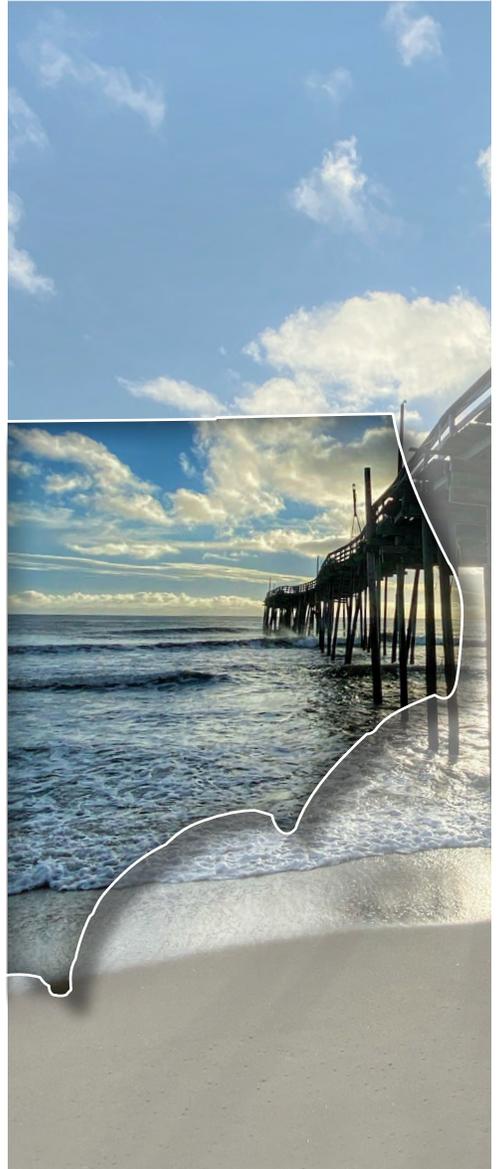


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100 COUNTIES STRONG



2024 - 2025 STATISTICAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORT OF

Court Programs



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More information about the Judicial Branch is available at www.NCcourts.gov.

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) 2024-25, 8,582 custody cases were mediated statewide and 18,268 people attended custody mediation orientation. Mediators conducted 9,303 mediation sessions and drafted 3,923 Parenting Agreements.

For more information on the Child Custody and Visitation Mediation Program, visit 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 utilize a co-mediation model.

For more information on the Permanency Mediation Program, visit www.nccourts.gov/programs/permanency-planning-mediation-program.

Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	New Custody Cases	Returning Custody Cases*	Orientation Attendance	Mediation Sessions	Drafted Parenting Agreements	Parenting Agreements Entered	Custody Mediation Completed. No Parenting Agreement	Total Cases Mediated	Cases Not Mediated**	Cases disposed by CM office
1	197	108	280	156	87	29	114	143	133	276
2	58	40	110	62	33	16	45	61	30	91
3****	152	55	282	189	58	43	139	182	58	240
4****	74	44	151	86	42	29	56	85	32	117
5****	273	203	723	391	205	100	274	374	87	461
6****	409	186	693	357	168	87	235	322	298	620
7****	74	38	170	97	60	45	40	85	35	120
8****	191	68	407	96	73	46	52	98	111	209
9****	207	139	360	302	134	94	180	274	92	366
10	1319	816	1918	812	213	150	611	761	1366	2127
11	178	105	412	238	86	69	152	221	70	291
12	368	124	742	321	150	0***	280	280	206	486
14****	738	271	829	441	227	108	286	394	439	833
15****	222	95	379	231	113	81	157	238	50	288
16	341	250	546	327	130	98	204	302	310	612
17	172	51	187	131	62	50	72	122	87	209
18	99	33	167	108	36	9	73	82	49	131
20****	157	67	222	149	75	45	93	138	56	194
21****	82	48	159	85	32	20	54	74	63	137
22	71	34	168	107	47	42	66	108	21	129
23	63	34	136	99	45	36	63	99	15	114
24	478	189	833	490	232	155	270	425	170	595
25****	131	43	193	210	95	53	120	173	79	252
26	1115	559	1867	623	159	120	499	619	1017	1636
27	110	66	301	192	82	50	104	154	9	163
28****	118	56	204	99	46	38	55	93	70	163

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Child Custody and Visitation Mediation, Caseload by District

