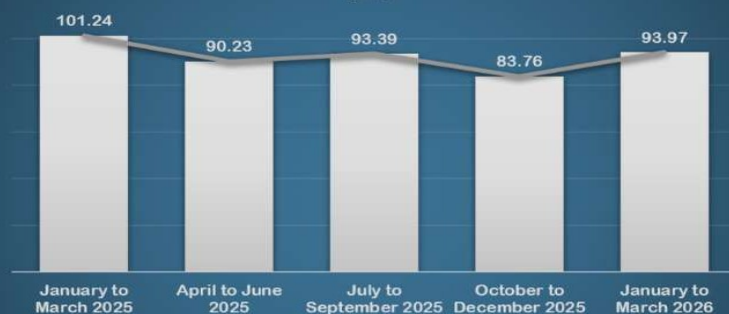


THE SPECIALISED FAMILY COURTS OF JAMAICA

(JANUARY 1, 2026 – MARCH 31, 2026)

**SPECIALISED FAMILY COURTS OF JAMAICA
QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT CASE CLEARANCE RATE
(%)**



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

The international backlog for this rate is an annual average of 90% to 110%.

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE FIRST QUARTER, FAMILY COURT 2026

The first quarter of 2026 presents an important and candid picture of the work of Jamaica's Specialised Family Courts. It is a picture of commitment, considerable achievement and genuine progress in a number of jurisdictions. It is also a reminder that our responsibility to families, children and vulnerable persons requires us to confront weaknesses with honesty and resolve.

During the period January to March 2026, the Specialised Family Courts received 2,620 new matters. They disposed of 2,462 matters, producing an overall case-clearance rate of 93.97%. This result reflects substantial effort across the system. It demonstrates that the courts continue to work conscientiously under demanding conditions and across a broad range of criminal, child-welfare, domestic-violence, family, civil and enforcement matters.

But the result must be understood in its proper context. A clearance rate below 100% means – whether at the level of the individual court or the entire Family Court system - that the courts are not fully keeping pace with the work coming in. More importantly, the Judiciary's strategic objective is not merely to avoid immediate deterioration. It is to reduce and prevent backlog which means that the courts are committed to keep pace with the total demand for court services. The total demand is measured by adding pending cases to new cases in the relevant period. The strategic plan identifies a sustained clearance rate of approximately 106.39% as necessary to achieve and maintain a net backlog below 5%. This is the first quarter. It may be that the performance will improve as the year progresses. The overall net backlog of 7.93% confirms that the task before us remains unfinished. It should be noted that the Family Court of St James has a net backlog of 14.85% which is substantially higher than all the other Family Courts.

The next highest is the Family Court of Westmoreland at 6.66%. The Family Court in Westmoreland was severely damaged and was inoperable since October 28, 2025. Normal operations resumed late in the first quarter of 2026.

The report nevertheless reveals encouraging examples of what focused case management can achieve. Trelawny recorded the highest overall clearance rate at 128.68%. Westmoreland, Hanover, Chapelton and Manchester also cleared more matters than they received during the quarter. Manchester deserves particular recognition for maintaining the lowest reported net backlog, at 0.47%, and gross backlog, at 1.08%.

The larger lesson is clear: where court teams maintain a disciplined focus on triaging cases, maintaining hearing date certainty, and completing the necessary work on time between each court date backlogs can be eliminated and prevented. We must identify the practices that have assisted our stronger-performing courts and adapt them across the network, while respecting the different operating circumstances of each parish.

At the same time, the report highlights issues that require immediate attention. St. James Family Court recorded the lowest overall clearance rate, at 75.30%, and the highest reported backlog, with net backlog at 14.85% and gross backlog at 16.94%. In addition, the case disposal rate was 12.28% which means that the court was not keeping pace with new cases coming in. Given the court's high volume of incoming matters, this position demands close attention. The performance of this court was quite likely affected by the passage of Hurricane Melissa in October 2025. Court staff and quite possibly customers of the court were displaced and what we are seeing is the consequence of the hurricane damage which saw persons seeking accommodation wherever they could.

St. Ann requires close attention. As the newest member of the specialised Family Court network, it has shown encouraging discipline in trial scheduling and achieved a low backlog position. Yet its overall clearance rate of 83.12%. For the majority of its existence, this court operated with a single judge. Now it has a second judge. The presence of that judge should be reflected in the next two quarterly reports.

Our aim remains unchanged: a Family Court system that is accessible, compassionate, efficient and dependable; a system in which children are protected, victims are heard, parents receive timely decisions, maintenance orders are enforceable, and no litigant is left waiting unnecessarily for justice. I thank all judicial officers, court staff and stakeholders for their service. The next quarter must demonstrate that we have not merely measured our challenges but acted decisively upon them.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes, OJ, CD
Chief Justice

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.

For the period January through March 2026, the specialized Family Courts of Jamaica, recorded a total of 2620 new cases filed. Case activity that was either disposed or inactive amounted to 2,462 producing an overall case clearance rate of 93.97% (2.91 percentage points below 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 (January 1 to March 31, 2026) with 770 or 29.39%, and 668 or 25.50% of the sample respectively. St. Ann Family followed accounting for 314 or 11.98% of new cases filed and Westmoreland with 218 or 8.32%. The lowest share of new cases filed for the first quarter were with the family courts of Hanover 152 (5.80%) and Trelawny 129 (4.92%).

