

2010 in Review

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As part of the yearly reporting requirements to the Michigan Supreme Court, the Oakland County Probate Court compiles specific statistics regarding the court's caseload. These include, among other numbers, information on the number of new filings, how many cases were reopened, and the total number of active cases on the court's caseload. A summary of statistics for all courts in the state is eventually published in the Michigan Supreme Court's Annual Report.

The caseload numbers for the 2010 calendar year reflect increases or no decreases in the majority of filing areas. More than 8,200 new filings and reopened estates were processed by the court during 2010. This includes new filings over all case types assigned to Probate as well as files that were reopened for additional proceedings after being closed. Assigned case types include: decedent estates, trusts, adult and minor guardianships and conservatorships, developmentally disabled individuals, mental health commitments, civil matters, protective orders, and other miscellaneous matters. During 2010, the Probate Court also accepted 860 wills from individuals for safekeeping.

In addition to processing new filings as well as motions and petitions in ongoing matters, the Probate Court is responsible for tracking annual accountings by conservators, annual reports on the welfare of the ward for guardianships, and the filing of inventories in estate cases. Decedent estates are also monitored to ensure the proper filing of *Notices of Continued Administration*.

The court is also required to perform regular reviews on guardianship cases. The reviews require an individual to visit the ward and make a report to the court on the status and well-being of the individual. For adult guardianships, a review must take place within one year of the appointment and every three years after that. In minor guardianships, there must be an annual review for all wards under the age of six.

Interaction with parties at the Probate service counter is also an essential component of the daily workload at the Probate Court. During 2010, Probate staff served well over 47,000 customers at the probate service counter and vault. This includes activities such as opening new files; processing motions; reviewing inventories, accounts and annual reports; and processing petitions for hospitalization in mental health cases.

The Oakland County Probate Court is dedicated to providing excellent service in a professional manner. As court rules and statutes are modified and our access to resources changes, we are continually re-evaluating how we do what we do in order to maintain that excellence.

NEW FILES OPENED	2009	2010
Small Estates	611	638
Supervised Estates	21	17
Unsupervised Estates	1,713	1,762
Trust – Intervivos	270	206
Adult Guardianships	873	939
Minor Guardianships	607	671
Adult Conservatorships	351	392
Minor Conservatorships	134	127
Mentally Ill	2,733	2,802
Guardianships (Developmentally Disabled)	329	353
Reopened Estates	217	217
Protective Orders	39	39
Civil and Other Matters	94	86
TOTALS	7,992	8,249

Active Cases as of December 31, 2010:

Estates & Trust Cases	4,124
Adult Guardianships	3,666
Adult Conservatorships	1,669
Minor Guardianships	2,521
Minor Conservatorships	1,266
Developmentally Disabled	1,728
Civil and Other Matters	61
TOTAL	15,035