

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS
for FISCAL YEARS 2022 and 2023

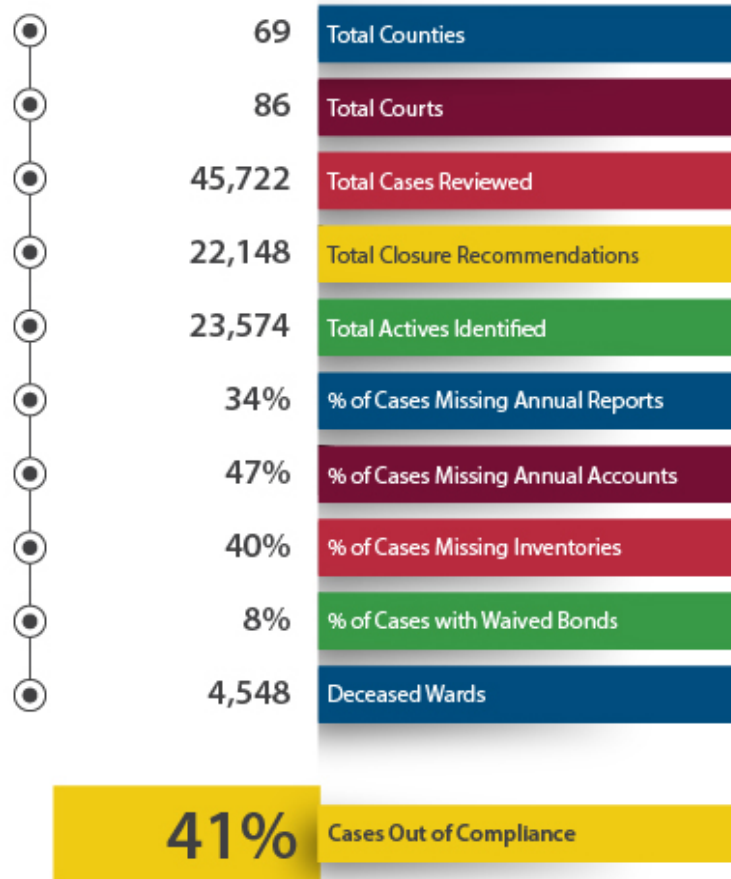


OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION
DAVID SLAYTON, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

NOVEMBER 6, 2020

Guardianship Abuse Fraud and Exploitation Deterrence Program

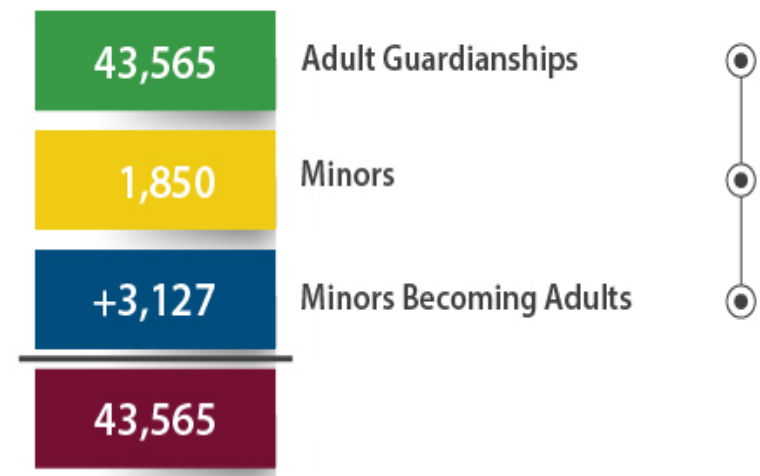
Guardianship Abuse Fraud and Exploitation Deterrence Program Data as of October 15, 2020