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. The highest ratio of new cases filed to

cases disposed among the specialised family courts in Jamaica was recorded in the Trelawny Family Court producing a weighted average case clearance rate of 128.68%. The Westmoreland Family Court ranked second with 124.77%, followed by Hanover Family with 114.47%, rounding off the top three courts in the first quarter of 2026. The other clearance rates were as follows; Chapelton Family court with 103.50%, Manchester with 102.37%, Corporate Area with 91.69%, St. Ann with 83.12% and St. James with 75.30%.

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 first quarter of 2026 (Jan.1-Mar.31) 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 of clearance rates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Family Court	Number of new cases	Gross number of disposed cases	Gross number of inactive cases	Weighted average case clearance rate (%)
Corporate Area Family Court	770	686	20	91.69
St. James Family Court	668	477	26	75.30
Westmoreland Family Court	218	251	21	124.77
Chapelton Family Court	200	147	60	103.50
Hanover Family Court	152	161	13	114.47
Manchester Family Court	169	172	1	102.37
Trelawny Family Court	129	164	2	128.68
St. Ann Family Court	314	259	2	83.12
Total/Weighted Average	2620	2317	145	93.97

The above table provides a summary for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. It shows that a total of 2620 new cases were filed in these courts, while 145 became inactive and 2317 were disposed, leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 93.97%, a 7.27 percentage points below the 101.24% recorded in the similar period of January to March period in 2025. The Trelawny Family Court recorded the highest overall weighted case clearance rate among the featured courts with 128.68% followed by the Westmoreland Family Court with 124.77%, Hanover Family Court with 114.47%, while the Chapelton Family Court recorded a clearance rate of 103.50% and the Manchester Family Court following behind with 102.37%, round off the top five courts in the first quarter of 2026.

Table ii. Aggregate Case Flow Performance Estimates of disposal rates for the first Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Family Court	Number of new cases	Number of disposed cases	Number of inactive cases	Weighted average case disposal rate (%)
St. James Family Court	668	82	0	12.28
Westmoreland Family Court	218	19	0	8.72
Chapelton Family Court	200	94	0	47.00
Hanover Family Court	152	62	0	40.79
Manchester Family Court	169	90	0	53.25
Trelawny Family Court	129	56	1	44.19
St. Ann	314	110	0	35.03
Total/Weighted Average	1850	513	1	27.78

For the quarter ending March 31, 2026, the Family Courts across several parishes showed varied case disposal performance. St. James Family Court had the highest inflow of new cases (668) but managed a relatively low disposal rate of 12.28%, while Westmoreland also recorded a modest 8.72%. In contrast, Manchester Family Court achieved the strongest performance, disposing of 53.25% of its 169 new cases. Chapelton and Hanover followed with disposal rates of 47% and 40.79% respectively, while Trelawny and St. Ann recorded moderate rates of 44.19% and 35.03%. Overall, the combined weighted average disposal rate across all courts stood at 27.78%, with 1,850 new cases and 513 disposed cases during the period.

Table iii. Comparative Analysis of Actual and Forecasted Case Clearance Rates

Family Court	Forecasted QTR 1. Case Clearance Rate (%)	Actual QTR 1 Case Clearance Rate (%)	RESIDUAL	SQUARED ERROR	Absolute percentage Error
Corporate Area Family Court	88.14	91.69	3.55	12.60	3.87
St. James Family Court	86.27	75.30	-10.97	120.34	-14.57
Hanover Family Court	89.61	114.47	24.86	618.02	21.72
Westmoreland Family Court	91.67	124.77	33.1	1095.61	26.53
Trelawny Family Court	120.22	128.68	8.46	71.57	6.57
Manchester Family Court	89.61	102.37	12.76	162.82	12.46
Chapelton Family Court	124.6	103.50	-21.1	445.21	-20.39
Total/Weighted Average	91.77	93.97			

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 first quarter ended March 31, 2026.

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. All Family Courts with the exception of the St. James and Chapelton Family Court exceeded their forecast for the quarter and by extension were also above the international standard for this metric.

The Chapelton Family Court had the largest negative residual. Other specialized family court with actual case clearance rate below the forecasted rate is the St. James Family court.

The squared error provides 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 Hanover Family Court. The Chapelton Family Court was also among the top three with the highest squared error. Smaller squared errors were observed in the Trelawny Family Court, and Corporate Area 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 26.53 per cent, along with the Hanover Family Court (21.72%) and Chapelton Family Court (20.39%). The Corporate Area Family Court had the lowest absolute percentage deviation of 3.87%; this suggests that the actual clearance rate for this court was closest to the forecast. This is also true for the Trelawny Family Court (6.57%).

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 Corporate Area Family Court had the closest actual and forecasted rates, which produced an absolute percentage error of 3.87%, the result of a highly accurate forecasted case clearance rate for the Corporate Area Family Court.

The Westmoreland Family Court, on the other hand, had the largest residual and squared error which produced an absolute percentage error of 26.53%. Though the model over predicted the case clearance rate for the Westmoreland Family Court, the absolute percentage error suggests that the model produced a reasonable forecasted case clearance rate for the Westmoreland Family Court. The deviation 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 iv. Forecasted Case Activity Statistics for Second Quarter Ended June 30, 2026

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover Family Court	156	146	9	99.36
Manchester Family Court	172	150	3	88.95
St. James Family Court	599	440	19	76.63
Corporate Area Family Court	698	615	16	90.40
Westmoreland Family Court	301	263	17	93.02
Trelawny Family Court	127	121	3	97.64
St. Ann Family Court	259	206	7	82.24
Chapelton Family Court	182	180	42	121.98
Total/Weighted Average	2494	2121	116	89.70

The above table forecasts core activity for 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 2026 (January - March 2026) is projected to be 89.70%. This represents a decline of 4.27 percentage points compared to the actual case clearance rate of 93.97% recorded in the current first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Additionally, five family courts are expected to meet or exceed the minimum international standard case clearance rate of 90% at the end of the second quarter ended June 30, 2026. 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 Chapelton Family Court. Case data were categorized 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.

