

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS
for FISCAL YEARS 2022 and 2023



OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

DAVID SLAYTON, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO SENATE FINANCE



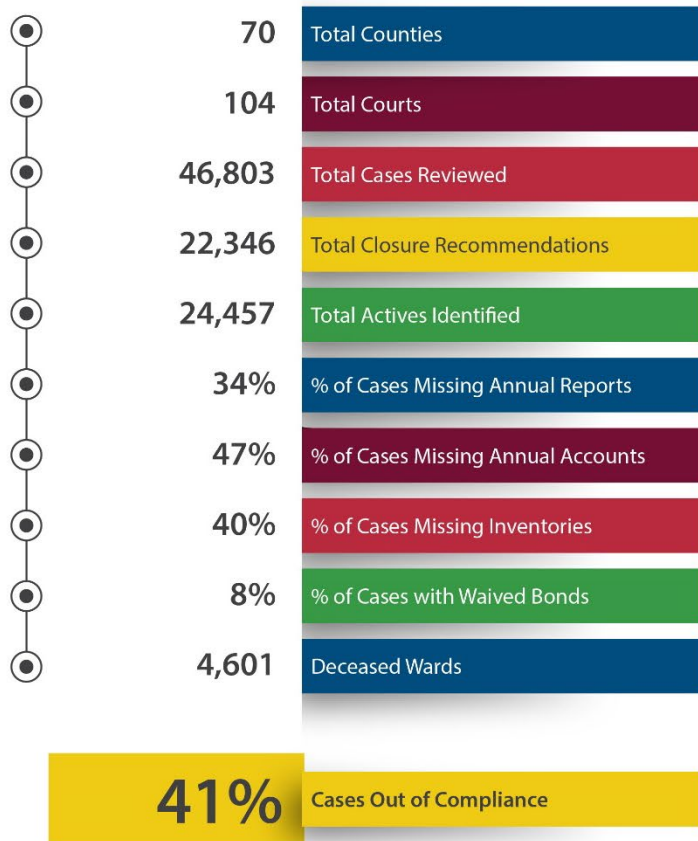
OCA MISSION

To Provide
Resources and Information for
the Efficient Administration of
the Judicial Branch of Texas.

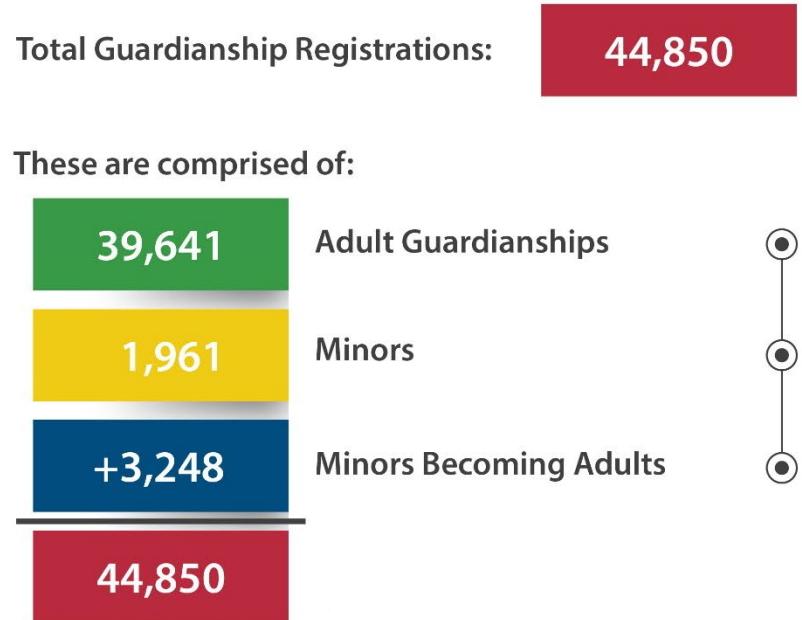


Guardianship Abuse Fraud and Exploitation Deterrence Program

Guardianship Abuse Fraud and Exploitation Deterrence Program Data as of December 10, 2020

