



Circuit Court

Mission Statement

Jackson County Circuit-Family-Probate Court provides fair, accessible, effective, and responsive forums for the resolution of civil and criminal matters.

Programs

[Circuit, Family, and Probate Court](#)

[Circuit Court Probation](#)

Circuit Court

Activities

Circuit-Family-Probate Court serves as trial court of general jurisdiction for Jackson County—felonies, major civil cases, domestic relations, appeals from lower jurisdiction/ agencies courts.

Probate, Estate Division has exclusive legal and equitable jurisdiction in matters relating to settlement of estate of deceased persons, proceedings concerning trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and proceedings to review and settle the account of a fiduciary.

Family Court has jurisdiction in juvenile delinquency, neglect, abuse, adoption proceedings and juvenile traffic offenses.

Circuit-Family Court is responsible for operation of other arms of the court: Friend of the Court, ADR, Jury Commission and the Law Library.

Strategic Plan Impact



Circuit Court

✓ **Safe Community**

The Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction for Jackson County. It has jurisdiction over felonies, major civil cases, domestic relations, appeals from courts of lower jurisdiction and agencies. The Probate Court has exclusive legal jurisdiction in matters relating to settlement of estates related to deceased persons, proceedings concerning trusts, guardianships, conservatorships; and proceedings to review and settle the account of a fiduciary. The Family Court has jurisdiction in juvenile delinquency, neglect, abuse, adoptions, and juvenile traffic proceedings.

Accomplishments

- ✓ The Adult Treatment Court Team was successful in securing a second three year SAMHSA Grant to provide additional funding for the Recovery Court Program. The total amount of the grant was approximately \$1 million dollars. They also secured a Bureau of Justice Grant, and continued grant awards for the State Court Administration Office. The program is able to service between 90 and 120 participants. The Adult Treatment Court Team has also filed for additional SAMHSA and State Court Administration Office Grants to expand current Treatment Court Services.
- ✓ The Alternatives to Act 150 State Placement Committee has continued to work with the Judges, DHS, and other community partners to explore and research less expensive placement options for our delinquent juvenile population under court jurisdiction. These efforts continue to be challenging because of reduced state funding for some of these alternative programs, and the closure of others. These efforts still have resulted in great savings for the Child Care Fund.
- ✓ New video conferencing technology has been installed in all courtrooms and hearing rooms, and also at the Youth Center Detention Facility. These technology improvements have resulted in increased staff time efficiencies, safety and security, and have reduced transportation costs.
- ✓ The Community Corrections Office operation has successfully transitioned over to the Circuit Court and is currently overseeing several programs with the assistance of the MDOC Probation department, providing services to several hundred Adult Probation clients.
- ✓ The Court Public Satisfaction Survey that was developed by the Supreme Court Administrative Office and given annually to court house customers has yielded some positive results, including:
 - 93% indicated that they were able to complete their court business in a reasonable time.
 - 94% indicated that they were treated with courtesy and respect by court staff.



-90% indicated that they were treated with courtesy and respect by the judge/referee/magistrate.



Other Key Indicators

| Indicator | 2014 <u>Actual</u> | 2015 <u>Target</u> | 2016 <u>Target</u> | 2017 <u>Target</u> | 2018 <u>Target</u> | <u>2019</u> <u>Target</u> | <u>2020</u> <u>Target</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Appeals, Admin. Reviews, Writs Filed | 100 | 111 | 129 | 130 | 97 | 92 | 100 |
| Criminal Case Filings | 935 | 1046 | 1330 | 1113 | 1384 | 1190 | 900 |
| Civil Case Filings | 400 | 302 | 317 | 298 | 285 | 319 | 380 |
| Family Case Filings | 3650 | 3717 | 3545 | 3623 | 4031 | 3587 | 3600 |
| Probate Case Filings | 1550 | 1479 | 1537 | 1504 | 1625 | 1575 | 1500 |
| Total Full Time Employees | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Total Part-Time Employees | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Circuit Court Probation

Activities

The Circuit Court supervises offenders using the most appropriate least restrictive and cost effective means. The Court imposes sanctions including removal from the community when appropriate to deter criminal behavior; provides investigative support and information to the Courts, Parole Board, and the Department of Corrections including accurate and timely sentencing recommendations for the courts; and develops and maintains credible and cost effective community sanctions.

Strategic Plan Impact

- ✓ Safe Community

Accomplishments

Budget Adjustments

No significant budget adjustments

See Circuit Court for Performance Data



This page intentionally left blank.