

# **The Annual Statistical Report** on Circuit, Family and Magistrate Courts

## The West Virginia Court System 2018 Data



Division of Court Services

Administrative Office of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

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**Circuit Courts**  
**2018 Criminal Case Filings**

	Total	Felony	Magistrate Appeals	Misdemeanor	Other Criminal Cases
<b>Barbour</b>	91	86	1	4	0
<b>Berkeley</b>	544	304	4	8	228
<b>Boone</b>	85	2	0	82	1
<b>Braxton</b>	87	80	0	0	7
<b>Brooke</b>	130	98	1	2	29
<b>Cabell</b>	845	487	9	64	285
<b>Calhoun</b>	45	38	1	6	0
<b>Clay</b>	59	43	4	1	11
<b>Doddridge</b>	83	43	3	5	32
<b>Fayette</b>	257	233	1	1	22
<b>Gilmer</b>	40	14	0	1	25
<b>Grant</b>	56	51	0	5	0
<b>Greenbrier</b>	224	171	1	13	39
<b>Hampshire</b>	139	84	2	0	53
<b>Hancock</b>	136	97	3	0	36
<b>Hardy</b>	50	30	0	0	20
<b>Harrison</b>	430	256	6	11	157
<b>Jackson</b>	118	113	2	3	0
<b>Jefferson</b>	191	165	9	17	0
<b>Kanawha</b>	1,259	659	17	174	409
<b>Lewis</b>	112	88	1	0	23
<b>Lincoln</b>	190	154	6	9	21
<b>Logan</b>	227	154	0	8	65
<b>Marion</b>	270	209	4	26	31
<b>Marshall</b>	89	88	1	0	0
<b>Mason</b>	140	101	0	6	33
<b>McDowell</b>	117	100	5	8	4
<b>Mercer</b>	740	281	30	16	413
<b>Mineral</b>	210	149	7	4	50
<b>Mingo</b>	150	90	2	3	55
<b>Monongalia</b>	435	390	2	3	40
<b>Monroe</b>	58	40	1	1	16
<b>Morgan</b>	114	85	5	6	18
<b>Nicholas</b>	96	95	1	0	0
<b>Ohio</b>	167	47	1	0	119
<b>Pendleton</b>	11	10	1	0	0
<b>Pleasants</b>	64	63	0	1	0
<b>Pocahontas</b>	90	54	2	8	26
<b>Preston</b>	289	120	2	5	162
<b>Putnam</b>	366	160	15	9	182
<b>Raleigh</b>	794	387	10	41	356
<b>Randolph</b>	229	150	3	32	44
<b>Ritchie</b>	61	56	1	0	4
<b>Roane</b>	163	131	1	9	22
<b>Summers</b>	107	85	0	7	15
<b>Taylor</b>	180	125	0	2	53
<b>Tucker</b>	39	21	0	2	16
<b>Tyler</b>	48	27	0	5	16
<b>Upshur</b>	156	108	1	41	6
<b>Wayne</b>	350	290	1	25	34
<b>Webster</b>	44	42	0	1	1
<b>Wetzel</b>	91	78	12	1	0
<b>Wirt</b>	19	19	0	0	0
<b>Wood</b>	533	339	6	2	186
<b>Wyoming</b>	113	90	0	23	0
<b>Total</b>	11,731	7,480	185	701	3,365

