

THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SECOND QUARTER STATISTICS REPORT

THE SPECIALISED FAMILY COURTS OF JAMAICA

(April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025)

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 benchmark for this rate is an annual average of 90% to 110%.

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S MESSAGE SECOND QUARTER, FAMILY COURT 2025

This report continues the strong performance of the Family Courts. Now that this performance has stabilised with the case clearance rate consistently above 90%, it must be appreciated that a clearance rate that falls below 100% for two or more years increases the likelihood of case backlog building up with consequential increase in wait times for legal services. The quest to reduce time to its irreducible core is not an end in itself but a recognition that everybody's time is valuable and the courts should not consume more time than is necessary to complete any matter. Efficiency and speed are not the enemy of excellent service. Effective service delivery is measured qualitatively and quantitatively against an established time standard. The system being put in place is to reduce the time any case remains unresolved to the time absolutely necessary to dispose of a matter fairly.

This report reveals that three of the seven courts exceeded the projected performance. The St James Family Court, the Westmoreland Family Court, and the Manchester Family Court fell significantly behind projected performance, that is by more than 15%. Trelawny Family Court was behind projected performance by 2.7%. The report for the third quarter is eagerly awaited to see what has happened over that quarter.

Nonetheless, the courts have been delivering legal service at an acceptable rate. Where the projected targets have not been met, the delay did not have too serious an impact on the litigants. May we continue to strive for excellence in the management of the processes and the cases that deliver Family Court services to our people.

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

Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

In the second quarter, April 1, through June 30, 2025, the specialized Family Courts of Jamaica, recorded a total of 2884 new cases filed. Case activity that was either disposed or inactive amounted to 2481 producing an overall case clearance rate of 86.03% (3.97 percentage points difference from 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 (April 1, 2025-June 30, 2025) with 665 or 23.06%. of the sample. Westmoreland Family followed accounting for 431 or 14.94% of new cases filed and St. Ann with 404 or 14.01%. The lowest share of new cases filed for the second quarter of 2025 were with the family courts of Manchester 192 (6.66%), Hanover 187 (6.48%) and Trelawny 126 (4.37%).

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

cases is certain; that is, a persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. In the second quarter of 2025, 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 115.08%. The Chapelton Family Court ranked second with 112.15%, followed by Corporate Area Family with 103.61%, rounding off the top three courts for the second quarter. The other clearance rates were as follows; Hanover Family court with 98.40%, Westmoreland with 92.11%, St. James with 74.14%, Manchester with 62.50% and St. Ann with 52.75%.

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 second quarter (Apr.1-Jun.30) falls below the international minimum standard for this metric (90% - 100%).

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

Table i. Aggregate Case Flow Performance Estimates for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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	665	674	15	103.61
St. James Family Court	665	479	14	74.14
Westmoreland Family Court	431	382	15	92.11
Chapelton Family Court	214	224	16	112.15
Hanover Family Court	187	170	14	98.40
Manchester Family Court	192	119	1	62.50
Trelawny Family Court	126	143	2	115.08
St. Ann	232	173	6	77.16
Total/Weighted Average	2712	2364	83	90.23

The above table provides a summary of aggregate case activity across the featured specialised Family Courts in the second quarter of 2025. It shows that a total of 2712 new cases were filed in these courts, while 83 became inactive and 2364 were disposed, leading to an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 90.23%. The Trelawny Family Court recorded the highest overall weighted case clearance rate among the featured courts with 115.08%, followed by the Chapelton Family Court with 112.15%, Corporate Area Family Court with 103.61%, while the Hanover Family Court recorded a clearance rate of 98.40% and the Westmoreland Family Court following behind with 92.11%, round off the top five courts in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025.

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

Family Court	Forecasted QTR 2. Case Clearance Rate (%)	Actual QTR 2 Case Clearance Rate (%)	RESIDUAL	SQUARED ERROR	Absolute percentage Error
Corporate Area Family Court	103.17	103.61	0.44	0.19	0.42
St. James Family Court	94.10	74.14	-19.96	398.40	-26.92
Hanover Family Court	96.44	98.4	1.96	3.84	1.99
Westmoreland Family Court	109.08	92.11	-16.97	287.98	-18.42
Trelawny Family Court	117.85	115.08	-2.77	7.67	-2.41
Manchester Family Court	101.46	62.5	-38.96	1517.88	-62.34
Chapelton Family Court	93.43	112.15	18.72	350.44	16.69
Total/Weighted Average	93.23	90.23			

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 second quarter (April 1- June 30) 2025.

