

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

The majority of Circuit Judges presiding in the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas have, in accordance with the provisions of Administrative Order Number 14 of the Supreme Court of Arkansas, adopted this Amended Administrative Plan for the Circuit.

The Fourth Judicial District of Arkansas consists of Madison and Washington Counties. The circuit has eight divisions with the following Circuit Judges serving in each division:

Currently, the following Circuit Judges serve in each division:

- Division 1 - Doug Martin
- Division 2 - John Threet
- Division 3 - Stacey Zimmerman
- Division 4 - Cristi Beaumont
- Division 5 - Beth Storey Bryan
- Division 6 - Mark Lindsay (Judge Matt Durrett effective January 1, 2025)
- Division 7 - Joanna Taylor
- Division 8 - Diane Warren

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Amended Administrative Plan is adopted by the undersigned judges and shall take effect January 1, 2025, or upon approval by the Supreme Court of Arkansas, and shall remain in effect until a subsequent plan is adapted and approved.

Juvenile Cases

Juveniles Charged as Adults

Juveniles charged as adults in criminal cases in both Washington and Madison Counties are assigned to Division 3 who also hears 50% of the juvenile docket. If the case is transferred to juvenile division, the case is randomly assigned to Division 3 or Division 8, both divisions hearing 50% of the docket and therefore, familiar with the services available through juvenile courts.

Juvenile Detention Hearings /First Appearance

Juvenile detention hearings for juveniles arrested and cited for non-traffic and non-game and fish misdemeanors and all felonies in Washington and Madison Counties are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Division 8 shall hear all juvenile detention hearings for Madison and Washington counties on alternating weeks. Division 3 shall hear all juvenile detention hearings for Madison and Washington counties on alternating weeks.

Juvenile detention hearings shall continue to be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday so that the juveniles are brought before a juvenile division judge in the most expeditious manner.

#### Felony 8.1 and Felony Arraignments for Adults

Pursuant to Administrative Order Number 18 of the Supreme Court, (A)(5)(iv) and (C), and by agreement of all Circuit and District Court Judges, Washington County District Judges shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments (in addition to misdemeanor first appearances and arraignments) on Mondays, Wednesdays and certain Fridays of each month. Circuit Judges for Divisions 4 and 6 shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments (in addition to misdemeanor first appearances and arraignments by agreement) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays. District Judge Graham Nations shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments (in addition to misdemeanor first appearances and arraignments by agreement) every Monday. District Judge Casey Jones shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments (in addition to misdemeanor first appearances and arraignments by agreement) every Wednesday. District Judge Terra Stephenson shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments (in addition to misdemeanor first appearances and arraignments by agreement) the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, and District Judge Elect Taylor Samples shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and felony arraignments (in addition to misdemeanor first appearances and arraignments by agreement) the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month. The proceedings shall be of record using the court reporter provided by Washington County.

Additionally, pursuant to Administrative Order Number 18, the state district judges may issue search warrants pursuant to Rule 13.1, issue arrest warrants pursuant to Rule 7.1 or §16-81-104, appoint counsel pursuant to Rule 8.2, inform Defendant pursuant to Rule 8.3, accept pleas of “Not Guilty” or “Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity” and conduct pretrial release inquiries pursuant to Rules 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3.

#### CASELOAD ESTIMATES AND CASE ASSIGNMENTS

Annual new case filings per division are estimates based upon averages from new case filings from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023:

Division 1- 2,229  
Division 2- 1,592  
Division 3- 974  
Division 4- 1,023  
Division 5- 1,895  
Division 6- 1,756  
Division 7- 2,971  
Division 8- 1,111

Division 1	50% Probate cases (excluding Civil Commitment cases) 40% Civil cases
Division 2	20% Civil cases 20% Domestic Relations cases (excluding Petition for Order of Protection cases) 8% Petition for Order of Protection cases 25% Probate cases (excluding Civil Commitment cases) 25% Civil Commitment cases
Division 3	100% Madison County Family in Need of Services cases  100% Madison County Delinquency cases Madison County Dependency Neglect cases assigned to Division 3 filed before January 1, 2021 50% Washington County Dependency Neglect cases  50% Washington County Family in Need of Services cases  50% Washington County Delinquency cases 15% Domestic Relations cases (excluding Petition for Order of Protection cases)  8% Petition for Order of Protection cases  100% Probate cases which arise out of juvenile matters assigned to Division 3 100% Criminal cases where juvenile is tried as an adult
Division 4	25% Domestic Relations cases (excluding Petition for Order of Protection cases) 8% Petition for Order of Protection cases 50% Civil Commitment cases Drug Court and Veteran's Court
Division 5	15% Civil cases 25% Washington County Criminal cases filed on or after January 1, 2025, and 100% of all open Division 7 Criminal cases as of December 31, 2024 25% Probate cases (excluding Civil Commitment cases) 25% Civil Commitment cases Madison County Division 6 open Probate cases as of December 31, 2024 8% Petition for Order of Protection cases
Division 6	25% Domestic Relations cases (excluding Petition for Order of Protection cases)



34% Petition for Order of Protection cases  
25% Civil Cases  
All open Division 5 Domestic Relations cases as of  
December 31, 2024  
Any reopened Division 5 and 6 Domestic Relations case

