

# Court Services Annual Report



**FY 2020**

**Court Administration**

**Seventh Judicial Circuit**

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# Court Services

A Division of Court Administration

Court Services is a division of Court Administration encompassing Pretrial Services, Drug Court, Court Interpreting, Court Reporting and Family Court Services.

Each department is staffed with knowledgeable employees who are dedicated to providing services in accordance with the standards and codes of conduct of their respective professions. Volusia County Pretrial Services has been an accredited program since 2008 and several staff members are Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies. The Circuit's staff interpreters are fully certified by the State of Florida. The stenographic court reporters employed by the circuit are Registered Professional Reporters through the National Court Reporters Association.

In addition to providing services to the Court, Court Services produces statistical reports to assist judges in managing court dockets and keeping current on trends that affect the criminal process, such as jail population. The division collaborates with community partners and other criminal justice agencies to identify resources to enhance the judicial process and assist those seeking to resolve legal matters.

The Court Services staff takes pride in providing professional services to those it serves. As such, the division remains dedicated to fulfilling Court Administration's mission and vision to support the judiciary while providing citizens with prompt and courteous service. The staff is also committed to the Judicial Branch vision that justice in Florida will be accessible, fair, effective, responsive and accountable.

## Volusia County Pretrial Services

Volusia County Pretrial Services provided accurate, unbiased information to judges concerning arrestees, monitored those placed under pretrial supervision, and screened specimens submitted to urinalysis laboratories.

Pretrial Services was re-accredited on October 14, 2020 by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC). The accreditation process involves an independent audit by FCAC assessors of the program's compliance with approximately 70 standards over a three-year period. Receiving and maintaining accreditation signifies the program is achieving the highest level of professionalism and setting the standard for the profession. The program has maintained accreditation for more than eleven years and is scheduled for its next reaccreditation in 2023.



Each of the units within Volusia County Pretrial Services performs specialized functions, all vital to a successful and comprehensive program. As such, each unit has specific goals. Performance highlights on the Drug Screening Laboratories, Assessment, and Supervision units are as follows.

## Drug Screening Laboratories

The primary goal of the laboratories is to provide screening services in a professional and credible manner while applying best practices for collection and screening.



In accordance with best practice, the laboratories retain the services of an independent testing laboratory. This resource enables the laboratories to send urine specimens for additional testing to confirm screening results and test for additional substances of abuse.

The Volusia County laboratories will continue to place emphasis on meeting industry standards and provide educational training to community partners. The laboratories will continue to comply with State of Florida

Department of Health regulations. In FY2020, the drug screening laboratories achieved a satisfactory inspection rating from the State of Florida Department of Health, the highest rating available, and increased the number of Certified Pretrial Services Professional lab staff.

### Drug Screening Laboratory Goals for 2021

- Achieve a satisfactory inspection rating from the State of Florida Department of Health.
- Increase the number of lab staff who are Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.
- Cross-train lab staff in other pretrial departments.

### By the Numbers

FY2019	FY2020	Testing
230,394	143,795	Individual screens run
5,713	3,252	Individual screens run with positive results
30,108	16,507	Specimens screened
4,534	2,685	Specimens with positive results



## Assessment

On a daily basis, including weekends and holidays, Pretrial Assessment diligently reviews defendant criminal histories, interviews defendants and contacts alleged victims of domestic violence. This research is compiled to create a comprehensive report utilized by the First Appearance judge to make release decisions. During the 2020 fiscal year, 15,586 individuals attended First Appearance.

On January 4, 2016, Volusia County Pretrial Services implemented the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), a nationally validated pretrial risk instrument created by Arnold Ventures. The PSA provides the judiciary with an unbiased and scientifically validated method of determining a defendant's likelihood to commit new pre-trial law violations and to fail to appear for scheduled court events. In FY 2020, assessment staff completed PSAs for approximately 12,694 defendants. Additionally, the PSA is examined for predictive validity on a yearly basis to ensure ongoing PSA instrument validation.