Rounding: Calculations are based on the full underlying values, while figures are displayed to two decimal places. Consequently, minor differences may occur when displayed figures are summed due to rounding.

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 principal 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
- Chapelton Family Court
- St. Ann Family Court

It should be noted that the St. Ann Family Court is the newest addition to the network, having commenced operations in November 2024. Despite its recent establishment, the court has demonstrated commendable levels of efficiency in its early stages of operation.

Net and Gross Backlog

Net and gross case backlog rates serve as key indicators of court performance, as they are influenced by other operational metrics such as case clearance and disposal rates. Court backlog remains a significant issue affecting the efficiency of the judicial system. The gross backlog rate measures the proportion of both active and inactive cases that have exceeded a specific time threshold (e.g. 24 months), while the net backlog rate focuses exclusively on the active cases within the same period. Accordingly, gross backlog provides a broader view of accumulated caseloads, whereas net backlog offers a more precise reflection of ongoing case management. By international standards, a gross backlog rate below 10% and a net backlog rate of below 5% are considered desirable, this is in alignment with the strategic target of the Jamaica Judiciary. Together, these measures provide a comparative overview of the proportion of long-standing matters within each court, offering valuable insights into case management efficiency, the extent of aged case accumulation, and areas requiring targeted intervention.

Table V: Net and gross Family case backlog as at the Quarter ended March 31, 2026 for cases over 24 months

Family Court	Net Backlog (%)	Gross Backlog (%)
Hanover	3.41	4.92
Manchester	0.47	1.08
St. Ann	1.24	0.11
St. James	14.85	16.94
Trelawny	3.19	5.51
Westmoreland	6.66	7.54
Weighted Average	7.93	9.34
Standard Deviation	5.29	6.04

The 24-month Family Court backlog figures show a mixed performance across the western courts. St. James has the highest backlog, with “14.85%” net and “16.94%” gross, indicating challenges in managing older cases and a comparatively lower disposal rate.

Westmoreland also shows elevated percentages, suggesting similar pressures. In contrast, Manchester demonstrates strong case management with the lowest backlog at “0.47%” net and “1.08%” gross, reflecting timely disposal of matters. Hanover, St. Ann and Trelawny fall in the low-to- moderate range. The weighted average of 7.93% suggests that, overall, most courts are performing reasonably well, though variation remains significant.

Table vi. Trial date certainty rates for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

Family Court	Cases set for trial	Cases adjourned	Trial date certainty (%)
Trelawny	11	3	72.73
Westmoreland	16	0	100
Hanover	12	0	100
St. Ann	4	0	100
St. James	56	3	94.64

The Jamaican Family Courts continue to grapple with the challenge of ensuring timely justice, particularly in matters that directly affect children, spouses, and vulnerable family members. Trial date certainty measured as the percentage of cases that proceed on the scheduled date without adjournment is a critical indicator of judicial efficiency and public confidence in the justice system.

Between January and March 2026, the data reveals notable variations across parishes:

Westmoreland, Hanover, and St. Ann achieved 100% trial date certainty, with no adjournments recorded. This reflects strong case management practices and judicial commitment to minimizing delays in family law matters.

Trelawny reported 72.73% certainty, with 3 of 11 scheduled trials adjourned. While the majority of cases proceeded as planned, the adjournments highlight ongoing pressures such as witness availability, attorney preparedness, or administrative constraints.

St. James, the busiest jurisdiction with 56 cases set for trial, recorded 94.64% certainty. Only 3 cases were adjourned, demonstrating commendable efficiency despite a heavier caseload.

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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	17	12	0	70.59
Indictments	58	41	0	70.69
Summary	12	6	3	75.00
Petty Session	5	3	1	80.00
Total/Weighted Average	92	62	4	71.74

The above table shows the sample of 92 criminal cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Of these, 58 or 63.04% were indictment matters; 17 or 18.48% were committal matters; 12 or 13.04% were summary matters. There was a total of 62 criminal cases disposed while 4 became inactive. Of these, 41 indictment matters were disposed of. There were 12 committal matters disposed. There were 6 summary matters disposed, while 3 became inactive and petty session matters disposed of 3 matters while 1 became inactive. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 71.74% for these types of cases which is below the international standards on this vital metric. An increase of 13.41 percentage points above the 58.33% recorded in the similar 2025 period.

