

FY2025 - Staffing of Registers of Wills and Orphans' Courts

	Registers of Wills	Orphans' Courts
Jurisdiction	Employees	Staff
Allegany County	4	0
Anne Arundel County	28	0
Baltimore City	38	2
Baltimore County	38	2
Calvert County	6	0
Caroline County	3	0
Carroll County	8	0
Cecil County	7	0
Charles County	6	0
Dorchester County	3	0
Frederick County	10	0
Garrett County	4	0
Harford County	8	0
Howard County	11	0
Kent County	2	0
Montgomery County	39	0
Prince George's County	38	4
Queen Anne's County	3	0
Somerset County	2	0
St. Mary's County	5	0
Talbot County	4	0
Washington County	7	0
Wicomico County	5	0
Worcester County	4	0
	283	8

*The Circuit Court for Howard County has one employee with part-time duties related to Orphans' Court matters.

	Fiscal Year 2025 - Registers of Wills - Workload											
	Estate Proceedings					Financial Transactions			Public Services			Court Assistanc e
Jurisdiction	New Proceeding s	New Contact s	Account s	Docket Entries	Claim s	Receipt s	Invoice s	Disbursement s	Wills Receive d	Wills Remove d	Registered Domestic Partnership s	Hearings Schedule d
Allegany County	596	2,501	493	24,364	240	1,287	160	41	540	345	9	168
Anne Arundel County	2,879	10,360	2,882	62,922	947	12,415	368	129	2,529	1,320	106	1,048
Baltimore City	3,219	10,295	2,774	88,567	1,267	12,495	119	202	1,205	513	87	3,092
Baltimore County	4,963	17,000	4,357	89,688	1,794	18,779	411	131	3,546	1,895	130	2,477
Calvert County	544	2,124	402	10,186	158	2,626	40	71	730	433	17	126
Caroline County	225	818	161	3,603	63	752	3	71	177	119	4	40
Carroll County	1,119	4,819	1,092	20,290	378	4,072	69	129	952	553	28	278
Cecil County	651	2,333	386	12,434	174	2,596	79	56	331	165	28	232
Charles County	898	3,478	558	17,565	355	3,937	3	69	726	496	7	234
Dorchester County	254	1,005	127	4,758	106	894	3	136	235	167	8	25
Frederick County	1,307	4,596	874	21,104	368	4,990	97	168	1,741	1,143	55	227
Garrett County	270	1,111	118	5,708	116	932	33	56	242	110	8	66
Harford County	1,427	4,935	1,362	31,626	518	6,198	108	123	1,958	936	40	467
Howard County	1,294	4,615	850	20,992	374	4,963	107	77	1,353	661	57	182
Kent County	191	648	116	2,778	49	793	4	18	293	177	10	21
Montgomery County	3,932	10,542	3,810	89,842	1,084	14,357	1,520	291	2,137	955	175	816
Prince George's County	3,892	18,912	4,324	102,154	1,686	18,209	70	230	1,708	801	72	3,333
Queen Anne's County	342	1,178	259	6,032	161	1,375	14	31	408	380	16	39
Somerset County	168	511	92	3,079	59	455	0	52	121	37	0	11
St. Mary's County	624	2,848	732	14,704	248	3,508	10	43	1,230	745	20	179
Talbot County	427	1,665	252	7,134	157	1,258	12	58	271	189	16	40
Washington County	1,092	4,361	645	17,592	351	4,038	62	34	1,637	1,153	17	113
Wicomico County	652	2,017	359	9,856	325	1,714	0	92	170	80	19	44
Worcester County	485	2,023	376	10,169	181	1,753	38	79	231	76	13	144
Totals	31,451	114,695	27,401	677,147	11,159	124,396	3,330	2,387	24,471	13,449	942	13,402

