

JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT SERVICES

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 provide excellent 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.

ANNUAL FISCAL PLAN SUMMARY

Description	FY24 Actual	FY25 Original	FY26 Proposed	Change 25-26
Personnel	\$ 115,594	\$ 107,650	\$ 107,650	0.0%
Operation	113,486	102,275	130,275	27.4%
Capital	7,154	8,750	8,750	0.0%
Total	<u>\$ 236,234</u>	<u>\$ 218,675</u>	<u>\$ 246,675</u>	<u>12.8%</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.

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Services

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>Change 25-26</u>
Workload Measures*				
Cases Filed in Juvenile Court	17,481	16,718	17,500	782
Court Hearings	20,548	21,000	21,000	-

*These estimates are prepared by State Supreme Court Personnel

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

FY26's budget for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court is \$246,675, an increase of \$28,000 from the prior year, a 12.8% increase. This increase is entirely in the operating, and is for an increase to court appointed counsel fees effective January 1, 2025. 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 even during a staffing shortage that resulted in being staffed at 54% in FY23. In FY24 Henrico County generously helped JDR District Court through the staffing shortage by providing a supplement to JDR Court Services Clerk salaries. This recommitment to full staffing has continued, resulting in staffing reaching 85% in FY25.

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. The Court will also play host to a Sex Trafficking CLE/seminar in April that will bring together stakeholders and other professionals to learn and address the issue impacting our community



Department Operating Budget Henrico County, Virginia FY2025-26 JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Account Description		Prior Year Actual	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget	Dollar Inc/Dec	Percent Inc/Dec
50104	Temporary Salaries and Wages - Regular	107,379	100,000	100,000	0	0.0%
50110	FICA	8,215	7,650	7,650	0	0.0%
50201	Legal Services	4,105	1,000	29,000	28,000	2,800.0%
50209	Other Professional Services	0	300	300	0	0.0%
50210	Maintenance and Repairs	373	500	500	0	0.0%
50220	Lease/Rent Of Equipment	9,553	12,500	12,500	0	0.0%
50230	Temporary Help Service Fees	6,434	0	0	0	0.0%
50240	Printing and Binding	317	625	625	0	0.0%
50270	Other Contractual Services	45,115	40,000	40,000	0	0.0%
50410	Postal Services	0	50	50	0	0.0%
50412	Telecommunications	13,581	17,000	17,000	0	0.0%
50431	Education and Training	14,398	14,500	14,500	0	0.0%
50450	Dues And Association Memberships	3,375	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
50453	Freight Charges	2,293	0	0	0	0.0%
50500	Office Supplies	5,560	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
50501	Food Supplies and Food Service Supplies	4,999	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
50503	Medical and Laboratory Supplies	3,383	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
50511	Uniforms/Wearing Apparel/ITEMS	0	800	800	0	0.0%
50832	Furniture and Fixtures-Replacement Less Than \$10,000	7,154	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
50835	Computer Equipment-Replacement Less Than \$10,000	0	1,250	1,250	0	0.0%
Total Department		236,234	218,675	246,675	28,000	12.8%