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 in quarter 1 ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 1.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	55	37	0	67.27
Uncontrollable Child	16	10	0	62.50
Total Weighted Average	71	47	0	66.20

There were 71 child welfare cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, the larger proportion of which were childcare protection cases which accounted for 55 or 77.46%, while the remaining proportion were uncontrollable child cases with 16 or 22.54%. A total of 47 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 67.27% for childcare and protection cases and 62.50% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 66.20%, which is below the international standard of 90% on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for The Corporate Area Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Corporate Area Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Maintenance	210	208	8	102.86
Custody	128	134	2	106.25
Declaration of Paternity	67	67	2	102.99
Total	405	409	12	103.95

The 405 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 revealed that maintenance matters account for the largest proportion of cases filed (with 210 cases or 51.85%). This was followed by cases of custody with 128 or 31.60%. There were 67 declaration of paternity cases or 16.54%. A total of 421 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the first quarter of 2026. This is broken down into 409 disposed and 12 inactive cases. Maintenance cases accounted for 208 of the disposed cases and 8 became inactive, while custody accounted for 134 disposed cases and 2 inactive cases. There were 67 disposed declaration of paternity cases, while 2 became inactive. This led to an overall estimated weighted average of 103.95%. This is 1.14 percentage points below the 105.09% recorded in the similar 2025 period. Custody cases with 106.25% had the highest clearance rate followed by declaration of paternity and maintenance cases with 102.99% and 102.86% respectively.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases for the quarter ended March 31, 2026, at the Corporate Area Family Court

The subsection below provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Corporate Area for the quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 1.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	184	148	2	81.52
Occupation Order	18	20	2	122.22
Total/Weighted Average	202	168	4	85.15

The data shows that there was a total of 202 new domestic violence cases filed in the January to March first quarter at the Corporate Area Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases which accounted for 184 or 91.09%, while cases of occupation order with 18 or 8.91% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 172 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. There were 148 protection order cases disposed of while 2 became inactive, and 20 occupation order cases were disposed of while 2 became inactive. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 81.52% for protection order cases and 122.22% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 85.15%, which is below international standards on this vital metric. This was 19.74 percentage points lower than 104.89% recorded in the similar 2025 first quarter.

Table 1.5: Sampling Distribution/Post Disposal Activity for the Corporate Area Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	107	120	4	115.89
Disobedience of Maintenance	46	88	35	267.39
Warrant of Distress	44	11	0	25.00
Total/Weighted Average	197	219	39	130.96

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that Vary Orders accounted for 107 or 54.31% of post disposal activity in the Corporate Area Family Court and the remaining 90 or 45.69% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. A total of 120 vary orders were disposed of while 4 became inactive in the quarter and 99 enforcements were either disposed of producing a gross case clearance rate of 130.96% 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	2	4	2	300.00
Indictments	3	3	1	133.33
Summary	16	21	4	156.25
Petty Session	10	6	2	80.00
Total/Weighted Average	31	34	9	138.71

The above table shows the sample of 31 criminal cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Of these, 16 or 51.62% were summary matters while Petty session matters accounted for 10 cases or 32.26%. Indictment and Committal matters accounted for 9.67% and 6.45% respectively. There was a total of 44 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive during the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Of these, summary matters disposed of 21 while 4 became inactive; petty session matters accounted for 6 disposed matters while 2 became inactive. There were 4 committal matters disposed while indictment matters accounted for 3 matters. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 138.71% for these types of cases, 43.97 percentage points above the 94.74% recorded in the similar quarter of 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. James Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 2.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	29	45	1	158.62
Uncontrollable Child	25	41	2	172.00
Total Weighted Average	54	86	3	164.81

There were 54 child welfare cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, the larger proportion of which were childcare and protection cases which accounted for 29 or 53.70%, while cases of uncontrollable child with 25 or 46.30% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 86 child welfare cases were disposed, while 3 became inactive during the quarter. There were 45 childcare and protection cases were disposed of while 1 became inactive. For uncontrollable child cases 41 matters were disposed of while 2 became inactive at the St. James Family Court. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 172% for uncontrollable child cases and 158.62% for childcare and protection cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 164.81%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the St. James Family Court in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. James Family Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	93	84	3	93.55
Declaration of Paternity	43	26	2	65.12
Declaration of Maternity	0	3	0	undefined
Legal Guardianship	4	0	0	undefined
Maintenance	205	56	6	30.24
Access	8	7	1	100.00
Adoption	1	1	0	100.00
Total	354	177	12	53.39

The 354 new cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the first quarter of 2026, revealed that maintenance matters with 205 cases or 57.90% accounts for the largest proportion of cases filed. This was followed by Custody with 93 or 26.27%. There were 43 Declaration of Paternity cases or 12.15%, there were 8 access cases, and 4 legal guardianship cases. A total of 177 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of while 12 became inactive in the quarter. Custody cases accounted for 93 of the disposed cases and 3 inactive cases while maintenance cases accounted for 56 disposed cases, while 6 became inactive. There were 26 disposed cases concerning declaration of paternity while 2 became inactive. Access and declaration of maternity cases each accounted for 7 and 3 disposed cases respectively. This led to an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 53.39% for the broad family case type. The highest case clearance rate of family case activities in the St. James Family court was access and

adoption cases with 100% each; followed by custody cases with 93.55%, declaration of paternity cases accounted for 65.12%, to round off the top three.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026 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 quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 2.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	157	108	1	69.43
Occupation Order	42	30	1	73.81
Total/Weighted Average	199	138	2	70.35

The data above shows that there was a total of 199 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 at the St. James Family Court. Protection order cases accounted for the larger proportion with 157 or 78.89%, while occupation order cases accounted for the remaining proportion with 42 or 21.11%. A total of 138 domestic cases were disposed of while 2 became inactive during the quarter. A total of 108 occupation order cases were disposed with 1 case being inactive, and 30 cases of occupation order were disposed of while 1 became inactive. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 69.43% for protection order cases and 73.81% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 70.35%, which is below the 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 2.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases filed in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	weighted case clearance rate (%)
30	42	0	140.00

