

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



CIRCUIT COURT
COUNTY COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SERVING FIVE COUNTIES IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA: CHARLOTTE COUNTY,
COLLIER COUNTY, GLADES COUNTY, HENDRY COUNTY AND LEE COUNTY

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The Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Florida includes five counties in Southwest Florida:

- LEE COUNTY
- CHARLOTTE COUNTY
- COLLIER COUNTY
- HENDRY COUNTY
- GLADES COUNTY

Our Mission

The mission of the Administrative Office of the Courts is to provide the highest level of professional services with integrity, equality, and respect that supports the judiciary in their efforts to protect rights and liberties, ensure access to justice for all citizens, and provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes in a fair and timely manner.



20TH CIRCUIT COURT OVERVIEW

CIRCUIT COURT

Each county is served by the circuit court and the county court. The circuit court is the court of general jurisdiction and has responsibility for probate matters (wills), civil actions in which the disputed amount exceeds \$30,000, and felony criminal cases which includes cases punishable by more than one year in state prison. Circuit court also hears cases in equity such as domestic relations (divorce, child custody, and injunctions for protection), juvenile proceedings and petitions for writs. The circuit court hears appeals from county court. Circuit judges are either elected or appointed and serve six year terms. Circuit judges are assigned throughout the Circuit as needed to handle the caseloads in the respective counties.

COUNTY COURT

County court is a limited jurisdiction court which hears misdemeanors (criminal offenses punishable by up to one year in county jail), violations of county and municipal ordinances, traffic matters, civil actions in which the amount in dispute does not exceed \$30,000 and small claims disputes (small claims court hears civil disputes in which the amount in dispute is \$8,000 or less). County court also hears all landlord and tenant proceedings relating to the right of possession. County judges are elected or appointed to six year terms and serve within the county of their election. County judges can be authorized under certain circumstances to handle circuit court cases.



Our Vision

The Administrative Office of the Courts will provide professional, efficient, effective service to the Courts focusing on our core businesses:

Be fair, equitable, and conduct business with integrity.

Uphold the principles of judicial independence and accountability.

Be accessible, convenient, understandable and timely.

Be effective.

Be responsive and anticipate the needs of those we serve.

CORE MISSION AND PERFORMANCE GOALS

EXPEDITION AND TIMELINESS

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DELAYS AND WILL SEEK TO RESOLVE ALL CASES IN A TIMELY WAY CONSISTENT WITH STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND THE AFFORDABILITY OF JUSTICE IN ALL CASE TYPES.

INDEPENDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT MANAGEMENT OF ITS PUBLIC RESOURCES AND WILL SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY.

EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS

THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT WILL SEEK TO ENSURE INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS IN INDIVIDUAL CASES AND WILL PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, DIVERSION AND TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES.

Message from the Chief Judge



THE HONORABLE J. FRANK PORTER

It is my privilege to present the 2021-2022 Annual Report on behalf of Florida's Twentieth Judicial Circuit. Our circuit encompasses five counties—Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee—each contributing its unique characteristics to our judicial system. This comprehensive report provides a snapshot of the significant efforts undertaken in each county.

I would be remiss if I did not credit the leadership of former Chief Judge Michael T. McHugh, along with Trial Court Administrator Scott Wilsker, for guiding us in 2021-2022. Taking the reins on July 1, 2023, as the Chief Judge, I came to appreciate the seamless operation of the Twentieth Circuit, a testament to the hard work of Judge McHugh and Mr. Wilsker.

Shortly after becoming a circuit judge in 2004 I was appointed Deputy Chief Judge by then Chief Judge Hugh Hayes. This is when I began to learn the inner workings of the 20th Judicial Circuit and accepted several administrative judge assignments throughout the subsequent years. Because of this valuable experience I decided to run for Chief Judge. My primary goal is to maintain the high level of efficiency for the Twentieth Circuit in serving its' citizens. They deserve nothing but the best, which they are accustomed to.

The landscape of our judiciary underwent changes in 2022 with the retirement of former Chief Judge Hugh Hayes in November and the subsequent appointments and elections that followed. Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Lee County Judge Erik Leontiev to Judge Hayes' Circuit seat. Collier County Judge Michael Provost and Lee County Judge Archie Hayward finished their careers on December 31, 2022. Their seats were filled by election, with Judge Chris Brown being elected by the voters of Collier County and Judge Lindsay Scott Garza being elected by the voters of Lee County. Our new colleagues seamlessly integrated into their roles.

However, 2022 was not without its challenges beyond our control. Our judges, staff, and facilities were impacted by Hurricane Ian's arrival on September 28, 2022. Despite facility damage and intermittent closures, our courts demonstrated remarkable resilience. Judge McHugh and Mr. Wilsker were well versed in guiding us on utilizing Zoom and other electronic measures to keep our cases moving after this unfortunate event. There may have been some delays, but our judges and staff never wavered in forging ahead. Many of us faced personal hardships with damage to homes and property. In my case, our home on Pine Island experienced window blowouts on the top floor during Hurricane Ian. Thankfully, we were able to secure the windows from the inside, preventing further damage. Nailing plywood during a hurricane is not recommended, especially while standing on a mattress against 150+ mph winds!

As you look through the 2022 Annual Report, I encourage you to reflect on our collective achievements and the continued commitment of our judges and staff. I am blessed to work with great judges and to be supported by the staff of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court.

Our strategic goals remain focused on improving our circuit's ability to meet our fundamental mission, most clearly outlined in the Florida Supreme Court's Long Range Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch for 2022-2027:

To be **accessible**, the Florida justice system will be convenient, understandable, timely, and affordable to everyone.

To be **fair**, the Florida justice system will respect the dignity of every person, regardless of race, class, gender, or other characteristic, and apply the law appropriately to the circumstances of individual cases.

To be **effective**, the Florida justice system will uphold the law and apply rules and procedures consistently and in a timely manner, resolve cases with finality, and provide enforceable decisions.

To be **responsive**, the Florida justice system will anticipate and respond to the needs of all members of society, and provide a variety of dispute resolution methods.

To be **accountable**, the Florida justice system will use public resources efficiently and in a way that the public can understand.

THE JUDICIARY SERVING CHARLOTTE COUNTY

GEOFFREY GENTILE
CIRCUIT JUDGE

CIRCUIT AND
COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
CHARLOTTE COUNTY



MARY EVANS
CIRCUIT JUDGE



SHANNON H. MCFEE
CIRCUIT JUDGE



LISA S. PORTER
CIRCUIT JUDGE



PAUL ALESSANDRONI
COUNTY JUDGE



JOHN L. BURNS
COUNTY JUDGE



PETER B. BELL
COUNTY JUDGE

THE JUDICIARY SERVING COLLIER COUNTY



JOSEPH FOSTER
CIRCUIT JUDGE

CIRCUIT
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
COLLIER COUNTY



ROB CROWN
COUNTY JUDGE

COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
COLLIER COUNTY



LAUREN L. BRODIE
CIRCUIT JUDGE



KYLE COHEN
CIRCUIT JUDGE



RUSSELL T. KIRSHY
CIRCUIT JUDGE



ELIZABETH KRIER
CIRCUIT JUDGE



RAMIRO MANALICH
CIRCUIT JUDGE



ERIK LEONTIEV
CIRCUIT JUDGE



JOHN MCGOWAN
CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE JUDICIARY SERVING COLLIER COUNTY



BLAKE ADAMS
COUNTY JUDGE



CHRISTOPHER
BROWN
COUNTY JUDGE



MICHAEL BROWN
COUNTY JUDGE



JANEICE T. MARTIN
COUNTY JUDGE



TAMARA LYNNE NICOLA
COUNTY JUDGE

THE JUDICIARY SERVING GLADES COUNTY

JACK LUNDY
COUNTY JUDGE
CIRCUIT AND
COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
GLADES COUNTY



JAMES SLOAN
CIRCUIT JUDGE

THE JUDICIARY SERVING HENDRY COUNTY

JAMES D. SLOAN
CIRCUIT JUDGE
CIRCUIT AND
COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
HENDRY COUNTY



DARRELL R. HILL
COUNTY JUDGE



J. FRANK PORTER
CHIEF JUDGE

THE JUDICIARY SERVING LEE COUNTY



ELSABETH ADAMS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

FAMILY
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
LEE COUNTY



ROBERT BRANNING
CIRCUIT JUDGE

CRIMINAL
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
LEE COUNTY



MICHAEL T.
MCHUGH
CIRCUIT JUDGE

CIVIL
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
LEE COUNTY



DEVIN S. GEORGE
COUNTY JUDGE

COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE
JUDGE FOR
LEE COUNTY



JOHN S. CARLIN
CIRCUIT JUDGE



JOSEPH C. FULLER
CIRCUIT JUDGE



AMY HAWTHORNE
CIRCUIT JUDGE



LEIGH F. HAYES
CIRCUIT JUDGE



BRUCE KYLE
CIRCUIT JUDGE



KEITH R. KYLE
CIRCUIT JUDGE



ALANE LABODA
CIRCUIT JUDGE



GILBERTO PEREZ
CIRCUIT JUDGE



LEE A. SCHREIBER
CIRCUIT JUDGE



MARGARET STEINBECK
CIRCUIT JUDGE



CAROLYN SWIFT
CIRCUIT JUDGE



NICHOLAS THOMPSON
CIRCUIT JUDGE

NOT PICTURED: CIRCUIT JUDGE JAMES SHENKO



JOSEPHINE GAGLIARDI
COUNTY JUDGE



LINDSAY S. GARZA
COUNTY JUDGE



ZACHARY M. GILL
COUNTY JUDGE



MARIA E. GONZALEZ
COUNTY JUDGE



NICOLE LYNN MIRRA
COUNTY JUDGE



TARA P. PALUCK
COUNTY JUDGE



H. ANDREW SWETT
COUNTY JUDGE



20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is organized based on functional responsibilities that are rooted in judicial administration and court operations areas. Although these responsibilities are carried out across the organization, certain roles and activities are department specific.