Additionally, the assessment unit coordinates with the jail on the release of individuals who were ordered to be monitored by Global Positioning Systems (GPS). This assures the GPS equipment is properly installed in a timely manner before a defendant is released from custody.



## Assessment Goals for 2021

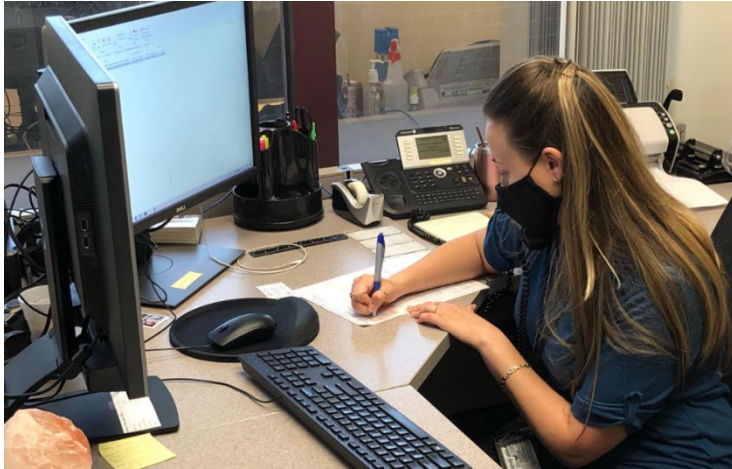
- Continue to automate data collection related to the Public Safety Assessment.
- Increase the number of assessment staff who are Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.

### By the Numbers

<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
4,030	3,349	Cases ordered to Pretrial Supervision at First Appearance
22%	21%	Percent of cases released to Pretrial Supervision at First Appearance
9,923	4,120	Interviews conducted
2,532	1,703	Victim contacts

# Supervision

Pretrial Supervision monitors defendants released into the community while awaiting disposition of their criminal cases. Supervision consists of monitoring compliance with court ordered conditions of release, ensuring appearances at scheduled court proceedings and promoting a lawful lifestyle. The supervision unit monitored 5,022 cases in fiscal year 2020, resulting in a court appearance rate of 94%.



Periodically, judges request that the supervision unit attempt to locate a defendant who has failed to appear for a scheduled court date. During fiscal year 2020, 19 investigations were conducted and 12 defendants were successfully located and rescheduled for court. This avoids the costs associated with the service of a warrant.

Additional program highlights include participation in the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee. The Domestic Violence Advisory Committee is a collaborative of social service and justice system partners.

All Pretrial Services units place an emphasis on continuing education. During this fiscal year, each pretrial employee completed a minimum of 40 hours of training, resulting in over 1,000 hours of training department-wide. In FY2020, the Pretrial Services maintained adherence to FCAC accreditation standards and increased the number of staff who achieved Certified Pretrial Services Professional status.



**Supervision Goals for FY2021**

- Maintain compliance with agency accreditation standards through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.
- Increase the number of supervision staff who are Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.
- Increase the number of FTA investigations.

**By the Numbers**

FY2019		FY2020		Supervision
4,030		3,349		New cases received at First Appearance
676		650		New cases received after First Appearance
4,733		3,838		Cases closed
3,356	71%	2,841	74%	Cases closed successfully
4,525	96%	3,623	94%	Cases closed without Failing to Appear
3,931	83%	3,485	91%	Cases closed without Failing to Comply
4,366	92%	3,409	89%	Cases closed without a New Arrest

**Program Achievements and Projects**

- All employees were given the opportunity to attend the virtual National Association of Pretrial Services Conference.
- New employees were cross-trained in various disciplines.
- Several virtual practices were implemented allowing for the continued supervision of pretrial defendants during COVID-19.
- The program achieved re-accreditation through the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.
- Employees assisted the county with providing CARES Act support.