District	New Custody Cases	Returning Custody Cases*	Orientation Attendance	Mediation Sessions	Drafted Parenting Agreements	Parenting Agreements Entered	Custody Mediation Completed. No Parenting Agreement	Total Cases Mediated	Cases Not Mediated**	Cases disposed by CM office
29****	235	118	450	245	84	54	168	222	138	360
30****	197	80	306	152	59	37	125	162	165	327
31	418	156	843	322	140	69	240	309	257	566
32	138	68	205	91	24	10	71	81	115	196
33	135	77	265	119	36	21	97	118	97	215
34	121	89	276	201	124	97	73	170	42	212
35	131	35	190	81	41	27	51	78	87	165
36	420	329	911	470	164	78	310	388	359	747
37****	156	93	288	161	81	69	74	143	114	257
38	141	74	367	204	99	60	142	202	28	230
39	138	41	323	180	100	70	101	171	46	217
40****	308	174	578	240	121	76	137	213	271	484
41	131	83	247	161	86	64	95	159	48	207
42****	149	122	315	154	34	22	129	151	168	319
43****	156	62	265	123	40	16	92	108	97	205
TOTAL	10,371	5,323	18,268	9,303	3,923	2,383	6,199	8,582	6,985	15,567

*Cases can return in a variety of ways: modification, judge sends case back to custody mediation, parties return before court appearance, contempt, and through temporary Parenting Agreements.

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

***Agreements are signed with attorneys and cannot be accurately tracked.

****Districts transitioned to Enterprise Justice mid-year. Statistics were generated from CaseWise and Enterprise Justice.

RECOVERY COURTS



Recovery Courts provide an intensive, judicially-supervised intervention designed to engage individuals involved in the criminal and juvenile court systems who require intensive support and treatment due to their severe substance use or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorder. Recovery courts work with high-risk and high-need adults, including veterans, involved in the criminal courts ; juveniles who have been adjudicated in delinquency court, and parents involved in abuse / neglect / dependency cases. A specially-trained team of court and community professionals provide supportive case management, treatment and other services and accountability so that participants can become healthy, law-abiding, and productive family and community members.

Adult recovery court is an intermediate, community-based sanction that targets individuals with repeat criminal infractions related to their substance use, mental health, and co-occurring disorders. Juvenile (Youth) recovery court works with community-based, high-risk, high-need juveniles whose drug and / or alcohol use is negatively affecting their lives at home, in school, and in their community. Family recovery court works with parents and guardians who are in danger of termination of parental rights due to the abuse or neglect of their children resulting from their substance use, mental health, or co-occurring disorder. DWI recovery courts aim to promote recovery and reduce recidivism on individuals with repeat DWI offenses. Veteran recovery courts serve adults involved in the criminal courts with significant substance use and mental health treatment needs, who have served in a branch of the military. Mental health recovery courts enroll court-involved individuals, with a severe mental health disorder or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder, who require additional supports to remain in the community and become stable in their recovery.

Recovery Court participants are typically enrolled in the treatment court for 12-18 months during which they are

engaged in intensive treatment, frequent and random drug / alcohol testing, and intensive case management supports, as well as probation supervision for adult and juvenile participants with criminal/delinquency cases. Recovery court teams include a specially-trained judge, coordinator and/or case manager, probation officer and/or child welfare worker, prosecuting and defense/parent attorney, treatment provider(s), peer recovery support specialist, and others. The recovery court participant works with the court case manager, probation officer and/or child welfare worker, and treatment professionals to develop a single, comprehensive treatment case plan to address the individual's specific needs treatment needs, occupational / vocational training and supports, education, housing, parenting, and other domains related to stable recovery. The judge and recovery court team monitor participant progress and adherence to court orders during twice monthly court appearances. The judge may order incentives, sanctions, or service adjustments (such as a change in treatment) to promote success. The goal is to support the individual to achieve stable and sustainable recovery and to help the participant and their family system address long-standing barriers to wellbeing.

As of January 2026, there were 84 recovery courts operating in 46 counties with 12 more jurisdictions engaged in active planning to implement a recovery court.

The North Carolina Drug Treatment Court Act of 1995 (G.S. 7A-790 et seq.) originally established treatment courts in the state and directed the NCAOC director to provide necessary staff for planning, organizing, and administering the program. A state advisory committee was created to recommend guidelines to the director and monitor local programs.

Judicial districts desiring to operate an adult, veteran, DWI, mental health, juvenile, or family drug treatment court program must operate under the auspices of G.S. 7A-790 et seq. and established guidelines.