The data above shows that there was a total of 30 new civil cases filed in quarter one, 2026. There was also a total of 42 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 140%, 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Estimated clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	82	82	0	100.00
Disobedience of Maintenance	33	32	4	109.09
Warrants of Distress	154	25	8	21.43
Warrants of Arrest	98	8	26	34.69
Total/Weighted Average	367	147	38	50.41

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 82 or 22.34% of post disposal activity in the St. James family court while 285 or 77.66% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) in quarter one 2026. There were 82 vary orders disposed of in the quarter, while 65 enforcements were disposed of and 38 made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 50.41% 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	3	1	0	33.33
Summary	17	13	2	88.24
Petty Session	9	1	0	11.11
Total/Weighted Average	29	15	2	58.62

The above table shows the sample of 29 criminal cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Summary matters accounted for the largest share with 17 each or 58.62% of the total, followed by petty session matters with 9 cases or 31.03%. Committal matters accounted for 3 or 10.34%. There were 15 criminal cases disposed of in the quarter while 2 became inactive, resulting in a clearance rate of 58.62% which is below 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 3.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	13	16	0	123.08
Uncontrollable Child	7	6	4	142.86
Total Weighted Average	20	22	4	130.00

There were 20 child welfare cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, the larger proportion of which were childcare protection cases which accounted for 13 or 65%, while the remaining proportion were cases of uncontrollable child with 7 or 35%. There were 26 child welfare cases disposed of or became inactive in the quarter, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 130.25%; an amount that satisfies the international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Hanover Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Hanover Family Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	10	31	0	310.00
Declaration of Paternity	5	9	0	180.00
Maintenance	32	47	4	159.38
Legal Guardianship	0	1	0	undefined
Access	4	0	0	undefined
Total/Weighted Average	51	88	4	180.39

The 51 new Family cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in quarter one of 2026 disaggregated by case subtype showed maintenance matters accounted for the largest proportion with 32 cases or 62.75%. This was followed by custody cases with 10 or 19.61% and declaration of paternity access with 5 or 9.80%. There were 4 new cases filed in the quarter concerning cases of access. A total of 92 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. For matters that were disposed of during the quarter, 47 were maintenance cases, 31 were custody cases, and 9 were declaration of paternity cases. There was 1 legal guardianship disposed case. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 180.39% for the broad family case type: the highest clearance rate recorded was for custody cases

with 310%, followed by declaration of paternity cases with 180% and maintenance cases with 159.38%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 at the Hanover Family Court

The subsection below provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Hanover for the quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 3.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the first Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	47	33	3	76.60
Total/Weighted Average	47	33	3	76.60

The data above shows that there was a total of 47 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, at the Hanover Family Court. All cases were protection order cases. During the quarter, the Hanover Family court disposed a total of 33 Domestic Violence cases, while 4 became inactive. This outcome produced case clearance rates of 76.60% for protection order cases which fall below international standards on this vital metr

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

The subsection below provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Hanover Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 3.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases filed in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
5	3	0	60.00

The data above shows that there was a total of 5 new civil cases filed in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. There was a total of 3 civil cases disposed of in the quarter at the Hanover Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 60%, 56.67 percentage points below the 116.67% recorded in 2025. This clearance rate does not meet international standards for this metric.

Table 3.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Hanover Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Estimated Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	29	26	2	96.55
Disobedience of Maintenance	10	5	4	90.00
Warrants of Distress	115	43	72	100.00
Warrants of Arrest	44	3	42	102.27
Total/Weighted Average	198	77	120	99.49

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 29 or 14.65% of post disposal activity in the Hanover family court while 169 or 85.35% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 26 vary orders disposed of in the quarter, compared to the 29 recorded in the similar quarter of 2025. There were 51 enforcements matters disposed, while 118 made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 99.49% on these matters, 25.75 percentage points higher than the 73.74% recorded in the similar quarter of 2025.

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 quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	5	14	1	300.00
Indictments	1	4	0	400.00
Summary	38	27	12	102.63
Petty Session	0	2	0	undefined
Total/Weighted Average	44	47	13	136.36

The above table shows the sample of 44 criminal cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Of these, 38 or 86.36% were summary matters, 5 or 11.36% were committal matters, while indictment matters accounted for 1 case or 2.27%. There was a total of 60 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive during the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Of the total cases disposed of, summary matters and committal matters accounted for 27 and 14 cases respectively, while indictment and petty session matters accounted for 4 and 2 cases respectively. This produced an estimated weighted clearance rate of 136.36%, for the cases in the Westmoreland family court classified as criminal. This indicates a 1.88 percentage points decline from the 138.24% recorded in the similar period of 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 Westmoreland Family Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 4.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	9	8	0	88.89
Uncontrollable Child	16	21	5	162.50
Total Weighted Average	25	29	5	136.00

There were 25 child welfare cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. This amount is 15 fewer cases compared to the 40 reported cases in quarter one 2025. Uncontrollable child cases accounted for the greater share with 16 or 64%, and the remainder were childcare and protection cases with 9 or 36%. A total of 34 child welfare cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. Cases concerning uncontrollable child accounted for 21 disposed cases; the remaining 4 disposed cases were related to childcare protection. The 5 inactive cases recorded in the period were classified as uncontrollable child cases. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 136%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric, and is 3.50 percentage points above the 132.50% recorded in the similar first quarter of 2025.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Westmoreland Family Court in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Westmoreland Family Court for the quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	21	33	0	157.14
Declaration of Paternity	14	16	1	121.43
Access	3	2	0	66.67
Adoption	4	4	0	100.00
Maintenance	55	87	2	161.82
Total/Weighted Average	97	142	3	149.48