The Volusia County Pretrial Services statistical summary below captures fiscal year data from October 1 through September 30.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY & DATA FOR PRETRIAL SERVICES**

<b>6 YEAR COMPARISON</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS AT FIRST APPEARANCE</b>	18,297	18,840	19,003	19,511	18,351	15,586
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS</b>	5,617	7,333	7,991	7,833	9,922	4,120
Felony Domestic Violence	960	872	946	1,022	1,248	609
Misdemeanor Domestic Violence	2,397	2,382	2,442	2,249	2,276	1,094
<b>NUMBER OF RELEASES TO PRETRIAL</b>	3,866	4,657	4,485	4,431	4,707	3,998
Felony	1,436	1,812	1,862	1,947	2,211	1,881
Misdemeanor	2,430	2,845	2,623	2,487	2,495	2,117
<b>PRETRIAL SERVICES CASES CLOSED</b>	4,060	4,657	4,598	4,555	4,733	3,838
Unsuccessful	796	1,175	1,289	1,232	1,377	997
Successful	3,264	3,497	3,309	3,323	3,356	2,841
Appeared in court	4,024	4,584	4,469	4,432	4,525	3,623
Appearance Rate	99.1%	98.1%	97.2%	97.3%	95.6%	94%
No New Arrests	3,881	4,381	4,328	4,240	4,366	3,409
No New Arrests Rate	95.6%	93.8%	94.1%	93.0%	92.2%	89%
Complied with Program	3,479	3,876	3,708	3,767	3,356	3,485
Compliance Rate	86%	83%	81%	83%	83%	91%

## Flagler County Pretrial Services

The Flagler County Pretrial Supervision program began in March 2014. The program consists of one court services officer who monitors an average of 60 defendants per month. The primary function of the program is to encourage the accused to comply with conditions of pretrial release, appear for all scheduled court events, and maintain a lawful lifestyle.

Pretrial Supervision also provides defendants with referrals to social service agencies. These agencies can assist with housing, transportation, nourishment, and employment.

### Supervision Goals for FY2021

- Maintain referrals to social service agencies to assist defendants with employment, housing, transportation, and substance abuse.
- Pretrial Services officers to maintain or obtain certification as Certified Pretrial Services Professionals through the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies.