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

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

The square mean error provide insight as to the magnitude of the errors without considering the direction. Higher squared values indicate larger deviations from the

forecast. The Manchester Family Court had the highest squared error followed by the St. James Family Court; here despite having surpassed the forecasted rate, the positive residual was large, and the differences amplified reflecting the large deviation from the forecasted rate for the fiscal period 2024 /2025. Smaller squared errors were observed in the St. Corporate Area Family Court, Trelawny Family court and the Hanover 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 Manchester Family Court had the highest percentage deviation from the forecast of 62.34 per cent, along with the St. James Family Court (26.92%) and Westmoreland Family Court (18.42%). The Corporate Area Family Court had the lowest absolute percentage deviation; this suggests that the actual clearance rate for this court was closest to the forecast. This is also true for the Hanover Family Court (7.99%) and the Trelawny Family Court (12.63%).

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 0.42%, the result of a highly accurate forecasted case clearance rate for the Corporate Area Family Court.

The Manchester Family Court, on the other hand, had the largest residual and squared error which produced an absolute percentage error of 62.34%. Though the model significantly over predicted the case clearance rate for the Manchester Family Court, the absolute percentage error suggest that the model produced a reasonable forecasted case clearance rate for the Manchester Family Court. The deviations

between actual and predicted rates across the specialized family courts is indicative that, the courts' performance is different from what was expected. Likely due to factors, including unique circumstances or challenges specific to individual courts, not captured in the forecasting model.

Table iii. Forecasted Case Activity Statistics for third Quarter Ended September 30, 2025.

Parish Court	Forecasted number of new cases	Forecasted number of disposed cases	Forecasted number of inactive cases	Forecasted case clearance rate (%)
Hanover Family Court	174	163	8	98.62
Manchester Family Court	182	143	2	79.81
St. James Family Court	677	548	16	83.22
Corporate Area Family Court	658	660	17	102.87
Westmoreland Family Court	374	362	17	101.34
Trelawny Family Court	129	155	3	121.99
Chapelton	226	207	13	97.35
Total/Weighted Average	2420	2238	76	95.61

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

The data indicates that the overall forecasted case clearance rate for specialized family courts in the third quarter of 2025 (July-September) is projected to reach 95.61%. This represents an increase of 5.38 percentage points compared to the actual case clearance rate of 90.23% recorded in the second quarter (April-June 2025). Additionally, four family courts are expected to meet or exceed the minimum international standard case clearance rate of 90% during the third quarter. This suggests that these courts are making noteworthy progress in effectively managing their caseloads and moving toward equilibrium.

Methodology

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

Disclaimer

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

Introduction

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

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

The critical importance of the rule of law and the judiciary as 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 first quarter of 2025 and offers detailed insights into eight 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
- Trelawny Family Court
- Manchester Family Court
- Chapelton Family Court
- St. Ann Family Court

Chapter 1.0: The Corporate Area Family Court

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

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

Table 1.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the second Quarter Ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	16	9	0	56.25
Indictments	22	31	1	145.45
Summary	13	17	1	138.46
Petty Session	1	6	0	600.00
Total/Weighted Average	52	63	2	125.00

The above table shows the sample of 62 criminal cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of these, 22 or 42.31% were indictment matters, 16 or 30.77% were committal matters, 13 or 25% were summary matters. There was a total of 63 criminal cases disposed while 2 became inactive during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of these, 31 indictment matters were disposed while 1 became inactive. There were 17 summary matters disposed and 1 became inactive, there were 9 committal and 6 petty session matters disposed. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 125% for these types of cases which satisfies the international standards on this vital metric.