SB 1096-Guardianship Registry as of September 30, 2020

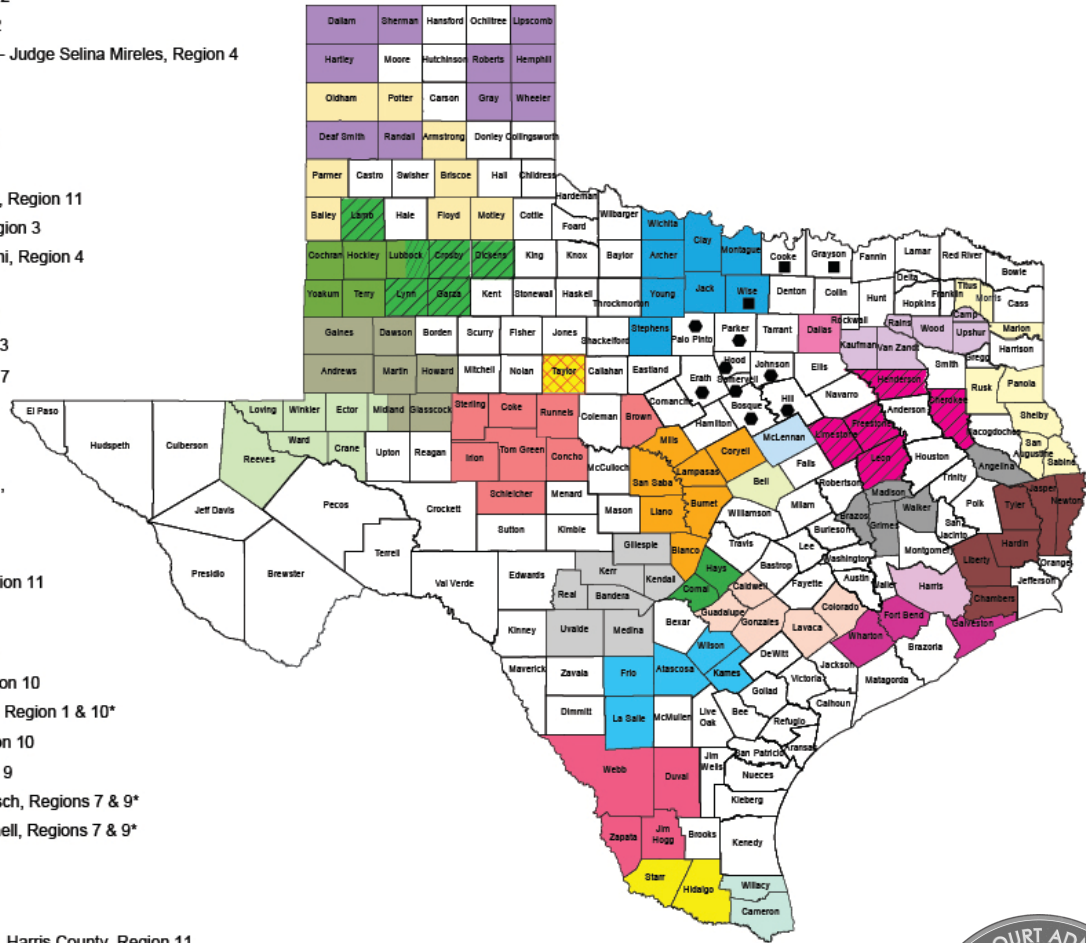
Total Guardianship Registrations: **43,565**

These are comprised of:



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



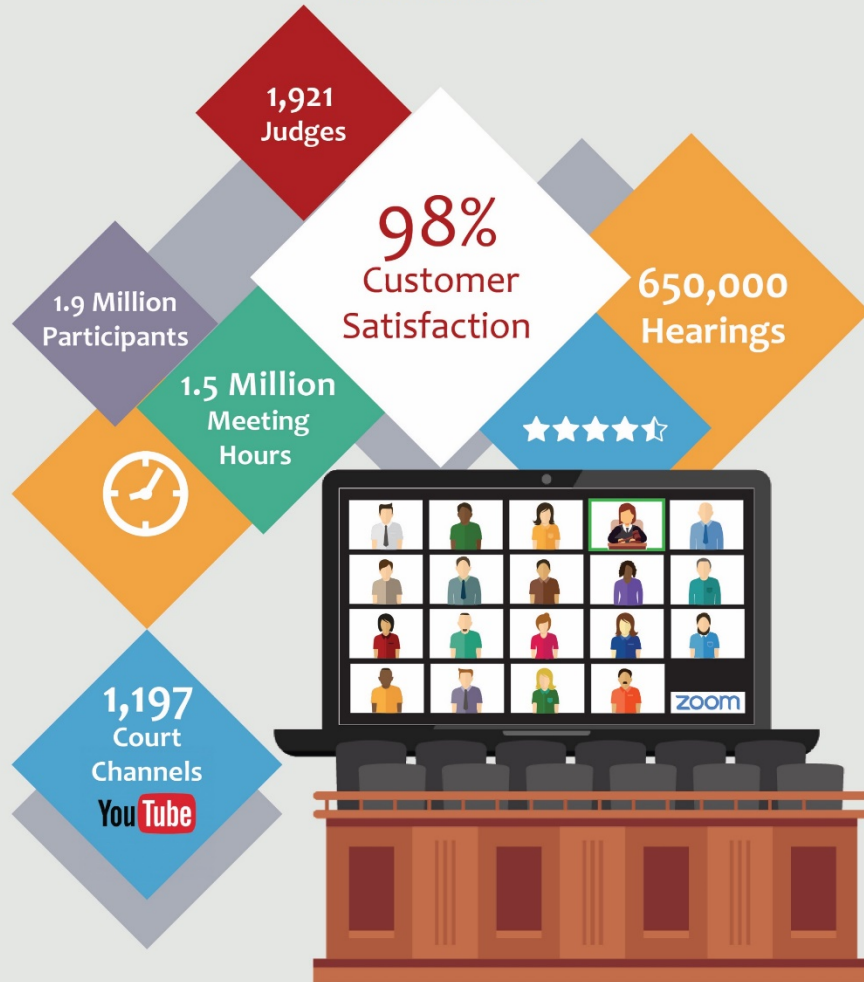
Exceptional Item #1 Restore Cuts to Critical Programs

