

TRINITY

Population: 13,389 • Authorized Judges: 2 • Staff: 14 FTE

Civil Filings: 244 • Criminal Filings: 2,240 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 352 • Other Filings: 42

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Ensure court clerks are available when and how people need them.

- **Court Services has been able to be open from 8-5 daily, however, when two courtrooms are in session that leaves one clerk for phones, counters, collections and help filling out forms. Adding one or two Legal Process Clerk would be a benefit for the public and staff.**

Courtroom and Access.

- **Our Audio and Visual equipment is very antiquated; several complaints are received monthly by the public regarding lack of proper equipment to properly make their case or show exhibits in the courtroom. The bench officers struggle to hear the witnesses and those at the counsel table.**

Protect families with emergency orders and restore family stability with mediated custody agreements.

- **Our Mediator (CCRC) is a half time employee; mediation and reports are not always completed in a timely manner. Our Mediator (CCRC) also does all court investigations into probate guardianships and conservatorship investigations and all reviews, as well as step parent adoptions. Every attempt is made to triage each case in the hopes of coming up with an agreement to avoid courtroom time.**

Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases with at the Self Help/Facilitator's office.

- **We are a small court; our current self-help calendar allows for no more than 20 appointments for help each month. Our shared Family Law Facilitator with a neighboring court is only available two times per month, weather permitting.**
- **The court is in need of more self-help funding. Our self-help hours are by appointment only, and only 2 days per month. The court handles emergency walk-ins as needed which takes away the ability to handle the public counters adequately.**

Security.

- **Our primary concern in terms of court services has to do with security. While we are a small court, even rural areas in the state must be vigilant these days. We have 14 full time employees that include our 3 marshals and 2 retired annuitants. We do not have adequate security funding for our courtrooms, courthouse perimeter, and security supplies and equipment. We are especially worried about the impacts of low security in family law and domestic violence courts, where we know violence against family members is far too common.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

Assuming an additional investment in operations funds, we intend to...

- Hire 1 legal process clerk for window and phone service to reduce wait times to reduce frustration by the public.
- Hire 1 more deputy marshal to cover security issues throughout the courthouse and courtroom
- Contract with a local attorney to provide additional self-help services
- Provide the courtrooms with updated audio and visual equipment.