

Orphans' Court



MISSION AND SERVICES

The Orphans' Court provides supervision of decedents' estates and children's property to the beneficiaries in order to protect decedents' and children's assets.

CORE SERVICES

- To monitor the property of a deceased resident of the County in order to carry out the wishes of the decedent and to ensure distribution to the beneficiaries
- To provide protection of children's assets until they are legally adults (18 years of age) in order to ensure proper monetary distribution for their short term and long term needs

FY 2024 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained an efficient and effective level of service to the public despite an increase of pleadings and an increase of complex cases being heard.
- Held quarterly meetings with Estate and Trusts Section of the Prince George's County Bar Association to discuss new laws, procedures or concerns of the Bar and its clients and any other matters relating to probate.
- Continued to refer estate cases to the Orphans' Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AND INITIATIVES FOR FY 2025

The court's top priorities in FY 2025 are:

- Increase the number of decedents' assets that are intact through having one sitting judge review caseload and dockets.
- Increase the number of guardianships with assets intact through having one sitting judge review caseload and dockets.

- Provide residents the opportunity for mediation, and/or collaborative process and settlement conferences in resolving probate matters through the Orphans' Courts ADR program.

FY 2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

The FY 2025 approved budget for the Orphans' Court is \$632,300, a decrease of -\$24,900 or -3.8% under the FY 2024 approved budget.

Expenditures by Fund Type

Fund Types	FY 2023 Actual		FY 2024 Budget		FY 2024 Estimate		FY 2025 Approved	
	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total
General Fund	\$561,908	100.0%	\$657,200	100.0%	\$628,400	100.0%	\$632,300	100.0%
Total	\$561,908	100.0%	\$657,200	100.0%	\$628,400	100.0%	\$632,300	100.0%

Reconciliation from Prior Year

	Expenditures
FY 2024 Approved Budget	\$657,200
Increase Cost: Technology Cost Allocation — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology	\$3,400
Increase Cost: Operating — Increase in general office supplies to align with anticipated costs	1,600
Decrease Cost: Fringe Benefits — Decrease in the fringe benefit rate from 33.5% to 32.8% to align with projected costs	(9,600)
Decrease Cost: Compensation — Decrease in compensation costs to reflect salary lapse for the unfunded Law Clerk position	(20,300)
FY 2025 Approved Budget	\$632,300

STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2023 Budget	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Approved	Change FY24-FY25
General Fund				
Full Time - Civilian	8	8	8	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	8	8	8	0
Part Time	0	0	0	0
Limited Term	0	0	0	0
TOTAL				
Full Time - Civilian	8	8	8	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	8	8	8	0
Part Time	0	0	0	0
Limited Term	0	0	0	0

Positions By Classification	FY 2025		
	Full Time	Part Time	Limited Term
Administrative Assistant	2	0	0
Community Developer	1	0	0
General Clerk	1	0	0
Judge	3	0	0
Law Clerk	1	0	0
TOTAL	8	0	0

Expenditures by Category - General Fund

Category	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Estimate	FY 2025 Approved	Change FY24-FY25	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$398,050	\$452,600	\$432,300	\$432,300	\$(20,300)	-4.5%
Fringe Benefits	113,270	151,600	141,800	142,000	(9,600)	-6.3%
Operating	50,588	53,000	54,300	58,000	5,000	9.4%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	
SubTotal	\$561,908	\$657,200	\$628,400	\$632,300	\$(24,900)	-3.8%
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	\$561,908	\$657,200	\$628,400	\$632,300	\$(24,900)	-3.8%

In FY 2025, compensation expenditures decrease -4.5% under the FY 2024 budget due to one unfunded position, offset by the annualization of FY 2024 salary adjustments. Compensation costs include funding for seven out of eight full time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures decrease -6.3% under the FY 2024 budget due to a reduction in the fringe benefit rate from 33.5% to 32.8% and compensation reductions.

Operating expenditures increase 9.4% over the FY 2024 budget due to an increase in the technology allocation charge as well as additional funding added for general office supplies to align with projected costs.

SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN AND PERFORMANCE

Goal 1 — To monitor the property of a deceased resident of the County in order to carry out the wishes of the decedent and to ensure distribution to the beneficiaries.

Objective 1.1 — Increase the number of decedents' assets that are intact.

FY 2029 Target	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected	Trend
2,700	2,397	2,114	2,300	2,500	↔

Trend and Analysis

The Orphans' Court workload and volume metrics are related directly to estate filings and are not tied to any economic or other traditional workload cycles.

Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Resources (Input)					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
Workload, Demand and Production (Output)					
Hearings	1,009	1,555	1,684	2,000	2,300
Pleadings	3,799	4,364	6,749	5,000	5,200
Estates open	2,994	3,056	3,023	3,200	3,500
Hearing notices, orders and writs issued	2,319	2,132	2,388	2,550	2,700
Case referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution	30	19	14	25	35
Efficiency					
Hearings per Judge	336	616	561	667	767
Pleadings per Judge	1,266	1,455	2,250	1,667	1,733
Quality					
Estate decisions upheld on appeal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Impact (Outcome)					
Intact estates	2,040	2,397	2,114	2,300	2,500

Goal 2 — To provide protection of children's assets until they are legally adults (18 years of age) in order to ensure proper monetary distribution for their short-term and long-term needs.

Objective 2.1 — Increase the number of guardianships closed successfully with all assets intact.

FY 2029 Target	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected	Trend
80	44	56	65	70	↑

Trend and Analysis

The Orphans' Court workload and volume metrics are related directly to estate filings and are not tied to any economic or other traditional workload cycles. Unlike traditional probate cases, guardianships may remain open and under the Court's jurisdiction for years.

Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Resources (Input)					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
Workload, Demand and Production (Output)					
Hearings	63	101	66	100	100
Pleadings	371	245	241	280	300
Guardianships open	47	53	52	60	70
Orders and writs issued	195	146	111	130	130
Efficiency					
Hearings per Judge	21	42	22	33	33
Pleadings per Judge	124	104	80	93	100
Quality					
Appeals	0	0	0	0	0
Impact (Outcome)					
Intact guardianships	38	44	56	65	70