Court Administration Functions

- Caseflow Management
- Due Process Management
- Mediation/ADR Programs
- Diversion/Alternative Sanctions Programs
- Operations/Administration (Budget, HR, Technology, Court Facility Planning and Management)
- Pretrial Release
- Probation Services
- Public Guardian
- Court Security
- Staff Attorney Services



The AOC's Three Core Businesses

Adjudication

The 20th Judicial Circuit will fairly and timely resolve disputes brought before it

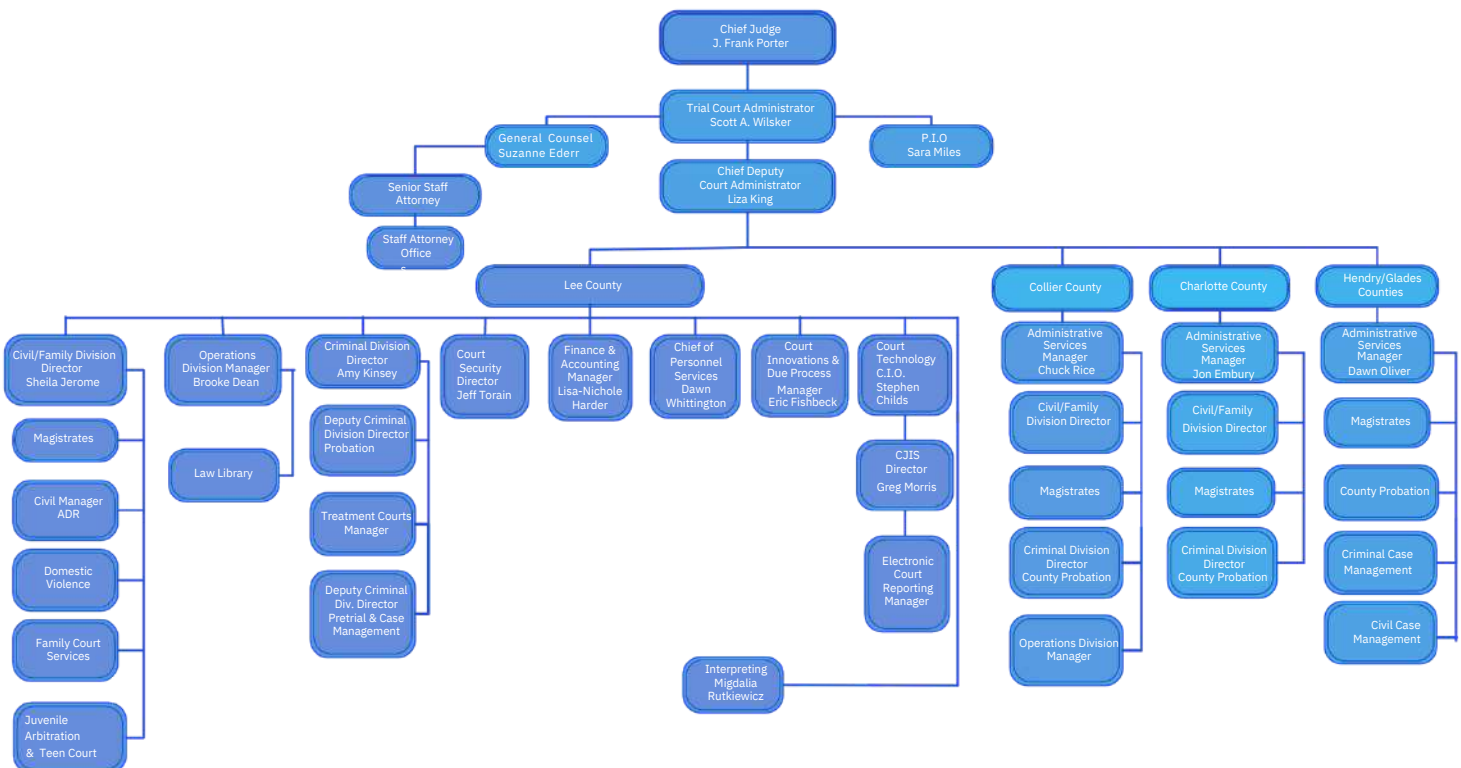
Due Process Services

The 20th Judicial Circuit will seek and secure adequate resources to support the needs to the court

Governance

The 20th Judicial Circuit will account for the prudent and efficient use of all allocated resources

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



20TH CIRCUIT COURT LOCATIONS OVERVIEW



Lee Justice Center

East Entrance
1700 Monroe Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

South Entrance
2075 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Charlotte Justice Center

350 E. Marion Avenue
Punta Gorda, FL 33950



Collier Government Complex

3315 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL 34112

Hendry Courthouse

25 E. Hickpochee Ave.
LaBelle, FL 33935



Glades Courthouse

Rt 27, 500 Avenue "J"
Moore Haven, FL 33471



Lee County Court Operations Overview

Committed to Excellence

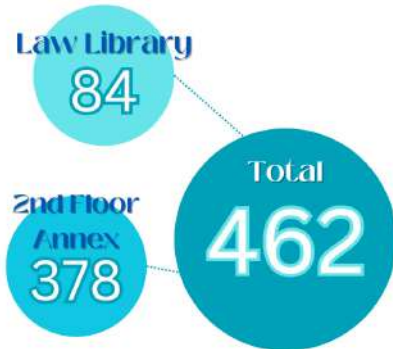
The Operations Division consists of Court Interpreter Services, Facilities Services, Senior Judge and Judicial Support Services, Judge Lynn Gerald Law Library, and Information Desks/Volunteers devoted to the unified service of the Court.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Webpage and phone line are actively used by the circuit to record ADA requests for assistance.

Deposition Room Scheduling

In addition to scheduling depositions for the Law Library conference room, The Operations Department has taken on scheduling of the newly renovated deposition rooms located on the 2nd floor of the Justice Center Annex.



- 0 C.A.R.T.
- 3 Closed Captioning for Zoom
- 4 Hearing Device
- 18 Sign Language Interpreter



Emergency Management

Hurricane Ian then became the second major hurricane of the season on September 27. Hurricane Ian was the third-costliest weather disaster on record, and the deadliest hurricane to strike the state of Florida since the 1935 Labor Day hurricane.

Ian made landfall Sept. 28 in the Fort Myers area as a Category 4 hurricane. The 150-mph winds pushed ashore feet of water from the Gulf of Mexico that tore through homes and businesses along the coast. The following day, Ian crossed the Florida Peninsula diagonally and dumped flooding rain on the interior and blew in storm surge along the opposite coast from where it made landfall. Ian made a third and final U.S. landfall in South Carolina two days after slamming into Florida. Ian’s official death toll stands at 144 people, with the majority of those deaths occurring in Lee County.

Residential: Destroyed, 4,671; Major, 12,384; Minor, 209; Affected, 13,714; Total, 44,003

Commercial: Destroyed, 275; Major, 1,218; Minor, 2,022; Affected, 2,278; Total, 6,453

Total Estimated Loss: Destroyed, \$380,246,563; Major, \$2,901,903,697; Minor, \$1,389,953,208; Affected, \$669,315,003; Total, \$5,342,160,806

The Lee County Courthouse was closed to the public from September 27, 2022 through October 7, 2022 with the Justice Center Tower sustaining most of the complex’s water and wind damage.



20th Circuit Interpreter and Translator Services

Mission Statement

We are a team of professionally trained, certified court interpreters, and support personnel. We work in conjunction with each other, to carry out our common mission which is enabling the faithful and accurate interpretation of court proceedings, and in so doing, to facilitate the mission of the judicial branch, by placing those who use our services on equal footing within the court with those that speak the English language.

Circuit Wide Court Interpreter Services

The 20th Judicial Circuit AOC continues to provide interpreting services for individuals who are non-English-Speaking or are Limited English Proficient (LEPs), are deaf or hearing impaired, or are unable to speak. The AOC employs full-time certified staff Court Interpreters and it also utilizes certified and qualified independent contract court interpreters to provide services in all court locations.

From our home base office in Lee County, we provide interpreting services to all five counties in our circuit with the help of three full-time staff interpreters and the help of contractors. At this time, the Interpreters' Office is in the process of trying to fill two Spanish interpreting positions in Lee and Charlotte counties. A total of 64 contract interpreters (individuals and/or agencies) also provide services in our circuit. Among the languages provided are Spanish, Haitian-Creole, American Sign Language and a variety of exotic languages and dialects.

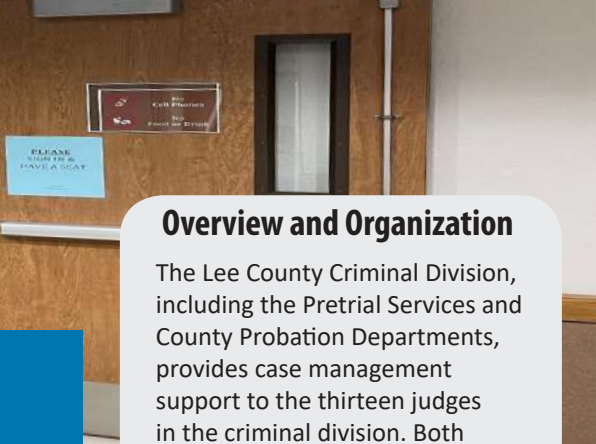
Rankontre Ekip la Meet the Team Conocer al Equipo



The Court Interpreter and Translators Department held an Open House for Judges, staff and Court Administration. Everyone was able to meet and greet with each other and also discuss interpreting services that are provided.

Court Interpreter Services Circuit Wide 2022

Type of Proceeding /Other Languages	Spanish	Haitian Creole	Other	ASL	Translation Pages	Totals
Circuit Criminal	4506	219	142	14	266	5147
County Criminal	9794	407	215	25	0	10441
Family Court - Dependency/CINS/FINS	638	98	100	0	0	836
Family Court - Delinquency	919	210	30	0	0	1159
Baker/Marchman/Guardianship	37	8	0	0	0	45
Domestic Violence Injunctions	397	27	36	3	0	463
GM/CSEHO for Family Court - All Other Title IV-D	9	0	0	0	0	9
Other Case Types	291	42	34	4	0	371
Totals	16,591	1,011	557	46	0	18,471



Lee County Criminal Division Overview

Overview and Organization

The Lee County Criminal Division, including the Pretrial Services and County Probation Departments, provides case management support to the thirteen judges in the criminal division. Both departments have unique objectives but work together collaboratively under the direction of the Trial Court Administrator and the Criminal Division Director.

County Probation

The Lee County Probation Department was established in 1975. The mission is to promote public safety by enforcing court orders, supervising probationers and motivating positive behavioral change. The vision is to be a leader by enhancing working relationships with our criminal justice partners and utilizing evidence based practices and advancements in technology to proactively supervise, educate and redirect probationers to reduce recidivism. The deputy director oversees day-to-day operations for the department.