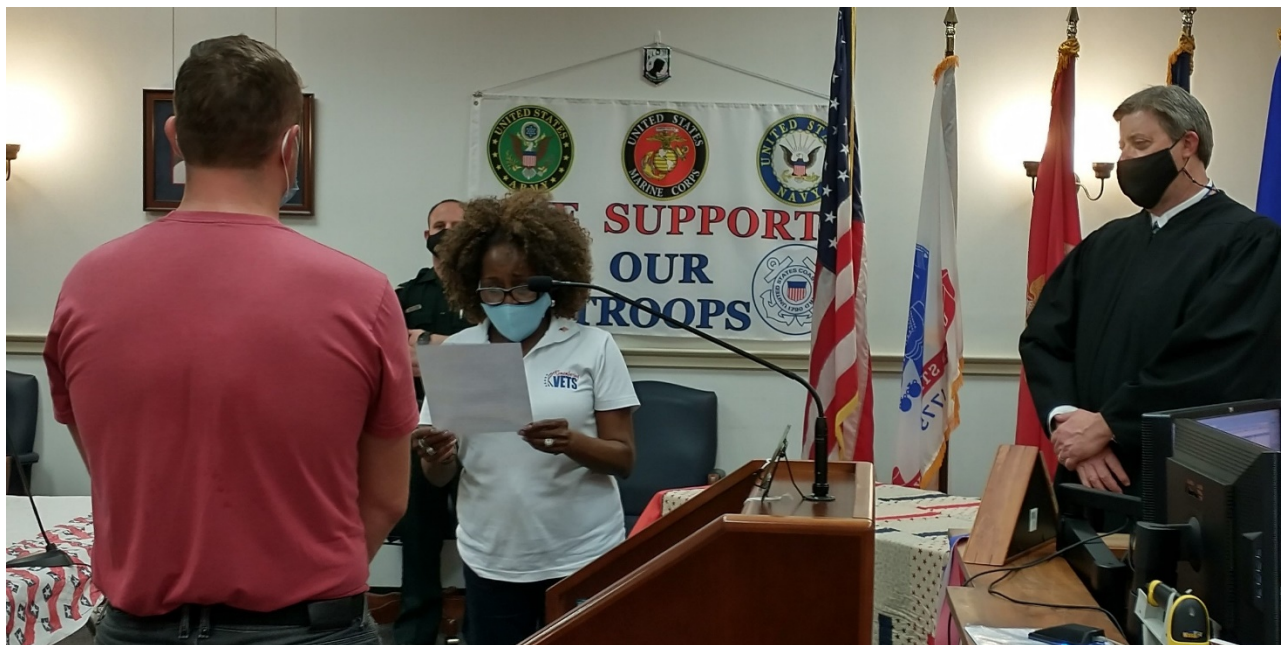
### By the Numbers

FY2019		FY2020		Supervision
434		414		New cases received at First Appearance
31		71		New cases received after First Appearance
453		479		Cases closed
334	74%	354	74%	Cases closed successfully
446	99%	474	99%	Cases closed without Failing to Appear
353	78%	380	79%	Cases closed without Failing to Comply
441	98%	458	96%	Cases closed without a New Arrest

## The David B. Beck Veterans Court

The David B. Beck Veterans Court was founded in November 2013 on the east side of the county with one judge, one misdemeanor program coordinator, one Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator and two participants. The program has grown to two judges, two misdemeanor case coordinators, two felony case coordinators, several veteran mentors, an average of 100 participants, and full support from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Clerk of Court, and Department of Corrections. The program is available to veterans on the east and west sides of the county.

Defendants who are charged with a qualifying offense, served in the U.S. Armed Forces, and were honorably or generally discharged may be eligible. Each case is addressed utilizing the resources of Veterans Affairs to identify and treat the underlying causes of the criminal behavior. Cases are supervised by the case coordinators at no expense to the defendant. In addition, the program regularly allows veterans to complete community service hours in lieu of paying monetary fines and fees. It is notable that the program's recidivism rate (based on new arrest within 2 years) is less than 21%, which is approximately 40% lower than standard community supervision.



**Volusia County Veterans Court Goals for FY2020**

- Expand the program by accepting those charged with felonies that meet program criteria.
- Implement additional methods to assist in the identification of veterans involved in the justice system.
- Engage with the community for provision of community service opportunities.

**By the Numbers**

FY2019		FY2020		Veterans Court
108		80		New cases received
94		91		Cases closed
66	70.2%	77	85%	Cases closed successfully
15		12		Defendants newly enrolled/reenrolled to receive VA benefits



## St. Johns Veterans Treatment Court

Founded in 2017, the St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court is designed to ensure that justice is accessible and responsive to veterans in a collaborative, treatment based program. Participants who enter the program have substance abuse issues, many have received trauma-related diagnoses, and some are homeless prior to entering the program.

Veterans entering the program experience a team approach, familiar from their military service. The Judge has the role of commanding officer: asking each participant about his or her progress, and offering encouragement and commendation for achievements. The Judge also addresses difficulties the participants may have in meeting their goals. Participants consult with the Veterans Justice Outreach coordinator and therapist, who assist in setting up therapy and medical appointments.

Participants are never alone in facing their challenges. Each is assigned a mentor, who is also a veteran. Mentors stand by their participant in court and are never more than a phone call away. Life skills and goals, such as education, employment, and finding stable housing, are fostered by all members of the team.

Misdemeanor participants meet weekly with the coordinator, while participants with felony cases are supervised by the Department of Corrections. All participants are subject to frequent drug/alcohol screenings, community service, and may pay fines and costs associated with their cases. Participants who violate program requirements, such as testing positive on a drug screening, face sanctions, including jail time for serious or repeated infractions.



