

What We Do

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Every year, the Oakland County Probate Court traditionally issues an Annual Report. This year, our Annual Report is not being published, but instead can be found on our Web site at http://www.co.oakland.mi.us/probate/info_pub/#p8. Preparing this Annual Report is no easy task and I would like to thank John Cooperrider and his committee consisting of Barb Felder, Karen Koshen, Marcia Travis and Karen MacKenzie for their hard work and dedication in getting this completed. I would also like to thank Tom Nahas from Information Technology for working on our cover design, and special thanks to Phill DeBarr and Mariell Klick for their pictorial contributions.

The Annual Report summarizes the Probate Court activity and gives a “snapshot” of what we do on a daily basis. In 2002, we opened more than 2,687 decedents’ estates, which includes supervised, unsupervised and small estates. We also opened over 169 trust files. Approximately 1,073 adult guardianship files were opened and more than 415 adult conservatorships were filed. We processed 7,012 minor guardianships and 181 minor conservatorships. In total, our staff processed over 6,734 new files in 2002!

Our delinquency department was busy as usual. More than 595 notices of complaint were sent out and 610 fiduciaries suspended. The court also issued approximately 309 orders to show cause on pending files. The Probate counter took in 1,212 wills for safekeeping and personally served more than 68,450 people. Our guardianship review department, which consists of court volunteers, court-appointed special advocates, Family Independence Agency, court staff and contracted reviewers, completed more than 1,014 adult guardianship reviews and 373 minor guardianship reviews, totaling approximately 1,387 reviews.

Our Mental Health Department was kept busy as well, receiving over 1,378 new petitions for filing and 155 new and renewed adult guardianship DDP files.

As you can see, while the above is merely a snapshot of the activity we conduct every day, the process involved in each function takes a great deal of knowledge and expertise.

I would like to take this opportunity to credit our staff for all of their hard work, which enables us to keep up with the daily flow of paper. With no increase in staff for the past several years, we have been able to maintain this level of efficiency and consistency only with the tremendous effort of the staff and their supervisors. Stay tuned!