**Circuit Courts**  
**2018 Civil Case Filings**

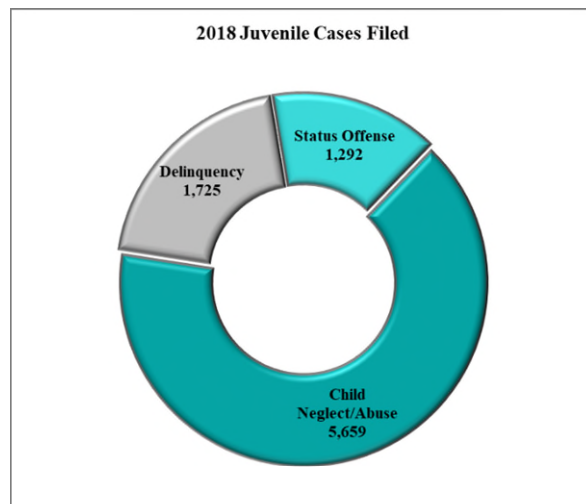
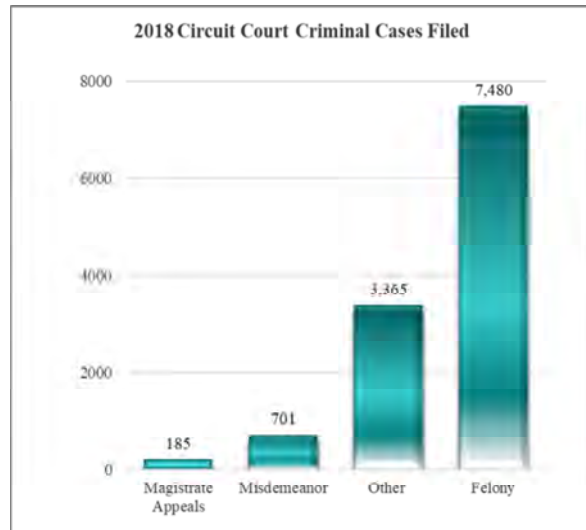
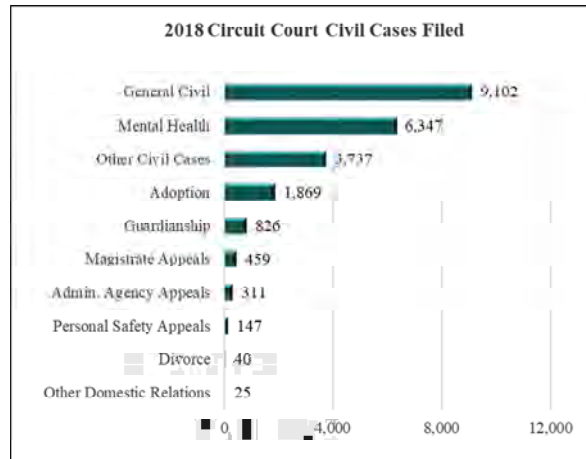
	Total	Admin. Agency	Adoption	Divorce	Domestic Violence	General Civil	Guardian ship	Magistrate Appeals	Mental Health	Other Civil Case	Other Domestic	Personal Safety
<b>Barbour</b>	109	0	30	0	0	34	15	1	7	21	1	0
<b>Berkeley</b>	1,063	3	98	0	0	383	53	18	220	217	0	27
<b>Boone</b>	470	3	33	0	0	149	13	0	132	139	1	0
<b>Braxton</b>	142	1	22	0	0	56	10	2	22	29	0	0
<b>Brooke</b>	219	1	13	0	0	101	9	3	50	40	0	2
<b>Cabell</b>	2,167	0	119	0	0	645	56	16	1,176	153	0	2
<b>Calhoun</b>	69	0	13	0	0	26	3	1	19	7	0	0
<b>Clay</b>	89	0	23	0	0	20	7	2	23	14	0	0
<b>Doddridge</b>	105	2	6	0	0	37	3	1	35	21	0	0
<b>Fayette</b>	394	0	45	0	0	215	16	0	54	64	0	0
<b>Gilmer</b>	63	0	6	0	0	20	3	0	5	29	0	0
<b>Grant</b>	80	0	4	0	0	26	3	7	23	14	3	0
<b>Greenbrier</b>	298	0	36	0	0	173	15	7	40	26	0	1
<b>Hampshire</b>	119	0	17	0	0	52	9	5	18	18	0	0
<b>Hancock</b>	216	3	16	0	0	110	6	3	18	60	0	0
<b>Hardy</b>	117	0	18	0	0	42	6	7	4	40	0	0
<b>Harrison</b>	770	0	47	0	0	322	31	8	277	85	0	0
<b>Jackson</b>	264	0	37	0	0	107	13	5	73	27	2	0
<b>Jefferson</b>	497	1	34	0	0	206	25	5	42	182	0	2
<b>Kanawha</b>	3,614	259	231	0	0	1,477	101	163	899	439	0	45
<b>Lewis</b>	172	0	13	0	0	89	2	4	25	39	0	0
<b>Lincoln</b>	310	0	44	0	1	83	9	1	89	80	0	3
<b>Logan</b>	435	1	37	0	0	262	15	7	102	10	1	0
<b>Marion</b>	604	1	24	0	0	196	10	16	261	96	0	0
<b>Marshall</b>	525	0	12	35	0	264	19	3	143	49	0	0
<b>Mason</b>	300	0	40	0	0	103	11	0	79	64	3	0
<b>McDowell</b>	354	1	19	0	0	150	13	3	69	99	0	0
<b>Mercer</b>	815	5	71	0	0	334	55	5	209	118	0	18
<b>Mineral</b>	149	2	20	0	0	74	4	1	0	48	0	0
<b>Mingo</b>	287	0	56	0	0	163	5	5	46	12	0	0
<b>Monongalia</b>	1,387	4	33	0	0	493	22	67	233	526	0	9
<b>Monroe</b>	82	2	12	0	0	31	8	0	5	19	0	0
<b>Morgan</b>	105	0	13	0	0	53	5	0	5	29	0	0
<b>Nicholas</b>	291	0	21	0	0	142	18	2	66	42	0	0
<b>Ohio</b>	699	2	23	0	0	281	9	13	288	82	1	0
<b>Pendleton</b>	42	0	4	0	0	19	3	1	5	4	6	0
<b>Pleasants</b>	83	0	9	0	0	35	6	1	7	23	2	0
<b>Pocahontas</b>	124	1	8	0	0	43	9	2	31	26	0	4
<b>Preston</b>	267	0	34	0	0	122	5	8	46	50	0	2
<b>Putnam</b>	482	3	53	0	0	223	32	5	92	74	0	0
<b>Raleigh</b>	968	5	86	0	0	554	40	16	217	47	3	0
<b>Randolph</b>	284	0	44	0	0	132	13	13	24	57	0	1
<b>Ritchie</b>	70	1	8	0	0	31	0	0	11	17	2	0
<b>Roane</b>	170	0	23	0	0	45	7	2	38	32	0	23
<b>Summers</b>	112	1	14	0	0	50	8	0	8	22	0	0
<b>Taylor</b>	124	1	30	0	0	46	5	3	19	20	0	0
<b>Tucker</b>	49	0	9	0	0	27	2	2	3	6	0	0
<b>Tyler</b>	91	2	5	0	0	41	3	0	19	21	0	0
<b>Upshur</b>	206	0	14	0	0	86	7	3	32	64	0	0
<b>Wayne</b>	439	0	75	0	0	123	28	4	101	107	0	1
<b>Webster</b>	100	0	34	0	0	32	3	1	9	21	0	0
<b>Wetzel</b>	230	0	7	5	0	81	3	2	116	16	0	0
<b>Wirt</b>	40	0	4	0	0	14	5	0	10	7	0	0
<b>Wood</b>	1,440	6	86	0	1	345	31	15	778	174	0	4
<b>Wyoming</b>	221	0	36	0	0	133	14	0	24	11	0	3
<b>Total</b>	22,878	311	1,869	40	2	9,101	826	459	6,347	3,737	25	147

