

Probate and Family Court Department, Filings* By Fiscal Year and Case Type					
CASE TYPE	FY 2017 FILINGS	FY 2018 FILINGS	FY 2019 FILINGS	FY 2020 FILINGS	% CHANGE FROM FY 2019
Guardianship	11,580	11,596	11,252	9,317	-17.2%
Conservatorship	3,366	3,265	3,189	3,021	-5.3%
Estate Administration and Other Probate	30,546	30,565	30,865	28,634	-7.2%
Equity	1,541	1,508	1,182	742	-37.2%
Change of Name	4,181	4,244	4,869	4,049	-16.8%
Adoption and Child Welfare	1,293	1,215	1,095	808	-26.2%
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status			163	867	431.9%
Paternity Complaints	15,011	12,852	13,511	14,898	10.3%
Divorce and other Dom. Rel.	23,500	22,171	21,839	17,812	-18.4%
Modification and Contempt	44,842	40,578	38,540	31,678	-17.8%
Protection From Abuse	3,013	3,044	2,621	2,037	-22.3%
Total Probate, Equity, and Change of Name	51,214	51,178	51,357	45,763	-10.9%
Percentage "Probate"	34.4%	39.1%	39.8%	40.2%	
Total Adoption, Child Welfare, and "Family"	87,659	79,860	77,769	68,100	-12.4%
Percentage "Family"	65.6%	60.9%	60.2%	59.8%	
*Total	138,873	131,038	129,126	113,863	-11.8%

*Due to COVID-19, all departments of the Trial Court were closed to non-emergency business from March 16, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

*These totals reflect data provided by the Department of Research and Planning, which are lower than those reported by the Probate and Family Court in prior years. The difference reflects activity, primarily connected to Estate Administration, counted through docket entries in prior years. Users are now required to enter all cases into MassCourts as "action codes." For accuracy of comparison, only MassCourts "action code" entries are used for all years.

*Modifications/contempts are approximate, and are estimated to be 1-3% higher than reported.