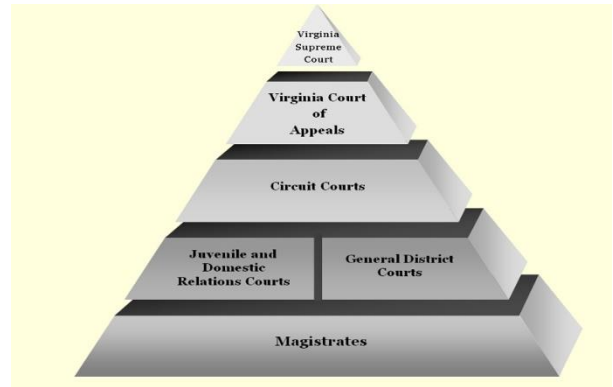


The Chesterfield Circuit Court, General District (GD) Court, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations (J&DR) District Court (“the Courts”) together comprise the judicial branch of local government. For purposes of interaction and collaboration with County administration, both District Courts and the Circuit Court Judges’ Chambers are part of the Human Services Division, while the Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, a constitutional office led by elected Clerk Wendy Hughes, is part of the Community Operations Division. The Courts’ “business” is the administration of criminal and civil justice for the citizens of Chesterfield County.

Every city and county in the Commonwealth of Virginia has a GD court, a J&DR court, and a circuit court. The jurisdiction (authority) of each court includes:

- GD – bail determinations, preliminary hearings and misdemeanor criminal trials where the victim is not a family/household member or a child, non-family protective orders, small claims, civil matters up to a certain dollar amount (depends on tort; some concurrent jurisdiction with circuit court), landlord/tenant, garnishment hearings and traffic violations for adults.
- J&DR – bail (adult) and detention (juvenile) determinations, all crimes committed by minors (juvenile delinquency) and involving child victims, preliminary hearings and misdemeanor criminal trials for adults for crimes within family/household (domestic assault), traffic violations for juveniles, child paternity / custody / visitation, child and spousal support, family abuse protective orders, child abuse and neglect, and children in need of services or supervision (“CHINS”), e.g., truancy.
- Circuit – appeals from the district courts, felony trials for adults and juveniles certified as adults (and associated misdemeanors), divorce, civil matters over a certain dollar amount (some concurrent jurisdiction with GD), name changes, property disputes, and concealed weapons permits. All jury trials are held in circuit court.



Caseload for Calendar Year 2020	New Filings	Rank in State (Among all Courts)	Hearings Held	Authorized Judgeships
General District Court	69,664 (Excludes most evictions)	6 th largest of 125	129,989	5 (4 filled)
J&DR District Court	16,794	3 rd largest of 125	40,636	6
Circuit Court	17,657 (Excludes “miscellaneous” category)	3 rd largest of 120	19,549 (Dispositions)	6 (5 filled)

Figures provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia; additional data online at www.courts.state.va.us.

Each Court is committed to providing timely and efficient citizen services directly to the public. The Courts remain grateful for the support and flexibility received from a number of state and county agencies and the local bar during the declaration of judicial emergency in effect since March 16, 2020. With that invaluable assistance, as mandated, courts have remained open, functioning, and accessible to the public. In this way, access to justice is provided to all, and the rule of law is maintained. Each Court offers many online services and remote court appearances where possible and authorized. However, generally, court proceedings require in-person appearances by the involved litigants, attorneys, witnesses, judges, clerks, and support staff.