2021-2022 Probation Stats

CASELOAD AVERAGE PER OFFICER- 159

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- o 70% SUCCESS RATE
- o \$981,877 SUPERVISION FEES COLLECTED
- o \$2,749,171 FINES & COURT COSTS
- o \$26,096 RESITUTION COLLECTED
- o 5,687- COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS
- o \$3,814,014 IN TOTAL REVENUES

379 probationers entered the Day Work Program



80% completion rate of the program.

The Day Work Program is a sentencing alternative, which allows probationers to perform various labor projects at non-profit or local government organizations for no wage in lieu of incarceration.

2,829 defendants placed on pretrial supervision
(from all court hearings)

2021-2022 Pretrial Stats

CASELOADS

- o 877 CASES ON AVERAGE EACH MONTH
- o 27% ELECTRONIC MONITORING
- o 12% SIMULTANEOUS BOND

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- o 79% SUCCESS RATE
- o 95% SAFETY RATE
- o 97% COURT APPEARANCE RATE
- o 12% TECHNICAL NON-COMPLIANCE RATE

Pretrial Services

The Lee County Pretrial Services Department was established in 1988. It is comprised of Intake and Investigation, Case Supervision and Case Management. The mission is to provide comprehensive case management services to the courts, from case inception through case closure, via professional staff committed to the highest standards of excellence. The vision is to be a leader within the court system by developing an empowered workforce that embodies integrity, excellence, and accountability delivering the highest quality of services. The deputy director oversees day-to-day operations for the department.

Overview of Criminal Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Lee County



Case Management: Court Performance Outcome Measures

Time to Disposition - Measures the percentage of cases disposed or otherwise resolved within established timeframes and assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. In the 20th Judicial Circuit, time goals are established under Administrative Order 3.25. The goal is to resolve 90% of expedited cases within 180 days from arrest, standard within 240 days and complex within 360 days. Lee County met 85% of expedited cases, 85% of standard cases and 89% of complex cases for time goals. Early Resolution Court pled or disposed of 1,104 cases.

Circuit Criminal Trial Court Cases

As of June 30, 2022

(This includes Capital Murder, Violent Crimes, Against Persons, Against Property, and Drug Crimes.)

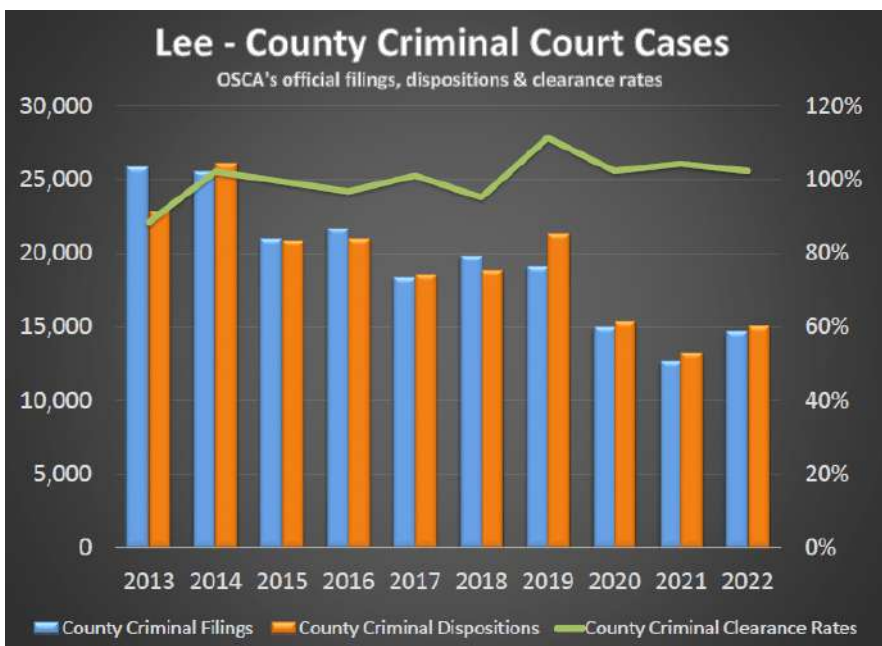
3,628 cases were filed	3,829 cases were disposed	106% clearance rate
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County Criminal Trial Court Cases

As of June 30, 2022

14,681 cases were filed
15,023 cases were disposed
102% clearance rate

(This includes Misdemeanors & Criminal Traffic, County & Municipal Ordinances, and Driving Under the Influence.)





Lee County Civil Division Overview

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is comprised of Arbitration, Citizens Dispute Settlement, and Mediation. Arbitration is a dispute resolution process whereby a neutral third person or panel, called an arbitrator or arbitration panel, considers the facts and arguments presented by the parties and renders a decision, which may be binding or nonbinding. When people are not able to solve their own problems, the Citizen Dispute Settlement (CDS) Program offers a viable alternative to resolving the issue prior to filing a court action. Mediation is a way to settle disputes and law suits prior to or after the filing of a law suit which may avoid the need for a trial.

12,826

cases referred to ADR in 2022. This includes Small Claims, County Civil, Family Law, Circuit Civil, Dependency, & Evictions.

3,951

Small Claims mediations were held in 2022.

85%

of cases were mediated in 2022, while **15%** were arbitrated.

Total number of cases in 2022
(Hurricane Ian cancelled several sessions.)

119 total cases

46 Teen Court cases

Teen Court Volunteer Hours

938 in 2022

Success Rate

93% Juvenile Arbitration

81% Teen Court

Teen Court and Juvenile Arbitration

Juvenile Arbitration is a program where juveniles who have committed certain relatively minor offenses can be dealt with in a speedy and informal manner without having to appear before a Judge in Juvenile Court. The Programs attempt to reduce the ever-increasing problems associated with juvenile crime by allowing the Courts to deal with crimes of a more serious nature.

Teen Court differs from Juvenile Arbitration in that the cases are heard in a Courtroom by a Jury of their Peers. Teen Court Cases are presented by Teen Court members who assume the roles of Defense Attorney, Prosecution Attorney and Clerk of Courts. A practicing Attorney serves as Judge to insure all legal proceedings are valid and in accordance with legal procedures. One specific sanction of Teen Court is that all defendants must serve as part of the Jury to better understand the law and to understand that there are consequences and implications to their actions. Other sanctions may include but are not limited to: workbooks, apology letters, or Community Service.

Civil Case Management

The Civil Case Management Program monitors all circuit civil cases with the exception of family matters. These are cases with damages in excess of \$30,000 filed by a business, individual, or other organization. Some examples of case types that fall under the circuit civil category of cases are residential foreclosures, contract disputes, malpractice matters, tort actions, and products liability.



2021 Guardianship Hearings

479 referrals

472 hearings held and disposed

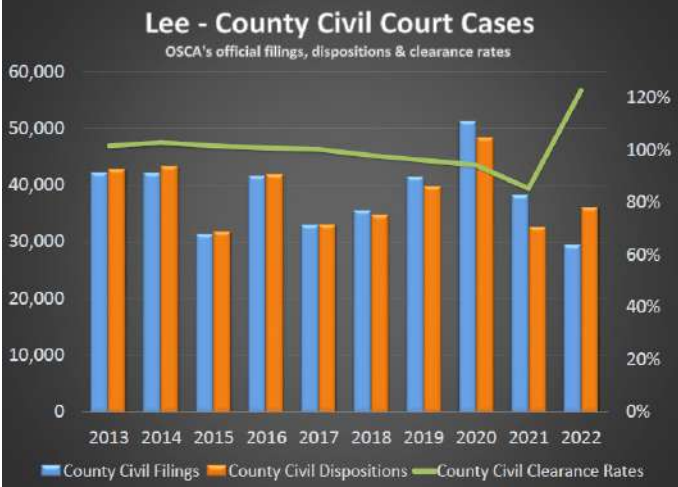
2021 Baker Act Hearings

1,193 referrals

532 hearings held

661 withdrawn or cancelled by facility

Overview of Civil Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Lee County



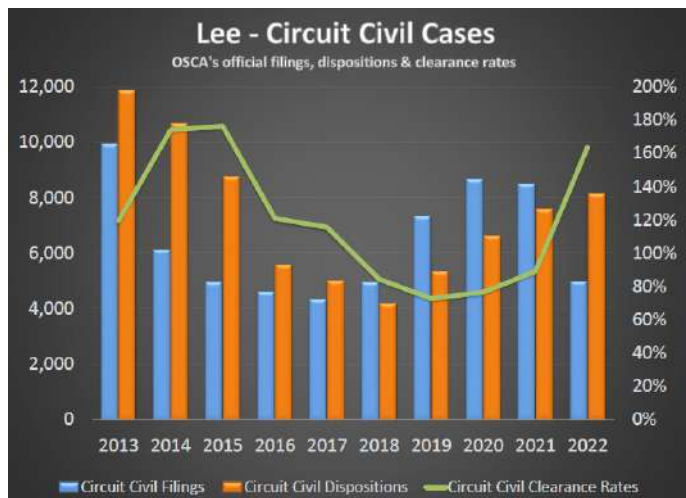
The overall clearance rate for all County Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 123% through June 30, 2022.
(This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.)

Total County Civil Filings: 29,417 through 06/30/2022

Total County Civil Dispositions: 36,121 through 06/30/2022

987 hearings were conducted by a Civil Magistrate

(This includes matters referred from the civil division judges, baker act hearings, and guardianship.)

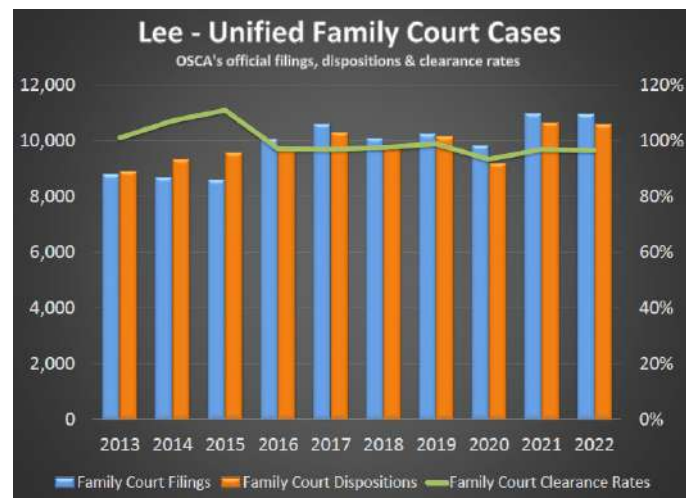


The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 163% through June 30, 2022.

