

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 2022 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained consistent work flow and services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Implemented virtual hearings; prior to COVID-19 the Court did not have this technology/option.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AND INITIATIVES FOR FY 2023

The court's top priorities in FY 2023 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 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program.

FY 2023 BUDGET SUMMARY

The FY 2023 proposed budget for the Orphans' Court is \$565,600, a decrease of \$1,400 or -0.2% under the FY 2022 approved budget.

Expenditures by Fund Type

Fund Types	FY 2021 Actual		FY 2022 Budget		FY 2022 Estimate		FY 2023 Proposed	
	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total
General Fund	\$565,600	100.0%	\$567,000	100.0%	\$501,500	100.0%	\$565,600	100.0%
Total	\$565,600	100.0%	\$567,000	100.0%	\$501,500	100.0%	\$565,600	100.0%

Reconciliation from Prior Year

	Expenditures
FY 2022 Approved Budget	\$567,000
Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements — Annualization of prior salary adjustments	\$25,200
Increase Cost: Fringe Benefits — Increase in the fringe benefit rate from 29.5% to 33.5% to support projected costs netted with the unfunded Law Clerk position	11,200
Increase Cost: Operating - Technology Cost Allocation — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology	2,200
Decrease Cost: Compensation — Salary lapse for the unfunded Law Clerk position	(40,000)
FY 2023 Proposed Budget	\$565,600

STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Proposed	Change FY22-FY23
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 2023		
	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 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2022 Estimate	FY 2023 Proposed	Change FY22-FY23	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$405,134	\$402,900	\$343,200	\$388,100	\$(14,800)	-3.7%
Fringe Benefits	120,270	118,900	105,600	130,100	11,200	9.4%
Operating	40,196	45,200	52,700	47,400	2,200	4.9%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	
SubTotal	\$565,600	\$567,000	\$501,500	\$565,600	\$(1,400)	-0.2%
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	\$565,600	\$567,000	\$501,500	\$565,600	\$(1,400)	-0.2%

In FY 2023, compensation expenditures decrease -3.7% below the FY 2022 budget due to one unfunded position. Compensation costs include funding for seven out of eight full time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures increase 9.4% over the FY 2022 budget due to an increase in the fringe benefit rate from 29.5% to 33.5% to align with anticipated costs.

Operating expenditures increase 4.9% over the FY 2022 budget due to an increase in the technology cost allocation charge for anticipated countywide costs for technology.

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 2027 Target	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected	Trend
2,800	2,259	2,040	2,400	2,600	↔

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 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected
Resources (Input)					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
Workload, Demand and Production (Output)					
Hearings	1,766	1,517	1,009	1,300	1,500
Pleadings	5,531	4,755	3,799	4,100	4,400
Estates open	2,134	2,255	2,994	3,600	4,000
Hearing notices, orders and writs issued	2,381	2,883	2,319	2,200	2,400
Case referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution	52	20	30	40	55
Efficiency					
Hearings per Judge	552.0	506.0	336.0	450.0	550.0
Pleadings per Judge	1,730.0	1,585.0	1,266.0	1,400.0	1,600.0
Quality					
Estate decisions upheld on appeal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Impact (Outcome)					
Intact estates	2,270	2,259	2,040	2,400	2,600

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 2027 Target	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected	Trend
70	44	38	40	60	↓

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 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected
Resources (Input)					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
Workload, Demand and Production (Output)					
Hearings	113	91	63	100	120
Pleadings	374	371	371	200	200
Guardianships open	68	36	47	55	65
Orders and writs issued	262	243	195	110	120
Efficiency					
Hearings per Judge	38.0	30.0	21.0	45.0	55.0
Pleadings per Judge	125.0	124.0	124.0	90.0	100.0
Quality					
Appeals	0	3	0	0	0
Impact (Outcome)					
Intact guardianships	99	44	38	40	60