

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OVERVIEW- JANUARY 2024

The First Judicial District (1st JD) encompasses all of the Jefferson and Gilpin Counties. Jefferson County is approximately 774 square miles and contains 12 incorporated cities. Many communities occupy unincorporated portions of the country as well, which make up approximately 650 square miles. Jefferson County is the fourth largest county in Colorado with a population estimated at 592,584 as of July 1, 2022. Gilpin County has four cities (2 incorporated) and its population is approximately 5,882.

The district is the fifth largest in the state by caseload volume, trailing the 2nd, 4th, 17th, and 18th Judicial Districts. In fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023), 36,893 new county court cases and 13,902 new district court cases were filed in the 1st JD. Our district court judges heard 144 court and jury trials and 350 court and jury trials were heard by our county court judges during the fiscal year.

There are 14 judges and 9.8 magistrates assigned to the District Court within the 1st JD. Magistrates are judicial, non-elected officers who are selected by and responsible to the District's Chief Judge. District Court Magistrates primarily handle juvenile matters in (including juvenile delinquency, dependency and neglect, adoptions and support) and preliminary domestic relations matters. One full time Magistrate presides over three problem-solving courts and one full-time Magistrate is dedicated to Probate and Mental Health matters. District Court Judges handle a mixed caseload of domestic relations, criminal, and civil cases. Currently one judge handles all juvenile matters for the District Court and one judge handles all Probate matters.

There are 9 full-time judges and 1.5 magistrates assigned to Jefferson County Court and a .60 judge in Gilpin County Court. The magistrates handle small claims, traffic infractions, protection orders and 48-hour bond hearings. County Court judges handle a mixed caseload of traffic, misdemeanor and civil cases. County Court judges in the 1st Judicial District also process most felony cases through preliminary hearing proceedings.

The District operates from two courthouses: one located in Golden, CO (Jefferson County) and the other in Blackhawk, CO (Gilpin County). In addition to the judges and magistrates, there are 143 support staff positions in the courts and an additional 140 personnel in the Probation department. The Probation Department served over 6200 probationers in FY23.

The First Judicial District is also home to several specialized courts. The primary focus of these specialized courts is to provide individualized services to participants with the goal of treating their chemical dependency and/or mental health issues in order to increase community safety, reduce recidivism and improve the lives of the individuals. These courts are a collaborative effort between many agencies, including the First Judicial District, Court Support Jeffco, the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, law enforcement, the Veterans Administration, Health and Human Services and community-based treatment providers.

One District Court Magistrate presides over three problem-solving courts, including Adult Recovery Court, Adult Mental Health Court, and Veterans Treatment Court. The 1st JD also has a family dependency court. FIT (Family Integrated Treatment) Court is a special track of dependency and neglect cases where parents voluntarily participate, acknowledge their substance abuse problem(s) and are willing to engage in treatment immediately. FIT Court is presided over by our District Court Juvenile Judge. Additionally, the 1st Judicial District is preparing to implement a new Competency Court in January of 2024. For specific information on the 1st Judicial Districts specialty courts, please visit our website at: [Colorado Judicial Branch \(state.co.us\)](https://www.coloradojudicialbranch.com)

To participate in or observe court proceedings, please visit the 1st Judicial District homepage at: [Colorado Judicial Branch - 1st Judicial District - Homepage \(state.co.us\)](https://www.coloradojudicialbranch.com/1st-judicial-district-homepage). You may also access court dockets, online payment options, a court user feedback survey and other available resources at this site.

For additional information, contact:
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