

# JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS DISTRICT COURT

## DESCRIPTION

The Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court hears criminal, civil, traffic, and social services matters. The Juvenile and Domestic court exercises jurisdiction of juvenile cases in which they are the offender or victim, adult misdemeanor and preliminary felony hearings of cases involving family or household members, juvenile traffic infractions, child/spousal support, custody/visitation, and social services cases including foster care. The Juvenile Court differs from other courts in their commitment to rehabilitate those who come before the court, in addition to protecting the public and holding juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Clerk's Office is responsible for entering all cases, subpoenaing witnesses, processing criminal cases, writing support/custody orders, entering protective orders, answering phone calls, and assisting walk ins.

The Judges of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court are elected by the General Assembly for a term of six years. The Judges, Clerk, and Deputy Clerks are paid directly by the Commonwealth. The county provides space, furniture, and support for the court. Currently, five full-time judges preside over the Henrico County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

## OBJECTIVES

- To update records quickly and accurately so that case information is available, and accounting of court funds is correct.
- To enhance customer service to effectively assist litigants and court professionals seeking information on cases.
- To ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for the citizens of Henrico County.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 SUMMARY

### Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY23	FY24	FY25	Change
	Actual	Original	Approved	24 to 25
Personnel *	\$ 93,573	\$ 107,650	\$ 107,650	0.0%
Operation	89,680	107,275	102,275	(4.7%)
Capital	9,004	3,750	8,750	133.3%
Total	<u>\$ 192,257</u>	<u>\$ 218,675</u>	<u>\$ 218,675</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Personnel Complement *	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*Full-time Personnel expenses are paid by the Commonwealth of Virginia and are not reflected in the county's personnel complement.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>Change 24 to 25</u>
<b>Workload Measures</b>				
Cases filed in Juvenile Court	15,153	15,600	16,000	400
Court Hearings	39,977	41,200	42,400	1,200

\*Note: These estimates are prepared by State Supreme Court Personnel.

**BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The FY25 budget for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court is \$218,675. The personnel budget remains unchanged from FY24, while \$5,000 shifted from the operating component to capital outlay to accommodate furniture needs. Other changes within the operating component represent printing and association membership expenses. These funds support the operational needs of the five judges and their staff, whose salaries are funded by the State. The budget provides a supplement of \$4,000 to each clerk in the Juvenile Court Clerk’s office.

**DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court remained fully functional for the fiscal year even during a staffing shortage that resulted in being staffed at 54% of full-time employees. Henrico County generously helped JDR District Court through the staffing shortage by providing a temporary part-time filing clerk. A recommitment to successful and full staffing resulted in bringing the staffing percentage to nearly 80%.

The Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court organized Families First as a sub-division of the Court’s Best Practices initiative. Families First brings judges and court partners together to discuss concerns and to initiate improvements when needed for the smooth and effective operation of the Court and agencies devoted to the wellbeing of children. Court partners include representatives from the Court Services Unit, the Department of Social Services, Henrico Juvenile Detention Home, James River Juvenile Detention Center, the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office, Community Corrections, the Children’s Services Act, CASA, Henrico County Public Schools, and Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services.

Highlighting the Families First initiative is a day-long Families First Conference, with CLE credit, that is being offered to guardians ad litem and to court-appointed counsel, along with other attorneys who practice frequently in the Court. The conference reflects more than a year of planning. Sessions will identify, explain, and promote the use of services that are available to Henrico County families who come before the Court.