Fiscal Year 2025 - Orphans' Courts - Workload

	Misc. Hearings	Scheduled	Hearings Held (Est.)	Scheduled	Hearings Held (Est.)	Scheduled	Hearings Held (Est.)	Estimate	Actual
Jurisdiction	Hearings Held by Court	Show Cause Hearings Scheduled	Show Cause Hearings Held	Show Cause for Removal Hearings Scheduled	Show Cause for Removal Hearings Held	Guardianship Show Cause Hearings Scheduled	Guardianship Show Cause Hearings Held	Grand Total Hearings Held	Orders Issued
Allegany County	138	49	17	0	0	0	0	155	939
Anne Arundel County	208	645	227	198	99	0	0	534	4,868
Baltimore City	0	1,634	574	0	0	0	0	574	8,365
Baltimore County	467	1,213	426	647	324	23	12	1,228	10,311
Calvert County	57	93	33	11	6	0	0	95	726
Caroline County	13	24	8	0	0	0	0	21	292
Carroll County	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	1,613
Cecil County	120	108	38	13	7	2	1	165	1,325
Charles County	188	88	31	25	13	0	0	231	1,363
Dorchester County	18	1	0	8	4	0	0	22	261
Frederick County	68	121	43	0	0	0	0	111	1,623
Garrett County	37	24	8	4	2	0	0	47	553
Harford County	270	160	56	65	33	0	0	359	1,950
Howard County	99	43	15	18	9	0	0	123	944
Kent County	8	8	3	2	1	0	0	12	175
Montgomery County	452	1,265	444	52	26	11	6	928	6,032
Prince George's County	2,150	1,591	559	555	278	34	17	3,004	7,787
Queen Anne's County	19	3	1	2	1	0	0	21	397
Somerset County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98
St. Mary's County	87	93	33	39	20	3	2	141	1,152
Talbot County	19	0	0	0	0	4	2	21	350
Washington County	40	43	15	7	4	0	0	59	1,299
Wicomico County	36	37	13	4	2	0	0	51	664
Worcester County	98	85	30	15	8	0	0	135	762
Totals	4,708	7,328	2,575	1,665	833	77	39	8,154	53,849

Caseload vs. Workload (FY 2025)

		Fiscal Year 2025 - Registers of Wills					Fiscal Year 2025 - Orphans' Courts				
Jurisdiction	FY2025 - No. of Estates with Any Activity	No. Estates Requiring Action by ROW	Estate Proceedings	Financial Activity	Public Services	Court Support	No. Estates Requiring Action by Court	Misc. Hearings Held	Show Cause Hearings Held*	Total Hearings Held	Orders Issued
Allegany County	13,794	13,304	28,194	1,488	876	168	490	138	121	259	939
Anne Arundel County	13,304	10,785	79,990	12,912	3,743	1,048	2,519	208	326	534	4,868
Baltimore City	12,310	7,500	106,122	12,816	1,631	3,092	4,810	0	574	574	8,365
Baltimore County	13,105	8,042	117,802	19,321	5,311	2,477	5,063	467	761	1,228	10,311
Calvert County	1,605	1,229	13,414	2,737	1,146	126	376	57	38	95	726
Caroline County	546	375	4,870	826	292	40	171	13	8	21	292
Carroll County	2,758	1,847	27,698	4,270	1,477	278	911	116	0	116	1,613
Cecil County	1,256	716	15,978	2,731	468	232	540	120	45	165	1,325
Charles County	2,170	1,428	22,854	4,009	1,215	234	742	188	43	231	1,363
Dorchester County	535	360	6,250	1,033	394	25	175	18	4	22	261
Frederick County	3,158	2,281	28,249	5,255	2,829	227	877	68	43	111	1,623
Garrett County	598	251	7,323	1,021	344	66	347	37	10	47	553
Harford County	5,376	4,302	39,868	6,429	2,854	467	1,074	270	89	359	1,950
Howard County	2,970	2,380	28,125	5,147	1,957	182	590	99	24	123	944
Kent County	449	348	3,782	815	460	21	101	8	4	12	175
Montgomery County	10,903	7,436	109,210	16,168	2,917	816	3,467	452	476	928	6,032
Prince George's County	10,128	5,658	130,968	18,509	2,437	3,333	4,470	2,150	854	3,004	7,787
Queen Anne's County	793	555	7,972	1,420	772	39	238	19	2	21	397
Somerset County	456	375	3,909	507	158	11	81	0	0	0	98
St. Mary's County	1,607	1,080	19,156	3,561	1,955	179	527	87	54	141	1,152
Talbot County	835	631	9,635	1,328	444	40	204	19	2	21	350
Washington County	2,542	1,861	24,041	4,134	2,773	113	681	40	19	59	1,299
Wicomico County	1,561	1,193	13,209	1,806	231	44	368	36	15	51	664
Worcester County	1,255	856	13,234	1,870	294	144	399	98	37	135	762
	104,014	74,793	861,853	130,113	36,978	13,402	29,221	4,708	3,446	8,154	53,849