Total Circuit Civil Filings: 4,894 through 06/30/2022

Total Circuit Civil Dispositions: 8,143 through 06/30/2022

(This includes Prof. Malpractice & Prod. Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts & Real Property, and Other cases.)



Total approximate number of hearings/trials referred to a Family Magistrate

924

Total approximate number of referrals to conduct trials by a Family Magistrate

852



Committed To Excellence

The Charlotte County Criminal Division consists of employees devoted to the unified service of the Court as it pertains to enforcing the Court's orders while delivering fair and consistent treatment to defendants and a noticeable and positive contribution to the Charlotte County area.

Charlotte County Criminal Division Overview

Pretrial Services

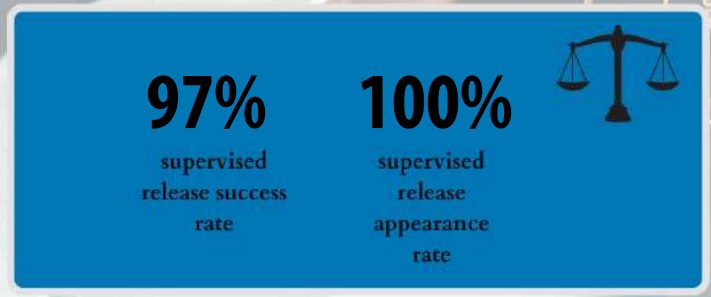
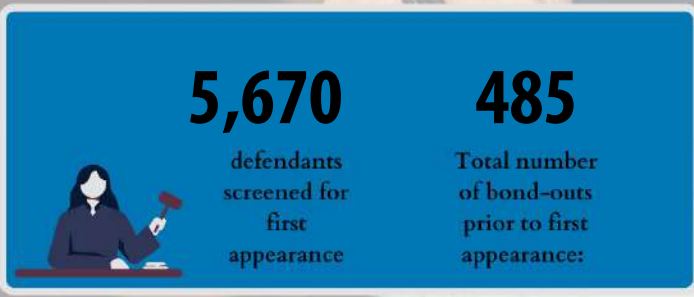
The Pretrial Services Department is comprised of an Intake and Investigation Unit which preforms interviews at the Charlotte County Jail, a Criminal Circuit Case Management Unit, a Diversion Unit, a Court Presenter/Pretrial Release Unit, a Specialty Court Coordinator, a Juvenile Arbitration Coordinator and a Secretary. Each unit has specific core functions and work collaboratively to support the department's mission.

Pretrial Services' Mission

The Charlotte County Pretrial Department is dedicated to provide professional and effective services to the citizens of Charlotte County, the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Our mission is to ensure that orders of the Court are efficiently enforced, the community protected, and that justice is fairly administered in compliance with Florida Statutes, rules, and regulations.

PRETRIAL SERVICES NUMBERS FY 21-22



County Probation

The Charlotte County Probation Department is comprised of Probation Officers and Clerical Support Staff. The Probation Officers are encouraged to follow a rehabilitative supervision model while monitoring their assigned cases. The Clerical Staff plays a pivotal role in the department's ongoing progression. This process begins at intake; as the defendant enters the department for the first time. The tone is set at this juncture through an exchange of information that culminates in the preparation of the probation file. The information contained therein is constantly updated by the Probation Officer as the defendant completes their Court-ordered conditions.

Probation's Mission

The Charlotte County Probation Department is dedicated to providing professional and effective Services to the citizens of Charlotte County, the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Our mission is to ensure that the Orders of the Court are efficiently enforced, the community is protected, and that justice is fairly administered in compliance with Florida Statutes, rules and regulations

PROBATION STATS FY 2021-22



Overview of Criminal Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Charlotte County

Circuit Criminal Trial Court Cases

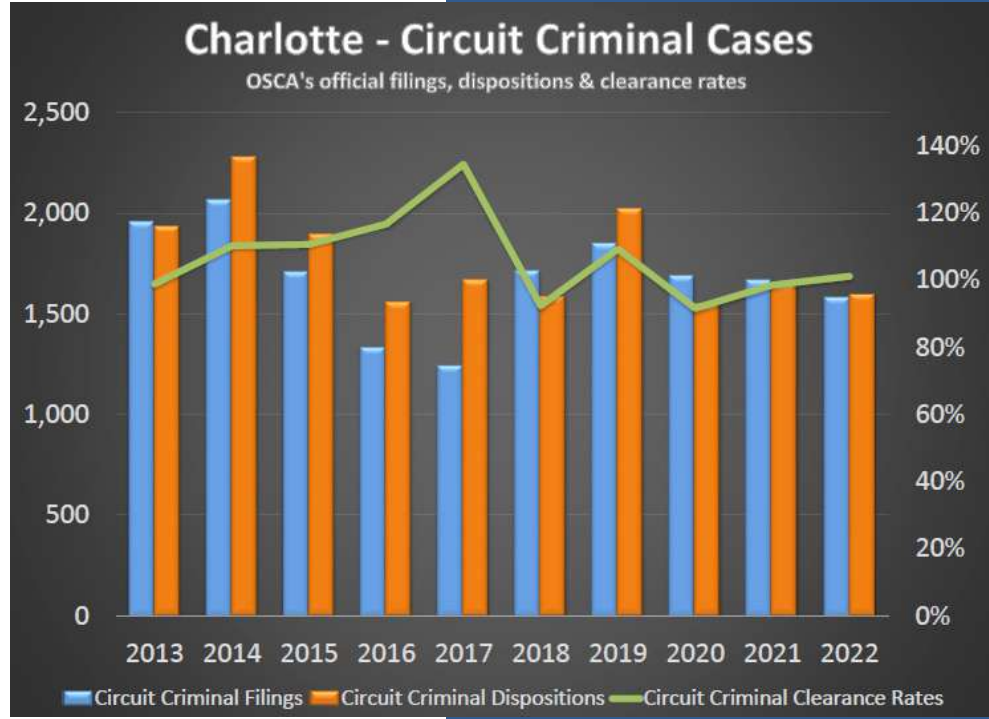
As of June 30, 2022

1,581 cases were filed

1,599 cases were disposed

101% clearance rate

(This includes Capital Murder, Violent Crimes, Against Persons, Against Property, and Drug Crimes.)



County Criminal Trial Court Cases

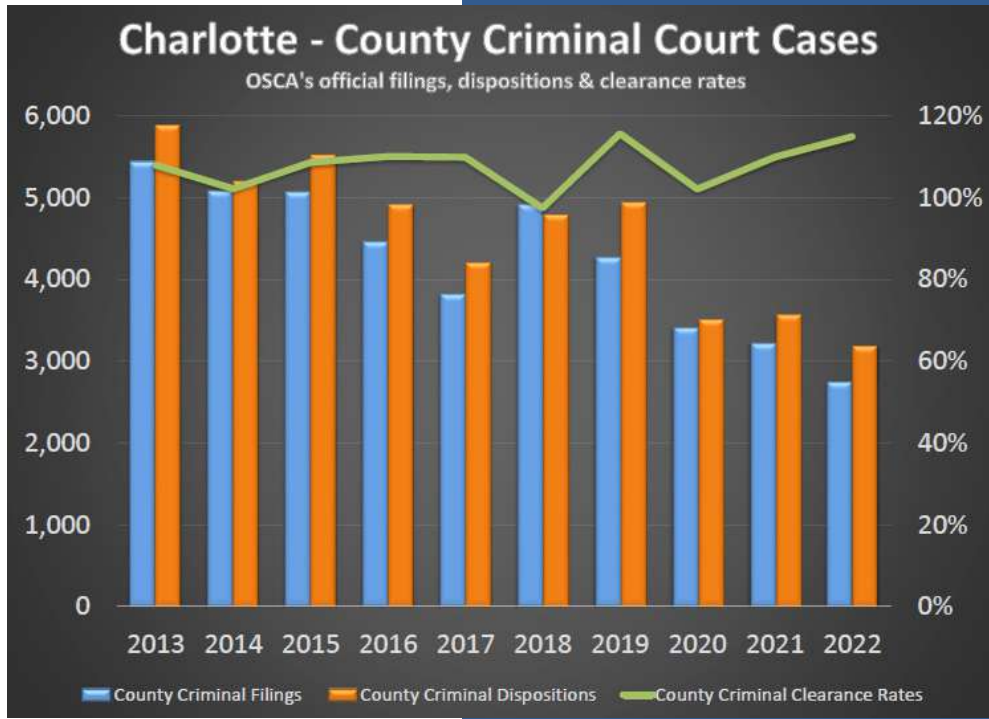
As of June 30, 2022

2,752 cases were filed

3,165 cases were disposed

115% clearance rate

(This includes Misdemeanors & Criminal Traffic, County & Municipal Ordinances, and Driving Under the Influence.)



Charlotte County Civil Division Overview

The Charlotte County Civil/Family division consists of the Civil Division Director, 11 Full time employees dedicated to assisting the Judiciary with moving cases through the system within the time periods set through unified courts.

Total Court Ordered Mediations

215 in 2022.



Court Mediation Programs:

- Citizens Dispute Settlement Program
- Small Claims Mediation
- Family Mediation Program
- Circuit and County Court Mediation

Alternative Dispute Resolution & Court Mediation Programs

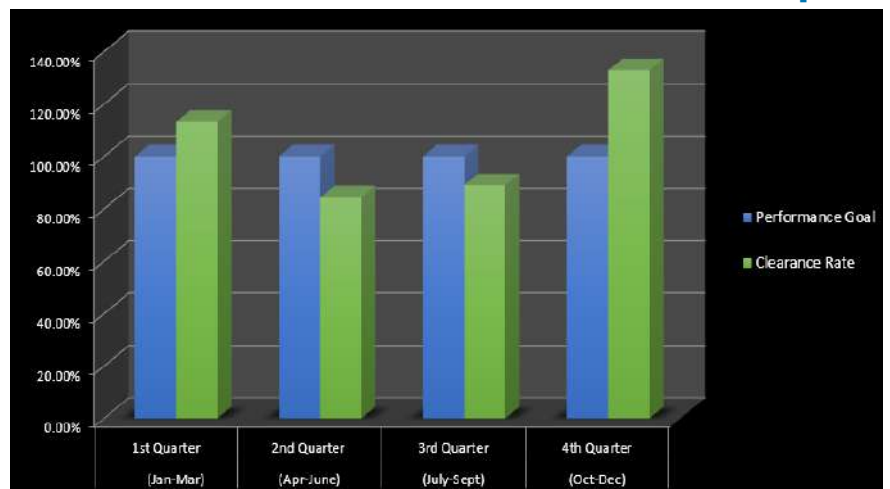
Located in the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Court Mediation Program coordinates the Citizens Dispute Settlement Program and Court Ordered Mediation services to associated litigants utilizing Volunteer and Professional Mediators Certified by the Florida Supreme Court. Professional mediators have signed a Vendor Contract with the State of Florida and are paid at the State mandated determined rate. Although not all cases can be completely resolved through mediation, the benefit of mediation before a trial is that many of the issues HAVE BEEN resolved, cutting down on Court's time needed to determine the outcome of the unresolved issues.