The 97 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 55 cases or 56.70%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 21 or 21.65% and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 14 or 14.43%. There were also 4 or 4.12% access cases. A total of 145 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive during the quarter. That is, 87 disposed and 2 inactive maintenance cases, 33 disposed custody cases, 16 disposed declarations of paternity cases while 1 became inactive and 4 disposed cases of adoption, this produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 149.48% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as maintenance, recorded the highest case clearance rate of 161.82%, custody cases followed with 157.14%, and cases concerning declaration of paternity recorded a clearance rate 121.43% to round off the top three clearance rates for the quarter.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026 at the Westmoreland Family Court

The subsection below provides a basic summary of case activity for Domestic Violence cases filed at the Family Court in Westmoreland for the quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 4.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	39	20	0	51.28
Occupation and protection Order	6	2	0	33.33
Total/Weighted Average	45	22	0	48.89

The data above shows that there was a total of 45 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, at the Westmoreland Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 39 or 86.67%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 6 or 13.33%. A total of 22 domestic violence cases were disposed of in the quarter. There were 20 protection cases disposed of while the remaining 2 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 51.28% for protection order cases and 33.33% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 48.89%, which is below international standards on this vital metric.

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

The subsection below provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Westmoreland Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 4.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
7	11	0	157.14

The data above shows that there was a total of 7 new civil cases filed in the first quarter of 2026. There were also a total of 11 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the Westmoreland Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 157.14%, which satisfies international standards on these metrics.

Table 4.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Westmoreland Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	17	12	1	76.47
Disobedience of Maintenance	17	24	13	217.65
Warrants of Distress	26	0	0	undefined
Warrants of Arrest	38	4	0	10.53
Judgement Summons	1	0	0	undefined
Total/Weighted Average	99	40	14	54.55

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 17 or 17.17% while 82 or 82.83% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. In the reporting period, 12 vary orders were disposed of while 1 became inactive. While 41 enforcements were disposed or became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 54.55% 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	7	7	0	100.00
Indictments	2	6	0	300.00
Petty Session	6	15	0	250.00
Total/Weighted Average	15	28	0	186.67

The above table shows the sample of 15 criminal cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the first quarter of 2026. Of these, committal matters accounted for the largest portion with 7 or 46.67%. Petty session matters followed with 6 or 40%. Indictments of matters accounted for 2 cases or 13.33%. There were a total of 28 matters disposed of in the quarter, this produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 186.67% for criminal case activities in the Trelawny Family Court in the quarter ended March 31, 2026.

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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 5.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	13	16	0	123.08
Uncontrollable Child	0	2	0	undefined
Total/ Weighted Average	13	18	0	138.46

There were 13 new child welfare cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, the larger proportion of which were childcare protection cases which accounted for 13 or 100%. A total of 18 child welfare cases were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter; 16 cases disposed were childcare protection and 2 were uncontrollable child cases. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 123.08% for childcare protection cases, 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 for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Trelawny Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	19	24	2	136.84
Declaration of Paternity	6	15	0	250.00
Access	5	6	0	120.00
Legal Guardianship	1	1	0	100.00
Adoption	2	2	0	100.00
Maintenance	45	46	0	102.22
Total	78	94	2	123.08

The 78 new cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the first quarter of 2026 revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 45 cases or 57.69%. Custody matters followed accounting for 19 or 24.36% of new family cases filed. There were 6 declaration of paternity cases filed in the first quarter of 2026 while cases concerning access accounted for 5 or 6.41%. A total of 96 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. Of the total disposed cases, 46 were concerning maintenance, 24 custody cases, 15 cases of declaration of paternity and 6 cases of access, and 2 cases of adoption. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 123.08% for the broad family case type. Declaration of paternity cases had the highest case clearance rate of 250%, followed by custody and cases classified as access with 120%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026 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 quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 5.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	22	22	0	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	22	22	0	100.00

The data above shows that there was a total of 22 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter of 2026 at the Trelawny Family Court. A total of 22 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of during the period. All new cases filed were protection orders, which accounted for 100% of the new cases filed. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 100% 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 subsection below provides a basic summary of case activity for civil matters at the Trelawny Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 5.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	weighted case clearance rate (%)
1	2	0	200.00

The data above shows that there was 1 new civil case filed in the first quarter. There was a total of 2 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter regardless of when the cases were filed. This resulted in a clearance rate of 200%.

Table 5.6: Sampling Distribution Enforcement/Post Disposal Activity for the Trelawny Court for the first Quarter Ended March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	28	32	0	114.29
Disobedience of Maintenance	16	18	2	125.00
Warrants of Distress	37	16	0	43.24
Warrants of Arrest	43	27	4	72.09
Total/Weighted Average	124	93	6	79.84

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 28 or 22.58% of post disposal activities in the Trelawny Family Court and the remaining 96 or 77.42% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) in the quarter. There were 32 vary orders disposed and 61 disposed cases by way of enforcement. This resulted in an overall case clearance rate of 79.84%.