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

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

Table 1.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	27	22	0	81.48
Uncontrollable Child	23	27	0	117.39
Total Weighted Average	50	49	0	98.00

There were 50 child welfare cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 27 or 54%, while the remaining proportion were uncontrollable child cases with 23 or 46%. A total of 49 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 81.48% for child care and protection cases and 117.39% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 98%, which satisfies international standard of 90 and above on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for The Corporate Area Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 1.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	114	108	2	96.49
Declaration of Paternity	74	76	1	104.05
Maintenance	168	176	8	109.52
Total	356	360	11	104.21

The 356 new cases filed at the Corporate Area Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, revealed that Maintenance matters accounts for the largest proportion of cases filed (with 168 cases or 47.19%). This was followed by cases of custody with 114 or 32.02%. There were 74 declaration of paternity cases or 20.79%. A total of 371 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. This is broken down into 360 disposed and 11 inactive cases. Maintenance cases accounted for 176 of the disposed cases and 8 became inactive while custody accounted for 108 disposed cases and 2 inactive case. There were 76 disposed access of declaration of paternity. This led to an overall estimated weighted average 104.21%. Maintenance cases with 109.52%, 104.05% and custody cases recorded a clearance rate of 96.49%.

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

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

Table 1.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	184	184	1	100.54
Occupation Order	23	18	1	82.61
Total/Weighted Average	207	202	2	98.55

The data shows that there was a total of 207 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Corporate Area Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases which accounted for 184 or 88.88%, while cases of occupation order with 23 or 11.11% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 204 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of in the quarter. There were 184 protection order cases disposed of during the quarter while 1 became inactive, and 18 occupation order cases were also disposed of in the quarter. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 100.54% for protection order cases and 82.61% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 98.55%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

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

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	98	110	2	114.29
Disobedience of Maintenance	37	109	44	413.51
Total/ Weighted Average	135	219	46	196.30

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that Vary Orders accounted for 98 or 72.59% of post disposal activity in the Corporate Area Family Court and the remaining 37 or 27.41% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. A total of 110 vary orders were disposed of while 2 became inactive in the period and 153 enforcements were either disposed of or became inactive producing a gross case clearance rate of 196.30% 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

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

Table 2.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	12	1	0	8.33
Indictments	22	11	2	59.09
Summary	10	9	0	90.00
Petty Session	1	0	0	0.00
Total/Weighted Average	45	21	2	51.11

The above table shows the sample of 45 criminal cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of these, 22 or 48.88% were indictment matters. Committal matters accounted for 12 or 26.67%, while summary matters accounted for 10 or 22.22%. The remaining 1 or 2.22% was accounted for by petty session cases. There were a total of 23 criminal cases disposed of during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of these, indictment and summary had 11 and 9 disposed cases respectively, while committal matters accounted for 1 case. This led to an estimated weighted clearance rate of 51.11 for these types of cases.

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

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

Table 2.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	22	51	1	236.36
Uncontrollable Child	32	17	1	56.25
Total Weighted Average	54	68	2	129.63

There were 54 child welfare cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were uncontrollable child cases which accounted for 32 or 59.26%, while cases of child care and protection with 22 or 40.74% accounted for the remaining proportion. A total of 68 child welfare cases were disposed while 2 became inactive during the quarter. There were 51 child care and protection cases and 17 uncontrollable child cases disposed of during the quarter in the St. James Family Court. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 236.36% for child care and protection cases and 56.25% for uncontrollable child cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 129.63%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 2.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	113	69	0	61.06
Declaration of Paternity	41	58	1	143.90
Legal Guardianship	5	7	0	140.00
Maintenance	179	106	4	61.45
Adoption	4	4	0	100.00
Total	342	244	5	72.81

The 342 new cases filed at the St. James Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, revealed that maintenance matters with 179 cases or 52.33% accounts for the largest proportion of cases filed. This was followed by Custody with 111 or 32.46%. There were 41 Declaration of Paternity cases or 11.99%, there were 5 legal guardianship cases, and 4 adoption cases. A total of 244 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of while 5 became inactive in the quarter. Maintenance cases accounted for 106 of the disposed cases and 4 inactive cases while custody cases accounted for 69 disposed cases. There were 58 disposed cases concerning declaration of paternity and 7 legal guardianship cases. The remaining 4 disposed cases were cases of adoption. This led to an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 72.81% for the broad family case type. The highest case clearance rate of family case activities in the St. James Family court was for

declaration of paternity cases with 143.90%; followed by legal guardianship cases with 140.00%, cases of adoption accounted for 100%.