Family Case Management

In Charlotte County, the Family Law Case Management Team provides both Self-Help services and case management for the court. The role of the case manager is to ensure that cases move quickly and efficiently to a final disposition while providing pro se litigants with the resources they need to proceed in their cases. The case managers work closely with the Family Division Judge and Magistrate.

Family Case Management 2022 Clearance Report

In 2022, 641 Family Law cases identified in the Charlotte County Civil/Family Case Management Database were opened and 654 cases in the same year were disposed. This generated a clearance rate of 102% of the cases that were managed by the Family Law Case Managers in 2022 assigned to Judge Mary Evans



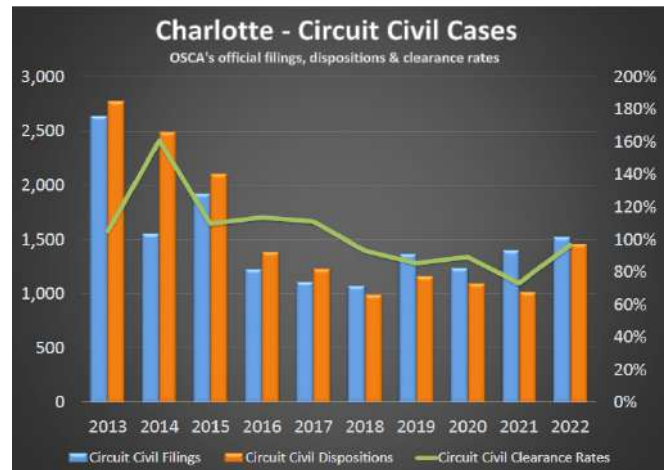
Overview of Civil Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Charlotte County

The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 97% through June 30, 2022.

Total Circuit Civil Filings: 1,520 through 06/30/2022

Total Circuit Civil Dispositions: 1,468 through 06/30/2022

(This includes Prof. Malpractice & Prod. Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts & Real Property, and Other cases.)

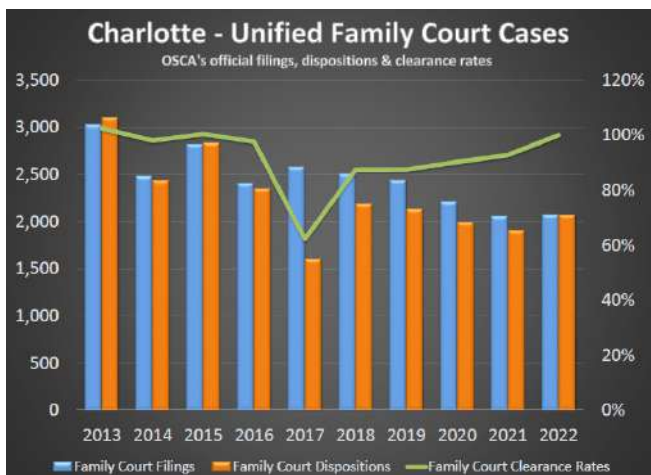
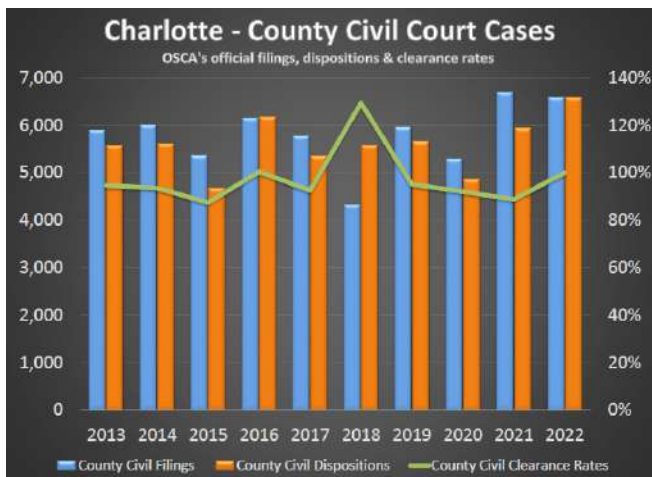


The overall clearance rate for all County Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 100% through June 30, 2022.

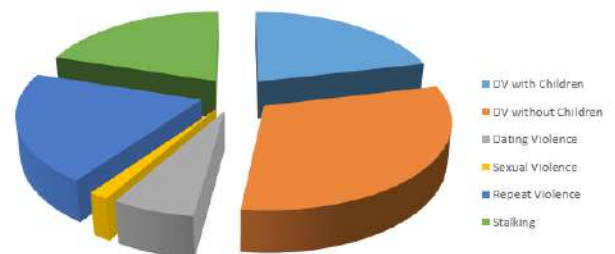
(This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.)

Total County Civil Filings: 6,580 through 06/30/2022

Total County Civil Dispositions: 6,574 through 06/30/2022



CHARLOTTE COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FILINGS 2022



680 petitions for Domestic Violence filed in 2022
(DV, DV w/Kids, Repeat, Sexual, Dating, and Stalking)

Collier County Criminal Division Overview

 **77%**
of defendants
completed their
probation conditions



9,167 defendants were supervised by probation during 2022.

County Probation

The mission of the Collier County Probation Department is protecting the community by intervening in the lives of the offenders, holding them accountable and serving as a catalyst for positive change. Believing in the inherent dignity of all human beings, we respect one another, our correctional clients, others whom we serve and the public. We act in collaboration with the community and other justice partners. We provide services to the courts, give victims a voice in the justice system and help strengthen families.



1,853 people were on probation in 2021

1,998 people were on probation in 2022

INCREASE ON CASES ORDERED INTO SUPERVISION

OVERALL DEPARTMENTAL GROWTH CAN BE MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES ASSIGNED.

Deferred Prosecution

The Probation Department serves as Administrator for the State Attorney's Deferred Prosecution Program; otherwise known as Diversion. The program is generally made available to first time offenders and, in most cases, takes three months for the participant to complete. When the participant completes the program successfully, the State Attorney's Office does not file the original charge with the Clerk of Court. Should the participant fail to complete their requirements; the case is brought before the Court and a Judge determines the outcome.

The deferred prosecution program averaged **77%** compliance rate in 2022

Felony Case Management

Differentiated Case Management (DCM) was instituted in Collier County on July 1, 2014 to address the backlog of felony criminal cases by encouraging meaningful court dates for all cases and goal date compliance as determined through the DCM system. Cases are split into three tracks based on projected disposition date. Complex (360 days), Expedited (180 days) or Standard (240 days).

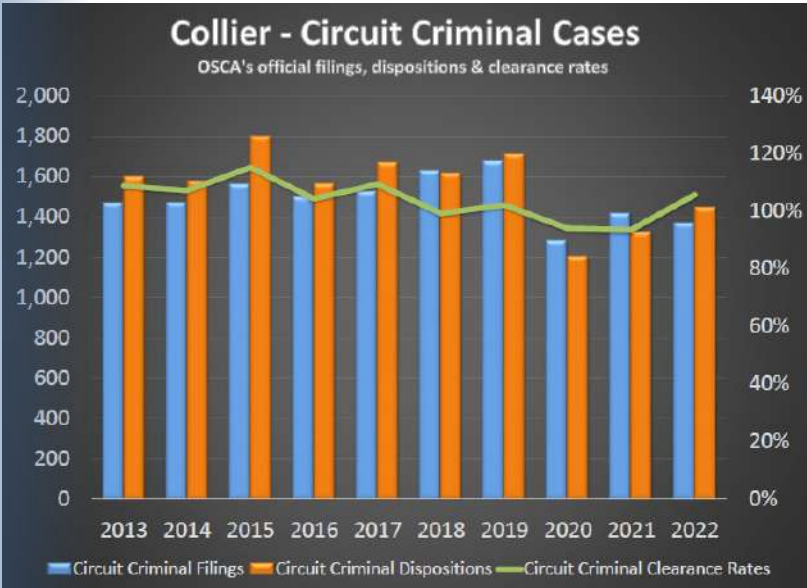
During the 2022 calendar year, a review of track goal compliance for closed cases within the division revealed...

Expedited
306
cases resolved within the 180 day time goal

Standard
912
resolved within the 240 day time goal

Complex
74
cases resolved within the 360 day time goal

Overview of Criminal Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Collier County



A review of the Felony Criminal Division pending cases as of December 31, 2022, reflects a total number of 1095 pending cases. The age of case breakdown is as follows: 555 (51%) cases have been pending for less than 180 days, 254 (23%) cases have been pending between 181-365 days, 286 (26%) cases have been pending over 365 days.

