

Texas Office of Court Administration

DATA & RESEARCH NEWSLETTER



Announcements

WEBINAR:

Performance Measures

Reporting – Take 2

Wed. 7/23 – 10:30 AM CST

<https://txcourts.zoom.us/j/88375614002>

Note: The recording will be available later at [District & County Court-Level Reporting](#).

CLERK RESOURCES:

[County & District Clerk Reporting and Notice Requirements](#)

Welcome to the OCA Data & Research Newsletter

This newsletter is here to keep you informed on the latest reporting changes and to provide troubleshooting tips, common reporting issues, trainings, webinars, fun facts, and more.

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Performance Measures Update (HB 2384)



Age of Active Pending Cases Survey

Last week OCA sent clerks a Performance Measures - Age of Cases Pending [survey](#) to find out readiness to collect AoC data as part of FY 2025's Performance Measures Report submission. **Respond to the [survey](#) no later than Wednesday, August 6.**

Age of Active Pending Cases

Both Age of Cases (AoC) Pending and AoC Disposed data will be required for this year's Performance Measures Report. These totals were not included on the [FY 2024 Performance Measures Dashboard](#). While AoC Disposed is already collected in the Monthly Court Activity Report, AoC Pending data are not captured in the Monthly Court Activity Report.

If your CMS has not been set up to collect these AoC Pending data, please coordinate with your vendor to ensure your system is updated by November 1's report due date. Offices that submitted AoC data in their FY 2024 report can now view it on the [District & County Court-Level Reporting](#) page.

Probate, Guardianship & Mental Health Reporting

Although [SB 2878](#) (89th Regular Session) was vetoed, the section revising reporting requirements from HB 2384 (88th Session) will be refiled in the upcoming 89th Special Legislative Session and is expected to pass. This will allow for the development of a reporting solution for these case categories.

Because there is limited time to develop measures before the next annual report is due, Probate, Guardianship, and Mental Health case reporting will include only **Cases Filed for County Courts** and **Cased Filed & Cases Transferred Internally Within the County for County Courts at Law**. See [Reporting Instructions & Guidance](#) for updated documents.

Data Quality ALERT – Total Age of Cases Disposed and Total Dispositions Should Match

- Of the FY 2024 reports that included data for Age of Cases Disposed, **25%** of Totals were incorrect.
- For example, the sum of columns L through O (screenshot below) frequently did not equal column P (Felony AoC Disposed - Total), was missing entirely, or did not match with column H (Felony Cases Disposed).

H	L	M	N	O	P
Felony Cases Disposed	Felony AoC Disposed - 90 Days or Less	Felony AoC Disposed - 91 to 180 Days	Felony AoC Disposed - 181 to 365 Days	Felony AoC Disposed - Over 365 Days	Felony AoC Disposed - Total

- Family cases had the most significant inaccuracies – only **52%** of courts that reported data had column BU (Family AoC Disposed - Total) matching their column BM (Family Cases Disposed).

89(R)-2025 Bills Affecting Clerks



SIGNED

[Senate Bill 293](#) provisions listed below are effective 9/1/2025 except as indicated.

- **MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT** – Clerk must submit report relating to courts' compliance with new time standards for motions for summary judgment. OCA must produce an annual report and make available to the public. Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals to adopt rules for implementation no later than March 1, 2026.
- **JUDGE CONTACT INFORMATION** – OCA must establish a judicial directory that contains confidential contact information, including email address, for each judge in the state. Courts or clerks will need to provide the required contact information to OCA.
- **JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY INFORMATION** – Requires each district court judge to submit certain information twice a year to the presiding judge of the Administrative Judicial Region for submission to OCA for preparation of an annual report. Supreme Court to adopt rules as soon as practicable after 9/1/2025. The clerk is not responsible for preparing or submitting these reports.

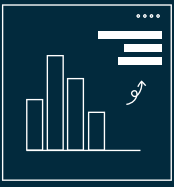
[House Bill 1778](#) adds 4 offenses to the human trafficking section of the Judicial Council Monthly Report. Rather than making changes to the existing monthly reports, OCA intends to capture this information in the transition to case level data collection mandated by the 88th Regular Session.

VETOED

[Senate Bill 2878](#) is the courts omnibus bill which contained a revision of Performance Measures requirements for probate, guardianship and mental health cases. Governor Abbott has called a Special Legislative Session to begin July 21. The courts omnibus bill will be refiled and is expected to pass.

