

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OVERVIEW - 2024

DENVER DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction and Case Types

The Second Judicial District is unique in that it has a separate District Court, Juvenile Court, Probate Court, and County Court serving the citizens of the State of Colorado. The Denver District Court handles civil, criminal, and domestic relations cases. The Denver District Court serves a population of over 716,000 residents plus many other people who work in Denver. In addition, since Denver is the State's capital, any lawsuit involving the constitutionality of a statute, an election, or a review of an administrative agency's action is usually filed in Denver.

During 2024 the Denver District Court docketed approximately 5,539 felony criminal cases, 3,916 domestic relations cases, and 4,909 civil matters. The Court heard 146 jury trials and 47 court trials. At the close of the year, the Denver Adult Probation Department had 5,955 active Probation cases on supervision.

Staff and Docket Rotations

There are twenty- seven District Court Judges serving in domestic relations, criminal and civil matters and four Magistrates who hear specialized dockets. Eleven Judges preside over felony criminal cases, five Judges and three Magistrates hear domestic relations cases, and eleven judges handle civil cases. One part-time Magistrate and one Judicial Officer preside over the Problem Solving Courts which include a Veteran's Treatment Court, RESTART (felony DUI Treatment Court), and the DIVERT drug court track. Judges rotate which divisions they are assigned to, with the average rotation being eighteen to twenty-four months in domestic relations, two years in criminal, and three years in civil.

In addition to the Judges and Magistrates, there are approximately 160 full and part-time employees who provide clerical, legal research, accounting and administrative support.

Specialized Programming and Services

In March 2020, the Denver Adult Drug Court re-organized in response to House Bill 19-1263, which reclassified offense level for possession of certain controlled substances. Currently there are three separate Problem Solving Court (PSC) programs to include RESTART (a felony DUI Treatment Court), Veteran's Treatment Court, and the DIVERT Adult Drug Court.

In January 2022, the Denver District Court started a docket focusing on early identification, wrap around support, and integrated case management for competency cases. This docket aims to streamline and expedite services for defendants who may be eligible for Competency Diversion in Denver County Court or through restoration in or out of custody while their felony case is pending. The success of this program relies on the cooperation and collaboration of essential community and criminal justice organizations as well as local treatment providers.

Denver District Court is constantly striving to enhance the services provided to the public through customer service, ensuring meaningful and equitable access to the Court for our community. In 2024, the Denver District Court Pro Se Resource Center assisted a total of 24,595 litigants; 8,331 by phone, 2,019 by email, and 14,245 in-person. This year the center also offered 10 clinics for those needing assistance with domestic relations matters; including several Ask-A-Lawyer Clinics and a Legal Resource Day held in partnership with local courts, volunteer attorneys, and local community organizations.

Visitors and school groups are always welcome to observe court proceedings, held both in-person or virtually dependent on individual case circumstances.

For further information concerning Denver District Court, contact:

Jennifer Jantz, Court Executive
Room 256 City and County Building
Denver Colorado 80202
(303)606-2323

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUVENILE COURT OVERVIEW – 2024

DENVER JUVENILE COURT

Jurisdiction and Case Types

The Second Judicial District is unique in that it has a separate District Court, Juvenile Court, Probate Court, and County Court serving the citizens of the State of Colorado. The Denver Juvenile Court handles dependency and neglect, delinquency, paternity and support, truancy, adoption, and relinquishment cases. The Denver Juvenile Court serves a population of over 715,000 residents plus many other people who work in Denver. In 2024, Juvenile Court docketed over 2,000 new cases. In the same year, Juvenile Court Judges presided over four jury trials and hundreds of court trials and other contested hearings. At the close of the year, the Denver Juvenile Probation Department had 252 youth on probation supervision.

Staff and Docket Assignments

There are three judges and two magistrates serving in Juvenile Court over all case types and multiple specialized dockets. Our judges and magistrates preside over the REST docket (human trafficking), the ICWA Court (Indian Child and Family), the YFTC Court (Youth and Family Treatment), the HIP docket (youth handgun intervention program), and the newly established juvenile competency docket. In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are approximately 25 full and part-time employees who provide clerical support, legal research, accounting expertise, and case processing support.

Specialized Programming and Services

Denver Juvenile Court is constantly striving to enhance its provision of services to the public, provide effective and efficient case processing, and ensure meaningful and equitable access to the Court for our community. In 2024, the Denver Juvenile Court Pro Se Resource Center, staffed by one person, assisted 5,083 litigants by phone, email, and in-person. This year the center also engaged in a legal resource day for those needing assistance with a variety of matters.

As a “stand alone” juvenile court, our Judges are appointed to Juvenile Court, they do not rotate. Therefore, Denver Juvenile Court specializes in all aspects of juvenile law and shares that expertise throughout the state of Colorado and the United States. At least one Denver Juvenile Court Judicial Officer, Court Executive or the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer sit on all boards, councils, and task forces related to the areas of the law the Court presides over. When there are major changes to juvenile law, Denver Juvenile Court judicial officers and staff analyze the changes, establish judicial and staff protocols and procedures and share information with other Colorado Judicial Districts.