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

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

Table 2.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	158	108	2	69.62
Occupation Order	36	24	2	72.22
Total/Weighted Average	194	132	4	70.10

The data above shows that there were a total of 194 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the St. James Family Court. Protection order cases accounted for the larger proportion with 158 or 81.44%, while occupation order cases accounted for the remaining proportion with 36 or 18.56%. A total of 136 domestic cases were either disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. There were 108 protection cases disposed of during the quarter while 2 became inactive, and 24 occupation order cases were disposed and 2 became inactive. These results led to estimated case clearance rates of 69.62% for protection order cases and 72.22% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 70.10%, which does not satisfy 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025.

Table 2.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
30	14	1	50.00

The data above shows that there were a total of 30 new civil cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. There were also a total of 15 civil cases which were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter at the St. James Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 50%, which is below the international standard on this metric.

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

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Estimated clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	67	32	1	49.25
Disobedience of Maintenance	36	32	8	111.11
Warrants of Distress	45	17	27	97.78
Warrants of Arrest	60	17	27	73.33
Total/Weighted Average	208	98	63	77.40

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 67 or 32.21% of post disposal activity in the St. James family court while 141 or 67.79% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 32 vary orders disposed of in the period and 1 became inactive, while 66 enforcements were disposed of and 62 made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 77.40% 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

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

Table 3.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	2	4	0	200.00
Indictments	4	6	0	150.00
Summary	7	9	0	128.57
Petty Session	5	1	0	0.00
Total	18	20	0	111.11

The above table shows the sample of 18 criminal cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Summary matters accounted for the largest share with 7 or 38.89% of the total followed by petty session matters with 5 cases or 27.78%. There were 20 criminal cases disposed of in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, resulting in a clearance rate of 111.11% which is above the international standard on this metric.

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

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

Table 3.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	23	11	0	47.83
Uncontrollable Child	8	6	1	87.50
Total Weighted Average	31	17	1	58.06

There were 31 child welfare cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 23 or 74.19%, while the remaining proportion were cases of uncontrollable child with 8 or 25.81%. For the period April 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025. There were 18 child welfare case disposed of or became inactive producing an estimated case clearance rate of 58.06%: an amount below the international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 3.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	30	34	1	116.67
Declaration of Paternity	11	13	0	118.18
Maintenance	36	32	11	119.44
Legal Guardianship	0	1	0	UNDEFINED
Access	5	1	0	20.00
Total	82	81	12	113.41

The 82 new Family cases filed at the Hanover Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, disaggregated by case subtype showed maintenance matters accounted for the largest proportion with 36 cases or 43.90%. This was followed by custody cases with 30 or 36.59% and declaration of paternity with 11 or 13.41%. There were also 5 new case filed in the quarter concerning cases of access. A total of 93 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive in the quarter. For matters that were disposed of during the period, 34 were disposed custody cases, 32 disposed maintenance cases, 13 disposed cases declaration of paternity and 1 disposed case of access and legal guardianship. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 113.41% for the broad family case type; The highest rate recorded was for maintenance cases with 119.44%, followed by declaration of paternity with 118.18% and custody cases with 116.67%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, at the Hanover Family Court

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

Table 3.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	49	47	1	97.96
Total/Weighted Average	49	47	0	97.96

The data above shows that there were a total of 49 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Hanover Family Court. All cases were protection order cases. During the second quarter of 2025, the Hanover Family court disposed a total of 47 Domestic Violence cases. This outcome produced case clearance rates of 97.96% for protection order cases which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

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

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

Table 3.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
7	5	0	71.43

The data above shows that there were a total of 7 new civil cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. There were also a total of 5 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the Hanover Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 71.43%, which does not satisfy international standards for this metric.

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

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Estimated Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	27	23	0	85.19
Disobedience of Maintenance	7	6	0	85.71
Warrants of Distress	72	5	37	58.33
Warrants of Arrest	42	20	42	147.62
Total/Weighted Average	148	54	79	89.86

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 27 or 18.24% of post disposal activity in the St. James family court while 121 or 81.76% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 23 vary orders disposed of in the period. There were 31 enforcements matters disposed while 79 made inactive, producing an estimated case clearance rate of 89.86% on these matters.

