



## THE SPECIALISED FAMILY COURTS OF JAMAICA

(July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025)

### SPECIALISED FAMILY COURTS OF JAMAICA QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS CASE CLEARANCE RATE (%)



The case clearance rate measures a courts ability to manage its incoming cases effectively and is essential for preventing backlog.

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## CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE THIRD QUARTER, FAMILY COURT 2025

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The Family Courts are one of our problem solving courts. The other being the Drug Court. The Family Court continues its path to excellence. Over the years, some have asked why are data so important and why should data analysis be applied to problem solving courts. The answer is that courts and indeed problem solving courts are providing a service and excellent customer service/stakeholder service is defined as “the delivery of services against established standards in a manner which effectively satisfies customers' needs and provides value for our citizens' (GoJ Service Excellence Policy, March 2022 – presentation of Danielle Jones Cox). Unless there is a standard both quantitative and qualitative, the service provider cannot determine whether it is meeting the needs of the stakeholders in a satisfactory manner. The court – Family Courts – are not exempt must always ask, how are the courts performing?

It was pointed out in the Global Measures document (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed, Oct 2020) “that performance data are of no value if not used, measurement is explicitly paired with performance management to emphasize that to be used effective [performance measurement and management] should be infused into the very DNA of a court's governance and management of business processes and operations such as budgeting, resource management, and strategic planning.”

The same document indicates that “[performance measurement and management aims] toward a specific set of goals including efficiency and effectiveness, transparency and accountability, and in public trust and confidence in courts. Measurement of performance is an effective tool that helps organizations get results that focus on mission and goals. It is seen as the best way both to improve the quality of programs (sic) and services and to achieve major policy and organizational goals.”

How would the Family Courts be able to answer the question 'how are the Family Courts doing?' without data? Some types of applications such as domestic violence orders are clearly urgent. So too, applications under the Hague Conventions.

The data for this quarter show that the Family Courts continue to deliver timely justice. The three newer Family Courts – Chapeltown, Trelawny, and St Ann – have begun on an excellent note and by keeping the clearance rate above 100% are ensuring that a backlog is unlikely to build up. There is a growing demand for the services of these court. An additional judge will have to be appointed for St Ann and Trelawny to maintain the high level of productivity. This was already done for Chapeltown.

In addition, the separation of Hanover and Westmoreland into stand-alone courts will be raised with the Ministry of Justice yet again. The data – presented twice – show that each court can stand on its own because there is sufficient case load to make each court viable. This development – if implemented – should reduce wait times and improve service delivery by minimising the cost of accessing the court's services.

The judges and staff as well as our stakeholders have embraced our vision and mission. This quarter confirms that. It is expected that the final quarter of this calendar year will reflect the impact of Hurricane Melissa on court operations. This only serves to underscore the point that we have to deliver service as quickly and efficiently as possible because we don't know when a natural disaster will undermine our capacity to function properly.

**The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD  
Chief Justice of Jamaica**

## Executive Summary

The Specialized Family Courts in Jamaica play a critical role in advancing key performance goals established by the Honourable Chief Justice, aimed at positioning the Jamaican judiciary among the world's most efficient and effective legal systems. A pivotal target in achieving the strategic vision of backlog-free courts is ensuring that the net case backlog rate remains under 5%. Meeting this benchmark is not only crucial for enhancing court excellence but also instrumental in fostering a more conducive environment for business growth, investment, and broader socio-economic development.

A judiciary that minimizes delays in case resolutions is central to maintaining public confidence in the legal system, improving access to justice, and ensuring timely legal outcomes. The emphasis on efficiency is in line with global judicial best practices, which highlight the importance of reducing case backlogs to promote fairness and economic stability. Courts that operate without significant delays are better equipped to manage the increasing complexities of family law, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure swift justice in matters related to children, domestic issues, and support cases.

Moreover, a judicial system that effectively manages its caseload attracts both local and international investment, as businesses often seek jurisdictions with transparent and predictable legal processes. Delays in court proceedings can lead to increased legal costs, business uncertainties, and hinder the enforcement of contracts, all of which can negatively affect the business climate. Thus, the Jamaican family courts' efforts to meet and exceed these targets align not only with improving judicial efficiency but also with the country's broader economic ambitions.

Achieving a net case backlog rate of less than 5% reflects the judiciary's commitment to continuous improvement and responsiveness to the needs of citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders. As a service-based institution, the courts are key players in Jamaica's socio-economic development strategy, where efficient legal systems support stable governance and economic growth. In short, the success of specialized family courts in meeting these ambitious goals serves as a vital foundation for fostering court excellence, enhancing the rule of law, and creating a robust environment for investment and socio-economic progress.

In the third quarter, July 1, through September 30, 2025, the specialized Family Courts of Jamaica, recorded a total of 2664 new cases filed. Case activity that was either disposed or inactive amounted to 2488 producing an overall case clearance rate of 93.39% (3.39 percentage points above the overall minimum established to eliminate case backlog within the specialized family courts of Jamaica). The Corporate Area Family Court along with the St. James Family court accounted for the largest share of new cases filed for the period (July 1, 2025-September 30, 2025) with 1299 or 48.76% of the sample. Westmoreland Family followed accounting for 456 or 17.12% of new cases filed and Manchester with 214 or 8.03%. The lowest share of new cases filed for the third quarter of 2025 were with the family courts of Chapeltown 204(7.66%) Hanover 166 (6.23%) and Trelawny 120 (4.50%).

Classified among the most critical measures of court productivity and efficiency is the case clearance rate. Clearance rate measures the courts' ability to manage its incoming case load effectively. This measurement is important in preventing case backlog; through, monitoring clearance rates, courts can identify and address potential backlogs before they escalate. If a court is disposing fewer cases than filed a severe backlog of cases is certain; that is, a persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually

lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. In the third quarter of 2025, the highest ratio of new cases filed to cases disposed among the specialised family courts in Jamaica was recorded in the St. Ann Family Court producing a weighted average case clearance rate of 116.59%. The Chapeltown Family Court ranked second with 110.29%, followed by Trelawny Family with 107.50%, rounding off the top three courts for the third quarter. The other clearance rates were as follows; St. James Family court with 96.65%, Hanover with 96.39%, Corporate Area with 84.67%, Manchester with 84.11% and Westmoreland with 81.80%.

