

# Family Courts

## 2016 Family Court Domestic Case Filings

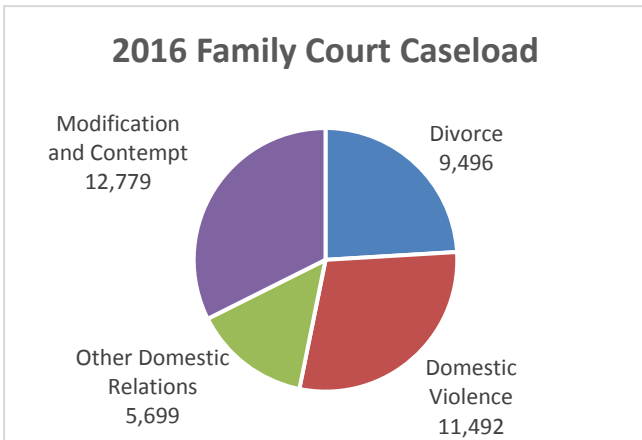
	Total Filings	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Other Domestic Relations	Total	Contempt	Modification
Barbour	264	102	114	48	151	83	68
Berkeley	1,465	529	449	487	607	268	339
Boone	436	164	153	119	180	83	97
Braxton	96	26	46	24	65	23	42
Brooke	272	104	94	74	40	17	23
Cabell	1,452	556	624	272	684	304	380
Calhoun	121	60	32	29	57	24	33
Clay	170	74	73	23	95	38	57
Doddridge	92	42	32	18	45	25	20
Fayette	655	232	247	176	533	263	270
Gilmer	93	40	39	14	43	23	20
Grant	173	67	80	26	124	51	73
Greenbrier	520	168	247	105	240	173	67
Hampshire	282	96	68	118	143	54	89
Hancock	375	124	142	109	39	8	31
Hardy	199	77	80	42	151	64	87
Harrison	915	300	402	213	470	215	255
Jackson	453	196	189	68	168	80	88
Jefferson	634	239	217	178	344	151	193
Kanawha	3,566	1,007	1,983	576	1,507	812	695
Lewis	204	93	57	54	168	106	62
Lincoln	365	140	151	74	784	595	189
Logan	786	262	394	130	420	182	238
Marion*	-	-	-	-	174	73	101
Marshall	369	124	134	111	28	4	24
Mason	437	165	180	92	55	30	25
McDowell	400	133	173	94	272	141	131
Mercer	1,495	460	744	291	673	387	286
Mineral	377	131	127	119	217	97	120
Mingo	611	221	243	147	350	122	228
Monongalia	989	341	434	214	408	174	234
Monroe*	-	-	-	-	99	67	32
Morgan	177	72	62	43	110	47	63
Nicholas	433	181	184	68	190	91	99
Ohio	444	156	160	128	165	88	77
Pendleton	64	30	22	12	39	18	21
Pleasants	111	36	51	24	11	4	7
Pocahontas	112	38	49	25	120	82	38
Preston	532	166	271	95	221	103	118
Putnam	751	309	306	136	180	76	104
Raleigh	1,191	484	566	141	628	297	331
Randolph	519	171	251	97	198	81	117
Ritchie	141	59	51	31	76	40	36
Roane	227	106	68	53	160	73	87
Summers	189	77	69	43	143	73	70
Taylor	193	103	50	40	104	30	74
Tucker	67	30	23	14	38	15	23
Tyler	119	43	52	24	3	1	2
Upshur	322	133	104	85	102	40	62
Wayne	477	239	145	93	73	41	32
Webster	141	70	0	71	120	77	43
Wetzel	188	57	79	52	3	2	1
Wirt	85	30	46	9	27	15	12
Wood	1,546	492	740	314	377	179	198
Wyoming	392	141	195	56	357	135	222
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26,687</b>	<b>9,496</b>	<b>11,492</b>	<b>5,699</b>	<b>12,779</b>	<b>6,345</b>	<b>6,434</b>

\* Due to implementation of CourtPlus, data for Monroe and Marion county are unavailable for 2016.

## 2016 Family Court Marriages Performed by County

County	Total Marriages	County	Total Marriages	County	Total Marriages
Barbour	18	Kanawha	11	Preston	27
Berkeley	78	Lewis	0	Putnam	0
Boone	0	Lincoln	0	Raleigh	0
Braxton	0	Logan	22	Randolph	16
Brooke	2	Marion	0	Ritchie	0
Cabell	55	Marshall	8	Roane	0
Calhoun	0	Mason	26	Summers	0
Clay	3	McDowell	0	Taylor	5
Doddridge	0	Mercer	6	Tucker	0
Fayette	0	Mineral	0	Tyler	3
Gilmer	0	Mingo	21	Upshur	0
Grant	10	Monongalia	81	Wayne	0
Greenbrier	0	Monroe	0	Webster	0
Hampshire	0	Morgan	0	Wetzel	3
Hancock	5	Nicholas	52	Wirt	4
Hardy	8	Ohio	5	Wood	0
Harrison	124	Pendleton	1	Wyoming	0
Jackson	3	Pleasants	0	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>647</b>
Jefferson	50	Pocahontas	0		

Figure 1



### Family Court Summary

West Virginia has forty-five family court judges in twenty-seven family court circuits. To serve, family court judges must have practiced law for at least five years. Their terms are eight years.

Family courts have jurisdiction over divorce, annulment, separate maintenance, paternity, grandparent visitation, name change, infant guardianship, child custody, and family support proceedings, except those incidental to child abuse and neglect. Family court judges also hold final hearings in civil domestic relations and may perform marriages.

In 2016, there were 26,687 new cases filed in family court in West Virginia, a 7.7 percent decrease from 2015 cases filed. Due to implementation of CourtPlus, data for Monroe and Marion county are unavailable for 2016. To calculate an accurate percent decrease, Marion and Monroe case counts were excluded from the 2015 statewide total. Of the cases filed, 11,492 were domestic violence, 9,496 were divorces, and 5,699 were other domestic relations. There were also 12,779 modifications and contempt proceedings in reopened cases this year that were not counted as new cases filed. Details seen in *Figure 1*.

In 2016, 647 weddings were held in family courts. Details can be seen in the above table.

Family court judges can refer divorcing parents to mediation and parent education and refer children for guardian *ad litem* services. Details can be seen in *Figure 2*.

Figure 2

<b>West Virginians Served by Supreme Court–Supported Family Visitation Centers Grant Cycle 2016</b>	
Category	Number
Total Clients Served.....	862
Fathers.....	402
Mothers.....	421
Grandparent / Legal Guardian....	39
Children Involved.....	662
Supervised Visitation.....	535
Neutral Drop-off.....	337
<i>Total number of clients served = fathers + mothers + grandparent/legal guardian</i>	