



Case Processing Time Standards In State Courts, 2002-03

Knowledge & Information Services
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Background and Introduction

This report continues efforts originally carried out in 1984 by Dr. Howard P. Schwartz, Judicial Administrator of Kansas, to compile state-by-state information about case processing time standards and how courts monitor them. The National Center's Information Service updated Dr. Schwartz's work in 1992 and 1994. In 1999 the National Center distributed a new survey instrument to the 50 states and the District of Columbia to update information on the use and monitoring of their case processing time standards. Responses were received from 44 jurisdictions,¹ but the survey results were not published. In the fall of 2002, the National Center's Knowledge and Information Services Office (KIS) began another updating effort. States that had responded to the 1999 survey were asked to verify or amend the information they had sent that year. States that had not responded in 1999 were sent an updated copy of the 1999 survey instrument. KIS received responses from 41 jurisdictions.²

The information in this report summarizes the latest available information about case processing time standards in use among state courts. Most of this information is current as of late 2002 or early 2003, but for states that have not responded to recent survey efforts, information may be from 1999 or even 1994. Obviously, the age of some of this information reduces the reliability of some statements with respect to aggregate data. The year of each state's last response is indicated in the tables that follow this document (see esp. [Appendix A](#)).

Case processing time standards are continuously being adopted, implemented, amended, and reevaluated in various states around the country. States may use case processing time standards in their trial courts, appellate courts, or both as a means of monitoring case disposition times and evaluating their efforts in delay reduction. By providing an average time for disposing of different case types, along with specified events in the case disposition process to be used as beginning and ending points for the time measurement (e.g., arrest to disposition), case processing time standards allow courts to promote expedition and timeliness and to examine whether their goals for delay reduction and case management are being met. Case processing time standards help to identify areas that need improvement. Backlogged cases categorized by court, case type, or individual judge are more easily recognized, addressed, and prioritized. Although it is unanimously recognized that time standards are *average* goals and that certain extraordinary cases may need to be considered beyond the given standard, it is also widely

¹ The following states did not respond to the 1999 survey: Illinois, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

² The following states did not respond to the 2002 request for updates: Arizona, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

recognized that time standards provide a means to a more efficient and well-organized court system.

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Findings

As of fall 2002, 38 states and the District of Columbia had adopted some form of case processing time standards, three more than had done so in 1995. The states that have adopted time standards are as follows:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Maryland*
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana*
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire*
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming
- District of Columbia

* States that have adopted standards since 1995.

The actual standards that have been adopted by each state are listed in [Appendix B](#). Fifteen states have amended, updated, or added to their standards since 1995:

Alabama revised its trial standards in 1997. The beginning points of measurement in circuit, traffic, and district criminal cases were changed from arrest date to filing date. The standard time for case disposition was increased in circuit-criminal (other than capital or felony) and small-claims cases. Time increments were changed for traffic and district-criminal, district-civil, small-claims, and juvenile cases. In 1995 Alabama rescinded its former appellate standards, adding new standards that included time increments for the Supreme Court, Court of Civil Appeals, and Court of Criminal Appeals.

Alaska submitted new standards to the Supreme Court in 1999 that were approved and adopted on February 17, 2000. For trial courts, including criminal, civil, domestic, and juvenile cases, the court superseded a single recommended percentage of conclusion (at 100 percent) with incremental standards (at 75 percent, 90 percent, and 98 percent). The length of standards was extended for felony, misdemeanor, civil, and divorce cases. Juvenile standards were added, as well as incremental appellate standards (at 50 percent, 75 percent, and 90 percent). Appellate standards cover the period from submission to the court until publication of the decision.

Delaware made several changes to its standards in 2001. The starting date for time measurement was changed from arrest to indictment in all capital and felony cases. In the Court of Common Pleas, the starting date for time measurement in all criminal cases was changed from arrest to filing. Standards were developed and implemented for appellate courts, as well.

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Florida added small-claims time standards, as well as standards for appellate courts, in 2000.

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Hawaii added appellate standards in 1996.

Idaho added small-claims standards in 1997. The time standard for felony cases was extended; juvenile standards were amended; and an extra time increment was added to the standard for child support enforcement cases.

Massachusetts amended the time standard for felony cases in 1996.

Minnesota added appellate standards in 2002.

Mississippi adopted trial court time standards effective January 1, 2001, in addition to the appellate time standards adopted in 1995. The trial court time standards cover criminal, civil, domestic, and juvenile cases.

Missouri implemented new time increments for civil, criminal, and domestic cases. In addition, the time standard for felony cases was halved.

Montana added appellate standards in 1996.

Nebraska added juvenile standards in 1997.

New Hampshire adopted appellate standards in 2001 as part of an overall performance standards initiative.

New Jersey amended their standards in 2002. The amendments included adding additional domestic time standards, designating four different tracks for civil cases, and specifying pre-indictment and post-indictment criminal standards.

New Mexico amended their appellate standards in 1997.

New York extended its regular civil standards and added matrimonial standards in 1996.

North Dakota added district standards and standards for misdemeanor cases in 1996. The time standard for domestic cases was reduced.