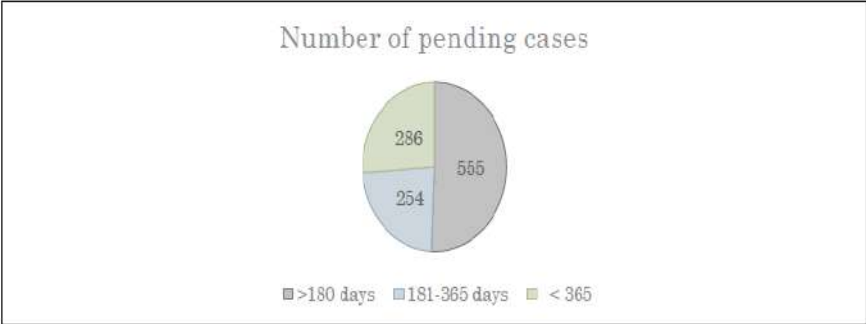
A total of 2,204 cases were filed and 2,236 cases were disposed in the Circuit Criminal Division during the CY 2022, for a combined clearance rate of 101.45%

Circuit Criminal Cases through June 30, 2022

1,371
cases were filed

1,448
cases were disposed

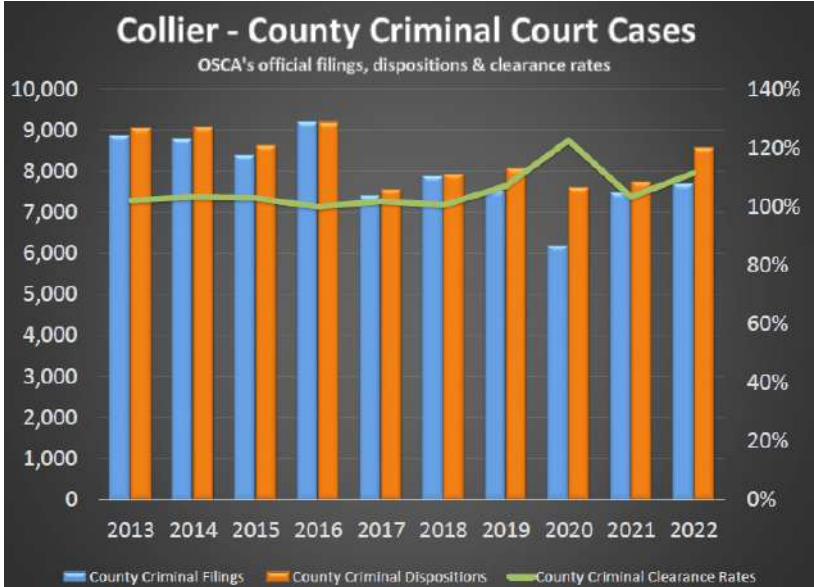
Pending cases as of December 31, 2022



County Criminal Cases through June 30, 2022

7,702
cases were filed

7,027
cases were disposed





Collier County Civil Division Overview

The Division supports three Civil Circuit Judges, three Unified Family Circuit Judges and three County Civil Judges (Small Claims). In addition, the Magistrates cover throughout the year, ALL Baker Acts and Marchman Acts, which fall under the responsibility of the Duty Judge.

Unifed Family Court

The Unified Family Division (“UFC”) team is comprised of three Unified Family Judges and three case managers (2 Family Judicial Case managers and a Dependency case manager). The unit also consists of the Mediation Unit and Domestic Violence Court, managed by one case manager (UFC) with the assistance of a Civil Case Manager.

One Family, One Judge

The Family (DR) caseload had an overall clearance rate of **96%**

The Civil (CA) caseload had an overall clearance rate of **146%**

Court Mediation Programs:

- Small Claims Mediation
- Family Mediation Program
- Dependency Mediation
- County Civil Mediation

Court Mediation Programs

The program contracts county civil, dependency and family mediators that have an existing contract with the 20th Judicial Circuit. A database was created for each of the areas of mediation and a rotation calendar generated. Initially, the assignments were strictly on a rotation. After experiencing some discrepancies and testing the experience of the contract mediators. The assignments are based on rotation, experience with the local legal community and availability.

3,036 cases referred to mediation in 2022.

140 Family mediations were held in 2022.

The program had an overall resolution rate of **52%**

737 Small Claims mediations were facilitated in 2022.

Civil Case Management

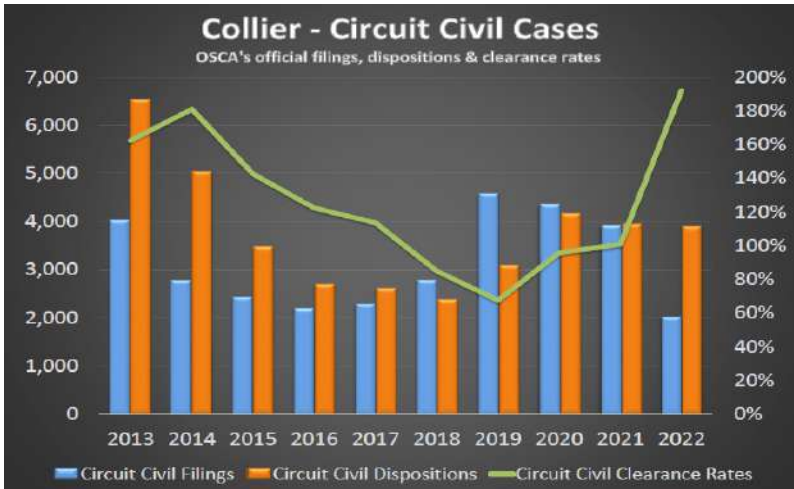
Circuit Civil cases for 2022 are filed for amounts in excess of \$30,000. Cases must file an agreed case management plan which outlines deadlines of the case and trial readiness dates. Most civil cases are on an 18 month “standard” track. Case Managers track timelines, review filings, conduct civil case management conferences and other hearings as well as assist the judge in court and prepare court paperwork. In 2022, Judges and Case Managers in Collier County followed the Twentieth Circuit Administrative Order 1.13 and started issuing Court Ordered Case Management Plans. The Court is still utilizing Zoom video conferencing to manage the ongoing dockets. This was initially implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic. Zoom has been a valuable tool getting all hearings held to get parties to Trial readiness.

✓ **1,311** CMC’s were scheduled in 2022

210 CMC’s were settled/dismissed in 2021.



Overview of Civil Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Collier County



The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 192% through June 30, 2022.

Total Circuit Civil Filings: **2,032** through 06/30/2022

Total Circuit Civil Dispositions: **3,901** through 06/30/2022

(This includes Prof. Malpractice & Prod. Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts & Real Property, and Other cases.)

Juvenile Dependency 2022 Statistics

January through December 1, 2022

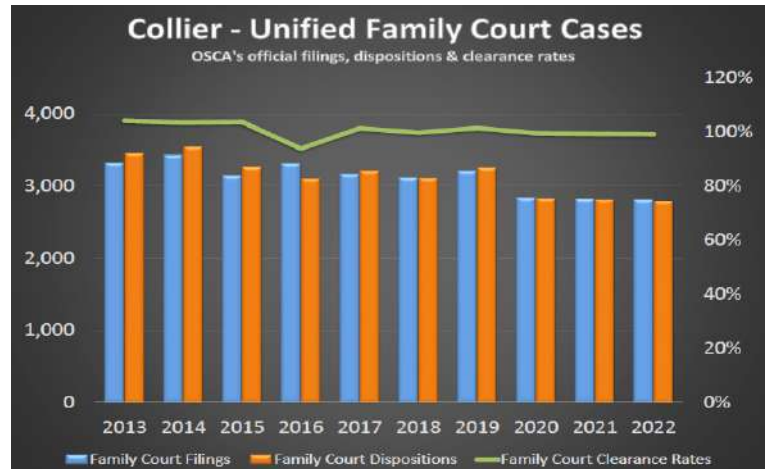
139 arraignments

82 adjudicatory hearings

122 cases disposed

The Domestic Violence Case Manager was able to remove a total of

147 Compliance Hearings from the UFC Judges dockets throughout the year of 2022.

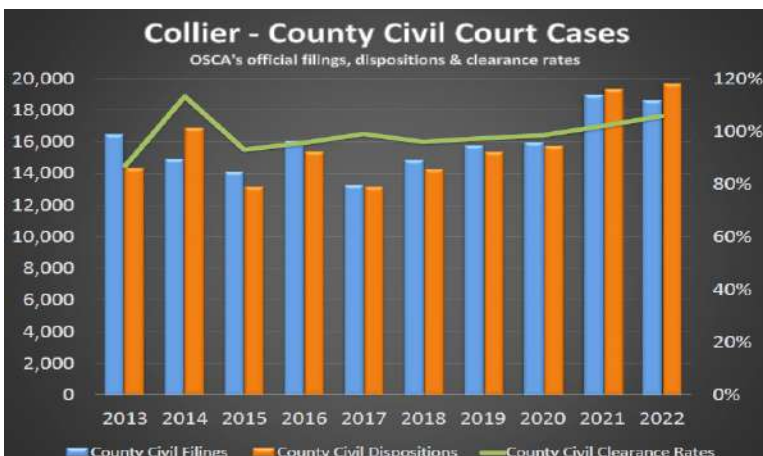


The overall clearance rate for all County Civil cases, with the exception of family cases, was approximately 106% through June 30, 2022.

(This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.)

Total County Civil Filings: **18,601** through 06/30/2022

Total County Civil Dispositions: **19,690** through 06/30/2022



Hendry County Criminal Division Overview

In 2022, the average pending caseload for Circuit Felony cases was **371** cases.

In 2022, the average daily caseload including diversion and probation cases was approximately **201** offenders.

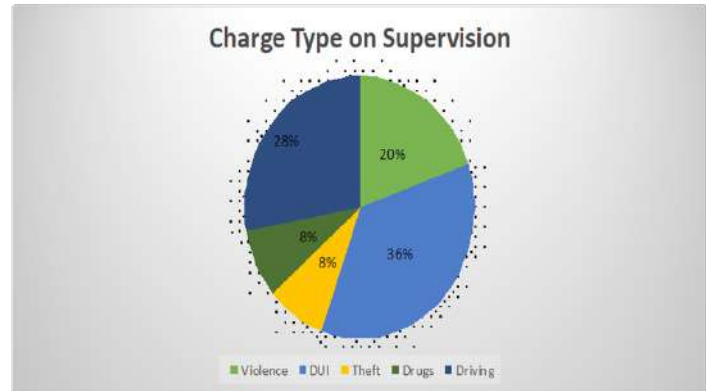
Felony Case Management

Hendry Circuit Criminal Court utilizes differentiated Case Management methods to monitor and track all felony cases. The Criminal Case Manager maintains detailed case notes regarding all on-going discovery issues and assists in identifying cases that could be deferred into early intervention programs. Felony cases are managed based on time goals differing depending on the case's complexity. The DCM Model of case management ensures early disposition in appropriate cases and allows for adequate time for trial preparation in the more complex cases.

Probation Department

The Hendry County Probation Department provides services to offenders adjudicated of misdemeanors who are court ordered to comply with conditions of probation. The Hendry County Probation Department has two locations, one office is in LaBelle and the other is in Clewiston. Due to the vast land area within Hendry County, probationers are supervised depending on where they reside. Currently, the office is comprised of two Probation Officers and a Secretary for support. One of the officers is designated as the team lead and oversees the day to day operations of the department. The Hendry County Probation Department has one Spanish-English bilingual officer.

\$79,283 collected in probation fees in 2022.



This graph describes the types of cases that were referred to probation in 2022.