**Circuit Courts**  
**2018 Juvenile Case Filings**

	Total	Child Neglect/Abuse	Delinquency	Status Offense
<b>Barbour</b>	126	121	5	0
<b>Berkeley</b>	410	207	116	87
<b>Boone</b>	283	86	93	104
<b>Braxton</b>	81	64	8	9
<b>Brooke</b>	74	37	20	17
<b>Cabell</b>	673	255	255	163
<b>Calhoun</b>	71	57	7	7
<b>Clay</b>	64	58	4	2
<b>Doddridge</b>	37	32	5	0
<b>Fayette</b>	142	117	25	0
<b>Gilmer</b>	20	16	2	2
<b>Grant</b>	63	52	10	1
<b>Greenbrier</b>	124	72	24	28
<b>Hampshire</b>	82	58	23	1
<b>Hancock</b>	157	93	55	9
<b>Hardy</b>	46	37	7	2
<b>Harrison</b>	324	151	81	92
<b>Jackson</b>	144	118	9	17
<b>Jefferson</b>	125	50	69	6
<b>Kanawha</b>	795	751	34	10
<b>Lewis</b>	73	71	2	0
<b>Lincoln</b>	143	69	26	48
<b>Logan</b>	226	162	53	11
<b>Marion</b>	245	171	49	25
<b>Marshall</b>	82	41	35	6
<b>Mason</b>	115	44	60	11
<b>McDowell</b>	152	123	20	9
<b>Mercer</b>	460	341	51	68
<b>Mineral</b>	99	44	42	13
<b>Mingo</b>	141	108	20	13
<b>Monongalia</b>	222	167	23	32
<b>Monroe</b>	35	19	9	7
<b>Morgan</b>	44	17	18	9
<b>Nicholas</b>	218	185	16	17
<b>Ohio</b>	161	125	26	10
<b>Pendleton</b>	21	12	6	3
<b>Pleasants</b>	57	38	9	10
<b>Pocahontas</b>	27	19	4	4
<b>Preston</b>	117	102	4	11
<b>Putnam</b>	199	65	30	104
<b>Raleigh</b>	559	314	119	126
<b>Randolph</b>	206	163	23	20
<b>Ritchie</b>	67	47	13	7
<b>Roane</b>	80	58	13	9
<b>Summers</b>	33	15	11	7
<b>Taylor</b>	154	143	11	0
<b>Tucker</b>	39	32	6	1
<b>Tyler</b>	29	22	7	0
<b>Upshur</b>	53	36	13	4
<b>Wayne</b>	164	85	36	43
<b>Webster</b>	86	81	5	0
<b>Wetzel</b>	35	21	13	1
<b>Wirt</b>	28	19	2	7
<b>Wood</b>	309	198	64	47
<b>Wyoming</b>	156	70	34	52
<b>Total</b>	8,676	5,659	1,725	1,292

## Circuit Courts 2018 Total Case Filings

	Total	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile
<b>Barbour</b>	326	109	91	126
<b>Berkeley</b>	2,017	1,063	544	410
<b>Boone</b>	838	470	85	283
<b>Braxton</b>	310	142	87	81
<b>Brooke</b>	423	219	130	74
<b>Cabell</b>	3,685	2,167	845	673
<b>Calhoun</b>	185	69	45	71
<b>Clay</b>	212	89	59	64
<b>Doddridge</b>	225	105	83	37
<b>Fayette</b>	793	394	257	142
<b>Gilmer</b>	123	63	40	20
<b>Grant</b>	199	80	56	63
<b>Greenbrier</b>	646	298	224	124
<b>Hampshire</b>	340	119	139	82
<b>Hancock</b>	509	216	136	157
<b>Hardy</b>	213	117	50	46
<b>Harrison</b>	1,524	770	430	324
<b>Jackson</b>	526	264	118	144
<b>Jefferson</b>	813	497	191	125
<b>Kanawha</b>	5,668	3,614	1,259	795
<b>Lewis</b>	357	172	112	73
<b>Lincoln</b>	643	310	190	143
<b>Logan</b>	888	435	227	226
<b>Marion</b>	1,119	604	270	245
<b>Marshall</b>	696	525	89	82
<b>Mason</b>	555	300	140	115
<b>McDowell</b>	623	354	117	152
<b>Mercer</b>	2,015	815	740	460
<b>Mineral</b>	458	149	210	99
<b>Mingo</b>	578	287	150	141
<b>Monongalia</b>	2,044	1,387	435	222
<b>Monroe</b>	175	82	58	35
<b>Morgan</b>	263	105	114	44
<b>Nicholas</b>	605	291	96	218
<b>Ohio</b>	1,027	699	167	161
<b>Pendleton</b>	74	42	11	21
<b>Pleasants</b>	204	83	64	57
<b>Pocahontas</b>	241	124	90	27
<b>Preston</b>	673	267	289	117
<b>Putnam</b>	1,047	482	366	199
<b>Raleigh</b>	2,321	968	794	559
<b>Randolph</b>	719	284	229	206
<b>Ritchie</b>	198	70	61	67
<b>Roane</b>	413	170	163	80
<b>Summers</b>	252	112	107	33
<b>Taylor</b>	458	124	180	154
<b>Tucker</b>	127	49	39	39
<b>Tyler</b>	168	91	48	29
<b>Upshur</b>	415	206	156	53
<b>Wayne</b>	953	439	350	164
<b>Webster</b>	230	100	44	86
<b>Wetzel</b>	356	230	91	35
<b>Wirt</b>	87	40	19	28
<b>Wood</b>	2,282	1,440	533	309
<b>Wyoming</b>	490	221	113	156
<b>Total*</b>	43,285	22,878	11,731	8,676



