Task Force to Study Fiduciary Adjudication in Maryland

Appeals and Transmittals of Issues and Analysis of Outcomes of Appeals

By: Registers of Wills Byron Macfarlane & Mary Rolle (Revised 11/3/2025)

A. Analysis of Outcomes of Appeals

- a. Between Fiscal Years 2019 and 2021, the outcomes of appeals from the three different types of Orphans' Courts were as follows:
 - i. Circuit Courts Sitting as Orphans' Courts (Harford, Montgomery):
 - 1. 11 Orders Upheld, 2 Reversed (85% Upheld)
 - ii. Orphans' Courts Requiring Attorneys:
 - 1. 9 Orders Upheld, 9 Reversed (50% Upheld)
 - iii. Lay Courts:
 - 1. 11 Orders Upheld, 20 Reversed (35% Upheld)

B. Appeals and Transmittals of Issues for Fiscal Year 2025

a. See data on following page:

Jurisdiction	Appeals Filed with Registers	Appeals Opened in Circuit Court	Difference from ROW to Judiciary Data	Explanation of Difference in Totals	Transmittals of Issues
Allegany	1	2	+1	1 notice of appeal filed with ROW in FY24 (6/12/24), opened by CC in FY25.	0
Anne Arundel	6	6	N/A	Same result.	3
Baltimore City	9	10	+1	1 notice of appeal filed with ROW in FY24 (6/10/24), opened by CC in FY25.	1
Baltimore	11	7	-4	1 notice of appeal filed with ROW in FY24 (5/7/24), opened by CC in FY25. 3 appeals taken directly to Appellate Court.	1
Calvert	4	2	-2	2 appeals, one stricken and one dismissed, in FY26.	1
Caroline	2	2	N/A	Same result.	0
Carroll	1	2	+1	Cannot determine.	0
Cecil	1	1	N/A	Same result.	0
Charles	5	5	N/A	Same result.	2
Dorchester	3	0	-3	1 notice of appeal filed with ROW in FY25 (6/27/2025), opened by CC in FY26.	0
			21/2	2 appeals taken directly to Appellate Court.	
Frederick	2	2	N/A	Same result.	0
Garrett	1	1	N/A	Same result. Data from Judiciary cannot be accurate as an	0
Harford	0	1	+1	appeal from the Circuit Court sitting as the Orphans' Court to the Circuit Court cannot be taken.	2
Howard	0	0	N/A	Same result.	0
Kent	0	0	N/A	Same result.	0
Montgomery	8	2	-6	Data from Judiciary cannot be accurate as an appeal from the Circuit Court sitting as the Orphans' Court to the Circuit Court cannot be taken. 8 Appeals taken directly to Appellate Court.	2
Prince George's	6	9	+3	3 notices of Appeal filed with ROW in FY24, opened by CC in FY25.	3
Queen Anne's	0	0	N/A	Same result.	0
Somerset	0	0	N/A	Same result.	0
St. Mary's	2	5	+3	2 notices of appeal filed with ROW in FY25, opened by CC in FY25.	0
				Research indicates Clerk mistakenly docketed a matter as an appeal.	
Talbot	0	0	N/A	Same result.	1
Washington	1	2	+1	Research indicates Clerk mistakenly docketed a transmittal of issues as an appeal.	1
Wicomico	0	0	N/A	Same result.	0
Worcester	1	1	N/A	Same result.	1
Total	64	60	-4		18