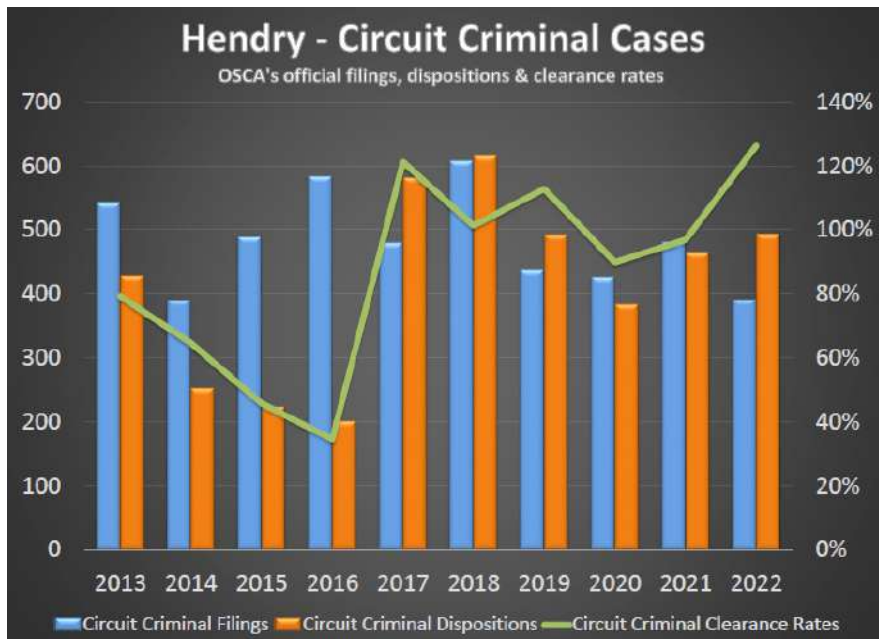
73% successful completion rate for 2022.

Since January 2022, **264** defendants were referred to the diversion program.

Misdemeanor Pretrial Diversion

The Misdemeanor Pretrial Diversion Program is a voluntary deferred prosecution option that allows first time offenders charged with misdemeanors to complete conditions and if successfully completed, these cases are not prosecuted further. This cooperative effort between the State's Attorney's Office and Hendry County Probation helps to expedite cases through the judicial system while holding defendants accountable for their actions.

Overview of Criminal Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Hendry County



The overall clearance rate for all Circuit Criminal cases was approximately 126% through June 30, 2022.

Total Circuit Criminal Filings: 391 through 06/30/2022

Total Circuit Criminal Dispositions: 494 through 06/30/2022

(This includes Capital Murder, Violent Crimes, Against Persons, Against Property, and Drug Crimes)

Circuit Criminal Cases

Calendar Year 2022

568 cases were filed
722 cases were disposed
127% clearance rate

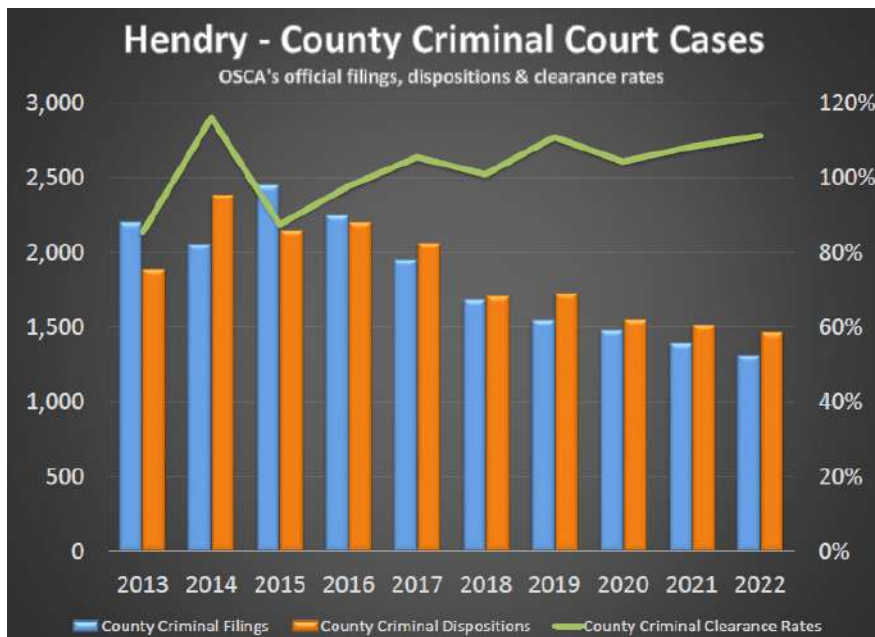
Of those cases resolved **401** felony cases were disposed of by plea and **9** cases were presented to a jury.

County Criminal Cases

Calendar Year 2022

Misdemeanor and Criminal Traffic

1,073 cases were filed
1,418 cases were disposed
132% clearance rate



Hendry County Civil Division Overview

Family Court Program

The Family Court Program assists the Hendry Circuit Court Judge by case managing and hearing family law cases utilizing a Magistrate. Currently, the Family Court Program is case managing an active caseload of approximately 170 cases. This number does not include Department of Revenue Child Support Cases. The Family Law Magistrate is a contractor managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts and only hears cases five days a month at the Hendry County Courthouse.

The Family Court Program Magistrates conducted **452** court hearings

and assisted in closing **147** newly filed cases in 2022.



196 Family Law cases were filed (not including child support cases) in 2022.

88% overall clearance rate

Foreclosure Case Management

The Hendry County Foreclosure Case Management Program diligently works to reduce the number of pending foreclosure cases. The program's main focus is on disposing cases 18 months and older. These cases are heard by a Senior Judge every other month.

Senior Judge time has been allocated to the Hendry County Court to manage the foreclosure caseloads, the dependency docket, as well as some felony hearings to control the jail population. These hours are also utilized to case manage civil cases pending over 10 months without activity.

133 FORECLOSURE CASES WERE FILED IN 2022

119 FORECLOSURE CASES WERE DISPOSED

89% CLEARANCE RATE

County Civil Mediation Program

In 2015, the Hendry County Court began offering a dispute resolution option for County Civil and Small Claims cases. The Mediation Program affords all parties the opportunity to reach an agreement without a trial. In 2022, a majority of the small claims mediations were conducted by AOC personnel. Florida Supreme Court Certified Volunteer County Court Mediators assist in resolving small claims disputes, free of charge. The Hendry County Small Claims Mediation Program is currently recruiting for volunteer mediators to provide dispute resolution services.

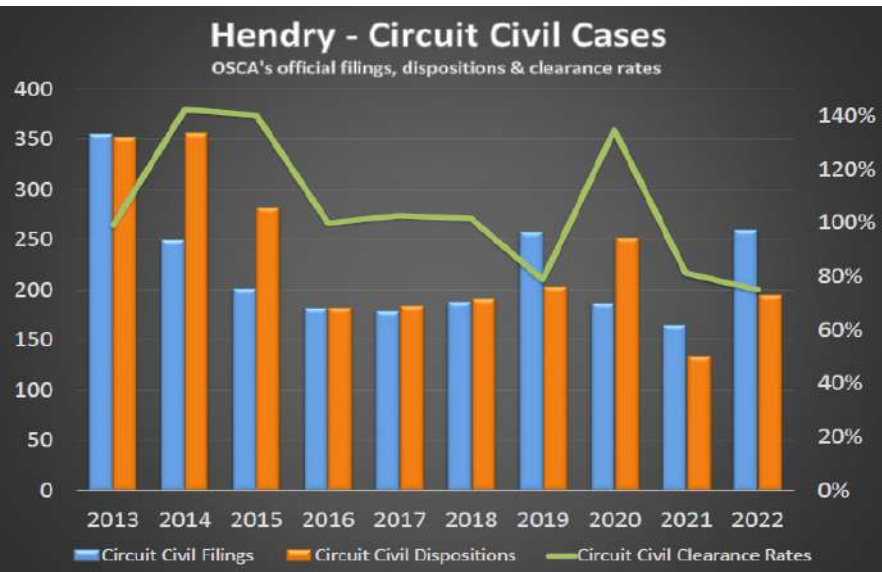
458

SMALL CLAIMS CASES WERE FILED IN 2022

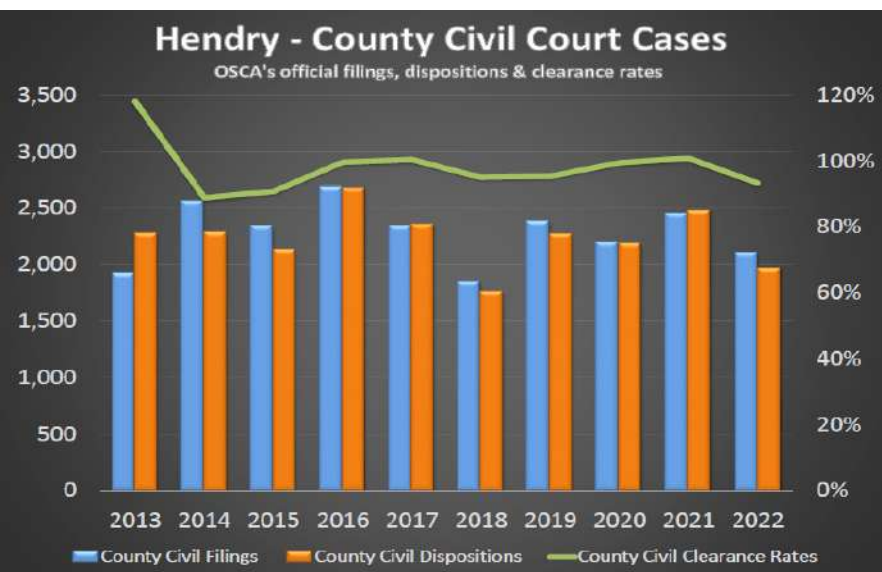
163 mediation was provided

56 resolved prior to trial

Overview of Civil Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Hendry County



The Hendry County and Circuit Courts Civil Division processed over 1,677 cases in 2022, which was a decrease of 5% since 2021. In July of 2021, the Hendry County Courts Civil Divisions began case managing the active caseloads pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(a), Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545, Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC20-23(Amendment 12), and Administrative Order 1.13 (as amended) entered by the Chief Judge of this Circuit. This process is an innovative means to further improve the fair, predictable, efficient, and timely disposition of civil cases. In 2022, clearance rates in Circuit Civil increased by 6%. This change may be attributed by the implementation of case management practices. The largest Circuit Civil caseload is the Family Law caseload. This caseload makes up an estimated 47% of all civil cases.



2022 STATISTICS

Circuit Civil cases filed through June 2022 in Hendry County **260**

(This includes Prof. Malpractice & Prod. Liability, Auto & Other Negligence, Contracts & Real Property, and Other cases.)

