

## 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 (updated January 2021) 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.

Since 1999, the General Assembly has expanded the program to funded staff in 13 districts (22 counties). However, due to redistricting that became effective in 2019, staff is now located in 15 districts and serves 27 counties and 47% of

North Carolina's population. Family court staff members provide active case management to monitor and support time standard goals for legal issues or specific hearings / events in the life of domestic cases and juvenile abuse, neglect, and dependency and termination of parental rights cases.

The median pending age of cases is an indicator of how quickly domestic lawsuits move through the court system from the filing of the initial legal claim(s) to the disposition of these legal claim(s). For FY 2020-21, the median age of pending domestic relation cases (excluding IV-D child support) was 148 days in family court districts compared to 433 days in non-family court districts.

For more information about family court, including annual reports and best practices, visit [www.NCcourts.gov/courts/family-court](http://www.NCcourts.gov/courts/family-court).

## FAMILY FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT



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 rules were last updated in 2020.

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 participate, unless excused by the court.

During mediation, the most commonly used procedure, the parties and their attorneys will meet with a mediator to attempt to resolve the issues in dispute. If they are successful, the parties will settle the dispute on their own terms. Participation in mediation will also eliminate the need for lengthy litigation and potentially prevent 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.gov/programs/family-financial-settlement-program](http://www.NCcourts.gov/programs/family-financial-settlement-program).

**Family Financial Settlement Activity, Caseload by District**

District	Cases Ordered to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)					Total Caseload	Cases Exiting from ADR Process					Cases Completing Process	End Pending (6/30/21)	
	* Begin Pending (7/1/20)	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
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	16	20	0	0	0	36	0	0	4	0	0	2	6	30
3A	23	34	0	0	0	57	0	0	10	0	8	2	20	37
3B	151	144	0	0	0	295	4	157	22	6	8	44	241	54
4	175	0	5	0	0	180	5	4	21	1	4	43	78	102
5	271	243	0	0	0	514	0	0	64	0	3	105	172	342
6	18	10	2	2	0	32	2	0	7	1	4	4	18	14
7	1	0	9	0	0	10	1	0	3	1	5	0	10	0
8	12	16	0	0	0	28	5	0	2	0	5	0	12	16
9	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
10	315	229	3	1	0	548	1	0	79	5	47	35	167	381
11	190	265	0	0	0	455	2	1	11	3	18	104	139	316
12	281	271	0	0	0	552	4	57	54	21	24	85	245	307
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	61	11	1	8	0	81	3	0	6	2	7	1	19	62
15A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16A	18	16	5	0	0	39	0	2	12	1	3	2	20	19
16B	92	45	0	0	0	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137
17A	14	2	1	0	0	17	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	14
17B	91	44	0	0	0	135	1	0	8	0	5	27	41	94
18	284	244	0	0	0	528	0	0	73	7	11	106	197	331
19A	88	24	0	0	0	112	0	0	3	1	2	0	6	106
19B	36	43	2	8	0	89	6	16	20	2	8	2	54	35
19C	19	19	0	0	0	38	0	1	8	2	4	1	16	22
19D	98	75	3	0	0	176	4	29	26	4	20	0	83	93

*[continued on next page]*

**Family Financial Settlement Activity, Caseload by District**

District	Cases Ordered to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)					Total Caseload	Cases Exiting from ADR Process						Cases Completing Process	End Pending (6/30/21)
	* Begin Pending (7/1/20)	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		
20A	9	19	0	0	0	28	0	0	5	0	6	13	24	4
20B	189	92	0	0	0	281	0	0	5	0	6	0	11	270
21	228	78	2	0	0	308	0	0	13	2	9	5	29	279
22A	10	22	51	0	0	83	0	0	31	15	37	0	83	0
22B	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
23	36	61	1	0	0	98	1	1	14	1	21	22	60	38
24	26	54	0	0	0	80	1	0	9	5	7	11	33	47
25	126	129	0	0	0	255	21	5	47	7	18	18	116	139
26	1	0	0	132	0	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133
27A	4	0	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
27B	85	6	0	0	0	91	0	1	2	1	2	27	33	58
28	80	105	0	0	0	185	0	0	21	3	10	63	97	88
29A	42	31	0	0	0	73	0	7	4	0	0	12	23	50
29B	49	35	7	21	0	112	0	0	16	3	17	9	45	67
30	35	42	1	0	0	78	0	1	11	4	11	11	38	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,176</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,874</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>3,730</b>

Some districts reported no activity or did not report status. Total Caseload includes the number of cases pending at the start of the fiscal year as well as those new cases ordered to mediation / arbitration.