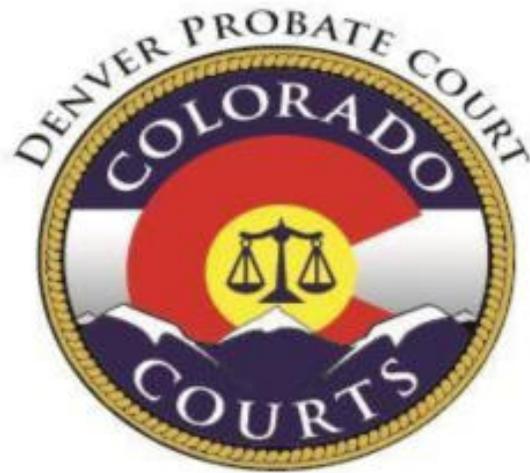
For further information concerning Denver Juvenile Court, contact:

Abigail Young, Court Executive

Room 125, Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse

Denver, Colorado 80204

(303) 606-2600



Denver Probate Court January 2025

The Colorado Constitution Article VI § 9(3) created the Denver Probate Court effective January 1965. The Denver Probate Court is the only constitutionally separate probate court in the State of Colorado. It is sometimes referred to as the 24th Judicial District (although it is located in the 2nd Judicial District). The Denver Probate Court serves a population of over 700,000 residents in the City and County of Denver, Colorado.

Jurisdiction

The Colorado Constitution establishes the jurisdiction of the Denver Probate Court. Denver Probate Court has exclusive jurisdiction over trusts, estates of deceased persons, guardianships and conservatorships, approval of settlement of claims of persons under disability, certification for short-term and long-term treatment of persons with mental health disorder, requests for commitment of persons for involuntary drug and alcohol treatment, and petitions for imposition of legal disability or removal of legal rights in the City and County of Denver. The Denver Probate Court also has jurisdiction to hear extreme risk protection orders.

Caseload and Staff

In the calendar year 2024, the following number of new cases and matters were filed with the Denver Probate Court:

- The Denver Probate Court received 43 new Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) cases, which represents 28% of all Extreme Risk Protection Order cases filed in Colorado in 2024.
- The Denver Probate Court received 1,426 Mental Health cases, representing 20% of all mental health cases filed in Colorado in 2024.
- The Denver Probate Court received 1,989 Probate cases, representing 11% of all Probate cases filed in Colorado in 2024.

- The Denver Probate Court monitored approximately 2,087 protective proceeding cases in 2024.

The caseload is the responsibility of one probate judge who appoints the one full-time probate magistrate. Judge Elizabeth D. Leith was sworn in effective July 1, 2011. Magistrate Beth A. Tomerlin was sworn in March of 2018. In addition to the Judge and Magistrate, the Court has a Court Executive/Clerk of Court and 15 FTE support staff positions in the court.

The Denver Probate Court collaborates with the Denver District Court and the Denver County Court to provide staffing for the Pro Se Resource Center located on the second floor of the City and County Building. There is also collaboration with the Denver Juvenile Court Self-Represented Litigant Coordinator in the Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse. In 2024, the Denver Probate Court, through the Pro Se Resource Center, served over 5,096 people and offered 102 Volunteer Attorney clinics. The Denver Probate Court was pleased to again participate in the Second Judicial District's 2024 Legal Resource Day and helped 71 customers throughout the day. Court presentations included an Involuntary Mental Health Law presentation, an Estate Planning session, and a What to Do When Someone Dies presentation. A Probate Ask-An-Attorney clinic was also featured.

The Denver Probate Court worked closely with the Denver District Court to create a new competency docket in January 2022 designed to reduce the time that criminal defendants with mental health conditions, traumatic brain injury, intellectual or developmental disabilities or other conditions remain incarcerated and to promote treatment in the jail or detention facility until their release into the community. When released into the community, the Probate and District Courts work with community partners to maintain these defendants in treatment with the necessary support systems to prevent recidivism. The success of the docket relies on cooperation and collaboration with the Denver District Attorney's and Public Defender's Offices, the Denver City Attorney's Office, Pretrial Services, the Denver Sheriff's Department, Guardians Ad Litem, WellPower, the Office of Civil and Forensic Mental Health, the Brain Injury Alliance and local treatment providers. This docket is formally known as the REACH docket – Review, Evaluate, and Assist, Community based behavioral Health.

The Denver Probate Court supported the creation of the Office of Public Guardian in 2017 and served as the pilot court for that office.

The Denver Probate Court strives to continually enhance the services provided to the public by increasing access to the Courts, improving the ability of people to represent themselves, and increasing understanding of the judicial process for all participants.

For further information regarding the Denver Probate Court, contact:
Amber Roth
Court Executive/Clerk of Court
Room 230 City and County Building - 303-606-2482