195

Circuit Civil cases disposed of through June 2022 in Hendry County,

County Civil cases filed through June 2022 in Hendry County

2,103

93% County Civil case clearance rate though June 2022 in Hendry County

(This includes small claims, civil, other civil, evictions, and civil traffic infractions.)

Glades County Criminal Division Overview

Probation Department

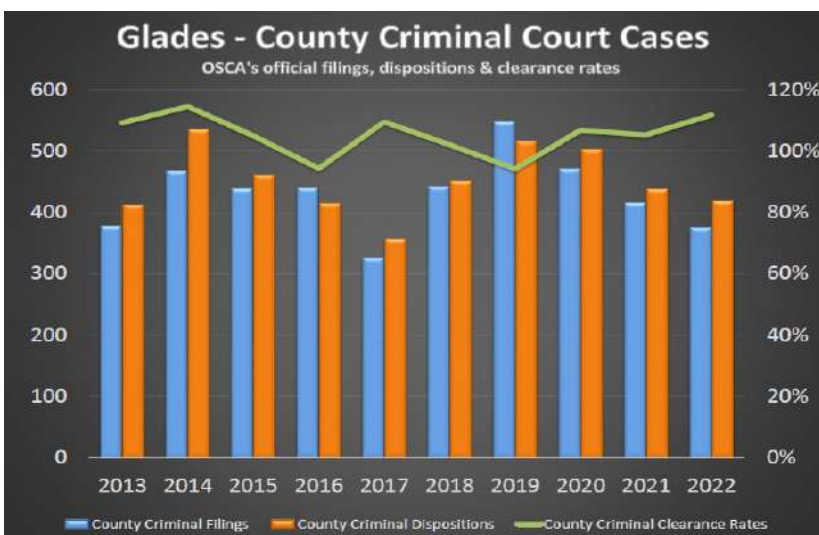
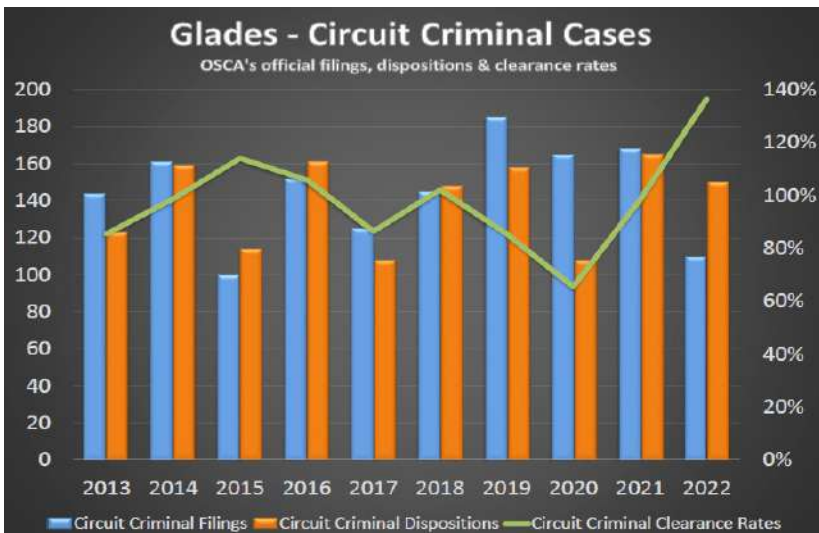
The Glades County Probation Department provides services to offenders adjudicated of misdemeanors who are ordered to comply with conditions of probation. The Glades County Probation Department also provides supervision for defendants ordered to comply with pretrial diversion, a deferred prosecution option offered by the court. The Misdemeanor Pretrial Diversion Program is a voluntary deferred prosecution option that allows first time offenders charged with misdemeanors to complete conditions and if successfully completed, these cases are not prosecuted further. This cooperative effort between the State's Attorney's Office and the Glades County Probation Department helps to expedite cases through the judicial system while holding defendants accountable for their actions.

In 2022 there were,

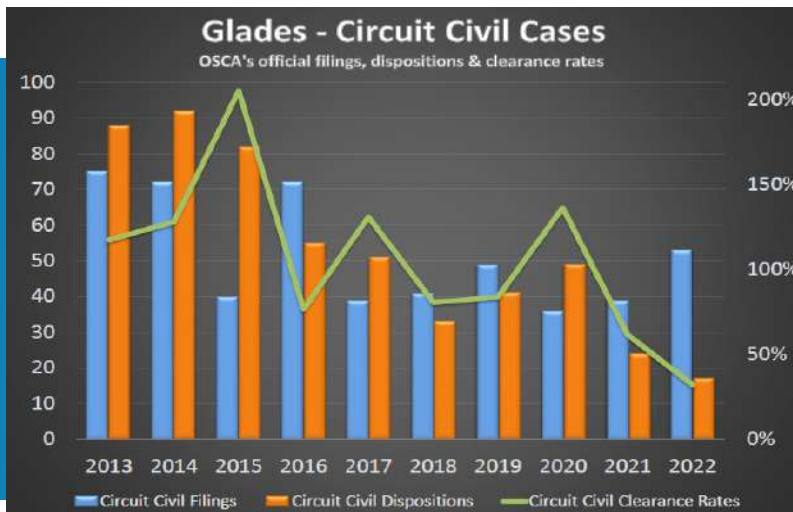
105 new probation referrals.



125 cases were terminated from supervision in 2022



Overview of Civil Case Filings, Disposition & Clearance Rates for Glades County



240 Total number of Circuit Civil cases filed in Glades County in 2022

Domestic Relations cases filed in Glades County in 2022

109

Glades County Circuit Civil filings experienced a 6% increase from 2021. The total number of Circuit Civil filings for 2022 were 240 cases. The filings for family law cases experienced a 5% decrease in 2022, which includes injunctions, child support, dissolutions, and paternity cases. The Glades County Court Civil filings have experienced a 10% increase from 2021. Small Claims has increased 13% since 2021.

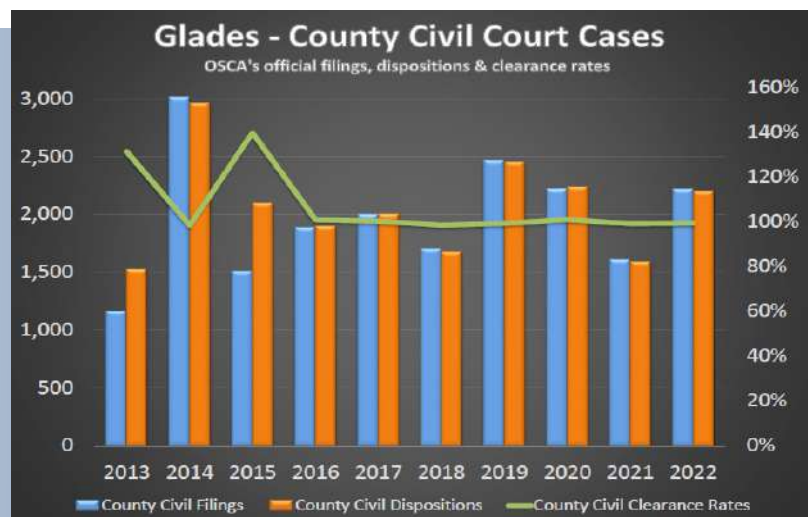
County Civil resolved 69 cases with a 99% clearance rate. The Judicial Assistant and the Glades County Clerk's Civil Division continued case managing the active civil caseloads pursuant to procedures implemented with the establishment of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.200(a), Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.545, Florida Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC20-23(Amendment 12), and Administrative Order 1.13 (as amended) entered by the Chief Judge of this Circuit. This process has placed each civil case on a case management track and plan. This innovative practice further improves the fair, predictable, efficient, and timely disposition of civil cases.

Mediation services are provided to Glades County small claims cases on a limited basis by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

70 County Civil cases filed in Glades County in 2022

Small Claims cases filed in Glades County in 2022 **97**

99% County Civil clearance rate for Glades County in 2022





Problem Solving Courts

Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court

100%

safety rate for the Charlotte County Mental Health Court Program for FY 2021-2022.

Safety rate= percentage of defendants who do not commit a new law violation while on supervision

Treatment court programs were designed to divert cases from traditional court for defendants identified as having alcohol or drug use disorders and/or serious mental health disorders. The overall objective is to provide evidence-based, individualized treatment plans to address stabilization, pro-social habitation, adaptive habilitation, and continuing care. Focus is placed on abstinence from drug and alcohol use, psychiatric and medical treatment, patterns of criminal thought, employment, transportation, housing, community supports, and long-term recovery maintenance in order to reduce recidivism and promote a healthier community. Defendants must meet legal and clinical eligibility requirements for participation in treatment courts.

In 2022,

37 participants were offered the opportunity to gain treatment through the Hendry County Felony Drug Court Program.

On April 1, 2022, Collier County Adult Drug Court was awarded again by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) as a Mentor Court for the

2nd year in a row.

64% completion rate for Charlotte County Mental Health Court Fiscal Year 2021-22.

89% safety rate for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Average overall number of days in the program is **540**

13 participants successfully graduated from the Collier County Mental Health Court Program in 2022.

This represents a **62%** success rate.

The Hendry County Drug Court provided treatment services to

26 offenders in 2022.

83% success rate for Charlotte County Adult Drug Court Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Average overall number of days in the program **365**

16 participants (of 32) successfully graduated from the Collier County Drug Court Program in 2022.

This represents a **50%** success rate.

In Lee County...

The average number of participants in Veterans Treatment Court was **24**

The graduation rate for Veterans Treatment Court in 2021-22 was **61%**

4 participants (out of 5) successfully graduated from the Collier County Veteran's Court Program in 2022.



The overall graduation rate for Lee County Mental Health Court is **51%**

The average number of participants in the Lee County Felony Drug Court Program in FY 2021-22 was **89**

2022 IN REVIEW

JUDGES WHO RETIRED



Lee County Judge
Archie Hayward

2008-2022

Circuit Judge
Hugh Hayes

1978-2022

He was the longest serving Judge in Florida!
Judge Hayes served for two terms as Chief Judge
of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit (2003-2007)
and served as the Administrative Judge for
Collier County on multiple occasions.



Collier County
Judge
Michael J. Provost

2008-2022







Ceremonial Presentation
**National Pretrial, Probation
and Parole Week**



**FLORIDA CORRECTIONS
ACCREDITATION COMMISSION**



2022 TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ANNUAL REPORT

LEE COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
1700 MONROE STREET
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33901

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