

FY 2025 AGENCY SUMMARY

CIRCUIT COURT

Agency Links:

Circuit Court: [Website](#)
Circuit Court: [FY 2025 Approved Budget](#)
Circuit Court: [FY 2025 Budget Review Report](#)
Circuit Court: [FY 2026 Budget Review Report](#)
Circuit Court: [FY 2026 Budget Review PowerPoint](#)

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BACKGROUND

The Circuit Court for Prince George's County is part of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland. The Seventh Circuit includes Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties.

The Honorable DaNeeka Varner Cotton is the Administrative Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit and the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. As County Administrative Judge, Judge Cotton develops and implements short-term and long-term planning for the court, including facilities and personnel, and oversees daily operations. As Circuit Administrative Judge, she also coordinates and supervises the plans and operations of the County Administrative judges in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties.

In Maryland, the Circuit Court is the general jurisdiction trial court. Circuit Courts have exclusive original jurisdiction over jury trials in civil and criminal matters and non-jury trials in equity matters involving family law and other matters. In addition, the circuit court tries appeals from the District Court, either in new trials or by review of the record, and reviews proceedings before state and county administrative agencies.

Leadership

Chief Judge DaNeeka Varner Cotton

Core Services

- The Circuit Court provides accessible, just, timely, and innovative resolutions of legal matters in a secure environment while respecting the dignity of all

Organizational Structure

The Court has five (5) Divisions that fall under the Court Administrator and Resident Judges. These Divisions are the Family Division Juvenile Causes, Family Division Domestic Relations (Family Support Services fall under this division), Calendar Management, Operations, and Deputy Court Administration and Jury Commissioner (Drug Court, Jury Office, and Law Library fall under this division).

FY 2025 Key Accomplishments

- Reduced the backlog for criminal and civil cases.
- Made security enhancements to improve the safety of the courthouse.
- Progressed through various refresh, capital improvement projects.

Operating Budgetary Resources - Below is the 5-year overview of resources allocated to Circuit Court from FY 2021-25.

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