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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

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	3	2	0	66.67
Summary	8	8	1	112.50
Total	11	10	1	100.00

The above table shows the sample of 11 criminal cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Summary matters accounted for 8 cases filed or 72.73%, while committal accounted for the remaining 3 new cases filed or 27.27%. There was a total of 11 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive in the quarter; summary matters accounted for 8 disposed matters, while 1 became inactive, 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 6.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	3	8	0	266.67
Uncontrollable Child	9	14	0	155.56
Total Weighted Average	12	22	0	183.33

There were 12 new child welfare cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, the larger proportion of which were uncontrollable child cases, accounting for 9 or 75%, while cases classified as childcare protection accounted for the remaining proportion, 3 or 25%. A total of 22 child welfare cases were disposed of or became inactive during the period. There were 14 uncontrollable child cases disposed of in the quarter, and 8 childcare and protection cases disposed of. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 155.56% for uncontrollable child cases and 266.67% for childcare protection cases. Further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 183.33%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Manchester Family Court in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Manchester Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Overall Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases within the period	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	20	20	0	100.00
Declaration of Paternity	7	4	0	57.14
Access	6	5	0	83.33
Maintenance	69	82	0	118.84
Adoption	4	4	0	100.00
Total	106	115	0	108.49

The 106 new cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, showed that maintenance matters accounted for the largest proportion of cases filed with 69 cases or 65.09%; custody matters followed with 20 or 18.87% of new cases filed. There were also 7 matters of declaration of paternity and 6 access cases filed in the reporting period. A total of 115 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of in the quarter. Maintenance cases 5 disposed cases related to access and 4 disposed declarations of paternity and adoption cases. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 108.49% for the broad family case type. Cases of maintenance recorded the highest clearance rate of 118.84%. adoption and custody cases followed with 100%. Cases of access followed with 83.33%, and declaration of paternity cases rounded off the top five with 57.14%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 6.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	36	22	0	61.11
Occupation Order	4	2	0	50.00
Total/Weighted Average	40	24	0	60.00

The data above shows that there was a total of 40 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, at the Manchester Family Court. Protection order accounted for 36 or 90% of new cases filed while the remaining 4 or 10% was accounted for by occupation order. A total of 24 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of during the quarter, of which protection order cases accounted for 22 cases and 2 for occupation order cases. These outputs produced an overall clearance rate of 60%, 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 March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Case clearance weight (%)
Vary Orders	36	34	0	94.44
Disobedience of Maintenance	12	29	40	575.00
Warrants of Distress	53	0	0	0.00
Warrants of Arrest	32	6	1	21.88
Total/Weighted Average	133	69	41	82.71

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 36 or 27.07% of post disposal activities in the Manchester family court and the

remaining 97 or 72.93% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, in the Manchester Family Court. In the reporting period, 34 vary orders were disposed, and 35 enforcement matters were disposed of. There were 41 inactive matters in the quarter; this produced a case clearance rate of 82.71% 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	1	3	0	300.00
Summary	18	20	0	111.11
Total/Weighted Average	19	23	0	121.05

The above table shows the sample of 19 criminal cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Of these, 18 or 94.74% were summary matters; 1 or 5.26% were committal matters. There was a total of 23 criminal cases disposed of in the first quarter of 2026. Of the total cases disposed, summary and committal matters accounted for 20 and 3 cases respectively. This produced an estimated weighted clearance rate of 121.05% 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 7.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	17	8	0	47.06
Uncontrollable Child	6	4	0	66.67
Total Weighted Average	23	12	0	52.17

There were 23 child welfare cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Childcare protection cases accounted for the greater share with 17 or 73.91% and the remainder were uncontrollable child cases 6 or 26.09%. A total of 12 child welfare cases were disposed of in the quarter. Cases concerning childcare protection accounted for 8 disposed cases; the remaining 4 disposed cases were matters related to uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 52.17%, which does not satisfy international standards of this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Chapelton Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the Chapelton Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	29	17	8	86.21
Declaration of Paternity	17	12	7	111.76
Maintenance	61	44	28	118.03
Legal Guardianship	1	0	0	undefined
Access	11	12	6	163.64
Adoption	2	2	0	100.00
Total	121	87	49	112.40

The 121 new cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 61 cases or 50.41%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 29 or 23.97%, and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 17 or 14.05%. There was also 11 or 9.09% access. There were 2 cases of adoption and 1 legal guardianship. A total of 136 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the period. That is, 44 disposed and 28 inactive maintenance cases, 17 disposed custody cases and 8 became inactive, 12 disposed declarations of paternity while 7 became inactive. There were also 12 cases of access disposed while 6 became inactive. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 112.40% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as access recorded the highest case clearance rate of 163.64%, maintenance cases followed with 118.03%, and cases concerning declaration of paternity recorded a clearance rate of 111.76%, to round off the top three.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 7.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	32	21	8	90.63
Occupation Order	5	4	3	140.00
Total/Weighted Average	37	25	11	97.30

The data above shows that there was a total of 37 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, at the Chapelton Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 32 or 86.49%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 5 or 13.51%. A total of 36 domestic violence cases were disposed of or became inactive during the period. There were 21 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 4 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 90.63% for protection order cases and 140% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 97.30%, 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 March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Estimated Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	33	16	13	87.88
Disobedience of Maintenance	56	22	26	85.71
Total/Weighted Average	89	38	39	86.52

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 33 or 37.08% while 56 or 62.92% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) in the quarter. In the reporting period 29 vary orders were disposed of or became inactive while 22 enforcements were disposed and 26 became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 86.52% 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Summary	3	1	0	33.33
Committal	12	14	0	116.67
Total/Weighted Average	15	15	0	100.00

The above table shows the sample of 15 criminal cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026. Of these, 12 were committal matters and 3 were summary matters. There were 15 cases that were disposed of or became inactive within the period; committal matters accounted for 14 cases while the remaining 1 was accounted for by summary matters. This led to a clearance rate of 100% for the quarter.