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RECOVERY COURTS CONTINUED



Although the General Assembly eliminated state funding for treatment courts on July 1, 2011, most courts were able to continue operations with funding and support from their county, city, or other resources to develop and maintain local recovery courts.

In 2021, the General Assembly enacted the North Carolina Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Court Act to create a program to facilitate the creation and operation of judicially managed accountability and recovery courts (JMARCS). The Act requires the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide any necessary staff for planning, organizing, and

administering the program and requires local recovery court programs to operate consistently with the guidelines adopted pursuant to G.S. 7A-795 (The North Carolina Drug Treatment Court Act of 1995).

The NCAOC submits an annual report on Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Courts on March 1 of each year.

For more information about treatment / recovery courts, including legislative reports, minimum standards, and best practices, visit www.nccourts.gov/courts/recoverycourts.

RECOVERY COURT SUMMARY DATA CY 2025



To the extent that the survey response data can be combined and anthologized, Table 1 represents such data from all 76 quantitative survey responses. Note that these data include responses from all six types of recovery courts, which may differ by types of participants, level of charges, stage of implementation, etc., thus, some questions may not be applicable to all JMARC. Also note that some judicial districts have multiple courts of the same type and combined their quantitative data into one survey response.

NCAOC reports 78 judicially managed accountability and recovery courts were operational and serving participants between January 1 and December 31, 2025, and quantitative survey responses were provided for 76. Wake County’s Adult JMARC did not provide data upon request and Cumberland County’s Family JMARC did not have data available. NCAOC will continue to monitor and report on the implementation, operation, and effectiveness of Judicially Managed Accountability and Recovery Courts throughout the state.

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RECOVERY COURT SUMMARY DATA CY 2025



Survey Response Compilation from Judicially Managed and Accountability Courts (data from reporting period of CY 2025)

SURVEY QUESTION	ADULT	MENTAL HEALTH	DWI	VETERANS	FAMILY	YOUTH
What type of JMARC do you operate?	31	10	6	14	13	2
SURVEY QUESTION	<1 YEAR	1-3 YRS.	3-5 YRS.	5-10 YRS.	10+ YRS.	
How long has your court been operating?	10	13	7	16	31	
SURVEY QUESTION	AI/AN	MULTIRACIAL	BLACK	ASIAN	WHITE	OTHER
Please provide the race of the enrolled participants.	54	17	316	20	752	93

SURVEY QUESTION	HISPANIC	NON-HISPANIC	UNKNOWN
Please provide the ethnicity of the enrolled participants.	116	797	48
SURVEY QUESTION	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN
Please provide the gender of the enrolled participants.	614	306	42

SURVEY QUESTION	YES	NO
Does your court allow the use of Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) or Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)?	70	3
Has your team attended training in the past year?	73	4
Has your court completed a recidivism study?	65	12
Has your court completed a cost savings analysis?	14	63
Do you inquire about a referral's veteran status during the intake process (regardless of whether you are a VTC)?	67	2

SURVEY QUESTION	TOTAL
How many referrals were made to your court?	3,998
How many participants were newly admitted?	969
How many participants were enrolled in your JMARC?	4,555
How many children were impacted by parental participation in your court?	561
How many substance-free babies were born?	20
How many participants have an active dependency petition?	189
How many participants have felony charges?	661
How many participants have misdemeanor charges?	636

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RECOVERY COURT SUMMARY DATA CY 2025



Survey Response Compilation from Judicially Managed and Accountability Courts (data from reporting period of CY 2025)

SURVEY QUESTION	TOTAL
How many participants are veterans?	294
How many participants presented with mental health or substance abuse disorder?	801
How many participants obtained employment during their participation in recovery court?	366
How many participants resided in stable housing at the time they exited recovery court?	284
How many participants completed a significant educational achievement during their participation?	87
How many participants obtained/restored their driver's license during their participation in recovery court?	98
How many participants successfully completed their child welfare case plan?	138
How many participants served in jail as a court sanction?	252
How many participants exited the program successfully?	442
How many participants exited without completing the program?	362
If they exited without completing the program, what was the reason?	
Criminal involvement	131
Lack of engagement	96
Absconded	69
Relocated or case was transferred	10
Death or serious illness	8
Reunification is no longer the plan	8

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 December 2024.