\*Mass litigation filings handled by the Mass Litigation Panel are not included in the 2018 filing totals. Please refer to the Mass Litigation section of this report for statistical information on mass litigation cases.

## Circuit Court Summary

As of 2018, West Virginia has seventy-five judges in thirty-one judicial circuits. The circuits vary in size; one has seven judges while seven have one judge. While every county has a courthouse where a judge presides, a single circuit can be comprised of up to four counties.

Circuit Judges are required to reside in the circuit they serve and must be admitted to practice law in West Virginia for at least five years prior to taking office. The elections are non-partisan and they serve eight-year terms. If a Circuit Judge leaves office prior to the expiration of his or her term, the Governor of the State of West Virginia appoints a replacement to serve until the next election.

Circuit Courts are trial courts of record. They have jurisdiction with limited exceptions over all civil cases in which more than \$7,500 is at issue, all felonies and misdemeanors, and proceedings in habeas corpus, mandamus, quo warranto, certiorari, and probation. Circuit Courts receive appeals from Family Courts, Magistrate Courts, Municipal Courts, and all administrative agencies except the Division of Workers' Compensation.

In 2018, there were 43,285 cases filed in West Virginia's Circuit Courts, an almost 7 percent decrease from 2017 cases filed. Of the 2018 circuit cases, 22,878 were civil case filings (52.85 percent), 11,731 were criminal case filings (27.1 percent), and 8,676 were juvenile case filings (20.05 percent).

### Child Abuse and Neglect Overlap Cases

Types of petitions filed:	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Juvenile Administrative Order (JAA)</b>	439	409	414	439	420	466
<b>Juvenile Administrative Order where Mandamus was issued (JAM)</b>	3	0	4	1	1	4
<b>Family Infant Guardianship (FIG)</b>	1366	1,383	1,470	1,333	1,288	1,274
<b>Circuit Court Infant Guardianship (CIG)</b>	508	461	542	498	515	486
<b>Circuit Court Infant Guardianship Removed (CIGR)</b>	122	131	96	96	106	113

“Overlap” cases are cases originating in Family Court that involve some allegation of child abuse and/or neglect, and due to this allegation are transferred to and processed in Circuit Court.

- **Juvenile Administrative Orders (JAA):** A Family Court Judge who suspects child abuse and/or neglect in a pending case issues a written referral to a Child Protective Services Office and sends copies to the Circuit Court and the Prosecuting Attorney. A Circuit Judge then issues an order directing Child Protective Services to assess the referral and make a written investigation report to the Circuit Court within the timeframe specified within the law, typically 45 days.

- **Juvenile Administrative Order where mandamus was issued (JAM):** If the written report is not filed within the time frame specified within the administrative order, or if the report indicates that filing a child abuse and neglect petition is not necessary and the Circuit Judge disagrees, the Circuit Judge may issue a writ of mandamus requiring Child Protective Services to explain its decision or to file the petition.

- **Family Infant Guardianship (FIG):** Originating in Family Court, a third party other than the parents may request to be the guardian of the child.

- **Circuit Court Infant Guardianship (CIG):** Originating in Circuit Court, a third party other than the parents may request to be the guardian of the child.

- **Circuit Court Infant Guardianship Removed (CIGR):** Originating in Family Court when the Family Court Judge suspects there has been child abuse and neglect, the Family Court Judge will submit a written referral to child protective services and the guardian case is removed to Circuit Court.

## Electronic Filing and Service in Mass Litigation

The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia has adopted a process for efficiently managing and resolving Mass Litigation that includes the establishment of a Mass Litigation Panel. The Mass Litigation Panel consists of seven active or senior status circuit court judges appointed by the Chief Justice, with the approval of the Supreme Court of Appeals. Each appointment is for a term of three years and there is no prohibition against serving successive terms. The Chief Justice annually designates a Panel Member to serve as its Chair to preside over the activities of the Panel and report to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

The Mass Litigation Panel began using electronic filing in December 2008. Electronic filing saves paper, storage space, and litigant's time and money. If the Panel determines it is appropriate, the Panel Chair enters an order designating Mass Litigation for electronic filing and service and transfers the Mass Litigation to either the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, Ohio County or Raleigh County for purposes of electronic filing and service.

