

# Orphans' Court



## MISSION AND SERVICES

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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 2026 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. Held quarterly meetings with the Register of Wills office (Clerk to the Orphans' Court) to discuss matters pertaining to both offices.
- Continued to refer estate cases to the Orphans' Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program.

### STRATEGIC FOCUS AND INITIATIVES FOR FY 2027

The court's top priorities in FY 2027 are:

- Increase the number of decedents' assets that are intact.
- Increase the number of guardianships with assets intact.

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

## FY 2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

The FY 2027 proposed budget for the Orphans' Court is \$654,700, an increase of \$23,100 or 3.7% over the FY 2026 approved budget.

### Expenditures by Fund Type

Fund Types	FY 2025 Actual		FY 2026 Budget		FY 2026 Estimate		FY 2027 Proposed	
	Amount	% Total						
General Fund	\$537,889	100.0%	\$631,600	100.0%	\$579,100	100.0%	\$654,700	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$537,889</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$631,600</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$579,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$654,700</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Reconciliation from Prior Year

	Expenditures
<b>FY 2026 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$631,600</b>
<b>Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements</b>	\$16,500
<b>Increase Cost: Fringe Benefits</b> — Increase in fringe benefits to align with projected costs	4,800
<b>Increase Cost: Technology Cost Allocation</b> — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology	2,100
<b>Decrease Cost: Operating</b> — Increase in office supplies offset by a decrease in telephone charges based on transferring services to Microsoft Teams	(300)
<b>FY 2027 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$654,700</b>

### STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2025 Budget	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2027 Proposed	Change FY26-FY27
<b>General Fund</b>				
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
<b>TOTAL</b>				
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 2027		
	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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Expenditures by Category - General Fund**

Category	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Proposed	Change FY26-FY27	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$380,576	\$436,000	\$416,700	\$452,500	\$16,500	3.8%
Fringe Benefits	97,931	131,400	102,100	136,200	4,800	3.7%
Operating	59,382	64,200	60,300	66,000	1,800	2.8%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	
<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>\$537,889</b>	<b>\$631,600</b>	<b>\$579,100</b>	<b>\$654,700</b>	<b>\$23,100</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
Recoveries	—	—	—	—	—	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$537,889</b>	<b>\$631,600</b>	<b>\$579,100</b>	<b>\$654,700</b>	<b>\$23,100</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

In FY 2027, compensation expenditures increase 3.8% over the FY 2026 budget due to the annualization of FY 2026 and planned FY 2027 salary adjustments. Compensation costs include funding for eight full time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures increase 3.7% over the FY 2026 budget due to projected costs.

Operating expenditures increase 2.8% over the FY 2026 budget due to an increase in the technology allocation charge and office supplies offset by a decrease in telephone charges based on transferring services to Microsoft Teams.

## 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 2031 Target	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2027 Projected	Trend
2,300	2,270	1,833	2,000	2,100	↔

### Trend and Analysis

The Court's data are driven by how many estates/guardianships are opened and closed.

### Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2027 Projected
<b>Resources (Input)</b>					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Workload, Demand and Production (Output)</b>					
Hearings	1,684	2,192	2,193	2,400	2,550
Pleadings	6,749	5,914	5,184	5,400	5,600
Estates open	3,023	3,251	3,127	3,300	3,500
Hearing notices, orders, and writs issued	2,388	2,234	2,393	2,450	2,600
Case referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution	14	15	8	10	15
<b>Efficiency</b>					
Hearings per Judge	561	731	2,193	2,400	2,550
Pleadings per Judge	2,250	1,972	5,184	5,400	5,600
<b>Quality</b>					
Estate decisions upheld on appeal	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Impact (Outcome)</b>					
Intact estates	2,114	2,270	1,833	2,000	2,100

**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 2031 Target	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2027 Projected	Trend
70	61	58	65	70	↔

## Trend and Analysis

The Court's data are driven by how many estates/guardianships are opened and closed. The Court receives the majority of its chambers work, including estate closures, through the Clerk's Office. The processing of these matters is contingent upon receipt of files from that office. The Court must close estates through different means when parties do not appear for court hearings. Closures may also be delayed while awaiting a hearing.

## Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2027 Projected
<b>Resources (Input)</b>					
Judges	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Workload, Demand and Production (Output)</b>					
Hearings	66	87	54	80	80
Pleadings	241	309	122	200	220
Guardianships open	52	48	40	60	60
Orders and writs issued	111	164	118	140	155
<b>Efficiency</b>					
Hearings per Judge	22	29	18	27	27
Pleadings per Judge	80	103	41	67	73
<b>Quality</b>					
Appeals	8	4	5	5	5
<b>Impact (Outcome)</b>					
Intact guardianships	56	61	58	65	70