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST, EFFECTIVE 9/1/2025

SB 53 – Mental Health	SB 1839 – Probate
SB 746 – Guardianship	SB 2587 – Guardianship
SB 1164 – Mental Health	HB 793 – Family
SB 1335 – Probate	HB 2282 – Court Costs & Fees
SB 1404 – Family	HB 2637 – Jury Procedures
SB 1448 – Probate	HB 3376 – Guardianship
SB 1760 – Guardianship	HB 4749 – Jury Procedures



Annual Statistical Report

The FY 2024 Annual Statistical Report will soon be published. For all reports, go to [Annual Statistical Reports](#). Below is a summary of **FY 2024 County & District Courts trends**.

County Courts

- Combined civil, criminal, and juvenile filings decreased by **15%** since **2023**, while dispositions rose by **3%**.
- Criminal cases accounted for **5%** of all new filings.
- Dismissals made up **45%** of criminal dispositions, and **95%** of convictions resulted from guilty or no contest pleas.

District Courts

- Initial filings, dispositions, and active pending cases decreased by less than **2%** compared to **FY 2023**.
- Since **2019**, civil case filings increased by **22%**—the largest growth among case types. Family case filings saw the largest decrease, down **10%**.
- Of the **221,000+** criminal cases disposed, **44%** resulted in convictions—**93%** of which were from guilty or no contest pleas.
- Injury or damage cases represented the largest share of civil case filings at **28%**, while child support cases accounted for the highest proportion of family law filings, at **29%**.

Statutory County Courts

- Filings increased by **4%** and dispositions by **6%** compared to the previous year.
- Compared to **5** years ago, filings increased across all case types except family cases, which fell by **7%**.
- Nearly half of all criminal case dispositions were dismissals.
- Debt claims represented **42%** of all civil case filings—the highest among civil case types.



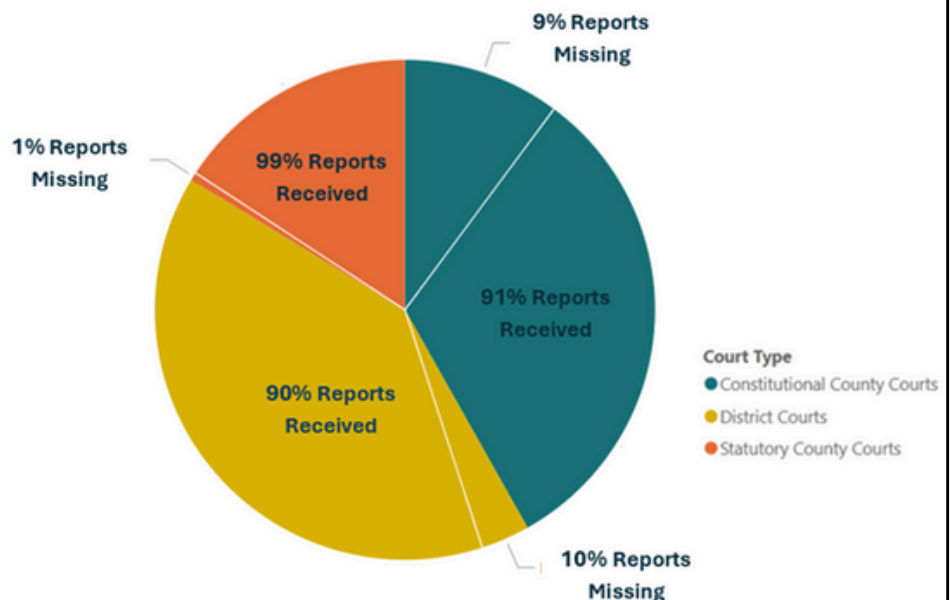
NOTICE

FY 2025 ends August 31, 2025.

OCA will be contacting clerk offices in October/November to verify their FY 2025 Monthly Court Activity data.

Be sure that your office is caught up in reporting to ease data verification.

**FY 2025 Monthly Court Activity Reports Received
(Sept 2024 - June 2025)**





Reporting Reminders



Hate Crimes

If your office reports **Criminal** activity on the Monthly Court Activity Report, you must also submit the **Hate Crimes** section, even if there was no activity. Note the following:

- There may be no cases to report.
- Your office may have not have received notification from the county or district attorney. See [Article 2A.211](#) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure for Hate Crimes finding requirements.
- Some counties' case management systems are not configured for the section to be uploaded via XML. This means the section must be submitted manually.