Oregon updated its standards to reflect the merger of circuit and district courts in 1998.

(For details on the new or altered standards, please refer to the shaded sections in [Appendix B](#)).

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Since 1986, when Idaho became the first court to implement standards for its appellate courts, many other states have chosen to follow suit. As of 1995, 9 states had adopted some

form of appellate time standards, and as of fall 2002, 18 states had done so. The states that have adopted case processing time standards for their appellate courts are as follows:

- Alabama
- Alaska*
- Arkansas
- Delaware*
- Florida*
- Hawaii*
- Idaho
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Minnesota*
- Mississippi*
- Montana*
- New Hampshire*
- New Jersey
- New Mexico*
- Ohio
- Rhode Island
- Virginia

* States that have adopted appellate standards since 1995.

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The Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) adopted time standards for case processing in 1983 for civil, criminal, juvenile, and domestic cases. The American Bar Association (ABA) also proposed time standards in *Standards Relating to Trial Courts* (1992) for the same case types. Both sets of standards can be found in [Appendix C](#). Although Florida was the only state to entirely adopt the standards provided by COSCA (and has since made additions), many other states have used either the ABA or COSCA standards as a reference or guideline in developing their own standards. **COSCA no longer advocates the specific standards described in [Appendix C](#).**

Nine states have adopted the felony standard selected by COSCA. These states are Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Idaho is the only addition since 1995.

As of 1995, three states had adopted the felony standard specified by the ABA. These states were Delaware, Minnesota, and Virginia. Since then, Delaware has amended its felony standard so that it no longer matches that given by the ABA.

Five states have adopted the civil standards specified by COSCA. These states are Alaska, Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, and West Virginia. Since 1995 Florida has added an additional civil standard for small-claims cases that is not included in the COSCA standards.

Five jurisdictions have adopted the civil standards promulgated by the ABA—California, Oregon, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia. There have been no additions or changes to this list since 1995.

In Maryland, time standards for case processing were developed in 2001 using the ABA's *Standards Relating to Trial Courts*, with adjustments made according to Maryland rules and statutes. Although Georgia does not have case processing time standards, it does informally use the ABA *Standards of Timely Disposition* (ABA Standards 1992) to assess case processing time.

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In some states the case processing time standards are mandatory, while in others they are voluntary. Mandatory standards are generally viewed as requirements, sometimes paired with

consequences for failure to comply, whereas voluntary standards are usually understood to be goals or guidelines. The distinction is not always clear; for this report, the staff has accepted state characterizations. Of the 39 jurisdictions that have adopted time standards, 8 states have mandatory standards, and 20 states have voluntary standards. In 11 jurisdictions, the mandatory or voluntary quality of the standards depends upon case type. In Connecticut, the civil standards are mandatory, and the criminal standards are voluntary. In Washington, D.C., the civil standards are voluntary, and the criminal and domestic standards are mandatory. In Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Ohio, the trial court standards are mandatory, but the appellate standards are voluntary. In Hawaii and Mississippi, the trial court standards are voluntary while the appellate court standards are mandatory. (For details on which states have voluntary or mandatory standards please refer to [Appendix A.](#))

Many of the states that have adopted case processing time standards have also implemented measures to monitor compliance with the time standards. Though each state has individual methods of evaluation, the majority produce some form of computer-generated report that includes information on the number of cases filed and the number of cases disposed of within a given time period. Many states view the reports as informational—a way to distinguish areas that need improvement and to assess whether goals are being met—not as a basis for punitive action. Some states do, however, require explanation when time standards are exceeded:

Arkansas directs judges of circuit, chancery, probate, and juvenile courts to submit reports of cases that have been under advisement for more than 90 days to the Administrative Office at the end of each calendar quarter. Justices and judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals must submit reports of cases in which an opinion has not been issued within 60 days to the chief justice of the Supreme Court. The reports are reviewed and appropriate actions are taken to dispose of the cases. Willful noncompliance constitutes grounds for discipline.

Delaware requires a judge who wants to depart from the adopted criminal time standards to first provide a written explanation to the Supreme Court within 10 days of any order that would prevent compliance with the one-year standard.

(For details on state-specific monitoring procedures, please refer to [Appendix D.](#))

If states have procedures in place to produce periodic reports regarding performance against time standards, they sometimes make these reports available to the public, most often through an open records request or in their annual reports. Additionally, publishing the reports on the Web is becoming an increasingly popular way to make the reports accessible to the public. (For details about which states make time standards reports available to the public, please refer to [Appendix A.](#))

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Last Modified **June 23, 2003**

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1-800-616-6164

Appendix A: Case Processing Time Standards Overview

Rpt.