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 participate in mediation or another dispute resolution alternative, such as early neutral evaluation or a 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 used procedure, the parties and their attorneys meet with a mediator to attempt to resolve the issues in dispute. If mediation is successful, the parties will settle the dispute on their own terms. Participation in mediation also eliminates the need for lengthy litigation and potentially prevents a costly and often acrimonious 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 fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, 2,050 cases were referred to family financial settlement or some other settlement procedure and 1,752 cases completed the process.

For more information about family financial settlement, including program rules, visit 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 (6/30/25)
	*Begin Pending (7/1/24)	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	3	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
2	38	19	1	0	2	60	1	2	1	2	3	0	8	52
3	86	34	0	0	0	120	1	0	18	0	16	0	34	86
4	60	106	0	0	0	166	1	61	11	2	12	64	150	16
5	153	49	2	0	0	204	2	0	21	3	7	3	34	170
6	502	129	0	0	0	631	0	1	52	5	13	62	133	498
7	32	8	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40
8	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	-1
9	67	29	0	0	1	97	0	0	1	0	9	0	10	87
10	1307	240	0	1	1	1549	0	1	51	2	23	3	80	1469
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	1307	148	0	0	0	1455	1	1	31	5	7	48	92	1363
14	215	209	0	3	0	427	10	9	68	12	50	108	247	180
15	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16	144	52	1	4	2	203	0	0	28	5	13	9	55	148
17	-3	0	0	0	0	-3	0	0	4	1	0	1	6	-9
20	292	32	0	0	0	324	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	324
21	26	18	0	0	0	44	0	0	6	1	0	6	13	31
24	276	100	0	0	0	376	2	0	60	11	7	116	194	182
25	250	36	0	0	4	290	0	0	14	0	1	0	15	275
26	171	8	0	0	3	182	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	182
27*	31	39	0	0	0	70	0	6	20	2	10	1	39	31
28	2	8	0	0	0	10	0	1	18	4	6	14	43	-33
29	224	80	0	0	0	304	0	3	30	2	2	3	40	264
30	722	41	0	0	0	763	0	0	5	0	0	7	12	751
31	374	76	2	0	0	452	0	0	28	0	0	0	28	424

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Family Financial Settlement Activity, Caseload by District

District	*Begin Pending (7/1/24)	Cases Ordered to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)				Total Caseload	Cases Exiting from ADR Process						Cases Completing Process	End Pending (6/30/25)
		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		
32*	2	11	65	0	0	78	0	0	28	11	39	0	78	0
34	95	72	0	0	0	167	0	18	14	1	7	8	48	119
35	55	1	0	0	0	56	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	52
33*	13	1	1	0	0	15	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	12
35	55	1	0	0	0	56	0	0	1	1	0	2	4	52
36*	479	135	0	0	0	614	0	0	5	4	1	3	13	601
37	56	36	0	22	0	114	4	29	16	1	4	1	51	63
38*	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
39*	267	0	0	0	0	267	0	0	0	0	0	216	216	51
40	80	54	0	0	0	134	0	1	17	1	12	6	37	97
41*	27	32	0	0	0	59	1	0	12	3	6	8	29	30
41*	27	32	0	0	0	59	1	0	12	3	6	8	29	30
42	210	53	1	11	0	275	2	0	9	1	15	17	42	233
43	242	182	0	0	0	424	2	3	12	2	10	19	46	378
TOTAL	7,311	1,922	73	41	14	9,361	28	118	551	85	275	723	1,752	7,609

*Data generated from Enterprise Justice (Odyssey)

Begin pending data are based on end pending numbers reported at the end of the Q3 report for FY24-25.

SUPERIOR COURT MEDIATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE



In 1991, the North Carolina General Assembly established a pilot Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC). The Mediated Settlement Program was designed to foster settlement in civil superior court actions. MSC facilitates the opportunity for parties to resolve civil matters prior to trial in 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 available options through the MSC Rules. 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 fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, 7,320 cases were referred to MSC, voluntarily submitted to MSC, ordered to complete other settlement procedure. 5,913 cases completed the MSC process.

MSC Rules were last updated in December 2024. For more information about the Mediated Settlement Conference Program, visit www.nccourts.gov/programs/mediated-settlement-conference-program.

