

# **SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT AND JUVENILE COURT OVERVIEW - 2018**

## **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 634,000 residents plus many other people who work in the City and County of 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.

In July of 2010 the District Court Criminal and Drug Court courtrooms moved into the new Lindsey-Flanigan Courthouse. This state of the art facility handles misdemeanor and felony Criminal and all Juvenile cases in a safe and efficient manner. Civil and Domestic Relations courtrooms remain in the City and County Building.

In 2017, Denver District Court docketed 6,515 felony criminal cases, 4,386 domestic relations cases, and 5,422 civil lawsuits. In the last year, the judges presided over 202 jury trials and 65 court trials. In 2017, the Denver District Court summoned 136,959 citizens to jury service and the Denver Adult Probation Department supervised 5,849 people on probation.

### **Staff and Docket Rotations**

There are twenty- three district court judges and five magistrates who hear specialized dockets. Eight judges preside over the felony criminal cases, four judges hear domestic relations cases, and eleven judges preside over civil cases. Three magistrates preside over the adult drug court program and hear cases with criminal charges involving drugs. Two magistrates hear post-decree domestic relations cases and civil name change matters. About one-third of the judges change assignments annually with the usual rotation being eighteen months in domestic relations, two years in criminal, and three years in civil.

In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are approximately 150 full employees who provide clerical support, legal research, accounting expertise, and administrative support.

### **Specialized Programming and Services**

The Denver Adult Probation Department partnered with the Denver County Jail to establish a Medication Assisted Treatment program (MAT). This program allows opioid addicted clients to begin methadone treatment while in-custody and upon release the client is admitted directly into treatment. This collaborative MAT program is the first of its type in the state of Colorado and the Department is hopeful that the added structure and support will help break the cycle of addiction that so many are struggling with in the Denver metro area.

With the passage of HB 15-1043, the Denver Adult Drug Court established RESTART (Recognizing and Establishing Smart Treatment Alternatives for Recovery and Transitions); a felony DUI Treatment Court Program. Between August and December 2016, 148 felony DUI's were filed in the City and County of Denver; 54 of those defendants were accepted and entered the RESTART program. In 2017, the RESTART program served a total of 125 participants and graduated 18 successful participants. The Restart Program is on target to graduate 18 participants in March 2018.

The Denver District Court is continuously striving to enhance the services provided to the public; to provide an efficient and effective case processing system and to minimize the difficulties individuals experience navigating the justice system. In a joint effort with Denver County Court and Denver Probate Court, an expanded and comprehensive Pro Se Resource Center was established and is available to public from 8am until 4pm in the City and County Building. In 2017, Denver District Court assisted a total of 23,675 litigants in the center; 9,886 by phone and 13,789 walk-ins requiring assistance. The Center also facilitated many ongoing clinics this year, including free consultations with attorneys from the Denver Bar Association and clinics during which a Spanish interpreter is provided along with a Center employee to assist with the completion of court forms. In addition, customers can now obtain procedural assistance for District Civil cases in the Center every Wednesday. The Pro Se Center continues to reach out to the community to develop additional resources for our customers.

Visitors and school groups are always welcome to observe court proceedings.

For further information concerning Denver District Court, contact:

Kristin Wood, District Administrator  
Room 256 City and County Building  
Denver Colorado 80202  
720-865-8301

# DENVER JUVENILE COURT

## **Jurisdiction and Case Types**

The Denver Juvenile Court (DJC) is the only statutorily separate Juvenile Court in the State of Colorado. Although Denver District and Juvenile Court are combined administratively, DJC has a dedicated Bench which exclusively hears matters within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. Case types include delinquency, dependency and neglect, child support and paternity, truancy, relinquishment, and adoption matters. Denver Juvenile Court was one of the first jurisdictions to implement the “one family, one Judge” model, allowing families with cross-system involvement to have all cases heard by the same Judicial Officer for the duration of their involvement, consolidating case knowledge and ensuring coordination of services across case types. In 2017, the Court docketed approximately 908 juvenile delinquency filings, 386 Dependency and Neglect filings, 361 truancy filings, 303 adoption and relinquishment filings and entered 260 adoption decrees. The judges presided over 43 court trials and 12 jury trials. The Denver Juvenile Probation Department supervised an average daily population of 483 juveniles.

## **Staff**

The Honorable Judge D. Brett Woods serves as the Presiding Judicial Officer for Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Court Bench consists of two additional Judges, two full time Magistrates and two part time Magistrates. In addition, there is approximately 25 support staff positions that provide management, clerical support, legal research, and staffing for specialized programming.

## **Specialized Programming and Services**

In addition to traditional case processing, Denver Juvenile Court operates various specialized dockets and works collaboratively alongside Denver partner agencies to develop innovative programming;

Youth and Family Treatment Court (YFTC) – A problem solving court serving high risk and high need Probation involved youth, identified as needing support and treatment services to address substance abuse concerns.

REST (Restore, Educate, Support and Treat) – specialized program serving high risk and high need youth, with a primary focus on connection to treatment and resources serving youth identified as victims of human trafficking, or identified to be at high risk for victimization.

ICWA Court – a specialized docket focusing on connection to appropriate services and emphasis on federal case guidelines specific to families served under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

DANSR (Dependency and Neglect System Reform) Pilot Program – Denver Juvenile Court is currently serving as a pilot site for the Colorado DANSR project; targeting system reform and improved outcomes for families affected by substance abuse, integrating research based family drug court principles to traditional child welfare case processing.

Family Strong – an initiative created through a partnership between the Denver Department of Human Services (DDHS), the Denver Collaborative Partnership (DCP, Denver’s House Bill 04-1451 program), Denver Juvenile Probation (DJP), the Denver Senate Bill 91-94 team (SB94), the Juvenile Services Center (JSC) and District Attorney (DA) Diversion; with financial and technical support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Family Strong project will focus on preventing of out of home placement for Denver Juvenile Court youth, through provision of assessment driven services to youth and families.

Creative Options – Stakeholder workgroup targeting development and improvement of responses for truancy court involved youth, including utilization of incentive/sanction based interventions aimed at increasing school attendance and decreasing risk for further system involvement.

Court proceedings, with some exceptions, are open to student groups and the public.

For further information concerning Denver Juvenile Court contact:  
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Denver, CO 80204  
720-337-0570