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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 8.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Childcare protection	28	12	0	42.86
Uncontrollable Child	9	10	1	122.22
Total Weighted Average	37	22	1	62.16

There were 37 child welfare cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, Childcare protection cases accounted for the greater share with 28 or 75.68% and the remainder were uncontrollable child case with 9 or 24.32%. A total of 23 child welfare cases were disposed of or became inactive during the period. Cases concerning childcare protection accounted for 12 disposed cases; the remaining 10 disposed cases were matters related to uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 62.16%, which does not satisfy international standards of this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the St. Ann Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

This section examines case activity for matters classified under the broad category of family matters in the St. Ann Family Court for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026. 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	36	28	1	80.56
Declaration of Paternity	28	43	0	153.57
Access	15	8	0	53.33
Legal Guardianship	2	0	0	0.00
Maintenance	98	84	0	85.71
Substituted Service	5	5	0	100.00
Breach of Access	1	0	0	0.00
Breach of Protection Order	2	1	0	50.00
Total	187	169	1	90.91

The 187 new cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026 revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 98 cases or 52.41%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 36 or 19.25%, and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 28 or 14.97%. There were also 15 or 8.02% cases of access and 5 cases of substituted service. A total of 170 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the period. That is, 84 disposed maintenance cases, 43 disposed declaration of paternity cases, 8 disposed access cases and 5 disposed cases of substituted service. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 90.91% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as declaration of paternity, recorded the highest case clearance rate of

153.57%, substituted service cases followed with 100%, maintenance cases with 85.71%, and cases concerning custody recorded a clearance rate of 80.56%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026 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 Quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Table 8.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	55	41	0	74.55
Occupation Order	20	12	0	60.00
Total/Weighted Average	75	53	0	70.67

The data above shows that there was a total of 75 new domestic violence cases filed in the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, at the St. Ann Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 55 or 73.33%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 20 or 26.67%. A total of 53 domestic violence cases were disposed of during the period. There were 41 protection cases disposed of during the period; the remaining 12 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 74.55% for protection order cases and 60% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 70.67%, 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 March 31, 2026

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	46	29	1	65.22
Disobedience of Maintenance	36	18	0	50.00
Warrants of Distress	71	17	0	23.94
Warrants of Arrest	18	13	5	100.00
Total/ Weighted Average	171	77	6	48.54

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 46 or 26.90% while 125 or 73.10% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters) in the quarter. In the reporting period 29 vary orders were disposed of while 53 enforcements were disposed or became inactive by way of disobedience of maintenance. This resulted in a case clearance rate of 48.54% on these matters.

Conclusion

The specialised family courts of Jamaica recorded an overall case clearance rate of 93.97% in the Quarter ended March 31, 2026, indicating that approximately 94 cases were disposed of for every 100 new cases filed. This level of performance is within the internationally accepted benchmark range of 90%-110% and reflects the courts' ongoing efforts to manage caseloads efficiently and prevent backlog accumulation.

There was notable variation in performance across the specialised Family Courts. The Trelawny Family Court achieved the highest case clearance rate of 128.68%, followed by Westmoreland with 124.77% and Hanover with 114.47%. Chapelton, with a rate of 103.50%, Manchester with 102.37% and Corporate Area with 91.69% remained within the internationally accepted benchmark range of 90%-110%. In contrast St. Ann (83.12%) and St. James (75.30%) recorded case clearance rates below the minimum international standard, suggestive of operational constraints that could benefit from further assessment and targeted intervention.

Clearance rates by case type demonstrated a broad spectrum of outcomes. High clearance rates were consistently recorded in maintenance, custody, and protection order matters. However, challenges remained in criminal and child welfare matters, as well as in enforcement and post-disposal activities, particularly in the issuance and execution of warrants and in maintenance enforcement.

These statistical outcomes serve as a measurement of progress toward the judiciary's strategic annual target, established by the Chief Justice, for the next five years. A sustained case clearance rate of $\geq 106.39\%$ for the specialized Family Courts of Jamaica has been determined as necessary to achieve and maintain a sustainable net backlog rate of under 5%; a functional objective and essential pillar in the drive toward a backlog-

free court system and long-term efficiency within the justice sector. The data reinforces the Judiciary's commitment to service excellence, timeliness, and continuous performance monitoring.

The specialized Family Courts, as frontline institutions for family justice, remain pivotal to ensuring access to justice for vulnerable populations. The 2026 quarter one performance metrics affirm the courts' potential to achieve and maintain international standards and highlight the critical role they play in safeguarding the rights and well-being of families across Jamaica.

In the Broader national and global context, the effective functioning of the courts directly supports Vision 2030 Jamaica-National Goal 2: "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just", and contributes to the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development. Goal 16: "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions". The statistical insights from quarter one 2026 thus not only inform internal planning but also underscore the importance of a robust, accountable, and accessible justice system in advancing Jamaica's development priorities.

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 a 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 of 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.ⁱ

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.ⁱⁱ

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.

Inactive Case: a case that has been temporarily paused or rendered dormant within the court's active management system, meaning it is not currently undergoing active hearings, trial proceedings, or day-to-day litigation.

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 remains 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 45th 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 of 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 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 α – 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.

ⁱ Source:

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

ⁱⁱ Source:

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

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.