Chapter 4.0: The Westmoreland Family Court

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

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

Table 4.1: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	9	6	0	66.67
Indictments	22	14	1	68.18
Summary	34	16	3	55.88
Petty Session	12	5	1	50.00
Total/Weighted Average	77	41	5	59.74

The above table shows the sample of 77 criminal cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of these, 34 or 44.16% were summary matters, 22 or 28.57% were indictment matters, while petty session matters accounted for 12 cases or 15.58%. Committal proceedings accounted for the remaining 9 matters or 11.69%. There were a total of 46 criminal cases disposed of or became inactive during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of the total cases disposed, indictment and summary matters accounted for 14 and 16 cases respectively, while committal and petty session matters accounted for 6 and 5 cases respectively. This produced an estimated weighted clearance rate of 59.74% for the cases in the Westmoreland family court classified as criminal.

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

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

Table 4.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	29	19	0	65.52
Uncontrollable Child	23	34	6	173.91
Total Weighted Average	52	53	6	113.46

There were 52 child welfare cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, Child care protection cases accounted for the greater share with 29 or 55.77% and the remainder were uncontrollable child cases 23 or 44.23%. A total of 59 child welfare cases were disposed or became inactive during the quarter. Cases concerning uncontrollable child accounted for 34 disposed cases and the remaining 19 disposed cases were matters related to child care protection. The 6 inactive cases recorded in the period were classified as uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 113.46%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 4.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	51	70	2	141.18
Declaration of Paternity	33	27	0	81.82
Legal Guardianship	2	5	0	250.00
Maintenance	109	91	2	85.32
Access	15	13	0	86.67
Total/Weighted Average	210	206	4	100.00

The 210 new cases filed at the Westmoreland Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 109 cases or 51.90%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 51 or 24.29% and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 33 or 15.71%. There were also 15 or 7.14% access cases and 2 cases of legal guardianship. A total of 210 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the quarter. That is, 91 disposed and 2 inactive maintenance cases, 70 disposed custody cases and 2 became inactive, 27 disposed declarations of paternity cases and 13 disposed cases of access, this produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 100% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as legal guardianship, recorded the highest case clearance rate of 250%, custody cases followed with 141.18%, access cases with 86.67% and cases concerning maintenance recorded a clearance rate of 85.32%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, at the Westmoreland Family Court

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

Table 4.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	67	60	0	89.55
Occupation and protection Order	12	2	0	16.67
Total/Weighted Average	79	62	0	78.48

The data above shows that there were a total of 79 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Westmoreland Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 67 or 84.81%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 12 or 15.19%. A total of 62 domestic violence cases were disposed of during the quarter. There were 60 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 2 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 89.55% for protection order cases and 16.67% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 78.48%, which is below international standards on this vital metric.

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

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

Table 4.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Number of New Cases Filed	Number of Cases Disposed	Number of Inactive Cases	Weighted Case Clearance Rate (%)
13	20	0	153.85

The data above shows that there were a total of 13 new civil cases filed in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. There were also a total of 20 civil cases which were disposed of in the quarter at the Westmoreland Family Court. This produced an estimated case clearance rate of 153.85%, which is above international standards on this metrics.

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

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Clearance rate (%)
Vary Orders	38	28	4	84.21
Disobedience of Maintenance	23	26	7	143.48
Warrants of Distress	67	4	0	5.97
Warrants of Arrest	52	2	0	3.85
Judgement Summons	1	1	0	100.00
Total/Weighted Average	181	61	11	39.78

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 38 or 20.99% while 143 or 79.01% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. In the reporting period 28 vary orders were disposed of while 33 enforcements were disposed or became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 39.78% 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

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

Table 5.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	4	14	0	350.00
Indictments	3	2	0	66.67
Summary	15	14	1	100.00
Petty Session	0	0	0	0.00
Total/Weighted Average	22	30	1	140.91

The above table shows the sample of 22 criminal cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Summary matters accounted for the largest portion with 15 or 68.18%. Of these, committal matters accounted for 4 cases. There were a total of 30 disposed and 1 inactive case during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, this produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 140.91% for criminal case activities in the Trelawny Family Court.