\*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.

MSC Rules were updated in 2020. For more information about the Mediated Settlement Conference Program, visit [www.nccourts.gov/programs/mediated-settlement-conference-program](http://www.nccourts.gov/programs/mediated-settlement-conference-program).

**Mediated Settlement Conference Activity, Caseload by District**

Superior Court District	*Begin Pending (7/1/20)	Cases Entering Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC)			Total Caseload	Cases Exiting from MSC Process					Cases Completing Process	End Pending (6/30/21)
		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	43	0	0	0	43	0	0	19	10	0	29	14
2	83	40	1	0	124	0	0	12	15	6	33	91
3A	114	122	6	0	242	0	25	50	44	15	134	108
3B	149	108	0	0	257	0	0	43	19	7	69	188
4	150	27	1	0	178	0	0	41	26	43	110	68
5	366	352	0	0	718	0	5	58	23	167	253	465
6A	76	25	0	0	101	0	0	3	2	0	5	96
6B	26	34	0	0	60	0	0	8	0	0	8	52
7A	103	48	0	0	151	1	14	4	15	12	46	105
7BC	177	169	2	1	349	1	26	57	37	32	153	196
8A	25	38	0	0	63	0	3	15	13	9	40	23
8B	129	132	0	0	261	0	20	25	22	77	144	117
9	108	89	0	0	197	0	0	50	24	41	115	82
10	275	0	0	1	276	1	0	137	95	22	255	21
11A	80	95	8	0	183	1	11	29	36	11	88	95
11B	543	252	0	0	795	26	0	54	30	9	119	676
12	400	223	0	0	623	30	78	95	74	0	277	346
13A	52	119	0	0	171	0	0	26	9	31	66	105
13B	510	244	0	0	754	0	8	14	16	119	157	597
14	175	241	0	0	416	1	41	83	44	63	232	184
15A	130	82	0	0	212	3	0	17	27	39	86	126
15B	53	95	3	0	151	1	2	29	17	41	90	61
16A	31	27	4	0	62	1	1	10	6	1	19	43
16B	35	3	0	0	38	0	1	16	10	0	27	11
17A	58	22	0	0	80	0	2	8	3	0	13	67
17B	43	1	0	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	44

*[continued on next page]*

## Mediated Settlement Conference Activity, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	*Begin Pending (7/1/20)	Cases Entering Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC)			Total Caseload	Cases Exiting from MSC Process					Cases Completing Process	End Pending (6/30/21)
		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		
18	469	361	0	0	830	0	0	119	57	42	218	612
19A	148	160	0	0	308	0	1	34	28	1	64	244
19B	36	0	0	0	36	0	2	17	4	0	23	13
19C	79	95	1	0	175	0	31	38	19	10	98	77
19D	145	36	0	0	181	0	1	26	23	28	78	103
20A	27	35	6	0	68	0	3	22	6	10	41	27
20B	115	137	22	1	275	2	0	60	62	50	174	101
21	812	347	0	0	159	0	0	78	51	33	162	997
22A	125	222	0	0	347	0	17	63	50	34	164	183
22B	74	28	12	0	114	0	0	22	13	0	35	79
23	45	52	11	0	108	1	1	25	16	27	70	38
24	80	49	28	0	157	0	0	23	15	36	74	83
25A	149	56	0	0	205	0	0	6	6	0	12	193
25B	121	114	1	0	236	1	17	29	20	2	69	167
26	794	1,066	45	4	1,909	4	227	320	337	63	951	958
27A	96	111	13	0	220	0	1	45	55	22	123	97
27B	191	81	5	0	277	0	0	15	12	4	31	246
28	295	182	18	0	495	0	0	56	36	9	101	394
29A	118	67	0	0	185	0	2	13	7	0	22	163
29B	86	96	4	0	186	0	3	32	29	22	86	100
30A	94	66	2	1	163	2	0	15	13	14	44	119
30B	83	43	0	0	126	0	0	17	11	22	50	76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,116</b>	<b>5,992</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14,309</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>1,487</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>9,051</b>

Total Caseload includes the number of cases pending at the start of the fiscal year as well as those new cases ordered to mediation / arbitration.

\*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 74 counties. In these counties, civil cases involving claims for money damages of \$25,000 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. The court will appoint a trained

arbitrator from a list of attorneys approved by the chief district court judge in each district. Unless determined to be indigent, prior to the arbitration hearing, 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.gov/programs/court-ordered-arbitration](http://www.NCcourts.gov/programs/court-ordered-arbitration).

## Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

District	*Begin Pending (7/1/20)	Cases Ordered to Court-Ordered Arbitration		Cases Exiting from Arbitration Process						End Pending (6/30/21)
		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		
1	8	1	9	0	0	3	1	0	5	
3A	30	52	82	37	2	25	10	1	43	
3B	12	83	95	0	0	35	5	0	6	
5	161	297	458	127	0	95	57	7	147	
6	7	15	22	13	2	7	0	0	11	
8	27	66	93	68	1	36	15	0	16	
10	253	588	841	561	11	351	174	38	227	
12	162	545	707	539	0	306	138	29	78	
13	384	584	968	405	1	113	184	0	451	
14	8	122	130	128	2	75	26	3	26	
15A	43	32	75	22	0	15	6	0	53	
15B	0	15	15	5	0	2	1	0	11	
16A	1	10	11	10	0	7	3	1	1	
16B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
18	80	102	182	80	0	54	12	3	115	
19A	17	70	87	47	0	18	15	0	48	
19B	3	13	16	18	0	13	1	1	2	
19C	42	248	290	146	0	105	49	10	53	
19D	28	51	79	69	0	41	22	2	12	
20A	5	5	10	6	0	5	1	1	4	
20B	37	301	338	235	4	136	70	4	52	
21	24	43	67	45	0	45	2	0	18	
22A	23	92	115	68	0	52	23	3	30	
22B	14	51	65	39	1	25	23	2	7	
23	4	27	31	22	2	17	5	2	7	
24	18	36	54	28	3	4	10	0	24	
25	69	489	558	348	5	210	99	11	47	
26	192	457	649	630	1	352	24	46	272	
27B	29	12	41	12	0	7	0	0	34	
29A	3	4	7	6	0	4	0	0	3	
29B	36	81	117	81	0	17	9	0	78	
30	9	35	44	29	1	23	3	1	10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>6,256</b>	<b>3,824</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>1,891</b>	

Total Caseload includes the number of cases pending at the start of the fiscal year as well as those new cases ordered to mediation / arbitration.

\*Some begin pending numbers changed by local audit.

**Court-Ordered Arbitration, Trial de Novo Caseload by District**

District	*Begin Pending (7/1/20)	Appeals Filed	Trial by Judge	Trial by Jury	Dismissal / Other	End Pending (6/30/21)
1	1	0	0	0	0	1
3A	2	6	2	1	3	2
3B	3	14	4	0	7	6
5	10	24	16	0	8	10
6	2	1	0	1	1	1
8	3	13	9	1	5	1
10	41	81	22	0	27	73
12	5	25	9	0	10	11
13	1	0	0	0	0	1
14	16	23	6	0	13	20
15A	10	3	2	0	0	11
15B	0	0	0	0	0	0
16A	1	5	4	0	1	1
16B	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	42	12	1	1	4	48
19A	0	6	0	0	0	6
19B	3	6	2	0	1	6
19C	10	8	0	0	0	18
19D	12	7	4	0	2	13
20A	0	2	0	0	0	2
20B	10	21	4	0	12	15
21	12	18	7	0	8	15
22A	9	5	0	1	0	13
22B	4	4	1	0	0	7
23	2	6	1	0	0	7
24	2	4	0	0	0	6
25	8	30	10	0	16	12
26	41	137	0	0	0	178
27B	10	1	1	0	1	9
29A	3	4	2	0	1	4
29B	6	7	1	0	1	11
30	4	3	2	0	1	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>512</b>

\*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.

The rules were last updated in 2020. For more information on the Clerk Mediation Program, including program rules, visit [www.NCcourts.gov/programs/clerk-mediation-program](http://www.NCcourts.gov/programs/clerk-mediation-program).

## Clerk Mediation Program, Caseload by District

County	Cases Ordered to Clerk Mediation Program (CMP)					Cases Completing CMP																				
	Begin Pending (7/1/20)	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	Cases Completing Process During FY 2019 – 20	End Pending (6/30/21)	Unsuccessful Mediation; Heard by CSC	
Alamance	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Buncombe	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	
Catawba	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	
Chatham	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	
Wilkes	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	

Ninety-five (95) counties did not report any activity for the Clerk's Mediation Program.

# OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES (OLAS)



The Office of Language Access Services (OLAS) facilitates equal access to justice in North Carolina courts for limited-English proficient (LEP) parties in interest, with a particular emphasis on the state’s sizeable Hispanic and Latino population. The program strives to meet the needs of the court and LEP speakers statewide by providing nine 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 2020-21, the program trained 47 prospective court interpreters (remotely due to COVID-19) on the code of ethics and professionalism required of the court interpreter and facilitated access to online approved skills-building workshops to those who qualified to sit for the North Carolina Court Interpreter Certification Examination (NCCICE).