Mediated Settlement Conference Activity, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	*Begin Pending (7/1/24)	Cases Entering Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC)			Total Caseload	Cases Exiting from MSC Process					Cases Completing Process	End Pending (6/30/25)
		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	59	20	0	0	79	0	0	1	0	0	1	78
2	141	43	0	1	185	0	1	14	6	3	24	161
3	73	35	5	3	116	0	6	31	29	25	91	25
4	491	33	0	0	524	0	1	59	10	2	72	452
5	318	30	3	0	351	0	3	38	14	4	60	291
6	302	132	0	0	434	0	9	77	50	237	373	61
7A	144	8	0	0	152	0	0	10	3	13	26	126
7B	56	6	0	0	62	0	0	5	0	0	5	57
8A	101	24	4	6	135	2	0	10	9	15	34	101
8BC	336	86	8	1	431	0	0	0	15	7	22	409
9A	22	17	0	0	39	2	2	11	12	14	39	0
9B	155	0	0	0	155	0	7	21	5	31	65	90
10	1726	1161	0	1	2888	2	52	284	182	529	1060	1828
11	118	100	0	1	219	2	8	25	25	28	86	133
12	320	41	9	1	371	1	6	9	6	16	37	334
13	1191	292	0	0	1483	82	1	33	34	99	167	1316
14	361	119	0	0	480	39	12	54	28	3	99	381
15A	111	37	0	0	148	1	1	7	7	0	15	133
15B	685	13	0	1	699	0	1	17	13	163	194	505
16	619	227	1	8	855	2	0	61	51	30	144	711
17	226	138	0	0	364	5	1	40	26	33	101	263
18	168	111	3	2	284	0	15	37	20	27	99	185
19*	333	139	0	0	472	0	4	47	20	0	71	401
20	68	192	0	0	260	0	5	16	12	1	34	226
21	111	163	0	0	274	0	8	21	20	70	120	154
22	120	40	0	0	160	0	0	11	6	0	17	143

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Mediated Settlement Conference Activity, Caseload by District

Superior Court District	*Begin Pending (7/1/24)	Cases Entering Mediated Settlement Conference (MSC)			Total Caseload	Cases Exiting from MSC Process					Cases Completing Process	End Pending (6/30/25)
		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		
23	135	28	7	0	170	0	3	1	3	0	7	163
24	1102	327	1	1	1431	2	5	100	61	33	205	1226
25	661	160	0	0	821	0	0	2	3	0	5	816
26	1148	1300	42	3	2493	4	2	427	285	455	1188	1305
27*	65	95	1	0	161	0	20	28	15	8	71	90
28	13	45	0	0	58	0	3	14	10	7	36	22
29	12	121	4	1	138	0	15	61	23	13	113	25
30	24	195	20	13	252	2	2	69	48	94	214	38
31	1408	315	0	0	1723	48	0	8	2	1	11	1712
32*	242	202	0	0	444	1	25	80	68	66	240	204
33*	165	92	6	0	263	0	21	37	26	25	109	154
34	153	76	2	0	231	2	1	31	24	40	96	135
35	116	96	4	1	217	0	0	36	24	40	100	116
36*	362	46	0	0	408	0	0	2	1	0	3	405
37	22	63	0	0	85	0	15	24	15	49	103	-18
38*	270	214	0	0	484	0	2	54	24	0	80	404
39*	246	132	0	0	378	0	0	35	21	7	63	315
40	867	123	0	0	990	0	0	3	0	0	3	987
41*	277	51	0	0	328	0	2	8	7	0	17	311
42	138	128	2	3	271	1	6	50	28	23	107	164
43A	198	19	2	0	219	1	2	4	2	1	9	210
43B	178	114	0	0	292	0	1	14	18	44	77	215
TOTAL	16,157	7,149	124	47	23,477	199	268	2,027	1,311	2,256	5,913	17,563

*Data generated from Enterprise Justice (Odyssey)

Begin pending data are based on end pending numbers reported at the end of the Q3 report for FY24-25.

COURT-ORDERED ARBITRATION



In 1989, following successful experience in a pilot program, the General Assembly authorized court-ordered, non-binding arbitration statewide. The program currently operates in 72 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, actions where collection on an account is the sole claim, and class actions. The Rules were codified in February 2023.

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, parties are required to pay a pro rata share of a \$100 arbitration

assessment fee for each arbitration prior to the 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 or through remote audio video transmission 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 demand a trial de novo by filing a written request with the court. If the parties do not demand a trial de novo or otherwise file a consent order or dismissal, the court enters judgment on the arbitration award. For fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, 5,270 cases were selected for court-ordered arbitration. 4,226 cases completed the arbitration process. An appeal of the arbitrator’s decision was filed in 482 cases or 19% of cases arbitrated.