From January 2018 through December 2018, a total of 4,795 orders were entered in Mass Litigation cases subject to electronic filing and service. This includes bench orders entered by the Judge but filed by a Circuit Clerk or attorney. The following is a breakdown of orders by each Mass Litigation subject to electronic filing and service:

<b>Litigation</b>	<b>Jan-Dec 2018</b>
<b>Alderson Broaddus University Asbestos</b>	9
<b>Asbestos</b>	4,752
<b>FELA Asbestos</b>	12
<b>Gavin Landfill</b>	31
<b>Marcellus Shale</b>	17
<b>Raleigh Heart Clinic Litigation</b>	18
<b>Tobacco</b>	53
<b>Water Contamination</b>	19
<b>Yeager Airport</b>	61
<b>Zoloft</b>	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,975</b>



**Family Courts**  
**2018 Domestic Case Filings**

	Total	Divorce	Domestic Violence	Other Domestic Relations	Total	Contempt	Modification
<b>Barbour</b>	195	82	77	36	104	51	53
<b>Berkeley</b>	1,172	520	356	296	574	273	301
<b>Boone</b>	390	150	168	72	196	93	103
<b>Braxton</b>	166	82	54	30	58	20	38
<b>Brooke</b>	223	82	78	63	29	15	14
<b>Cabell</b>	1,378	471	674	233	1,047	580	467
<b>Calhoun</b>	103	50	34	19	11	2	9
<b>Clay</b>	179	75	80	24	108	63	45
<b>Doddridge</b>	101	40	42	19	38	16	22
<b>Fayette</b>	625	244	225	156	387	192	195
<b>Gilmer</b>	81	40	28	13			
<b>Grant</b>	150	52	60	38	131	58	73
<b>Greenbrier</b>	569	200	248	121	169	107	62
<b>Hampshire</b>	277	117	60	100	126	57	69
<b>Hancock</b>	296	86	119	91	34	14	20
<b>Hardy</b>	199	76	81	42	139	60	79
<b>Harrison</b>	863	307	396	160	353	146	207
<b>Jackson</b>	434	171	191	72	209	119	90
<b>Jefferson</b>	579	206	216	157	234	120	114
<b>Kanawha</b>	3,315	969	1,827	519	1,217	610	607
<b>Lewis</b>	208	102	61	45	113	47	66
<b>Lincoln</b>	371	154	156	61	308	140	168
<b>Logan</b>	996	288	615	93	215	78	137
<b>Marion</b>	632	255	258	119	233	151	82
<b>Marshall</b>	236	99	57	80	99	46	53
<b>Mason</b>	405	154	176	75	161	83	78
<b>McDowell</b>	329	120	120	89	126	50	76
<b>Mercer</b>	1,327	397	676	254	480	270	210
<b>Mineral</b>	351	129	118	104	169	69	100
<b>Mingo</b>	642	224	291	127	295	104	191
<b>Monongalia</b>	917	301	466	150	296	106	190
<b>Monroe</b>	174	53	90	31	39	28	11
<b>Morgan</b>	211	91	58	62	86	39	47
<b>Nicholas</b>	406	164	169	73	237	129	108
<b>Ohio</b>	401	127	157	117	234	161	73
<b>Pendleton</b>	95	48	27	20	57	29	28
<b>Pleasants</b>	100	40	45	15	18	12	6
<b>Pocahontas</b>	129	41	66	22	73	48	25
<b>Preston</b>	480	161	230	89	191	89	102
<b>Putnam</b>	681	301	270	110	197	97	100
<b>Raleigh</b>	1,079	420	532	127	417	221	196
<b>Randolph</b>	322	137	126	59	139	60	79
<b>Ritchie</b>	155	63	72	20	12	8	4
<b>Roane</b>	207	113	48	46	4	1	3
<b>Summers</b>	152	60	61	31	62	23	39
<b>Taylor</b>	186	78	87	21	68	27	41
<b>Tucker</b>	76	27	41	8	36	17	19
<b>Tyler</b>	96	44	38	14	31	9	22
<b>Upshur</b>	324	128	120	76	92	36	56
<b>Wayne</b>	485	253	141	91	376	188	188
<b>Webster</b>	138	61	52	25	97	69	28
<b>Wetzel</b>	197	81	73	43	50	16	34
<b>Wirt</b>	101	38	48	15	37	22	15
<b>Wood</b>	1,601	464	807	330	280	167	113
<b>Wyoming</b>	378	138	195	45	183	72	111
<b>Total</b>	25,883	9,374	11,561	4,948	10,675	5,308	5,367