## St. Johns Veterans Treatment Court Goals for 2021

- Determine additional methods to identify justice-involved veterans.
- Engage with the community for provision of community service opportunities.
- Collaborate with Justice for Vets for additional training for team members.

### By the Numbers

FY2019		FY2020		Veterans Treatment Court
18		14		New cases received
22		19		Cases closed
21	95.5%	17	89.5%	Cases closed successfully

## Court Interpreting Services

Court Interpreting Services handles requests for foreign language interpreters for court proceedings in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Professional interpreters adhere to the Court Interpreters Code of Professional Responsibility and interpret accurately and faithfully without omission, embellishment, or explanation while placing limited English proficient litigants on equal footing with their English-speaking counterparts. Staff and contract interpreters cover felony, misdemeanor, delinquency, dependency, termination of parental rights, injunction for protection, child support, paternity, civil commitment and guardianship proceedings, family law proceedings concerning children, and other proceedings as appointed.



Court Interpreting Services has three offices between the Volusia County Courthouse in Deland, the S. James Foxman Justice Center in Daytona Beach and the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St Augustine. The department employs four full-time certified Spanish-language interpreters and an administrative assistant. The department oversees foreign language interpreting services for proceedings in Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties, including holiday/weekend coverage of first appearance/shelter hearings. Additionally, the department

utilizes contract interpreters on a per diem basis for a wide range of foreign languages. Staff also provides translation services of documents and correspondence for judges and court services departments. The Court Interpreters Office employs various methods for the efficient delivery of court interpreting services by appearing in-person, telephonically, Zoom and/or via video remote interpreting (VRI). The Court Interpreters Office is committed to providing the highest designated interpreter available for all court proceedings.

### **Video Remote Interpreting**

The Court Interpreters Office has continued to expand the use of video remote interpreting (VRI) during the fiscal year. The challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic have provided an opportunity to expand this model into new divisions where capabilities were previously non-existent or too cost prohibitive to install. Through the expanded use of Zoom, the department has been able to continue meeting the demands of the Court circuit-wide. The ability to provide interpreters via Zoom for all court cases has allowed the department to seek the most qualified

interpreter for a proceeding often tapping into resources available both state and nation-wide. Implementation of virtual tools for the provision of court interpreting services limits travel expenses for on-site interpreters and reduces court continuances. The greatest value is its potential to increase access to justice for those of limited English proficiency. Ongoing training in this area for end-users, as well as for interpreters, will be essential to maintaining professional standards and meeting the demands of the court.

**Court Interpreting Services Goals for FY2022**

- Develop training materials for both interpreters and end-users for the effective use of interpreters via Zoom particularly related to simultaneous interpreting options.
- Identify and retain the services of certified contract interpreters for languages of lesser diffusion state and nation-wide.
- Encourage professional development of staff and contract interpreters and assist contract interpreters in meeting State certification/registration requirements.
- Provide training/resources to judicial staff, justice agencies/partners and legal community on the role and effective utilization of court interpreters.
- Continue to translate and/or review forms currently used at the misdemeanor and felony court levels, as well as pertinent family court documents.

**By the Numbers**

<b>NUMBER OF EVENTS &amp; LANGUAGES</b>	
<b>Number of Events</b>	1974
<b>Number of Foreign Languages</b>	21
Spanish	1874
Russian	33
Mandarin	15
Haitian Creole	12
Albanian/Arabic/Bengali/Vietnamese (3 of each)	12
Portuguese	8
Bosnian/Croatian/French/Gujarati/Italian/Japanese/ Polish/Tagalog (1 of each)	8
German/Turkish (4 of each)	8
Burmese/Hungarian (2 of each)	4

# Court Reporting Services

## Stenographic



Throughout the Seventh Judicial Circuit, the Court Reporting Services Department is responsible for creating and preserving a verbatim record of words spoken by all parties in the courtroom to ensure due process. Stenographers are physically present in the courtroom and use a stenotype machine, connected to a laptop, to report the spoken word, thus creating the official record of the proceeding. This record is used to prepare written transcripts for private individuals and for appellate review. Stenographers also prepare transcripts from digitally-recorded proceedings, with occasional assistance from the Digital Court Reporting Office, for the judiciary throughout the circuit and are cross-trained to digitally monitor court proceedings if the need arises.