For more information about Court-Ordered Arbitration, visit www.nccourts.gov/programs/court-ordered-arbitration.

Court-Ordered Arbitration, Caseload by District

District	*Begin Pending (7/1/24)	Cases Ordered to Court-Ordered Arbitration		Cases Exiting from Arbitration Process						End Pending (6/30/25)
		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	34	11	45	5	2	0	0	0	43	
3	16	38	54	42	2	44	12	0	8	
4	-25	45	20	7	20	112	42	4	-118	
9	28	152	180	80	0	124	13	1	56	
10	558	804	1362	705	20	732	139	40	596	
14	446	945	1391	644	1	805	105	25	585	
15	410	371	781	384	5	275	63	1	501	
16	67	74	141	63	2	53	6	4	83	
17	55	5	60	10	0	13	2	0	47	
18	46	26	72	26	0	0	0	0	72	
21	7	11	18	11	0	10	0	0	8	
24	577	517	1094	374	3	377	36	24	710	
25	286	296	582	372	0	107	4	0	474	
26	422	428	850	378	1	349	34	21	498	
27*	117	832	949	537	0	746	95	23	203	
28	18	8	26	6	0	7	1	1	19	
29	13	1	14	1	0	0	0	0	14	
30	350	224	574	192	0	194	41	5	378	
31	36	54	90	53	0	55	6	0	35	
32*	67	422	489	313	0	219	2	6	270	
33*	35	305	340	268	2	301	16	31	36	
34	82	132	214	86	2	163	48	10	49	
35	36	18	54	11	0	13	2	0	34	
36	51	442	493	342	0	415	36	6	77	
37	6	10	16	10	0	2	0	0	14	
38*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
39	55	17	72	15	0	14	3	0	58	
41	0	9	9	4	0	5	0	1	4	
42	163	25	188	34	0	23	12	1	165	
43	81	47	128	32	1	9	0	0	118	
TOTAL	3,575	5,270	8,845	4,203	56	4,226	604	181	4,514	

*Data generated from Enterprise Justice (Odyssey)

Begin pending data are based on end pending numbers reported at the end of the Q3 report for FY24-25.

Court-Ordered Arbitration, Trial de Novo Caseload by District

District	*Begin Pending (7/1/23)	Appeals Filed	Trial by Judge	Trial by Jury	Dismissal / Other	End Pending (6/30/24)
1	4	1	0	0	0	5
3	3	7	1	0	9	0
4	6	9	4	0	6	5
9	1	3	1	0	0	3
10	117	122	34	1	61	143
14	38	44	16	0	23	43
15	20	6	0	0	0	26
16	47	14	1	0	0	60
17	19	2	1	0	0	20
18	16	6	0	0	0	22
21	1	2	1	0	1	1
24	156	16	3	0	0	169
25	67	33	0	0	0	100
26	682	106	2	0	2	784
27*	19	37	4	0	33	19
28	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	19	1	0	0	0	20
30	52	27	17	0	5	57
31	23	18	4	0	1	36
32*	27	28	0	0	1	54
33*	18	15	0	0	0	33
34	9	8	1	0	2	14
35	13	2	0	0	0	15
36	7	15	6	0	11	5
37	1	1	0	0	0	2
38*	0	0	0	0	0	0
39	13	1	2	0	1	11
41	3	2	2	0	1	2
42	22	4	0	0	1	25
43	26	12	1	0	0	37
TOTAL	1,329	482	89	2	179	1,567

*Data generated from Enterprise Justice (Odyssey)

Begin pending data are based on end pending numbers reported at the end of the Q3 report for FY24-25.

CLERK MEDIATION PROGRAM



On May 23, 2005, the General Assembly enacted G.S. 7A-38.3B that established a mediation program for matters referred to mediation by clerks of superior court. Rules implementing the 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, although

mediation is not required. Some matters are ineligible for referral, including adoptions and foreclosures.

The Rules of Mediation for Matters Before the Clerk of Superior Court were codified on January 6, 2025. For more information on the Clerk Mediation Program, visit www.nccourts.gov/programs/clerk-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 statewide needs of LEP speakers interacting with the judicial system by providing nine staff court interpreters (for the Spanish language) in eight districts, maintaining an accessible online Registry of Spoken Foreign Language Court Interpreters, and coordinating the assignment of spoken language interpreters for languages other than Spanish (LOTS). The program develops policy and standards for judicial officials, court personnel, and interpreters; advises courts on the proper use of interpreters; trains judicial officials and court personnel on cultural and interpreting issues; and completes the translation of court forms and vital documents.