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

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

Table 5.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	15	20	0	133.33
Uncontrollable Child	3	4	0	133.33
Total/ Weighted Average	18	24	0	133.33

There were 18 new child welfare cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were child care protection cases which accounted for 15 or 83.33%, while the remaining 3 were uncontrollable child matter. A total of 24 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter; 20 cases disposed were child care protection and 4 was uncontrollable child case. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 133.33% for child care protection cases and 133.33% for uncontrollable child, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 133.33%, which satisfies international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 5.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	16	18	0	112.50
Declaration of Paternity	17	8	0	47.06
Access	7	6	1	100.00
Maintenance	33	45	0	136.36
Total	73	77	1	106.85

The 73 new cases filed at the Trelawny Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 33 cases or 45.21% and declaration of paternity matters with 17 cases or 23.29%. Custody matters followed accounting for 16 or 21.92% of new family cases filed. A total of 78 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. Of the total disposed cases, 45 were concerning maintenance, 18 custody cases, 8 declaration of paternity cases and 6 cases of access. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 106.85% for the broad family case type. Maintenance cases had the highest case clearance rate of 136.36%, followed by matters classified as custody with 112.50%, and access with 100%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, at the Trelawny Family Court

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

Table 5.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	12	11	0	91.67
Total/Weighted Average	12	11	0	91.67

The data above shows that there were a total of 12 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Trelawny Family Court. A total 11 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of during the quarter. All new cases filed were protection orders, which accounted for 100% of the new cases filed. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 91.67% for the quarter; this result satisfies the international standards on this vital metric.

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

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

Table 5.5: Summary of Civil Case Activity for Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

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

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

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	2	19	0	950.00
Disobedience of Maintenance	24	14	0	58.33
Warrants of Distress	56	2	0	3.57
Warrants of Arrest	26	20	4	92.31
Total/Weighted Average	108	55	4	54.63

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 2 or 1.85% of post disposal activities in the Trelawny Family Court and the remaining 106 or 98.15% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter. There were 19 vary orders disposed, while 40 enforcements were disposed or became inactive in the period, producing a gross case clearance rate of 54.63% on these matters.

Chapter 6.0: The Manchester Family Court

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

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

Table 6.1: Summary of Criminal Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed in the period	Overall Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases which became inactive in the period	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	5	0	0	0.00
Summary	11	12	0	109.09
Total	16	12	0	75.00

The above table shows the sample of 16 criminal cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Summary matters accounted for 11 cases files or 68.75%, while committal accounted for the remaining 5 new case filed or 31.25%. There were a total of 12 criminal cases disposed of during second quarter ended June 30, 2025, summary matters accounted for all 12 disposed matters. This produced an estimated weighted case clearance rate of 75% 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 6.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	1	0	0	0.00
Uncontrollable Child	14	2	1	21.43
Total Weighted Average	15	2	1	20.00

There were 15 new child welfare cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, the larger proportion of which were uncontrollable child cases, accounted for 14 or 93.33%, while cases classified as child care protection accounted for the remaining proportion, 1 or 6.67%. A total of 3 child welfare cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. There were 2 child uncontrollable child cases disposed of during the quarter, while 1 became inactive. These results produced estimated case clearance rates of 21.43 for uncontrollable child cases. Further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 20%, which is significantly below the international standards on this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Manchester Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 6.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Overall Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases within the period	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	28	14	0	50.00
Declaration of Paternity	3	4	0	133.33
Access	10	6	0	60.00
Maintenance	66	55	0	83.33
Total	107	79	0	73.83

The 107 new cases filed at the Manchester Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, showed that maintenance matters accounted for the largest proportion of cases filed with 66 cases or 61.68%; custody matters followed with 28 or 26.17% of new cases filed. There were also 10 matters of access, 3 declaration of paternity filed in the reporting period. A total of 79 cases falling under this broad family category were disposed of in the quarter. Maintenance cases accounted for 55 of the disposed cases while custody cases accounted for 14 disposed cases. There were 6 disposed cases related to access and 4 disposed declaration of paternity cases. This produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 73.83% for the broad family case type. Declaration of paternity recorded the highest clearance rate of 133.33%. Maintenance cases followed with 83.33%. cases of access and declaration of paternity followed with 60% and 50% respectively.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, at the Manchester Family Court

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

Table 6.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	54	26	0	48.15
Total/Weighted Average	54	26	0	48.15

The data above shows that there were a total of 54 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Manchester Family Court. Protection order accounted for 54 or 100% of new cases filed. A total 26 Domestic Violence cases were disposed of during the quarter of which protection order cases accounted for all 26 cases. These outputs produced an overall clearance rate of 48.15% which is below the international standards on this vital metric.