**Family Courts**  
**2018 Marriages Performed by County**

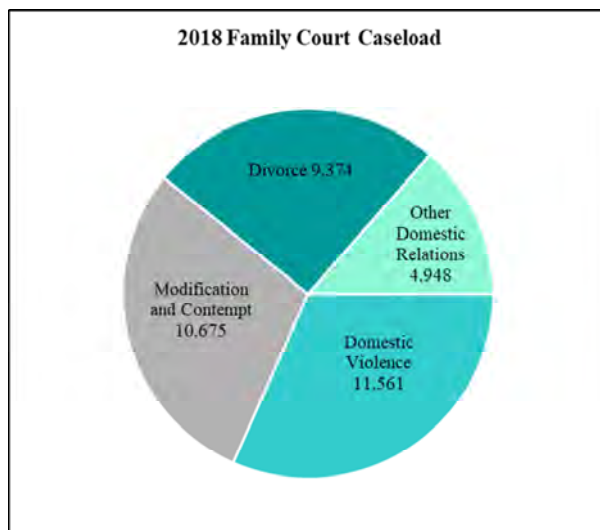
County	Total Marriages	County	Total Marriages	County	Total Marriages
Barbour	13	Kanawha	80	Preston	21
Berkeley	68	Lewis	2	Putnam*	0
Boone	0	Lincoln	0	Raleigh	96
Braxton	4	Logan	65	Randolph	31
Brooke	2	Marion	78	Ritchie	0
Cabell	115	Marshall	11	Roane	0
Calhoun	0	Mason	29	Summers	0
Clay	4	McDowell	0	Taylor	3
Doddridge	0	Mercer	11	Tucker	3
Fayette	0	Mineral	1	Tyler	0
Gilmer	0	Mingo	16	Upshur	2
Grant	6	Monongalia	72	Wayne	0
Greenbrier	0	Monroe	0	Webster*	0
Hampshire	0	Morgan	0	Wetzel	3
Hancock	0	Nicholas	33	Wirt	4
Hardy	27	Ohio	8	Wood	0
Harrison	156	Pendleton	0	Wyoming	4
Jackson	40	Pleasants	0	<i>Total</i>	<b>1,067</b>
Jefferson	59	Pocahontas	0		

\*Putnam and Webster County did not report for 2018.

**Family Court Summary**

West Virginia has forty-seven Family Court Judges in twenty-seven Family Court circuits. Family Court Judges are required to reside in their circuit and must be admitted to practice law in West Virginia for at least five years before taking office. Like Circuit Court Judges, their elections are non-partisan, their terms are for eight years and the Governor appoints a replacement to serve until the next election if a Family Court Judge leaves office prior to the expiration of his or her term.

Family Courts have jurisdiction over divorce, annulment, separate maintenance, paternity, grandparent visitation, name change, infant guardianship, child custody, and family support proceedings except in cases involving child abuse and neglect. Family Court Judges also hold final hearings in civil domestic violence cases and may perform marriages.



In 2018, there were 25,883 new cases filed in Family Courts in West Virginia, less than a 1 percent decrease from 2017 cases filed. In addition to new cases filed, there were 10,675 modifications and contempt proceedings in reopened cases this year. For details see table on *Page 8*. Family Court Judges also performed 1,067 weddings. For details see table on *Page 9*.

Family Court Judges can refer divorcing parents to mediation and parent education. In cases involving high conflict parents or safety concerns, visitation and exchange centers are used where available. See table below. Cases involving allegations of abuse or neglect that do not meet the statutory standard to file a petition in Circuit Court, can result in a guardian *ad litem* being appointed for a child. A guardian provides a detailed report to the Family Court Judge providing for the safety of the child and the appropriate parenting time for each parent.

**West Virginians Served by Supreme  
Court Grant-Supported  
Family Visitation Centers  
Grant Cycle 2018**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>
Total Clients Served.....	881
Fathers.....	404
Mothers.....	430
Grandparent / Legal Guardian.....	47
Children Involved.....	654
Supervised Visitation.....	660
Neutral Drop-off.....	227
<i>Total number of clients served = fathers + mothers + grandparent/legal guardian</i>	

**Magistrate Courts**  
**2018 Civil Case Filings**

	Total	Small Claims	Personal Safety Petitions	Domestic Violence	
				EPO	TEPO
<b>Barbour</b>	278	194	5	78	1
<b>Berkeley</b>	4,933	3,941	232	760	0
<b>Boone</b>	436	198	62	176	0
<b>Braxton</b>	295	220	2	73	0
<b>Brooke</b>	346	217	35	93	1
<b>Cabell</b>	3,590	2,690	159	739	2
<b>Calhoun</b>	150	105	6	37	2
<b>Clay</b>	188	104	3	81	0
<b>Doddridge</b>	155	90	19	46	0
<b>Fayette</b>	665	426	1	237	1
<b>Gilmer</b>	137	106	3	28	0
<b>Grant</b>	218	139	11	67	1
<b>Greenbrier</b>	1,009	653	66	289	1
<b>Hampshire</b>	588	520	2	66	0
<b>Hancock</b>	514	358	24	132	0
<b>Hardy</b>	377	292	5	79	1
<b>Harrison</b>	2,025	1,569	8	447	1
<b>Jackson</b>	766	443	92	229	2
<b>Jefferson</b>	1,504	1,220	46	236	2
<b>Kanawha</b>	6,456	3,610	742	2,103	1
<b>Lewis</b>	406	331	11	64	0
<b>Lincoln</b>	366	165	47	154	0
<b>Logan</b>	1,317	400	295	622	0
<b>Marion</b>	1,417	1,041	49	325	2
<b>Marshall</b>	402	325	18	57	2
<b>Mason</b>	504	239	55	208	2
<b>McDowell</b>	294	114	57	121	2
<b>Mercer</b>	2,332	1,272	361	699	0
<b>Mineral</b>	538	345	37	153	3
<b>Mingo</b>	539	175	71	292	1
<b>Monongalia</b>	2,974	2,218	165	591	0
<b>Monroe</b>	268	137	24	107	0
<b>Morgan</b>	800	715	19	66	0
<b>Nicholas</b>	469	276	11	180	2
<b>Ohio</b>	933	710	48	173	2
<b>Pendleton</b>	131	98	7	26	0
<b>Pleasants</b>	117	71	0	46	0
<b>Pocahontas</b>	323	204	30	89	0
<b>Preston</b>	784	502	41	241	0
<b>Putnam</b>	1,300	897	47	355	1
<b>Raleigh</b>	1,758	1,121	0	635	2
<b>Randolph</b>	800	523	41	236	0
<b>Ritchie</b>	209	132	1	75	1
<b>Roane</b>	276	199	2	74	1
<b>Summers</b>	167	105	0	62	0
<b>Taylor</b>	327	229	2	95	1
<b>Tucker</b>	141	96	4	41	0
<b>Tyler</b>	170	112	17	41	0
<b>Upshur</b>	526	380	0	146	0
<b>Wayne</b>	779	537	48	194	0
<b>Webster</b>	150	69	18	63	0
<b>Wetzel</b>	269	174	20	75	0
<b>Wirt</b>	134	75	8	51	0
<b>Wood</b>	7,213	6,162	185	866	0
<b>Wyoming</b>	427	171	52	203	1
<b>Total</b>	54,190	37,415	3,314	13,422	39