The current rate of case clearance is influenced by both the efforts of the courts in case management and factors outside of direct control of the courts. The overall weighted mean clearance rate for the third quarter (Jul.1-Sept.30) falls above the international minimum standard for this metric (90% - 100%).

Positioned towards reducing backlog, the family courts remain, determined to maintain at minimum disposing as many, as the number of new cases being filed. To this effect, the specialized Family Courts in Jamaica continue to engage external parties and stakeholders in an effort to reduce the general incidence of delays brought about by factors such as the absenteeism of applicants and or respondents for hearings, outstanding scientific reports, among other reasons.

**Table i. Aggregate Case Flow Performance Estimates for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

<b>Family Court</b>	<b>Number of new cases</b>	<b>Gross number of disposed cases</b>	<b>Gross number of inactive cases</b>	<b>Weighted average case clearance rate (%)</b>
Corporate Area Family Court	613	510	9	84.67
St. James Family Court	686	641	22	96.65
Westmoreland Family Court	456	348	25	81.80
Chapelton Family Court	204	196	29	110.29
Hanover Family Court	166	155	5	96.39
Manchester Family Court	214	173	7	84.11
Trelawny Family Court	120	121	8	107.50
St. Ann	205	233	6	116.59
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>2664</b>	<b>2377</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>93.39</b>

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialised Family Courts in the third quarter of 2025. It shows that a total of 2664 new cases were filed in these courts, while 111 became inactive and 2377 were disposed, leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 93.39%. The St. Ann Family Court recorded the highest overall weighted case clearance rate among the featured courts with 116.59% followed by the Chapelton Family Court with 110.29%, Trelawny Family Court with 107.50%, while the St. James Family Court recorded a clearance rate of 96.65% and the Hanover Family Court following behind with 96.39%, round off the top five courts in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table ii. Comparative Analysis of Actual and Forecasted Case Clearance Rates**

Family Court	Forecasted QTR 3. Case Clearance Rate (%)	Actual QTR 3 Case Clearance Rate (%)	RESIDUAL	SQUARED ERROR	Absolute percentage Error
Corporate Area Family Court	102.87	84.67	-18.2	331.24	-21.50
St. James Family Court	83.22	96.65	13.43	180.36	13.90
Hanover Family Court	98.62	96.39	-2.23	4.97	-2.31
Westmoreland Family Court	101.34	81.8	-19.54	381.81	-23.89
Trelawny Family Court	121.99	107.5	-14.49	209.96	-13.48
Manchester Family Court	79.81	84.11	4.3	18.49	5.11
Chapelton Family Court	97.35	110.29	12.94	167.44	11.73
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>95.61</b>	<b>93.39</b>			

The above table summarizes the actual and forecasted clearance rates, along with residuals, squared errors and absolute percentage errors for each of the Specialized Family Courts of Jamaica for the third quarter (July 1- September 30) 2025.

The Residual values present the difference between actual and forecasted rates and are important in determining the quality of the model. The residual values also serve as an indicator of how well the forecast aligns with the actual performance. Negative residuals indicate that the actual clearance rate was below the forecast while positive residuals indicate the clearance rate was above the forecast. The St. James, Manchester, Chapelton and Hanover Family Courts were the only courts that exceeded their forecast for the quarter and by extension were also above the international standard for this metric with the exception of the Manchester Family Court.

The Westmoreland Family Court had the largest negative residual. Other specialized family courts with actual case clearance rate considerably below the forecasted rate is the Corporate Area Family court and the Trelawny Family Court.

The square mean error provide insight as to the magnitude of the errors without considering the direction. Higher squared values indicate larger deviations from the forecast. The Westmoreland Family Court had the highest squared error followed by the Corporate Area Family Court. Trelawny was also among the top three with the highest squared error; here despite having surpassed the forecasted rate, the negative residual was large, however the differences saw little deviation from the forecasted rate for the fiscal period 2024 /2025. Smaller squared errors were observed in the Hanover Family Court, and the Manchester Family Court, indicating closer alignment of the actual rates with the forecasted rates.

The absolute percentage error expresses the accuracy of the forecast as a percentage of the actual value. Consistent with its large negative residual and high squared error the Westmoreland Family Court had the highest percentage deviation from the forecast of 23.89 per cent, along with the Corporate Area Family Court (21.50%) and Trelawny Family Court (13.48%). The Hanover Family Court had the lowest absolute percentage deviation of 2.31%, this suggests that the actual clearance rate for this court was closest to the forecast. This is also true for the Manchester Family Court (5.11%) and the Chapeltown Family Court (11.73%).

The overall forecast model is acceptably accurate and produced a good forecast of the case clearance rate for the Specialized Family Courts of Jamaica. The Hanover Family Court had the closest actual and forecasted rates, which produced an absolute percentage error of 2.31%, the result of a highly accurate forecasted case clearance rate for the Hanover Family Court.

The Westmoreland Family Court, on the other hand, had the largest residual and squared error which produced an absolute percentage error of 23.89%. Though the model over

predicted the case clearance rate for the Westmoreland Family Court, the absolute percentage error suggest that the model produced a reasonable forecasted case clearance rate for the Westmoreland Family Court. The deviations between actual and predicted rates across the specialized family courts is indicative that, the courts' performance is different from what was expected. Likely due to factors, including unique circumstances or challenges specific to individual courts, not captured in the forecasting model.