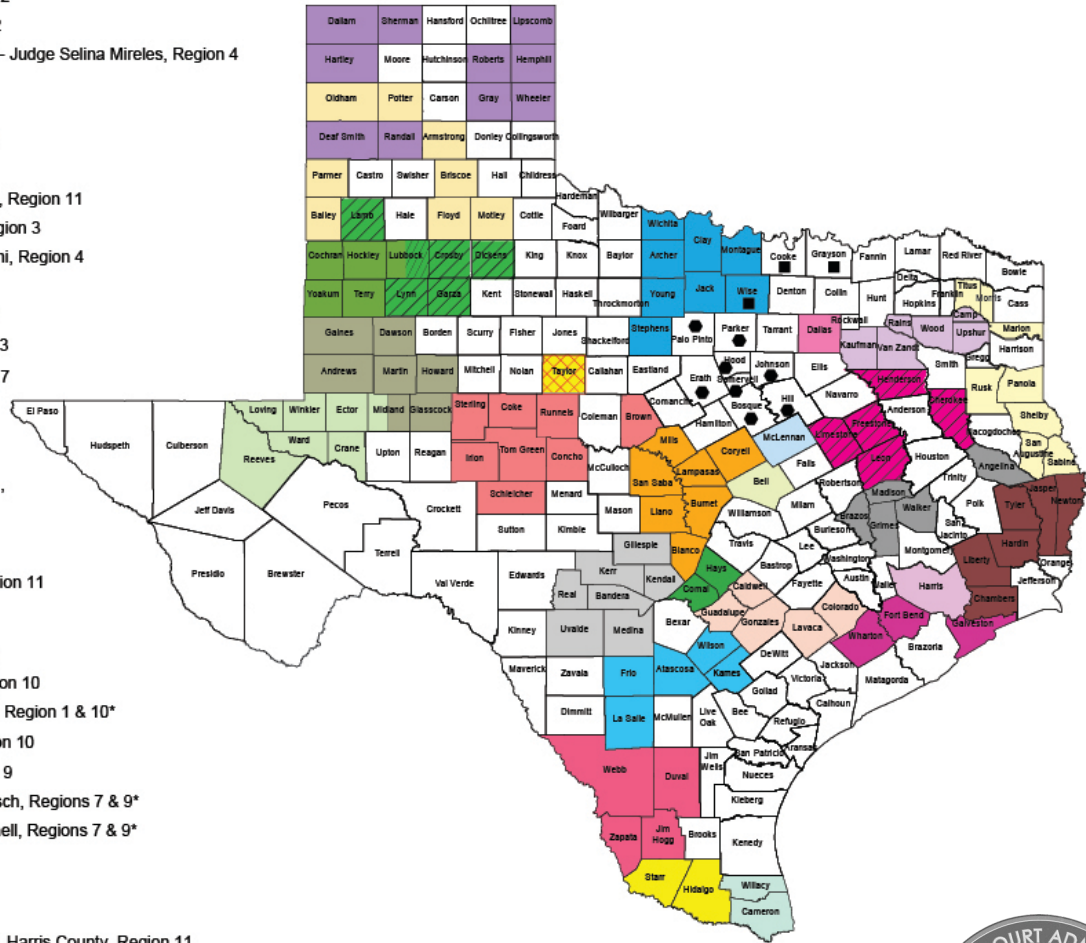


SB 1096-Guardianship Registry as of December 31, 2020



Child Protection Courts

- 2nd Region CPC No. 1 - Judge John Lockwood, Region 2
- 2nd Region CPC No. 2 - Judge Andrea James, Region 2
- 4th* & 5th Administrative Judicial Regions Cluster Court - Judge Selina Mireles, Region 4
- Centex CPC No. 1 - Judge Chris Cornish, Region 3
- Centex CPC No. 2 - Judge Dallas Sims, Region 3
- Centex CPC North - Judge Nikki Mundkowsky, Region 3
- Centex CPC South - Judge Thomas Stuckey, Region 3
- Coastal Bend Children's Court - Judge Jamie Rawlinson, Region 11
- CPC of Central Texas - Judge Melissa McClenahan, Region 3
- CPC of South Central Texas - Judge Melissa DeGerolami, Region 4
- CPC of South Texas - Judge Cathy Morris, Region 6
- CPC of the Concho Valley, Judge Gary Banks, Region 7
- CPC of the Hill Country - Judge Cheryl Mabray, Region 3
- CPC of the Permian Basin - Judge Ellen Griffith, Region 7
- CPC of West Texas - Judge Tracey Scown, Region 7
- CPC Rio Grande Valley East - Judge James Belton, Region 5
- CPC Rio Grande Valley West - Judge Carlos Villalon, Jr., Region 5
- Dallas County Child Protection & Permanency Court - Judge Delia Gonzales, Dallas County, Region 1
- Gulf Coast Children's Court - Judge Charles Griffin, Region 11 (additional counties TBD in 2020)
- High Plains CPC - Judge Carry Baker, Region 9
- North Texas CPC - Judge Alyce A. Bondurant, Region 8
- Northeast Texas CPC No. 1 - Judge Lisa Andrews, Region 10
- Northeast Texas CPC No. 2 - Judge Deane Loughmiller, Region 1 & 10*
- Northeast Texas CPC No. 3 - Judge Keith Downs, Region 10
- Northern Panhandle CPC - Judge Jack Graham, Region 9
- South Plains Foster Care Court No. 1 - Judge Kelley Tesch, Regions 7 & 9*
- South Plains Foster Care Court No. 2 - Judge Kara Darnell, Regions 7 & 9*
- Taylor County CPC - Judge April Propst, Region 7
- New Court Effective 2020
- New Court Effective 2020
- Harris County CPS Project Court - Judge Katrina Griffith, Harris County, Region 11 (Not an OCA Court)