During FY 2024-25, the program trained 84 prospective court interpreters on the three modes of court interpreting, the role of the court interpreter, and the code of ethics and professionalism required of the court interpreter. Additionally, the program facilitated access to approved skillsbuilding workshops, held in-person and online, to those who qualified to sit for the North Carolina Court Interpreter Certification Examination (NCCICE).

Seventy-eight state or federally certified Spanish court interpreters, one state certified Haitian creole interpreter,

one state certified Portuguese interpreter, one state certified Russian interpreter, one state certified Vietnamese interpreter, one conditionally qualified Arabic interpreter, one conditionally qualified Haitian Creole interpreter, three conditionally qualified Mandarin interpreters, and two conditionally qualified Portuguese interpreters. Additionally, out of state resources include eight certified Arabic interpreters, three certified Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (BCS) interpreters, four certified Cantonese interpreters, seven certified French interpreters, four certified Haitian Creole interpreters, three certified Hmong interpreters, one certified Khmer interpreter, four certified Korean interpreters, two certified Lao interpreters, four certified Mandarin interpreters, two certified Polish interpreters, five certified Portuguese interpreters, six certified Russian interpreters, one certified Somali interpreter, two certified Tagalog interpreters, one certified Turkish interpreter, and eight 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.

Foreign Language Court Interpreters, Spanish

Classification Levels	Number of Interpreters
A1 – Master Certified	27
A2 – Certified	48
B – Conditionally Qualified	3
TOTAL	78

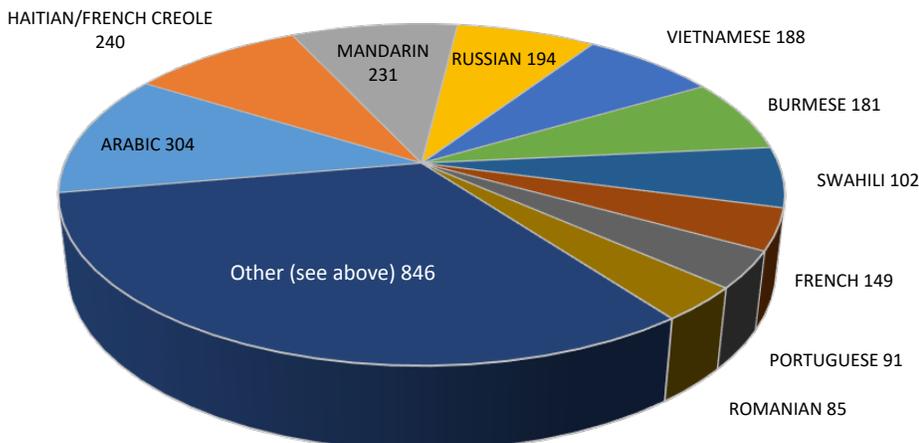
Languages Other Than Spanish (LOTS)

Certified Court Interpreters	Number of Interpreters
Haitian Creole	1
Portuguese	1
Russian	1
Vietnamese	1
TOTAL	4

Conditionally Qualified Court Interpreters	Number of Interpreters
Arabic	1
Haitian Creole	1
Mandarin	3
Portuguese	2
TOTAL	7