**Table iii. Forecasted Case Activity Statistics for fourth Quarter Ended December 31, 2025.**

<b>Parish Court</b>	<b>Forecasted number of new cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of disposed cases</b>	<b>Forecasted number of inactive cases</b>	<b>Forecasted case clearance rate (%)</b>
Hanover Family Court	171	165	7	100.79
Manchester Family Court	196	167	4	87.82
St. James Family Court	674	576	20	88.33
Corporate Area Family Court	647	621	15	98.26
Westmoreland Family Court	414	378	20	96.34
Trelawny Family Court	130	144	5	114.85
Chapelton	217	203	19	102.30
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>2448</b>	<b>2255</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>95.78</b>

The above table forecasts core activity for the specialized family courts across the island. The forecasts are generated using the method of exponential smoothing which uses weighted averages from past observations with weights declining exponentially as the observations get older. See further explanation of the mathematical science behind the method of exponential smoothing in the glossary of terms.

The data indicates that the overall forecasted case clearance rate for specialized family courts in the fourth quarter of 2025 (October-December 2025) is projected to reach 95.78%. This represents an increase of 2.39 percentage points compared to the actual case clearance rate of 93.39% recorded in the third quarter (July-September 2025). Additionally,

five family courts are expected to meet or exceed the minimum international standard case clearance rate of 90% during the third quarter. This suggests that these courts are making noteworthy progress in effectively managing their caseloads and moving toward equilibrium.

## Methodology

The report covers the performance of the Corporate Area Family Court, Hanover Family Court, St. James Family Court, Westmoreland Family Court, Trelawny Family Court, Manchester Family Court, and Chapeltown Family Court. Case data were categorised by type—criminal, family matters, domestic violence, child welfare, civil, and enforcement activities. The performance metrics are calculated using a weighted average approach, a measure of court performance based on caseload variations. In addition, the comparative analysis of forecasts with actual measures using squared error and absolute percentage error provides valuable insights into the accuracy and reliability of forecasting methods, facilitating a more comprehensive assessment of the forecasting model's performance.

## Disclaimer

The numbers that are reflected in the case activity summary in the annual report may vary slightly from those quoted in the individual quarterly reports throughout the year due to occasional constraints with timely access to all records and other mitigating factors. Methodological adjustments may also result in slight variations in comparative figures across periods.

## Introduction

The specialised Family courts, within the Jamaican judicial system, operate as comprehensive service hubs, offering on-site counselling, off-site referrals, extensive open court hearings, adjudication, and logistical support for payments and pay-outs, particularly in maintenance matters. Catering to diverse case types, including criminal, civil, domestic violence, and family and child welfare, these courts play a pivotal role in safeguarding the welfare of families, especially children.

The Judicature Family Court Act (1975), indicates the primary duty of the Family Court is to prevent family breakdowns and ensure the welfare of its members, particularly children, a mandate reflected in the multifaceted functions it performs. As outlined in the Act, the Family Court handles a wide range of family matters, including adoption, custody, maintenance, affiliation, juvenile care and protection, and divorce. This underscores the importance of the Family Courts in maintaining societal cohesion and promoting justice within families. Statistical reporting of the activities of the specialised family courts not only enhances this courts' productivity but also fosters public understanding and appreciation of its vital role and provisions.

The critical importance of the rule of law and the judiciary as principle components of a high quality of life is represented in Vision 2030 Jamaica National Goal 2 "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just". This statistics report underscores the invaluable use of empirical-based knowledge in creating the Jamaica we want: "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business". The report, provides insights into various case-related activities during the third quarter of 2025 and offers detailed insights into seven specialised family courts in Jamaica namely:

- The Corporate Area Family Court
- The Western Regional Family Courts
  - St. James Family Court
  - Hanover Family Court
  - Westmoreland Family Court
- The Trelawny Family Court
- The Manchester Family Court
- Chapeltown Family Court
- St. Ann Family Court

## Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Corporate Area Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. It includes analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 1.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the third Quarter Ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	26	1	1	7.69
Indictments	19	16	1	89.47
Summary	12	6	0	50.00
Petty Session	1	1	0	100.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>44.83</b>

The above table shows the sample of 58 criminal cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of these, 26 or 44.83% were committal matters, 19 or 32.76% were indictment matters, 12 or 20.69% were summary matters. There was a total of 24 criminal cases disposed while 2 became inactive during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of these, 16 indictment matters were disposed while 1 became inactive. There were 6 summary matters disposed, while committal and petty session matters disposed of 1 matter each. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 44.83% for these types of cases which is below the international standards on this vital metric.

## Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Corporate Area Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 1.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	30	22	3	83.33
Uncontrollable Child	10	11	0	110.00
<b>Total Weighted Average</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82.50</b>

There were 40 child welfare cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 30 or 75%, while the remaining proportion were uncontrollable child cases with 10 or 25%. A total of 33 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 83.33% for child care and protection cases and 110% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 82.50%, which does not satisfy international standard of 90% and above on this vital metric.

## **Family Matters Case Activity Summary for The Corporate Area Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Corporate Area Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 1.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	111	95	2	87.39
Declaration of Paternity	50	65	0	130.00
Maintenance	167	122	5	76.05
Legal Guardianship	1	0	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>87.84</b>

The 329 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 revealed that Maintenance matters accounts for the largest proportion of cases filed (with 167 cases or 50.76%). This was followed by cases of custody with 111 or 33.74%. There were 50 declaration of paternity cases or 15.20%. A total of 289 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. This is broken down into 282 disposed and 7 inactive cases. Maintenance cases accounted for 122 of the disposed cases and 5 became inactive while custody accounted for 95 disposed cases and 2 inactive case. There were 65 disposed access of declaration of paternity. This led to an overall estimated weighted average 87.84%. Declaration of paternity cases with 130%, had the highest clearance rate followed by custody cases with 87.39% and maintenance with 76.05%.

**Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the Corporate Area Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Corporate Area for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 1.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	165	149	0	90.30
Occupation Order	21	22	0	104.76
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>91.94</b>

The data shows that there was a total of 186 new domestic violence cases filed in the third quarter of 2025 at the Corporate Area Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases which accounted for 165 or 88.71%, while cases of occupation order with 21 or 11.29% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 171 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of in the quarter. There were 149 protection order cases disposed of during the quarter, and 22 occupation order cases were also disposed of in the quarter. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 90.34% for protection order cases and 104.76% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 91.94%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

**Table 1.5: Sampling Distribution/Post Disposal Activity for the Corporate Area Court for the Quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	75	42	6	64.00
Disobedience of Maintenance	34	70	51	355.88
Warrant of Arrest	47	44	9	112.77
Warrant of Distress	7	5	10	214.29
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>145.40</b>

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that Vary Orders accounted for 75 or 46.01% of post disposal activity in the Corporate Area Family Court and the remaining 88 or 53.99% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. A total of 42 vary orders were disposed of while 6 became inactive in the period and 189 enforcements were either disposed of or became inactive producing a gross case clearance rate of 145.40% for these matters.

## Chapter 2.0: The St. James Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the St. James Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 2.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	1	4	1	500.00
Indictments	12	9	1	83.33
Summary	8	12	1	162.50
Petty Session	8	7	0	87.50
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>120.69</b>

The above table shows the sample of 29 criminal cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of these, 12 or 41.38% were indictment matters. Summary and petty session matters accounted for 8 cases each or 27.58%. The remaining 1 or 3.44% was accounted for by committal matters. There were a total of 35 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of these, summary and indictment had 12 and 9 disposed cases respectively, while petty session matters accounted for 7 case and the remaining 4 was accounted for by matters of committal. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 102.69% for these types of cases.

## Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the St. James Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 2.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	34	32	0	94.12
Uncontrollable Child	27	32	4	133.33
<b>Total Weighted Average</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>111.48</b>

There were 61 child welfare cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were child care and protection cases which accounted for 34 or 55.74%, while cases of uncontrollable child with 27 or 44.26% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 64 child welfare cases were disposed while 4 became inactive during the quarter. There were 32 child care and protection cases and 32 uncontrollable child cases disposed of while 4 became inactive during the quarter in the St. James Family Court. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 133.33% for uncontrollable child and 94.12% for child care and protection cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 111.48%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

**Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the St. James Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. James Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 2.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	105	93	2	90.48
Declaration of Paternity	68	53	2	80.88
Declaration of Maternity	0	3	0	undefined
Legal Guardianship	3	3	3	200.00
Maintenance	197	162	8	86.29
Adoption	3	3	0	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>88.30</b>

The 376 new cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 revealed that maintenance matters with 197 cases or 52.39% accounts for the largest proportion of cases filed. This was followed by Custody with 105 or 27.93%. There were 68 Declaration of Paternity cases or 18.09%, there were 3 legal guardianship cases, and 3 adoption cases. A total of 317 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of while 15 became inactive in the quarter. Maintenance cases accounted for 162 of the disposed cases and 8 inactive cases while custody cases accounted for 93 disposed cases, while 2 became inactive. There were 53 disposed cases concerning declaration of paternity while legal guardianship cases, declaration of maternity cases and cases of adoption each accounted for 3 cases. This led to an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 88.30% for the broad family case type. The highest case clearance rate of family case

activities in the St. James Family court was for legal guardianship cases with 200.00%; followed by adoption cases with 100.00%, custody cases accounted for 190.48%, to round off the top three.

**Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the St. James Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in St. James for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 2.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	166	169	0	101.81
Occupation Order	30	32	0	106.67
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>102.55</b>

The data above shows that there were a total of 196 new domestic violence cases filed in the third quarter of 2025 at the St. James Family Court. Protection order cases accounted for the larger proportion with 166 or 84.69%, while occupation order cases accounted for the remaining proportion with 30 or 15.31%. A total of 201 domestic cases were disposed of in the quarter. There were 169 protection cases disposed of during the quarter and 32 occupation order cases were disposed. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 101.81% for protection order cases and 106.67% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 102.55%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

### Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the St. James Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the St. James Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 2.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
24	27	0	112.50

The data above shows that there were a total of 24 new civil cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. There were also a total of 27 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the St. James Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 112.50%, which is above the international standard on this metric.

**Table 2.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the St. James Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Estimated clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	105	67	7	70.48
Disobedience of Maintenance	38	22	10	84.21
Warrants of Distress	152	17	4	13.82
Warrants of Arrest	42	17	3	47.62
Judgement Summons	1	0	0	0.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>43.49</b>

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 105 or 31.07% of post disposal activity in the St. James family court while 233 or 68.93% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 67 vary orders disposed of in the period and 7 became inactive, while 56 enforcements were disposed of and 17 made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 43.49% on these matters.

## Chapter 3.0: The Hanover Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Hanover Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 3.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	2	0	0	0.00
Indictments	2	12	0	600.00
Summary	5	3	0	60.00
Petty Session	5	1	0	0.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>114.29</b>

The above table shows the sample of 14 criminal cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Summary matters along with petty session matters accounted for the largest share with 5 each or 35.71% of the total, followed by committal and indictment matters with 2 cases each or 14.28%. There were 16 criminal cases disposed of in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, resulting in a clearance rate of 114.29% which is above the international standard on this metric.

### Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Hanover Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 3.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	11	12	0	109.09
Uncontrollable Child	6	4	1	83.33
<b>Total Weighted Average</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.00</b>

There were 17 child welfare cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 11 or 64.71%, while the remaining proportion were cases of uncontrollable child with 6 or 35.29%. For the period July 1-September 30, 2025 there were 17 child welfare case disposed of or became inactive producing an estimated case clearance rate of 100%; an amount that satisfies the international standards on this vital metric.

#### **Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Hanover Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. James Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 3.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	38	39	0	102.63
Declaration of Paternity	6	6	1	116.67
Maintenance	38	33	1	89.47
Legal Guardianship	1	0	0	0.00
Access	4	0	0	0.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>91.95</b>

The 87 new Family cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 disaggregated by case subtype showed maintenance matters along with matters of custody accounted for the largest proportion with 38 cases each or 43.68%. This was followed by declaration of paternity cases with 6 or 6.90% and cases of access with 4 or 4.60%. There was also 1 new case filed in the quarter concerning cases of legal guardianship. A total of 80 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. For matters that were disposed of during the period, 39 were disposed custody cases, 33 disposed maintenance cases, 6 disposed cases declaration of paternity case. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 91.95% for the 116.67%, followed by custody cases with 102.63% and maintenance cases with 89.47%.

**Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the Hanover Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Hanover for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 3.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	40	37	2	97.50
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>97.50</b>

The data above shows that there were a total of 40 new domestic violence cases filed in the third quarter of 2025 at the Hanover Family Court. All cases were protection order cases. During the third quarter of 2025, the Hanover Family court disposed a total of 37 Domestic Violence cases. This outcome produced case clearance rates of 9750% for protection order cases which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

### Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the Hanover Family Court

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2024.

**Table 3.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
8	8	0	100

The data above shows that there were a total of 8 new civil cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. All 8 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the Hanover Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 100%, which satisfies international standards for this metric.

**Table 3.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Hanover Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Estimated Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	25	12	1	52.00
Disobedience of Maintenance	13	7	1	61.54
Warrants of Distress	95	29	66	100.00
Warrants of Arrest	40	3	37	100.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>90.17</b>

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 25 or 14.45% of post disposal activity in the St. James family court while 148 or 85.55% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 12 vary orders disposed of in the period. There were

39 enforcements matters disposed while 104 made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 90.17% on these matters.

## Chapter 4.0: The Westmoreland Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Westmoreland Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 4.1: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	7	4	0	57.14
Indictments	27	21	1	81.48
Summary	15	17	13	200.00
Petty Session	4	1	0	25.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>107.55</b>

The above table shows the sample of 53 criminal cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of these, 27 or 50.94% were indictment matters, 15 or 28.30% were summary matters, while committal matters accounted for 7 cases or 13.21%. Petty session matters accounted for the remaining 4 matters or 7.55%. There were a total of 57 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of the total cases disposed indictment and summary matters accounted for 21 and 17 cases respectively, while committal and petty session matters accounted for 4 and 1 cases respectively. This produced an estimated weighted clearance rate of 107.55% for the cases in the Westmoreland family court classified as criminal.

### Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Westmoreland Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 4.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	29	28	0	96.55
Uncontrollable Child	28	21	5	92.86
<b>Total Weighted Average</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>94.74</b>

There were 57 child welfare cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, Child care protection cases accounted for the greater share with 29 or 50.88% and the remainder were uncontrollable child cases 28 or 49.12%. A total of 54 child welfare cases were disposed or became inactive during the quarter. Cases concerning child care protection accounted for 28 disposed cases the remaining 21 disposed cases were matters related to child care protection. The 5 inactive cases recorded in the period were classified as uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 94.74%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric.

## **Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Westmoreland Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Westmoreland Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 4.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	65	54	3	87.69
Declaration of Paternity	27	23	0	85.19
Access	10	12	0	120.00
Legal Guardianship	4	4	0	100.00
Maintenance	139	91	3	67.63
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>77.55</b>

The 245 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 139 cases or 56.73%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 65 or 26.53% and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 27 or 11.02%. There were also 10 or 4.08% access cases. A total of 190 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the quarter. That is, 91 disposed and 3 inactive maintenance cases, 54 disposed custody cases and 3 became inactive, 23 disposed declarations of paternity cases and 12 disposed cases of access, this produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 77.55% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as access, recorded the highest case clearance rate of 120%, legal guardianship cases followed with 100%, custody cases with 87.69% and cases concerning declaration of paternity recorded a clearance rate of 85.19%.

### **Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the Westmoreland Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Westmoreland for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 4.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	77	52	0	67.53
Occupation and protection Order	9	8	0	88.89
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69.77</b>

The data above shows that there were a total of 86 new domestic violence cases filed in the third quarter of 2025 at the Westmoreland Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 77 or 89.53%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 9 or 10.47%. A total of 60 domestic violence cases were disposed of during the quarter. There were 52 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 8 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 67.53% for protection order cases and 88.89% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 69.77%, which is below international standards on this vital metric.

### **Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the Westmoreland Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Westmoreland Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 4.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
15	12	0	80.00

The data above shows that there were a total of 15 new civil cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. There were also a total of 12 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the Westmoreland Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 80%, which is below international standards on this metrics.

**Table 4.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Westmoreland Family Court for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	42	25	6	73.81
Disobedience of Maintenance	28	34	10	157.14
Warrants of Distress	57	7	0	12.28
Warrants of Arrest	14	6	0	42.86
Judgement Summons	0	1	1	undefined
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>63.83</b>

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 42 or 29.79% while 99 or 70.21% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. In the reporting period 25 vary orders were disposed of while 48 enforcements were disposed or became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 63.83% on these matters.

## Chapter 5.0: The Trelawny Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Trelawny Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 5.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	0	4	1	0.00
Indictments	2	5	0	250.00
Summary	1	14	0	1400.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>800.00</b>

The above table shows the sample of 3 criminal cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Indictment matters accounted for the largest portion with 2 or 66.67% Of these, summary matters accounted for 1 case. There were a total of 23 disposed and 1 inactive case during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, this produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 800.00% for criminal case activities in the Trelawny Family Court.

### Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Trelawny Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 5.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	10	17	0	170.00
Uncontrollable Child	3	1	0	33.33
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>138.46</b>

There were 13 new child welfare cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 10 or 76.92%, while the remaining 3 were uncontrollable child matter. A total of 18 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter; 17 cases disposed were child care protection and 1 was uncontrollable child case. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 170.00% for child care protection cases and 33.33% for uncontrollable child, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 138.46%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

### Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Trelawny Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Trelawny Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 5.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	14	15	0	107.14
Declaration of Paternity	17	8	1	52.94
Access	12	11	0	91.67
Legal Guardianship	1	1	0	100.00
Maintenance	43	31	5	83.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>82.76</b>

The 87 new cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 43 cases or 49.43% and declaration of paternity matters with 17 cases or 19.54%. Custody matters followed accounting for 14 or 16.09% of new family cases filed. A total of 72 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. Of the total disposed cases, 31 were concerning maintenance, 15 custody cases, 11 cases of access, 8 declaration of paternity cases and 1 case of legal guardianship. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 82.76% for the broad family case type. Custody cases had the highest case clearance rate of 107.14%, followed by matters classified as legal guardianship with 100.00%, and access with 91.67%.