The circuit employs three full-time stenographic reporters. All reporters are Registered Professional Reporters through the National Court Reporters Association.

Staffing felony jury selections, jury trials and all proceedings related to death penalty cases in Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns counties is coordinated by this office. These same court proceedings in Volusia County are staffed by a contract court reporting firm.

The procedures and forms for ordering transcripts and/or CDs of court proceedings, as well as the process for ordering criminal appeal transcripts are available on the Seventh Circuit's website.



## Court Reporting Services Goals for 2021

- To file appeal transcripts by the timeline set by the Fifth District Court of Appeal without seeking an extension of time to complete.
- To streamline the process of preparing CD transcripts for judges and judicial staff in conjunction with the Digital Court Reporting Office.
- To work in collaboration with the Digital Court Reporting Office to improve efficiency in production of the record.

### By the Numbers

<b>NUMBER OF HOURS IN COURT</b>	
<b># of Hours</b>	<b>Type of Proceedings</b>
1906	Circuit Criminal
20.75	County Criminal
2.75	Family Court – Dependency/CINS/FINS/Delinquency
0	Baker/Marchman/Guardianship
<b>1929.50</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>

<b>NUMBER OF TRANSCRIPT PAGES PREPARED</b>	
<b># of Pages</b>	<b>Types of Proceedings</b>
11,383	Circuit Criminal
19	Family Court
2,801	Judges and Law Clerks
<b>14,203</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>

## Digital Court Reporting

Digital Court Reporting offices provide services in all four counties of the Seventh Judicial Circuit. Reporters operate out of central control rooms containing computer and audio equipment. This equipment allows reporters to simultaneously monitor multiple court proceedings.



The circuit employs eleven full-time and one half-time digital court reporters including one Digital Court Reporting Manager. For court proceedings not captured by a stenographer, the digital recording is the official record. Therefore, the department's staff is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the record by ensuring audio/video recording equipment is functioning properly. The reporters also create electronic notes referred to as "tags" within the recording. These tags assist the reporter with quickly identifying the case style and notable events during the proceeding. This expedites fulfilling requests for copies of audio CDs requested by individuals for informational purposes or the production of transcripts.

During fiscal year 2020, the Digital Court Reporting offices implemented the process of providing requests for copies of recordings from the State Attorney and Public Defender Offices electronically via File Transfer Protocol (FTP) in lieu of producing them on physical media.

### Digital Court Reporting Goals for 2021

- Continue to provide training to judicial staff and justice agencies/partners regarding how digital court reporting works and the role of the digital court reporter.
- Continue to expand the ability to remotely monitor all court proceedings throughout the circuit from all office locations.
- Continue to adapt to new COVID-19 protocols, including alternative options to capturing the

official record.

- Implement the use of Microsoft SharePoint to electronically send copies of requested hearings to all ordering parties electronically.
- Begin the process of exploring electronic payment options.