Failure to report may affect Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) grant funding. See [Hate Crimes](#) for a List of Hate Crimes Reported from Sept. 1, 2001 to Present.

Jury Charges & Sentences in Capital Cases

[Section 72.087\(c\)](#) of the Texas Government Code requires the judge or clerk of a court to submit to OCA a written record containing the contents of the trial court's charge to the jury and the sentence issued in each case involving the trial of a capital offense. The judge or clerk of a court must submit to OCA a written record of any case involving the trial of a capital offense before a jury, whether or not the death penalty was sought, or any case in which the defendant is found guilty of a capital offense by a judge and is sentenced by a jury.

The record must be submitted to OCA not later than the 30th day after the date the judgment of conviction or acquittal is entered in the case and must contain the following documents:

- Jury Charge (Charge of the Court)
- Judgment of Conviction by the Jury
- Jury Verdict – Capital Offense (if applicable)

See [Jury Charges & Sentences in Capital Cases](#) for [Reporting Instructions](#) and the list of cases reported to OCA since September 2007. Note: Cases are posted online within a month of receipt.

Appointments & Fees

Quarterly TIDC requests a list of missing OCA reports for the past two fiscal years. While most clerk offices have submitted their Monthly Court Activity reports, many counties are surprised to learn that appointment and fee records were never submitted, resulting in a potential loss of eligibility for grant money awarded by TIDC for the next state fiscal biennium.

As a reminder, reports are due no later than the 15th day of each month for the prior month, **even if there is no reportable activity**.

Missing appointment and fee reports are posted monthly on the [Appointments & Fees](#) page. See [OCA Online Reporting Instructions](#) to run Missing Activity Reports by Court for previous fiscal years. Visit [Appointments & Fees: District & County Courts](#) for detailed instructions and resources.

Court Analytics Texas (CATX)

During the 88th Legislative Session, OCA received funding to contract with a vendor to build a new statewide system to collect case-level data. The Texas Judicial Council was tasked with gathering this data from courts, and in September 2024, OCA signed with Tyler Technologies to develop the **Court Analytics TX (CATX)** system.

The purpose of CATX is to develop, implement, and maintain a robust statewide data warehouse and business intelligence system that will serve as a comprehensive repository of court case-level data for all court levels and case types across the state of Texas. This system aims to provide transparency and a more detailed view of the life of a case as it navigates through the court. More detailed data will promote transparency, support policy making decisions, and inform judges, clerks, lawmakers, researchers, and the community.

What does this mean for my office?

Right now clerks submit monthly court activity reports to OCA by XML or manual entry. With this integration, OCA will securely connect to specific fields in your case management system and pull the required data directly—without requiring extra work on your end. Our goal is to make reporting easier and, eventually, eliminate the need for separate reporting altogether.

When will this start?

It already has! We are currently in the testing phase with clerks who utilize the Tyler UCMS system.

When is it my turn?

You will definitely have plenty of notice before we start with your county/office. The plan is to begin with an initial meeting that includes your vendor(s), IT representative (if applicable), OCA, and Tyler Technologies to walk you through the process and expectations.

What do I need to do?

No action is required from your office until you hear from us. 😊

Stay Tuned!

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL
judinfo@txcourts.gov.



Texas Fun Facts



Of all the major soft drink brands in America, Dr Pepper is the oldest. The drink was invented by pharmacist Charles Alderton in 1885 at Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store in Waco, Texas. The U.S. Patent Office recognizes December 1, 1885, as the first time Dr. Pepper was sold.

Alderton often created recipes for soft drinks and the one made with 23 flavors ended up being the most popular.

Customers initially called the drink a "Waco," and the owner of the drug store Wade Morrison is credited with naming the drink Dr Pepper after his friend Dr. Charles Pepper.

Dr Pepper has grown into an international brand and its distributor, the Dr Pepper Snapple Group, owns several other popular soda brands.

Don't forget...



OCA Monthly Reports are due the 20th of each month.

Appointments and Fees reports are due the 15th of each month.

All reports are due even if there is 'No Activity.'

Has your email account been compromised? PLEASE let us know asap by sending an email from an unaffected account to judinfo@txcourts.gov or calling (512) 463-1625 (ask that Data & Research Division be notified). Thank you!



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Do you have an idea for a future OCA webinar?

Email us your suggestions at

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