* indicates primary region served



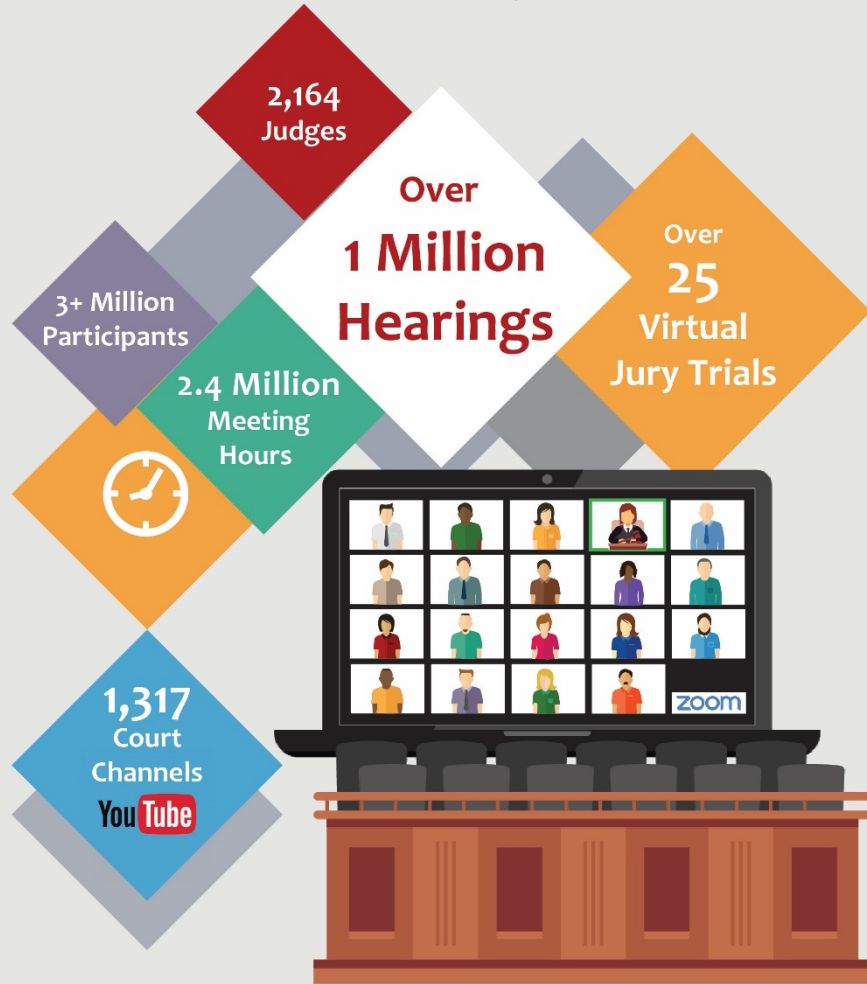
Exceptional Item #1 Restore Cuts to Critical Programs

- Only 70% of positions filled for GAFEDP (Guardianship Program) due to 5% cut. Restored positions will allow for:
 - Increased compliance reviews
 - Expansion of financial audits of guardianships
 - Identify abuse and fraud throughout the state
- Restore travel costs for child support and child protection courts
 - Cut travel due to pandemic, but predict travel to hear dockets will resume to normal levels in 2022-2023 biennium
- Restore lump sum annual leave
 - 55% child support judges eligible to retire
 - All unused funds would be lapsed
- Cost = \$1,168,693 over biennium