**By The Numbers**

<b>NUMBER OF HOURS RECORDED &amp; TRANSCRIPT PAGES PREPARED</b>	
<b># of Hours</b>	<b>Type of Proceeding</b>
5,980	Circuit Criminal
3,898.25	County Criminal
2,315.50	Family Court – Dependency/ CINS/FINS
807.25	Family Court - Delinquency
847.5	Baker/Marchman/Guardianship
796.5	Domestic Violence Injunctions
1,706.75	General Magistrate/Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officer for Family Court
97.5	Other Case Types
<b>16,449.25</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>

<b>MEDIA (CD's) PROVIDED</b>	
<b># of CDs</b>	<b>Type of Proceeding</b>
463	Private/Other Government Entity
544	State Attorney
368	Public Defender
50	Court-Appointed Counsel
3	Indigent for Costs Counsel
48	Regional Counsel
<b>1,476</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>

# Family Court Services

## Case Management

Case management for family, juvenile, civil, and probate cases within the Seventh Judicial Circuit promotes efficiency for the public and judiciary, provides timely court action and resolution, allows the momentum of a case to be controlled by the Court in accordance with Florida Rules of Procedure, and ensures public access to the Court.

In areas that have established a case management protocol, the Court controls the progress of the case and is responsible for the movement of a case from filing. This ensures there is no unreasonable delay or interruption in the procedural progress, allowing for timeliness from start to completion of all court work. Benefits of this protocol include, but are not limited to, resolution of cases as early in the process as reasonable, coordination of cases and resources, reduction of costs to the party and the Court, identification of compliance with requirements of court orders and the efficient, and effective conclusion for parties or families involved in a court case.



Case Management staff, throughout the Seventh Judicial Circuit, support the judiciary by providing case review and monitoring, court event scheduling, court attendance, follow through with requirements by the Court, evaluation of case age and time to disposition, and statistical information to assist the Court with evaluating the management process.

### Case Management Goals for 2022

- Collaborate with justice partners to communicate the court's goals relating to best practices and procedures within the areas of case management.
- Promote workplace wellness and provide training opportunities to address areas such as employee engagement and well-being.
- Evaluate current data collection protocols to ensure accuracy and efficiency.

## Family Self-Help

Family Court Services' Self-Help programs are designed to assist self-represented (pro-se) litigants in Family Law actions by providing information about how the court system works, its processes and procedures and any relevant local rules. All litigants are encouraged to seek advice from a licensed attorney. Those litigants who wish to proceed without the advice of counsel may be given information regarding court-approved forms and instructions, procedural information relating to the case process and appropriate community resources that may be available to assist. Family Self-Help staff cannot provide legal advice and follow strict guidelines to ensure the assistance provided is neutral to all parties within a case. The staff follows protocols established both internally and by law. These programs are designed to ensure access to the Court by the public.



### Family Self-Help Goals for 2022

- Create and provide community-based resource guide to promote quick responses to the public's request for contact information relating to children and family needs.
- Develop an informative video on Family Self-Help resources and access to the Court for pro-se litigants for publication on the circuit's website.
- Review and update Self-Help handouts available on our website to accommodate changing protocols due to form amendments, electronic filing and remote court hearings.



## Family Court Mediation

Mediation is a process where a neutral third person called a mediator acts to encourage and facilitate the resolution of a dispute or contested matter within a family law case. In order to qualify for the Family Mediation Program, the parties' combined income must be less than \$100,000 per year. Once qualified and upon request or court order, parties may be able to participate in the program with a requirement to pay a reduced portion of the mediation fee. The mediation process and discussions are confidential and promote the attempt to allow parties in a family law case to establish a voluntary, mutually agreed upon plan. Often, mediation allows the parties in a case to be the decision makers for the best interest of their personal needs



and any needs of their children, if applicable.

### **Family Court Mediation Goals for 2022**

- Promote consistency and coordination between all 4 counties within the Circuit regarding case preparedness, documents and reporting.
- Provide up-to-date literature and information on electronic document sharing and communication to enable prompt resolution and final mediation reports/orders.

## Teen Court

Teen Court is a nationally acclaimed program designed to divert less serious cases from juvenile delinquency court. It uses “positive peer pressure” and other appropriate sanctions to show youthful offenders the consequences of breaking the law and the benefits of positive, constructive behavior. Student volunteers gain valuable knowledge of the criminal justice system by taking on the roles of prosecutor, defense counsel, clerks, bailiffs and jurors. The Teen Court volunteer program not only offers young people the opportunity to get involved with their communities, but it also makes civic education a reality.