### **Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the Trelawny Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Trelawny for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 5.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	16	13	1	87.50
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>87.50</b>

The data above shows that there were a total of 16 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Trelawny Family Court. A total 13 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of during the quarter. All new cases filed were protection orders which accounted for 100% of the new cases filed. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 87.50% for the quarter; this result satisfies the international standards on this vital metric.

### **Summary of Case Activity for Civil Matters at the Trelawny Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Trelawny Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 5.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	weighted case clearance rate (%)
1	1	0	100

The data above shows that there was 1 new civil case filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. There was a total of 1 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter regardless of when the cases were filed. This resulted in a clearance rate of 100%.

**Table 5.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Trelawny Court for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	39	19	1	51.28
Disobedience of Maintenance	17	16	2	105.88
Warrants of Distress	106	14	0	13.21
Warrants of Arrest	63	15	10	39.68
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34.22</b>

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 39 or 17.33% of post disposal activities in the Trelawny Family Court and the remaining 186 or 82.67% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 19 vary orders disposed, while 45 enforcements 34.22% on these matters.

## Chapter 6.0: The Manchester Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Manchester Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 6.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed in the period	Overall Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases which became inactive in the period	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	2	2	0	100.00
Summary	10	10	0	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100.00</b>

The above table shows the sample of 12 criminal cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Summary matters accounted for 10 cases files or 83.33%, while committal accounted for the remaining 2 new case filed or 16.67%. There were a total of 12 criminal cases disposed of during third quarter ended September 30, 2025, summary matters accounted for 10 disposed matters, while the remaining 2 were accounted for by committal cases. This produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 100% for matters classified as criminal in the Manchester Family Court.

## Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Manchester Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 6.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	3	2	0	66.67
Uncontrollable Child	5	12	1	260.00
<b>Total Weighted Average</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>187.50</b>

There were 8 new child welfare cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were uncontrollable child cases, accounted for 5 or 62.50%, while cases classified as child care protection accounted for the remaining proportion, 3 or 37.50%. A total of 15 child welfare cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. There were 12 uncontrollable child cases disposed of during the quarter, while 1 became inactive and 2 child care and protection cases disposed of during the quarter. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 260% for uncontrollable child cases and 66.67% for child care protection cases. Further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 187.50%%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

**Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Manchester Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Manchester Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 6.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Overall Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases within the period	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	39	30	0	76.92
Declaration of Paternity	3	6	0	200.00
Access	13	7	0	53.85
Maintenance	89	76	5	91.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>86.11</b>

The 144 new cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 showed that maintenance matters accounted for the largest proportion of cases filed with 89 cases or 61.81%; custody matters followed with 39 or 27.08% of new cases filed. There were also 13 matters of access and 3 declaration of paternity filed in the reporting period. A total of 124 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. Maintenance cases accounted for 76 of the disposed cases while custody cases accounted for 30 disposed cases. There were, 7 disposed cases related to access and 6 disposed declaration of paternity cases. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 86.11% for the broad family case type. Declaration of paternity recorded the highest clearance rate of 200%. Maintenance cases followed with 91.01%. cases of custody and access followed with 76.92% and 53.85% respectively.

**Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the Manchester Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Manchester for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 6.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	45	20	0	44.44
Occupation Order	5	8	1	180.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>58.00</b>

The data above shows that there were a total of 50 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Manchester Family Court. Protection order accounted for 45 or 90% of new cases filed. A total 29 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter of which protection order cases accounted for 20 cases and 8 for occupation order cases. These outputs produced an overall clearance rate of 58% which is below the international standards on this vital metric.

**Table 6.5: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Manchester Court for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Case clearance weight (%)
Vary Orders	45	18	0	40.00
Disobedience of Maintenance	20	23	3	130.00
Warrants of Distress	31	0	0	0.00
Warrants of Arrest	18	26	3	0.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>64.04</b>

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 45 or 39.47% of post disposal activities in the Manchester family court and the remaining 69 or

60.53% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter in the Manchester Family Court. In the report period 18 vary orders were disposed and 55 enforcement matters were disposed or became inactive, this produced a case clearance rate of 64.04% the for these matters.

## Chapter 7.0: The Chapelton Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the Chapelton Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 7.1: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	9	3	0	33.33
Summary	15	19	0	126.67
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>91.67</b>

The above table shows the sample of 24 criminal cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of these, 15 or 62.50% were summary matters, 9 or 37.50% were committal matters. There were a total of 22 criminal cases disposed of during the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of the total cases disposed summary and committal matters accounted for 19 and 3 cases respectively. This produced an estimated weighted clearance rate of 91.67% for the cases in the Chapelton family court classified as criminal.

### **Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)**

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the Chapelton Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 7.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	9	7	0	77.78
Uncontrollable Child	6	4	0	66.67
<b>Total Weighted Average</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73.33</b>

There were 15 child welfare cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, Child care protection cases accounted for the greater share with 9 or 60.00% and the remainder were uncontrollable child cases 6 or 40%. A total of 11 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter. Cases concerning child care protection accounted for 7 disposed cases the remaining 4 disposed cases were matters related to uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 73.33%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric.

### **Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Chapelton Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Chapelton Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 7.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	27	38	4	155.56
Declaration of Paternity	12	13	0	108.33
Maintenance	69	60	15	108.70
Legal Guardianship	0	1	0	UNDEFINED
Access	9	13	1	155.56
Adoption	6	8	0	133.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>124.39</b>

The 123 new cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 69 cases or 56.10%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 27 or 21.95% and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 12 or 9.76%. There were also 9 or 7.32% access. A total of 153 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the quarter. That is, 60 disposed and 15 inactive maintenance cases, 38 disposed custody cases and 4 became inactive, 19 disposed declarations of paternity and access and 8 disposed cases of adoption, this produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 124.39% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as Custody and access recorded the highest case clearance rate of 155.56%, adoption cases followed with 133.33%, maintenance cases with 108.70% and cases concerning declaration of paternity recorded a clearance rate of 108.33%.

**Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the Chapelton Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Chapelton for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 7.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	35	41	9	142.86
Occupation Order	7	5	0	71.43
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>92.86</b>

The data above shows that there were a total of 42 new domestic violence cases filed in the third quarter of 2025 at the Chapelton Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 35 or 83.33%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 7 or 16.66%. A total of 39 domestic violence cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. There were 41 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 5 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 142.86% for protection order cases and 71.43% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 92.86%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

**Table 7.5: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Chapelton Family Court for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Estimated Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	16	7	15	137.50
Disobedience of Maintenance	50	13	23	72.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>87.88</b>

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 16 or 24.24% while 50 or 75.76% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. In the reporting period 7 vary orders were disposed of while 13 enforcements were disposed or became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 87.88% on these matters.

## Chapter 8.0: The St. Ann Family Court

This chapter will examine a summary of selected output and performance measurements for matters in the St. Ann Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

### Case Activity Summary in the Criminal Section (A Division of the Children's Court)

**Table 8.1: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Summary	4	34	0	850.00
Committal	4	6	0	150.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500.00</b>

The above table shows the sample of 8 criminal cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Of these, 4 were summary matters and 4 were committal matters. There were 40 disposed cases within the quarter, summary matters accounted for 34 cases while the remaining 4 were accounted for by committal matters. This led to a clearance rate of 500% for the quarter ended September 30, 2025.

### Case Activity on Child Welfare Matters (A Division of the Children's Court)

This section examines case activity for matters classified as child welfare in the St. Ann Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

**Table 8.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	14	13	0	92.86
Uncontrollable Child	1	8	0	800.00
<b>Total Weighted Average</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140.00</b>

There were 15 child welfare cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025, Child care protection cases accounted for the greater share with 14 or 93.33% and the remainder were uncontrollable child case with 1 or 6.67%. A total of 21 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter. Cases concerning child care protection accounted for 13 disposed cases the remaining 8 disposed cases were matters related to uncontrollable child. There were no inactive cases recorded in the period. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 140%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric.

#### **Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the St. Ann Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. Ann Family Court for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025. Matters falling under this broad case category included in this report are, maintenance, custody, legal guardianship, access and declaration of paternity.

**Table 8.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	32	28	0	87.50
Declaration of Paternity	19	12	0	63.16
Access	3	6	0	200.00
Legal Guardianship	5	5	0	100.00
Maintenance	70	75	6	115.71
Adoption	1	1	0	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>102.31</b>

The 130 new cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 70 cases or 53.85%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 32 or 24.62% and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 19 or 14.62%. There were also 5 or 3.85% legal guardianship cases and 3 cases of access. A total of 133 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the quarter. That is, 75 disposed and 6 inactive maintenance cases, 28 disposed custody cases, 12 disposed declarations of paternity cases and 6 disposed cases of access as well as 5 disposed legal guardianship cases, this produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 102.31% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as access, recorded the highest case clearance rate of 200%, maintenance cases followed with 115.71%, legal guardianship and adoption cases with 100% each and cases concerning custody recorded a clearance rate of 87.50%.

#### **Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the third quarter ended September 30, 2025 at the St. Ann Family Court**

The below subsection provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in St. Ann for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025.

**Table 8.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the third quarter ended September 30, 2025**

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	40	33	0	82.50
Occupation Order	12	12	0	100.00
<b>Total/Weighted Average</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86.54</b>

The data above shows that there were a total of 52 new domestic violence cases filed in the third quarter of 2025 at the St. Ann Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 40 or 76.92%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 12 or 23.08%. A total of 45 domestic violence cases were disposed of during the quarter. There were 33 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 12 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 82.50% for protection order cases and 100% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 86.54%, which is below international standards on this vital metric.

**Table 8.5: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the St. Ann Family Court for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2025**

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	17	12	4	94.12
Disobedience of Maintenance	24	17	8	104.17
<b>Total/ Weighted Average</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 17 or 41.46% while 24 or 58.54% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters) during the quarter. In the reporting period 12 vary orders were

disposed of while 17 enforcements were disposed or became inactive by way of disobedience of maintenance, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 100% on these matters.

## Conclusion

The specialised family courts had an overall case clearance rate of 93.39% in the 3rd quarter ended September 30, 2025. This suggests that for every 100 new cases that were filed approximately 93 cases were disposed of in the period. The rates ranged from a high of 116.59% in the St. Ann Family court to a low of 81.80% in the Westmoreland Family Court. The target for the next 4-5 years established by The Chief Justice for the specialised family courts of Jamaica is a case clearance rate  $\geq 106.39$  towards achieving a sustainable net backlog rate of under 5%. The forecasted number of new cases in the fourth quarter of 2025 for the specialized family court is 2448, while the forecasted number of cases disposed or inactive is 2345, producing a predicted weighted case clearance rate of 95.78% for the specialized family courts of Jamaica. These results suggest that the specialized family courts will continue to make strides in improvements in productivity and efficiency; thereby making appreciable contributions to achieving the strategic objectives of the courts and advancing the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Goal 2 "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just" and by extension the 2030 Global Agenda Goal 16 "Peace Justice and Strong Institutions".

## Glossary of Terms

**Sampling Distribution:** A sampling distribution of a given population is the distribution of frequencies of a range of outcomes that could possibly occur for a statistic of a population. A population is the entire pool from which a statistical sample is drawn.

**Range:** This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

**Standard deviation:** This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are around the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.

**Outlier:** An outlier is a value that is too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.

**Skewness:** This is measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

**Clearance rate:** The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is 110/100 or 110%.

**Note:** The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%. A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90% - 110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system.<sup>i</sup>

**Disposal rate:** As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example, if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%.

**Note:** A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system.<sup>ii</sup>

**Case congestion rate:** The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example, is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.

**Trial/hearing date certainty:** This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%. The international standard for this measure is between 92% and 100%.

