

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 2025 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 2026

The court's top priorities in FY 2026 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 2026 BUDGET SUMMARY

The FY 2026 proposed budget for the Orphans' Court is \$610,500, a decrease of -\$21,800 or -3.4% under the FY 2025 approved budget.

Expenditures by Fund Type

Fund Types	FY 2024 Actual		FY 2025 Budget		FY 2025 Estimate		FY 2026 Proposed	
	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total
General Fund	\$599,617	100.0%	\$632,300	100.0%	\$609,600	100.0%	\$610,500	100.0%
Total	\$599,617	100.0%	\$632,300	100.0%	\$609,600	100.0%	\$610,500	100.0%

Reconciliation from Prior Year

	Expenditures
FY 2025 Approved Budget	\$632,300
Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements	\$15,700
Increase Cost: Technology Cost Allocation — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology	6,200
Decrease Cost: Fringe Benefits — Decrease in the fringe benefit rate from 32.8% to 30.0% to align with projected costs	(15,900)
Decrease Cost: Compensation — Reduction due to partial lapse of a position	(27,800)
FY 2026 Proposed Budget	\$610,500

STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Proposed	Change FY25-FY26
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 2026		
	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 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Proposed	Change FY25-FY26	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$420,080	\$432,300	\$428,300	\$420,200	\$(12,100)	-2.8%
Fringe Benefits	122,354	142,000	120,100	126,100	(15,900)	-11.2%
Operating	57,183	58,000	61,200	64,200	6,200	10.7%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	
SubTotal	\$599,617	\$632,300	\$609,600	\$610,500	\$(21,800)	-3.4%
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	\$599,617	\$632,300	\$609,600	\$610,500	\$(21,800)	-3.4%

In FY 2026, compensation expenditures decrease -2.8% under the FY 2025 budget due to partial lapse of a position, offset with the annualization of FY 2025 and planned FY 2026 salary adjustments. Compensation costs include funding for seven out of eight full time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures decrease -11.2% under the FY 2025 budget due to a reduction in the fringe benefit rate from 32.8% to 30.0% and compensation reductions.

Operating expenditures increase 10.7% over the FY 2025 budget due to an increase in the technology allocation charge and general office supplies, offset with a decrease in telephone and membership fees to align with historical spending.

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 2030 Target	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Projected	Trend
3,000	2,114	2,270	2,500	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. The Court can not decide or effect the number of estates being opened.

Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Projected
Resources (Input)					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
Workload, Demand and Production (Output)					
Hearings	1,555	1,684	2,192	2,300	2,500
Pleadings	4,364	6,749	5,914	5,200	5,500
Estates open	3,056	3,023	3,251	3,100	3,300
Hearing notices, orders and writs issued	2,132	2,388	2,234	2,700	2,850
Case referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution	19	14	15	30	30
Efficiency					
Hearings per Judge	616	561	731	767	834
Pleadings per Judge	1,455	2,250	1,972	1,733	1,834
Quality					
Estate decisions upheld on appeal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Impact (Outcome)					
Intact estates	2,397	2,114	2,270	2,500	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 2030 Target	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Projected	Trend
100	56	61	65	75	↑

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. The Court can not decide or effect the number of estates being opened.

Note: FY 2022 and FY 2023 actuals for "Appeals" have been restated for accuracy.

Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimated	FY 2026 Projected
Resources (Input)					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
Workload, Demand and Production (Output)					
Hearings	101	66	87	100	100
Pleadings	245	241	309	300	320
Guardianships open	53	52	48	65	75
Orders and writs issued	146	111	164	150	165
Efficiency					
Hearings per Judge	42	22	29	33	33
Pleadings per Judge	104	80	103	100	107
Quality					
Appeals	1	8	4	5	6
Impact (Outcome)					
Intact guardianships	44	56	61	65	75