**Magistrate Courts**  
**2018 Criminal Case Filings**

	Total	Worthless Check	Felony		Misdemeanor		
			Motor Vehicle	Other	Motor Vehicle	DNR	Other
<b>Barbour</b>	1,385	159	11	101	538	44	532
<b>Berkeley</b>	6,496	30	80	846	3,047	43	2,450
<b>Boone</b>	2,192	9	16	365	1,046	36	720
<b>Braxton</b>	1,061	5	8	139	482	55	372
<b>Brooke</b>	1,932	20	17	153	1,340	18	384
<b>Cabell</b>	8,398	160	88	1,059	4,155	61	2,875
<b>Calhoun</b>	489	29	5	42	229	22	162
<b>Clay</b>	805	46	11	58	444	27	219
<b>Doddridge</b>	973	20	5	40	768	19	121
<b>Fayette</b>	3,919	69	28	484	2,134	27	1,177
<b>Gilmer</b>	562	28	8	46	291	15	174
<b>Grant</b>	740	63	8	77	157	24	411
<b>Greenbrier</b>	2,109	230	13	230	758	48	830
<b>Hampshire</b>	1,574	96	6	112	829	27	504
<b>Hancock</b>	1,341	4	11	135	818	36	337
<b>Hardy</b>	1,912	134	4	88	1,183	53	450
<b>Harrison</b>	4,464	126	53	512	1,428	41	2,304
<b>Jackson</b>	3,367	85	26	236	2,283	69	668
<b>Jefferson</b>	5,568	148	50	286	3,735	76	1,273
<b>Kanawha</b>	15,381	104	246	2,132	8,710	113	4,076
<b>Lewis</b>	2,595	108	11	173	1,498	149	656
<b>Lincoln</b>	1,735	20	11	164	1,141	22	377
<b>Logan</b>	4,618	23	33	414	2,442	188	1,518
<b>Marion</b>	2,589	67	26	512	1,031	38	915
<b>Marshall</b>	1,965	35	23	197	887	30	793
<b>Mason</b>	2,299	24	4	123	1,517	55	576
<b>McDowell</b>	1,223	23	17	163	476	23	521
<b>Mercer</b>	6,981	95	33	481	5,081	35	1,256
<b>Mineral</b>	1,606	29	6	149	879	39	504
<b>Mingo</b>	1,858	8	14	255	919	86	576
<b>Monongalia</b>	6,487	73	62	673	3,131	84	2,464
<b>Monroe</b>	504	18	4	43	237	27	175
<b>Morgan</b>	2,581	12	8	72	1,643	19	827
<b>Nicholas</b>	2,685	171	21	225	1,482	149	637
<b>Ohio</b>	4,501	62	18	351	2,836	19	1,215
<b>Pendleton</b>	389	18	1	31	218	46	75
<b>Pleasants</b>	537	54	6	83	215	22	157
<b>Pocahontas</b>	860	89	4	62	327	91	287
<b>Preston</b>	1,663	126	17	164	814	45	497
<b>Putnam</b>	7,926	77	41	239	6,813	25	731
<b>Raleigh</b>	7,631	147	45	837	4,245	29	2,328
<b>Randolph</b>	2,328	350	16	179	1,120	58	605
<b>Ritchie</b>	1,048	35	4	66	716	39	188
<b>Roane</b>	1,300	11	24	139	586	36	504
<b>Summers</b>	691	22	10	56	354	21	228
<b>Taylor</b>	926	29	7	75	485	20	310
<b>Tucker</b>	735	130	1	28	480	8	88
<b>Tyler</b>	723	34	5	36	414	35	199
<b>Upshur</b>	2,485	192	18	261	1,052	111	851
<b>Wayne</b>	1,879	21	19	313	968	29	529
<b>Webster</b>	537	9	1	61	205	26	235
<b>Wetzel</b>	1,421	34	6	143	792	20	426
<b>Wirt</b>	326	13	3	25	141	37	107
<b>Wood</b>	5,415	53	77	756	1,897	83	2,549
<b>Wyoming</b>	1,963	69	15	160	1,126	63	530
<b>Total</b>	149,678	3,846	1,305	14,850	82,543	2,661	44,473