- 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
- **Cost = \$768,693 over biennium**



Remote Hearings in Texas Courts

March - October 2020



Jury Trials During COVID-19



- Pre COVID-19: Averaging 186 Jury Trials a Week
- SCOTX Emergency Order prohibited in person jury trials until October 1
- Experimental trials allowed on a limited basis if approved by OCA and Regional Presiding Judges from June 1 – October 1
- 97 requests to hold a jury trial were received
 - 34 civil
 - 63 criminal
- 45 cases were tried by a jury to verdict (2 were acquitted by the jury)
 - 20 civil
 - 25 criminal
- 2 cases resulted in mistrial due to COVID issue
 - Both criminal
- 40 Grand Juries Empaneled

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 50% 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



Protective Order Registry Update

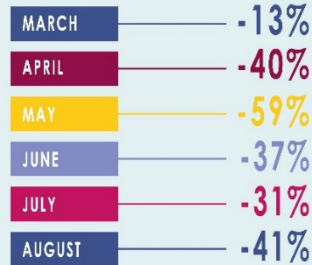
- SB 325 (86th Legislative Session) known as “Monica’s Law”
- Provides access to Protective Order applications and Orders to the justice community
- Provides for limited public viewing of protective orders when protected person has authorized access
- Registry went live across the state on October 15, 2020
- 2,128 orders in the Registry as of 11/5, with 3,025 total entries (Applications and Temporary Ex Parte Orders)
- 2 request to post on public site



DROP IN COURT
FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
DUE TO THE

COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2019-2020

NEW CASES FILED MARCH-AUGUST 2020



Appellate Courts



Trial Courts

GREATEST DROPS BETWEEN MARCH — AUGUST, 2019 AND 2020



Landlord/Tenant
66%



Municipal Civil
48%



Class C Traffic
47%

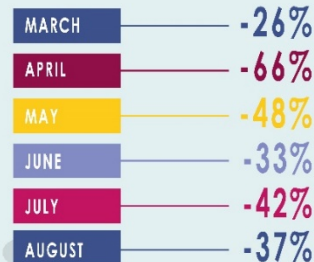


Small Claims
40%



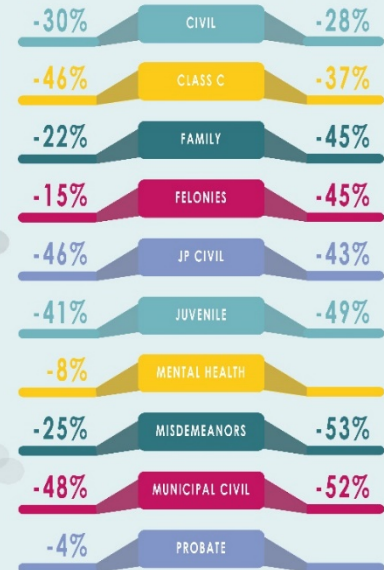
Juvenile
41%

NEW CASES FILED MARCH-AUGUST 2020



CASES FILED

DISPOSITIONS



Municipal reports completion for 2020: March-91%, April-90%, May-90%, June-89%, July-88%, August-86%.

JP reports completion for 2020: March-91%, April-91%, May-89%, June-88%, July-87%, August-84%.





OCA MISSION

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