**Case File Integrity Rate:** Measures the proportion of time that a case file is fully ready and available in a timely manner for a matter to proceed. Hence, any adjournment, which is due to the lack of readiness of a case file or related proceedings for court at the scheduled time,

impairs the case file integrity rate. The international benchmark for the case file integrity is 100%.

**Courtroom utilization rate:** The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis. The international standard for this rate is 100%.

**Case backlog:** A case that is in the court system for more than two years without disposition.

The **gross backlog rate** measures the proportion of all cases filed within a given period which remain unresolved for a period of over two years.

The **net backlog rate** on the other hand measures the proportion of active cases filed in a given period which are unresolved for over two years.

**Continuance and Adjournment:** In a general sense, any delay in the progression of a hearing in which a future date/time is set or anticipated for continuation is a form of adjournment. However, in order to make a strict distinction between matters which are adjourned for procedural factors and those which are generally avoidable, court statistics utilizes the terms 'continuance' and 'adjournment'. Here, 'continuance' is used strictly to describe situations in which future dates are set due to procedural reasons and 'adjournments' is used to describe the circumstances in which future dates of appearance are set due to generally avoidable reasons. For example, adjournments for another stage of hearing, say from a plea and case management hearing to a trial hearing or from the last date of trial to a sentencing date are classified as 'continuance' but delays for say, missing or incomplete files, due to outstanding medical reports or attorney absenteeism are classified as 'adjournments'. Adjournments as defined in this document have an adverse effect on hearing date certainty rates but continuances do not.

**Percentile Rank:** This refers to the percentage of scores that are equal to or less than a given score. Percentile ranks, like percentages, fall on a continuum from 0 to 100. For example, a percentile rank of 45 indicates that 45% of the scores in a distribution of scores fall at or below the score at the 35th percentile. Percentile ranks are useful when you want to quickly understand how a particular score compares to the other scores in a distribution of scores. For instance, knowing a court disposed 300 cases in a given period doesn't tell you much. You don't know how many case disposals were possible, and even if you did, you wouldn't know how that court's score compared to the rest of the courts. If, however, you were told that the court scored at the 80th percentile, then you would know that this court did as well or better than 80% of the courts in case disposals.

**Difference between percentage and percentile changes:** The difference between percentage and percentage points, the latter is strictly used to compare two percentages, for example, if the clearance rate in 2018 was 89% and the clearance rate in 2019 is 100%, then the appropriate expression to compare these would be "an 11 percentage points increase". However, if we are comparing two absolute numbers, say, 1000 cases were disposed in 2018, and 1500 in 2019, then there would be a 50% increase in cases disposed.

**Weighted Average:** Weighted average is a calculation that takes into account the varying degrees of significance of the groups or numbers in a data set. In calculating a weighted average for a particular variable, the individual scores or averages for each group are multiplied by the weight or number of observations in each of those groups, and summed. The outcome is then divided by the summation of the number of observations in all groups combined. For example, if we wish to calculate the weighted average clearance rate for the parish courts, the product of the clearance rate and number of cases for each court are computed, added, and then divided by the total number of cases across all the parish courts. This means that a court with a larger caseload has a greater impact on the case clearance

rate than a smaller court. A weighted average can be more accurate than a simple average in which all numbers in a data set are assigned an identical weight.

**Exponential Smoothing:** Exponential smoothing of time series data assigns exponentially decreasing weights for newest to oldest observations. In other words, the older data, the less priority ("weight") the data is given; newer data is seen as more relevant and is assigned more weight. Smoothing parameters (smoothing constants) – usually denoted by  $\alpha$  – determine the weights of the observations.

Exponential smoothing is usually used to make short term forecasts, as longer term forecasts using this technique can be quite unreliable.

- **Simple (single) exponential smoothing** uses a weighted moving average with exponentially decreasing weights.
- **Holt's trend-corrected double exponential smoothing** is usually more reliable for handling data that shows trends, compared to the single procedure.
- **Triple exponential smoothing** (also called the Multiplicative Holt-Winters) is usually more reliable for parabolic trends or data that shows trends and seasonality.

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<sup>i</sup> Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

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## Appendix

**Table A1.1:**  
**Forecast of Case Clearance Rates 2023/24 – 2032/33 – Specialised Family Courts (%)**

Family Court	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Corporate Area	110.91	109.90	109.98	107.71	107.89
St. James	108.09	107.81	106.67	105.67	106.78
Hanover	103.40	103.56	103.98	104.01	102.89
Westmoreland	107.82	105.45	106.01	104.67	105.34
Trelawny	104.56	104.48	105.59	104.67	105.67
Manchester	101.01	102.03	103.54	102.81	101.67
Chapelton	102.34	102.56	104.45	105.56	105.67

  

Family Court	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33
Corporate Area	106.61	106.78	105.51	105.67	106.03
St. James	107.56	106.76	106.78	105.88	104.67
Hanover	103.89	105.91	103.71	103.51	101.01
Westmoreland	103.71	104.04	105.05	103.04	103.76
Trelawny	106.67	107.71	105.71	105.87	105.98
Manchester	103.91	103.56	102.54	102.34	101.56
Chapelton	105.67	104.78	103.31	104.56	100.99

**Table A2.1:**  
**Mean Case Clearance Rate required to maintain a net backlog rate of under 5%  
2023/24 – 2032/33 – Specialised Family Courts**

Family Court	Required Average Rate (%) (2023/24 - 2032/33)	Expected Average Rate (%) (2023/24 - 2032/33)	Variance
Corporate Area	110.04	107.699	2.341
St. James	109.43	106.667	2.763
Hanover	103.05	103.587	-0.537
Westmoreland	106.54	104.889	1.651
Trelawny	107.23	105.691	1.539
Manchester	103.01	102.497	0.513
Chapelton	105.42	103.989	1.431

**Note:** A positive variance implies that the required average case clearance rate exceeds the expected case clearance rate over the next 10 fiscal years. On the contrary, a negative variance implies that the expected average case clearance rate exceeds the required average case clearance rate.