Division 7

75% Washington County Criminal cases filed on or after  
January 1, 2025, and 100% of all open Division 6 Criminal  
cases as of December 31, 2024  
100% of all Madison County Criminal cases (the Madison  
County District Judge shall hear felony 8.1 hearings and shall  
conduct the hearings within 48 hours of any warrantless  
felony arrest and within 72 hours of any arrest on a felony  
warrant)  
Washington County Division 6 open Probate cases as of  
December 31, 2024

Any open and reopened Division 7 Domestic Relations cases  
shall be assigned equally and randomly to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division,  
4<sup>th</sup> Division, 6<sup>th</sup> Division and 8<sup>th</sup> Division  
All open Order of Protection cases shall be reassigned  
according to the following distributions: 8% to 2<sup>nd</sup> Division,  
8% to 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 8% to 4<sup>th</sup> Division, 8% to 5<sup>th</sup> Division,  
34% to 6<sup>th</sup> Division, and 34% to 8<sup>th</sup> Division

Division 8

100% Madison County Dependency Neglect cases filed after  
January 1, 2021  
50% Washington County Dependency Neglect cases  
50% Washington County Family in Need of Services cases  
50% Washington County Delinquency cases  
34% Petition for Order of Protection cases  
15% Domestic Relations cases (excluding Petition for Order  
of Protection cases)  
100% Probate cases which arise out of juvenile matters  
assigned to Division 8

NEW SPECIALTY COURT

WASHINGTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT  
JUDGE TERRA STEPHENSON, PRESIDING

A. Type of Program and Description of Operations

The Washington County Mental Health Court is a voluntary, multi-phase intervention program for adult Washington County residents who have been accused of, or who have pleaded guilty to, felony or misdemeanor criminal charges and who also have a serious or persistent underlying mental health disorder (as defined in A.C.A. § 16-100-101) that contributed to their arrest. The program will accept participants on a pre-adjudication basis. Participants must agree to a case duration of at least fourteen months with additional time added depending on each participant's progress through the program.

To be eligible, the defendant must not have a previous conviction for a serious felony involving violence as defined in A.C.A. § 5-4-501(c)(2) or a previous conviction that would require registration as a sex offender. The defendant must also be identified as high-risk/high-need as determined by a validated risk-needs assessment tool.

B. Statutory Authority

This specialty court program is authorized under A.C.A. §§ 16-100-201 through 209.

Pursuant to § 16-100-204(b)(2), the Circuit Court Judges of the Fourth Judicial Circuit have determined that the judicial circuit does not have a circuit judge who is available to administer the Washington County Mental Health Court program on a consistent basis and have designated District Court Judge Terra Stephenson to administer the mental health specialty court program.

C. Compliance with Sentencing Laws

The Washington County Mental Health Court shall operate in compliance with all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Use of Court Resources

The Washington County Mental Health Court will operate in the courthouse located at 10 South College Avenue in Fayetteville and will meet on Thursdays at 1 p.m. A court reporter and bailiff will be employed on an hourly basis and paid through a federal grant. Other staff will consist of a district court judge as no circuit judges are available for this new specialty court, a prosecuting

attorney already employed with the Fourth Judicial Circuit Prosecuting Attorney's Office, a Court Services Officer acting as the case coordinator and probation officer who will be staffed through the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and a defense attorney who is donating their time on a pro bono basis unless we receive state funds for a public defender. Treatment is provided by the treatment partner, Arisa Health, and paid for by a sub award from the grant.

E. Source of Funding


The Washington County Mental Health Court will receive support through Washington County, the Fourth Judicial Circuit Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Washington County Sheriff's Office, and a federal grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

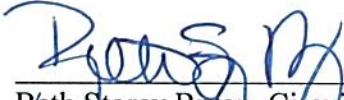
AMENDED STATE DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE PLANS


In accordance with the provisions of Administrative Orders Numbers 14 and 18, the State District Courts for Washington County, having multiple venues in the district, has submitted an Amended Administrative Plan which is appended to the Circuit Court Administrative Plan and said plans are endorsed by the undersigned circuit judges.


The Amended Administrative Plan for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas is hereby submitted to the Arkansas Supreme Court for approval on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

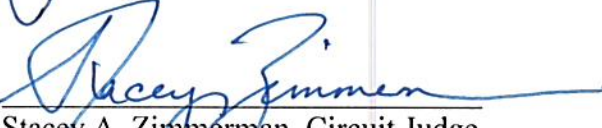
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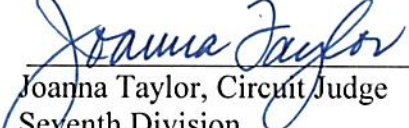
  
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Doug Martin, Circuit Judge  
First Division

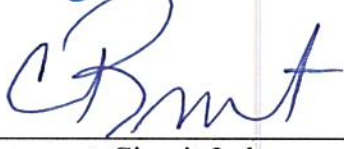
  
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Beth Storey Bryan, Circuit Judge  
Fifth Division

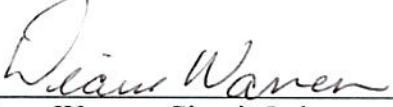
  
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John Threet, Circuit Judge  
Second Division

  
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Mark Lindsay, Circuit Judge  
Sixth Division

  
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Stacey A. Zimmerman, Circuit Judge  
Third Division

  
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Joanna Taylor, Circuit Judge  
Seventh Division

  
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Cristi Beaumont, Circuit Judge  
Fourth Division

  
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Diane Warren, Circuit Judge  
Eighth Division