Remote Hearings in Texas Courts

March 2020 - February 2021



Jury Trials During COVID-19



- Pre COVID-19: 186 Jury Trials Per Week
- ~189 Jury Trials held from March – December 2020
- More than 25 virtual jury trials
- Expect backlog of 10,000 jury trials by April 2021
- Will need more visiting judges and additional funding to dig out of backlog
- SCOTX Emergency Order:
 - No in-person jury trials in Justice and Municipal Courts through April 1
 - In-person jury trials allowed in District and County Courts if court has submitted recertified court operating plan and has approval from local health authority/ Regional Presiding Judge to proceed

Exceptional Item #2 – COVID-19 Impacted Critical Needs

- 2 FTEs to provide needed Zoom and remote assistance to judges across the state
- Purchase iPads for virtual jury trials and maintain Zoom Licenses
- 1 FTE for additional remote interpreter
 - Services for OCA's remote interpreters have increased over 85% since 2018 and by 73% since the transition to remote hearings in March 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.
- Cost = \$1,139,125 over biennium



Exceptional Item #3 Domestic Violence and Community Safety

- Permanent Domestic Violence Training Attorney
 - Provides training and technical assistance on domestic violence and protective orders
 - Assistance with reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
 - Position intermittently funded as both part-time and full-time via federal and state funding streams
- Cost =\$204,200 over biennium



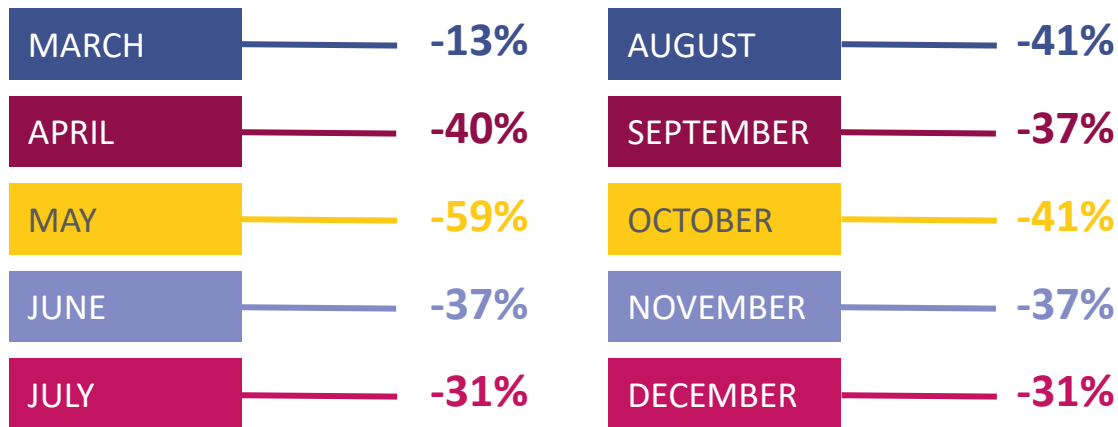
DROP IN COURT
FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
DUE TO THE