### Flagler County

During the fiscal year of October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020, Flagler County Teen Court had 23 new cases referred by the Office of the State Attorney and local law enforcement agencies. Nineteen cases completed the program successfully. The demographic breakdown includes 9 males and 14 females. Of those, 10 were Caucasian, 11 African American, and 2 Hispanic.

Flagler Teen Court clients performed 812 community service hours and 240 hours of mandatory jury duty service. Student volunteers contributed an additional 188 hours to the program. Local attorneys generously volunteered 36 hours.

Through volunteering, community service hours, and pro-bono work, the program gave back approximately \$19,560.70 to the community. This is in addition to the savings of processing cases through diversion instead of the formal justice system.

Recidivism is defined as a delinquent or criminal referral/arrest that resulted in a juvenile adjudication or conviction of a crime within one year of completing the program. In the fiscal year of October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019, 98.25% of Flagler participants had no convictions within

one year of completing the program.

## **Volusia County**

Two hundred four new cases were referred to Volusia County Teen Court. One hundred ninety-two cases completed the program successfully. The demographic breakdown includes 130 males and 74 females. Of those, 99 were Caucasian, 83 African American, and 22 Hispanic.

Volusia County Teen Court clients performed 7,094 community service hours. Student volunteers contributed an additional 1,680 hours to the program. Local attorneys generously volunteered 124 hours and community members contributed an additional 4 hours.

Through volunteering, community service hours, and pro-bono work, the program gave back approximately \$105,828.14 to the community. This is in addition to the savings of processing cases through diversion instead of the formal justice system.

In the fiscal year of October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019, 99.67% of Volusia participants had no convictions within one year of completing the program.



### **Teen Court Goals for 2022**

- Maintain and grow community relationships with partners and stakeholders such as the State Attorney’s Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, and other agencies.
- Grow volunteer participation by increasing visibility in schools and in the community through trainings and presentations.
- Increase staff access/participation to trainings pertinent to justice-involved youth.

## Drug and DUI Courts

Drug and DUI Courts are designed to facilitate the treatment and rehabilitation of non-violent, substance-abusing, adult, felony offenders who meet established eligibility criteria. In these programs, it is interesting to note that some team members shed their traditional roles and adapt the manner in which they operate, keeping the goals of the program in mind. As a result, program participants that once taxed the resources of the community become assets to the community, making society a safer place. The programs rely heavily upon the collaboration of community stakeholders.



Through this collaboration, several important items of note have been identified:

- The crisis of arrest and incarceration often makes addicts good candidates for intervention. Therefore, placement into a program as soon after arrest as possible will likely increase the chances for success.
- The level of communications among team members must be unfaltering to ensure that Judges are able to use incentives and consequences effectively.
- Addiction often inflicts damage over many years. Likewise, the treatment response will likely require a long-term solution.
- Substance abuse is often an external indicator of other problems that an individual faces. Isolating and treating this underlying cause may assist an addict in recovery.
- Relapse and sporadic progress is to be expected, therefore effective treatment responses, progressive incentives, and appropriate consequences are integral components of programs.

Upon successful completion of a drug or DUI court program, the criminal charges are often dismissed; increasing participants' abilities to explore better job opportunities and reduce recidivism rates. Data for the Volusia, Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns programs can be found on the following page.

<b>Volusia County Adult Drug Court</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>
New Participants	119	93
Graduates	83	61
<b>Flagler County Adult Drug Court</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>
New Participants	30	16
Graduates	20	15
<b>Putnam County Adult Drug Court</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>
New Participants	23	8
Graduates	11	8
<b>St. Johns County Adult Drug Court</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>
New Participants	26	29
Graduates	23	26
<b>Volusia County DUI Court</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>
New Participants	31	17
Graduates	27	27