Eighty-one state and / or federally certified Spanish court interpreters, one state certified Mandarin interpreter, one state certified Vietnamese interpreter, two state certified Russian interpreters, one conditionally qualified Arabic interpreter, three conditionally qualified Mandarin interpreters, and two conditionally qualified Russian interpreters work throughout the state. Additionally, out of state resources include four certified Arabic interpreters, two Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS) interpreters, four certified French interpreters, two certified Haitian Creole interpreters, three certified Hmong interpreters, three certified Korean interpreters, two certified Lao interpreters, four certified Mandarin interpreters, two certified Polish interpreters, four certified Portuguese interpreters, six certified Russian interpreters, one certified Somali interpreter, two certified Tagalog interpreters, and five certified Vietnamese interpreters.

North Carolina is a member 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.gov/LanguageAccess](http://www.NCcourts.gov/LanguageAccess).

## Foreign Language Court Interpreters, Spanish

Classification Levels	Number of Interpreters
A1 – Master Certified	29
A2 – Certified	51
B – Conditionally Qualified	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>

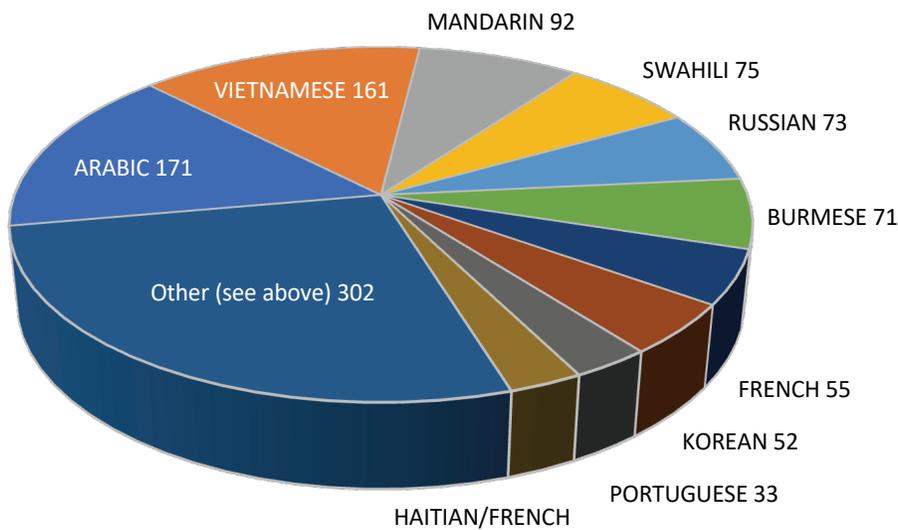
## Languages Other Than Spanish

Certified Court Interpreters	Number of Interpreters
Portuguese	1
Russian	2
Vietnamese	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>

Conditionally Qualified Court Interpreters	Number of Interpreters
Arabic	1
Mandarin	3
Russian	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>

**Assignments Covered for Languages Other Than Spanish**

Language	Number of Assignments	Language	Number of Assignments	Language	Number of Assignments
Kinyarwanda	21	Dinka	4	Bunong	1
Karen	20	German	4	Chin Falam	1
Farsi	19	Mam	4	Chuukese	1
Nepali	19	Pohnpeian	4	Czech	1
Hmong	15	Cebuano	3	Dari	1
Marshallese	14	Mandingo	3	Hausa (Niger)	1
Tagalog	14	Akateko	2	Igbo	1
Amharic	13	Bosnian / Serbian / Croatian	2	Indonesian	1
Hindi	13	Ga	3	Italian	1
Urdu	12	Greek	2	Karenni	1
Cambodian / Khmer	11	Gujarati	2	Laotian	1
Lao	11	Hakha / Hakha Chin	2	Lingala	1
Jarai (Montagnard)	10	Japanese	2	Mnong (Montagnard)	1
Thai	9	Kpelle	2	Polish	1
Tigrinya / Kunama	8	Rhade (Montagnard)	2	Punjabi	1
Ukrainian	8	Somali	2	Sudanese Arabic	1
Bengali	7	Telugu	2	Tibetan	1
Cantonese	6	Turkish	2	Wolof	1
Romanian	6	Yoruba	2	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>302</b>



Forms Translations	Total
Spanish Forms Available	283
Vietnamese Forms Available	283

Interpreting Events	Total
Spanish	40,000
Languages Other Than Spanish (LOTS)	1,116



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