*Estimate based on case-by-case analysis of show cause hearings established in Wicomico County, indicating approximately 35% of scheduled show cause hearings are actually held. This is also in keeping with a data-sourced analysis of all other hearing types, of which approximately 35% of them are also actually held.

Legend of Terms:	
Term	Definition or Description
Accounts	Administration accounts filed periodically by personal representatives, special administrators, or guardians.
Claims	Claims of creditors against decedents' estates filed with the Register of Wills.
Disbursements	Disbursements made by the Registers of Wills including, for example, refunds to personal representatives for overpayment of probate fees.
Docket Entries	Each document filed in each proceeding in the Register of Wills is made part of the estate docket, which includes coding the docket entry, entering the name of the document, and digitally imaging the document.
Guardianship Show Cause Hearing	A hearing held before an Orphans' Court when a guardian has failed to timely file an annual account or upon petition by an interested person for the guardian's removal.
Hearings Held by Court	Any hearing held before an Orphans' Court that is not a show cause hearing. This includes, for example, hearings on petitions to allow claims after the personal representative has disallowed the claim, petitions for counsel fees and objections to those petitions, exceptions or objections to administration accounts, etc.
Hearings Scheduled	Hearings scheduled, including those later canceled.
Invoices	Invoices issued by the Register of Wills for payment of inheritance tax, probate fees, or other fees.
New Contacts	Each interested person and unpaid creditor is entered into the Registers' estate case management system for the purposes of ensuring they receive notice of all orders issued by the Orphans' Courts.
New Proceedings	All new proceedings opened in the Registers of Wills, including small and regular estates, judicial small and regular estates, estates that proceed under Modified Administration, ancillary probate proceedings, Wills of No Estate, guardianship estates, and non-probate matters.
Orders Issued	Orders signed by the Orphans' Courts, which are docketed and mailed to interested persons by the Registers of Wills.
Receipts	Receipts issued by the Registers of Wills for payment of fees and taxes.
Registered Domestic Partnerships	The Registers of Wills issue Certificates of Domestic Partnership to qualifying applicants, exempting partners from the inheritance tax and providing a surviving partner who dies without a will benefits similar to a surviving spouse.
Show Cause for Removal Hearing	A hearing held before an Orphans' Court when a personal representative or special administrator has failed or allegedly failed in their duties to the extent an Orphans' Court deems it necessary to consider removing them from the estate. These hearings may be held on a court's own initiative or upon petition by an interested person.
Show Cause Hearing	A hearing held before an Orphans' Court when a personal representative or special administrator has failed to meet some legal requirement, such as failing to timely file an Information Report, Inventory, or Administration Account.
Wills Received	Wills filed by members of the public with the Registers of Wills for safekeeping.
Wills Removed	Registers of Wills retrieving wills from safekeeping storage and returning them to the testator or their attorney, or removed to open the testator's estate.