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

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Case clearance weight (%)
Vary Orders	22	9	0	40.91
Disobedience of Maintenance	25	19	9	112.00
Warrants of Distress	36	0	0	0.00
Warrants of Arrest	61	8	4	0.00
Total/Weighted Average	144	36	13	34.03

It is important to note that, apart from substantive case activity, vary orders accounted for 22 or 15.28% of post disposal activities in the Manchester family court and the remaining 122 or 84.72% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress and arrest warrants) during the quarter in the Manchester Family Court. In the report period 9 vary orders were disposed and 40 enforcement matters were disposed or became inactive; this produced a case clearance rate of 34.03%the for these matters.

Chapter 7.0: The Chapelton Family Court

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

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

Table 7.1: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Committal	15	5	0	33.33
Summary	31	21	0	67.74
Total	46	26	0	56.52

The above table shows the sample of 46 criminal cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of these, 31 or 67.39% were summary matters, 15 or 32.6% were committal matters. There were a total of 26 criminal cases disposed of during the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of the total cases disposed summary and committal matters accounted for 21 and 5 cases respectively. This produced an estimated weighted clearance rate of 56.52% 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 7.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	14	17	0	121.43
Uncontrollable Child	5	4	0	80.00
Total Weighted Average	19	21	0	110.53

There were 19 child welfare cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, Child care protection cases accounted for the greater share with 14 or 73.68% and the remainder were uncontrollable child cases 5 or 26.32%. A total of 21 child welfare cases were disposed of during the quarter. Cases concerning child care protection accounted for 17 disposed cases the remaining 4 disposed cases were matters related to uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 110.53%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the Chapelton Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 7.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	26	30	3	126.92
Declaration of Paternity	9	19	0	211.11
Maintenance	52	87	9	184.62
Legal Guardianship	0	1	0	UNDEFINED
Access	14	10	0	71.43
Total	101	147	12	157.43

The 101 new cases filed at the Chapelton Family Court in the second quarter, ended June 30, 2025, revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 52 cases or 51.49%. This was followed by custody cases, accounting for 26 or 25.74% and cases concerning declaration of paternity, 9 or 8.91%. There were also 14 or 13.86% access. A total of 159 cases falling under the broad family category were disposed or became inactive in the quarter. That is, 87 disposed and 9 inactive maintenance cases, 30 disposed custody cases and 3 became inactive, 19 disposed declarations of paternity cases and 10 disposed cases of access, this produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 157.43% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as legal guardianship recorded the highest case clearance rate of 211.11%, maintenance cases followed with 184.62%, custody cases with 126.92% and cases concerning access recorded a clearance rate of 71.43%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, at the Chapelton Family Court

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

Table 7.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	39	45	4	125.64
Occupation Order	9	3	0	33.33
Total/Weighted Average	48	30	4	70.83

The data above shows that there were a total of 48 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the Chapelton Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 39 or 81.25%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 9 or 18.75%. A total of 34 domestic violence cases were disposed of or became inactive during the quarter. There were 45 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 3 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 125.64% for protection order cases and 33.33% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 70.83%, which is below international standards on this vital metric.

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

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	inactive matters	Estimated Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	22	17	2	86.36
Disobedience of Maintenance	50	23	10	66.00
Total/Weighted Average	72	40	12	72.22

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 22 or 30.56% while 50 or 69.44% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters, distress, and arrest warrants) during the quarter. In the reporting period 17 vary orders were disposed of while 23 enforcements were disposed or became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 72.22% 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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Such will involve analyses of caseload, case type distribution and case clearance rates for the different business lines of the family court.

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

Table 8.1: Summary of criminal case activity for cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case clearance rate (%)
Summary	3	0	0	0
Total/Weighted Average	3	0	0	0

The above table shows the sample of 3 criminal cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Of these, all 3 were summary matters.

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 second quarter ended June 30, 2025. Matters falling under child welfare are uncontrollable child and childcare and protection cases.

Table 8.2: Summary of Child Welfare Case Activity for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Child care protection	10	20	0	200.00
Uncontrollable Child	7	3	0	42.86
Total Weighted Average	17	23	0	135.29

There were 17 child welfare cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, Child care protection cases accounted for the greater share with 10 or 58.83% and the remainder were uncontrollable child cases 7 or 41.18%. A total of 23 child

welfare cases were disposed or became inactive during the quarter. Cases concerning uncontrollable child accounted for 20 disposed cases the remaining 3 disposed cases were matters related to child care protection. There were no inactive cases recorded in the period that were classified as uncontrollable child. This result produced a weighted average case clearance rate of 135.29%, which satisfies international standards of this vital metric.