Assignments Covered for Languages Other Than Spanish

Language	Number of Events	Language	Number of Events	Language	Number of Events
KOREAN	53	TSELTAL	10	ITALIAN	2
KINYARWANDA	51	TZOTZIL	10	KAPINGAMARANGI	2
HMONG	46	PASHTO	9	LIBERIAN	2
FARSI/DARI	45	POHNPEIAN	9	MALAYALAM	2
NEPALI	40	Q'ANJOB'AL	9	MANDINKA	2
KAREN	37	LINGALA	8	PIDGIN ENGLISH	2
UKRAINIAN	35	MAM	8	SANGO	2
URDU	27	Q'EQCHI'	8	TAMIL	2
TURKISH	25	GREEK	7	AFRIKAANS	1
CANTONESE	24	GERMAN	6	BAMBARA	1
JARAI (Montagnard)	24	KRIO	5	CHATINO	1
LAO	23	TAGALOG	5	CHUUKESE	1
JAPANESE	21	YORUBA	5	CZECH	1
TELUGU	20	CEBUANO	4	DANISH	1
AMHARIC	19	DINKA	4	GEORGIAN	1
BENALI	19	MANDINGO	4	IGBO	1
THAI	18	SOMALI	4	INDONESIAN	1
GUJARATI	16	BOSNIAN/SERBIAN/ CROATIAN	5	KAZAKH	1
HAKHA / HAKHA CHIN	16	BULGARIAN	3	K'ICHE'	1
HINDI	16	FALAM CHIN	3	KURDISH	1
TIGRINYA	16	KARENNI	3	LAHTU CHIN	1
MARSHALLESE	15	NAHUATL	3	MISO CHIN	1
CAMBODIAN/ KHMER	14	POLISH	3	MONGOLIAN	1
QUICHE	13	PUNJABI	3	MONTAGNARD	1
HAUSA	11	RHADE	3	OTOMI	1
HEBREW	11	AKATEKO	2	TARASCO	1
WOLOF	11	HUNGARIAN	2	TWI	1
				TOTAL	846



Forms Translations	Total
Spanish Forms Available	286
Vietnamese Forms Available	301

SCHOOL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP



In 2017, the Raise the Age law (S.L. 2017-57 §16D.4(aa)) authorized the director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Court to establish policies and procedures for chief district court judges and community stakeholders to create School Justice Partnerships (SJP) to help reduce the number of in-school arrests, out-of-school suspensions, and expulsions for minor offenses committed by juveniles.

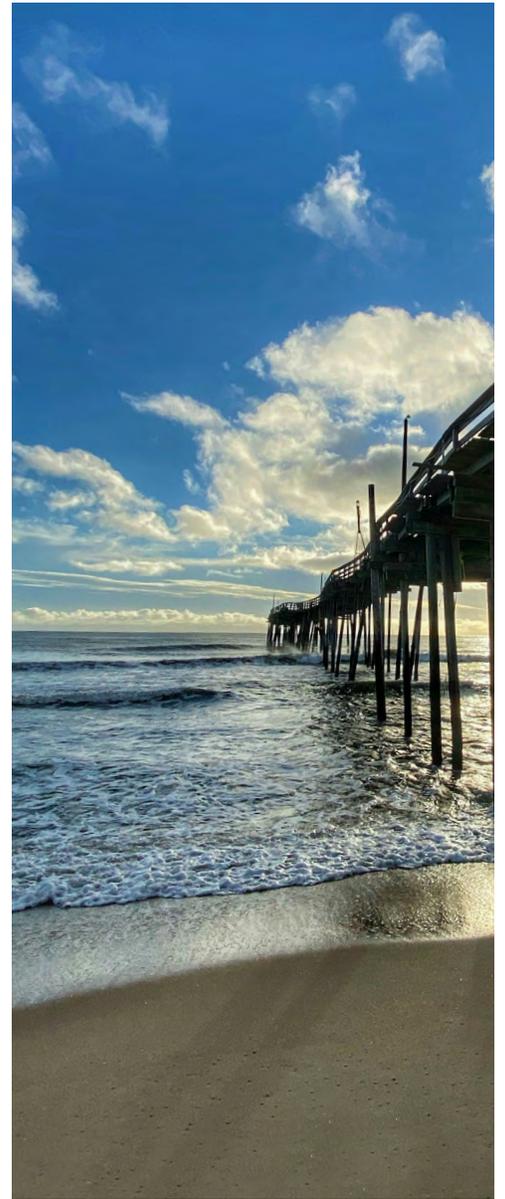
A school-based referral to the juvenile justice system increases the likelihood that youth with reoffend. The objective of a SJP is to keep youth in school and out of court.

SJP consists of a group of community stakeholders which includes personnel from the court system, Department of Juvenile Justice, school administration, law enforcement, and

other community leaders. The goal of the SJP is to create a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) that provides an age-appropriate graduated response to school misconduct which increases in severity as misconduct persists. Although the chief district court judge is the convener, he or she is an equal partner of the SJP.

An SJP-Toolkit was created in 2017 and updated in February 2023 to help chief district court judges and community partners develop and implement an SJP. The toolkit provides timelines, a model agreement, and other templates to assist with implementation. School Justice Partnerships have been established in 61 counties and 64 school systems

For more information about School Justice Partnership, visit www.nccourts.gov/programs/school-justice-partnership.



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