**Magistrate Courts**  
**2018 Juvenile Case Filings and Special Proceedings**

	Total	Motor Vehicle	DNR	Other	Total	Mental Health	Abuse and Neglect	Juvenile
<b>Barbour</b>	17	6	8	3	12	7	0	5
<b>Berkeley</b>	76	63	6	7	282	1	0	281
<b>Boone</b>	22	12	5	5	0	0	0	0
<b>Braxton</b>	10	4	1	5	29	2	10	17
<b>Brooke</b>	71	26	0	45	25	0	0	25
<b>Cabell</b>	19	16	1	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Calhoun</b>	1	1	0	0	35	20	2	13
<b>Clay</b>	6	4	2	0	9	1	7	1
<b>Doddridge</b>	7	6	1	0	18	4	9	5
<b>Fayette</b>	27	22	1	4	8	3	0	5
<b>Gilmer</b>	5	3	0	2	11	1	7	3
<b>Grant</b>	14	2	0	12	30	20	10	0
<b>Greenbrier</b>	18	11	2	5	91	0	32	59
<b>Hampshire</b>	55	20	1	34	34	4	9	21
<b>Hancock</b>	22	21	1	0	59	0	0	59
<b>Hardy</b>	38	31	6	1	18	2	7	9
<b>Harrison</b>	62	18	0	44	113	0	36	77
<b>Jackson</b>	35	25	7	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Jefferson</b>	79	70	1	8	91	0	0	91
<b>Kanawha</b>	110	66	1	43	206	0	0	206
<b>Lewis</b>	25	13	2	10	3	0	0	3
<b>Lincoln</b>	8	6	2	0	79	9	0	70
<b>Logan</b>	114	24	44	46	9	0	0	9
<b>Marion</b>	21	14	3	4	72	0	44	28
<b>Marshall</b>	49	14	0	35	41	0	0	41
<b>Mason</b>	44	24	1	19	31	13	5	13
<b>McDowell</b>	11	3	0	8	131	55	18	58
<b>Mercer</b>	25	23	0	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Mineral</b>	21	20	1	0	12	3	3	6
<b>Mingo</b>	12	7	2	3	68	5	22	41
<b>Monongalia</b>	120	18	2	100	5	5	0	0
<b>Monroe</b>	30	11	1	18	15	4	5	6
<b>Morgan</b>	37	32	2	3	28	0	0	28
<b>Nicholas</b>	16	12	3	1	176	16	147	13
<b>Ohio</b>	88	55	0	33	71	0	42	29
<b>Pendleton</b>	8	7	1	0	10	1	3	6
<b>Pleasants</b>	5	5	0	0	72	5	34	33
<b>Pocahontas</b>	21	9	7	5	30	15	9	6
<b>Preston</b>	7	7	0	0	6	4	0	2
<b>Putnam</b>	55	47	1	7	0	0	0	0
<b>Raleigh</b>	94	40	1	53	280	76	0	204
<b>Randolph</b>	32	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ritchie</b>	13	4	0	9	41	2	15	24
<b>Roane</b>	4	4	0	0	66	3	45	18
<b>Summers</b>	5	2	2	1	16	0	13	3
<b>Taylor</b>	21	9	1	11	29	18	0	11
<b>Tucker</b>	9	9	0	0	6	0	3	3
<b>Tyler</b>	4	3	1	0	4	0	1	3
<b>Upshur</b>	21	13	2	6	32	1	11	20
<b>Wayne</b>	15	10	1	4	58	31	14	13
<b>Webster</b>	1	0	0	1	36	9	22	5
<b>Wetzel</b>	10	10	0	0	7	1	3	3
<b>Wirt</b>	4	1	1	2	10	0	8	2
<b>Wood</b>	35	10	2	23	76	0	73	3
<b>Wyoming</b>	19	16	2	1	119	12	21	86
<b>Total</b>	1,698	941	129	628	2,710	353	690	1,667

## Magistrate Court Reporting

The 2018 reporting year represents the second, full, statewide utilization of the Unified Judicial Application (UJA). The case management system processed data statewide for all twelve months.

## Magistrate Court Summary

There are 158 magistrates in West Virginia. There are at least two magistrates in every county and ten in the largest county of Kanawha. Magistrates are non-partisan and they serve four-year terms. If a Magistrate is unable to complete his or her term, the Chief Circuit Judge appoints a replacement to serve until the next election.

Magistrates have jurisdiction over civil cases in which the financial amount in dispute is less than \$10,000. They hear misdemeanor cases, conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases and preside in emergency domestic violence proceedings. In criminal cases Magistrates issue and record affidavits, complaints, arrest warrants, and search warrants. They set bail and make decisions concerning proposed plea agreements. They collect court costs, cash bonds, and fines. In counties where there are not enough mental hygiene commissioners, the Chief Circuit Judge may designate a magistrate(s) to handle all or part of probable cause involuntary hospitalization cases. These, along with emergency custody in child abuse and neglect cases, are counted as special proceedings for data collection purposes.