Family Matters Case Activity Summary for the St. Ann Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

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

Table 8.3: Summary of Family Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Case Subtype	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Custody	36	23	0	63.89
Declaration of Paternity	40	20	0	50.00
Access	15	11	0	73.33
Legal Guardianship	3	1	0	33.33
Maintenance	70	61	6	95.71
Adoption	2	0	0	0.00
Total	166	116	6	73.49

The 166 new cases filed at the St. Ann Family Court in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, revealed that the largest proportion were maintenance matters with 70 cases or 42.17%. This was followed by Declaration of Paternity cases, accounting for 40 or 24.10% and cases concerning custody, 36 or 21.69%. There were also 15 or 9.04% access cases and 3 cases of legal guardianship. A total of 122 cases falling under the broad family category were

disposed or became inactive in the quarter. That is, 61 disposed and 6 inactive maintenance cases, 23 disposed custody cases, 20 disposed declarations of paternity cases and 11 disposed cases of access, this produced an overall estimated weighted average case clearance rate of 73.49% for the broad family case type. Cases classified as maintenance, recorded the highest case clearance rate of 95.71%, access cases followed with 73.33%, custody cases with 63.89% and cases concerning declaration of paternity recorded a clearance rate of 50.00%.

Summary of Case Activity for Domestic Violence Cases in the second quarter ended June 30, 2025, at the St. Ann Family Court

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

Table 8.4: Summary of Domestic Violence Case Activity for Cases for the second quarter ended June 30, 2025

Order Type	Number of new cases filed	Number of cases disposed	Number of inactive cases	Weighted case clearance rate (%)
Protection Order	33	24	0	72.73
Occupation Order	13	10	0	76.92
Total/Weighted Average	46	34	0	73.91

The data above shows that there were a total of 46 new domestic violence cases filed in the second quarter of 2025 at the St. Ann Family Court. The larger proportion of which were protection order cases, accounting for 33 or 71.74%, while the remaining proportion were cases regarding occupation orders with 13 or 28.26%. A total of 34 domestic violence cases were disposed of during the quarter. There were 24 protection cases disposed of during the quarter, while the remaining 10 disposed cases were occupation orders. These outcomes produced estimated case clearance rates of 72.73% for protection order cases and 76.92% for occupation order cases, further yielding a weighted average case clearance rate of 73.91%, 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 June 30, 2025

Post disposal activity/Enforcement	New entries	Disposed matters	Inactive matters	Case Clearance Rate (%)
Vary Orders	33	27	0	81.82
Disobedience of Maintenance	28	16	2	64.29
Total/ Weighted Average	61	43	2	73.77

Apart from substantive case activity, it is important to note that vary orders accounted for 33 or 54.10% while 28 or 79.01% entered the enforcement stage (by way of disobedience of maintenance matters) during the quarter. In the reporting period 27 vary orders were disposed of while 18 enforcements were disposed or became inactive, this resulted in a case clearance rate of 73.77% on these matters.

Conclusion

The specialised family courts had an overall case clearance rate of 90.23% in the 2nd quarter ended June 30, 2025. This suggests that for every 100 new cases that were filed approximately 90 cases were disposed of in the period. The rates ranged from a high of 115.08% in the Trelawny Family court to a low of 62.50% in the Manchester Family Court. The target for the next 4-5 years established by The Chief Justice for the specialised family courts of Jamaica is a case clearance rate ≥ 106.39 towards achieving a sustainable net backlog rate of under 5%. The forecasted number of new cases in the third quarter of 2025 for the specialized family court is 2194, while the forecasted number of cases disposed or inactive is 2094, producing a predicted weighted case clearance rate of 95.43% for the specialized family courts of Jamaica. These results suggest that the specialized family courts will continue to make strides in improvements in productivity and efficiency; thereby making appreciable contributions to achieving the strategic objectives of the courts and advancing the Vision 2030 Jamaica National Goal 2 "The Jamaican Society is Secure, Cohesive and Just" and by extension the 2030 Global Agenda Goal 16 "Peace Justice and Strong Institutions".

Glossary of Terms

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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