COVID-19

PANDEMIC
2019-2020

Appellate Courts

NEW CASES FILED MARCH-DECEMBER 2020

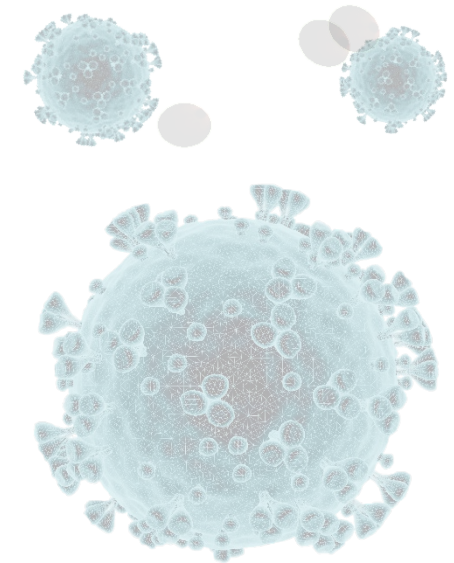
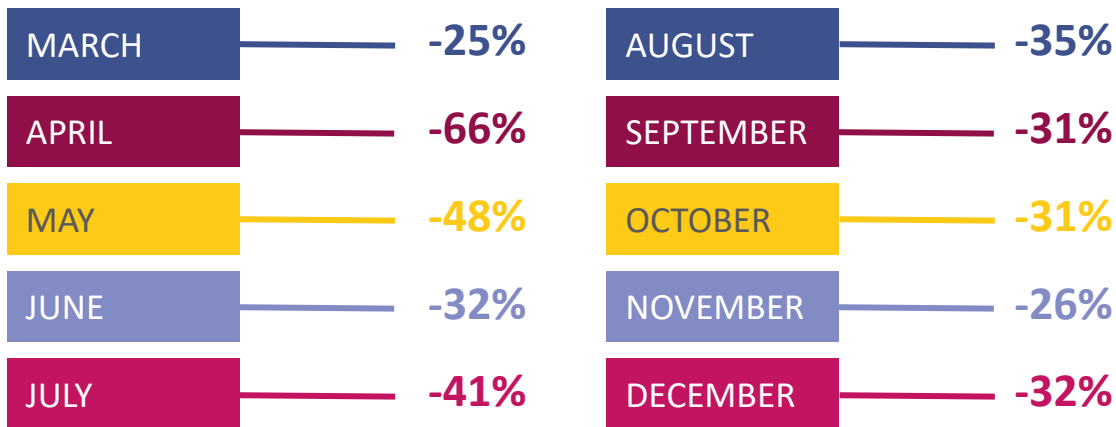


DROP IN COURT
FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
DUE TO THE

COVID-19 CONTINUED

Trial Courts

NEW CASES FILED MARCH-DECEMBER 2020

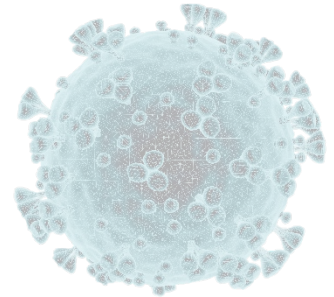


DROP IN COURT
FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
DUE TO THE

COVID-19 CONTINUED

Trial Courts

GREATEST DROPS BETWEEN MARCH – DECEMBER, 2019 AND 2020



Landlord/Tenant

62%



Debt
(District &
County Courts)

37%



Class C Traffic

41%



Municipal Civil

40%



Juvenile

42%



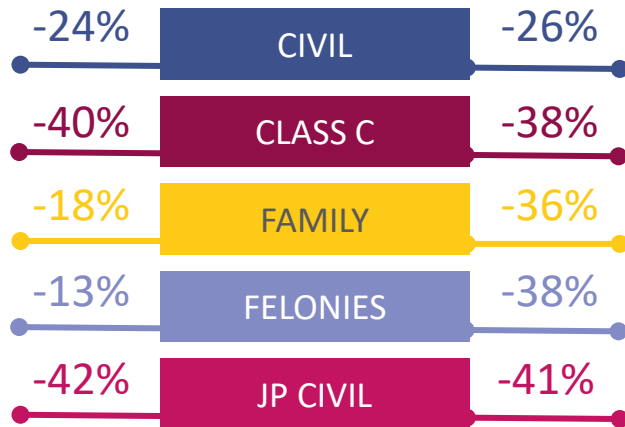
**DROP IN COURT
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Trial Courts

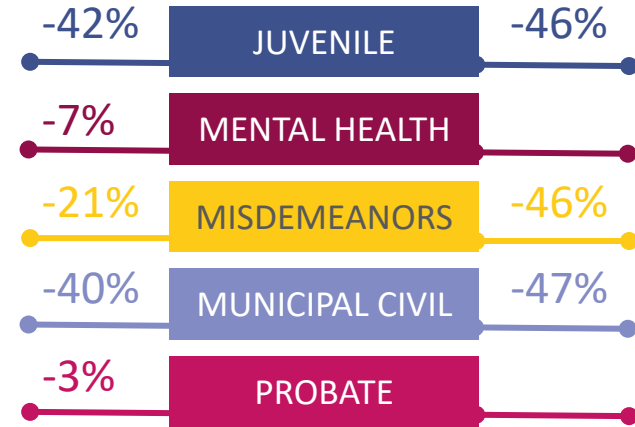
CASES FILED

DISPOSITIONS



CASES FILED

DISPOSITIONS



JP reports completion for 2020: March-94%, April-93%, May-93%, June-92%, July-92%, August-92%, September-88%, October-76%, November-83%, December-75%.

Municipal reports completion for 2020: March-93%, April-93%, May-93%, June-93%, July-92%, August-92%, September-84%, October-72%, November-78%, December-71%.