State	Response to 1999 survey?	Response to 2002 update request?	Have they adopted time standards? (If yes, when were they implemented?)	Do they have standards in trial courts, appellate, or both?	Are the standards voluntary or mandatory?	Are there procedures in place to produce reports about time standards?	Are reports about time standards made available to the public? (If yes, through what means?)
Alabama	Y	Y	1990(trial)/ revised 1997(trial)/ 1995(appellate)	Both	Voluntary (appellate)/ Mandatory (trial)	Y	N
Alaska	Y	Y	1982(trial)/ amended 2000(trial)/ 2000(appellate)	Both	Voluntary	Y	Annual Reports, Open Records Requests, Annual Report to Legislature
Arizona	Y	N	1989	Trial	Voluntary	N	N
Arkansas	Y	Y	1991	Both	Voluntary (appellate)/ Mandatory (trial)	Y	Open Records Request
California	Y	Y	1987	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Annual Reports, Web Site
Colorado	Y	Y	1989	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Annual Reports, Open Records Requests
Connecticut	Y	Y	1994	Trial	Voluntary (criminal)/ Mandatory (civil)	Y	Annual Reports, Open Records Requests, Court Publications
Delaware	Y	Y	1990(criminal)/ 1991(civil)/ amended 2001(criminal)/ 2001(appellate)	Both	Voluntary (appellate)/ Mandatory (trial)	Y	Open Records Request
Florida	Y	Y	1985 (trial)/ 2000(appellate)	Both	Voluntary	Y	Contacting the OSCA Staff
Georgia	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hawaii	Y	Y	1982(trial)/ 1996(appellate)	Both	Voluntary (trial)/ Mandatory (appellate)	Y	Annual Statistical Report, Annual Variance Report
Idaho	Y	Y	1984(trial)/ 1986(appellate)/ amended 1997(trial)	Both	Voluntary	Y	Open Records Request
Illinois	N	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indiana	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Iowa	Y	Y	1985/ amended 1988	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Annual Reports, Web Site
Kansas	Y	Y	1980	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Annual Reports, Court Publications
Kentucky	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	Y	Y	1993	Both	Voluntary	N	N
Maine	N	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maryland	Y	Y	2001	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Open Records Request
Massachusetts	Y	Y	1988/ amended (felony) 1996	Trial	Mandatory	Y	Annual Reports
Michigan	Y	Y	1991	Both	Voluntary (appellate)/ Mandatory (trial)	Y	May Be Available Locally
Minnesota	Y	Y	1985(trial)/ amended 1992(trial)/ 2002(appellate)	Both	Voluntary (appellate)/ Mandatory (trial)	Y	Open Records Request
Mississippi	Y	Y	1995(appellate)/ 2002(trial)	Both	Voluntary (trial)/ Mandatory (appellate)	Y	By Request
Missouri	Y	Y	1993/ amended 1997	Trial	Mandatory	Y	Annual Reports, Web Site

State	Response to 1999 survey?	Response to 2002 update request?	Have they adopted time standards? (If yes, when were they implemented?)	Do they have standards in trial courts, appellate, or both?	Are the standards voluntary or mandatory?	Are there procedures in place to produce reports about time standards?	Are reports about time standards made available to the public? (If yes, through what means?)
Montana	Y	Y	1996	Appellate	Voluntary	Y	N
Nebraska	Y	Y	1982/1997(juvenile)	Trial	Voluntary	Y	N
Nevada	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire	N	N	2001	Appellate	Voluntary	?	?
New Jersey	Y	Y	1982/amended 2002	Both	Voluntary (appellate)/ Mandatory (trial)	Y	Court Publications, Web Site
New Mexico	Y	N	1990/ amended 1997(appellate)	Both	Mandatory	Y	Open Records Request
New York	Y	Y	1970/ revised 1979/ revised 1996	Trial	Mandatory	Y	Open Records Request, Web Site
North Carolina	N	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	Y	Y	1980/ amended 1996	Trial	Mandatory	Y	Annual Reports, Open Records Requests, Court Publications
Ohio	Y	Y	1971(common pleas, appellate)/ 1975(municipal and county)	Both	Voluntary (appellate)/ Mandatory (trial)	Y	Annual Reports, Open Records Requests, Court Publications, Newspapers
Oklahoma	N	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oregon	Y	N	1990/amended 1991/ updated 1998	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Open Records Request
Pennsylvania	N	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rhode Island	Y	Y	1977	Both	Voluntary	Y	Court Publications
South Carolina	Y	Y	1983/revised 1992	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Annual Reports, Open Records Requests
South Dakota	Y	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Texas	N	N	1984/readopted 1987	Trial	Voluntary	?	?
Utah	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vermont	Y	Y	1981	Trial	Mandatory	Y	Annual Reports, Web Site, Newspapers, Court/Bar Publications
Virginia	Y	Y	1989(appellate)/ 1991(trial)/ 1994(General District Court)	Both	Voluntary	Y	Annual Report
Washington	Y	Y	1992/ revised 1997	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Annual Report, Court Publications
West Virginia	N	N	1986	Trial	Mandatory	?	?
Wisconsin	Y	Y	1985	Trial	Voluntary	Y	Annual Report, Web Site
Wyoming	N	N	1984(felonies)/ 1986(misdemeanors)	Trial	Mandatory	?	?
District of Columbia	Y	Y	1991	Trial	Voluntary (civil) Mandatory (criminal and domestic)	Y	N

?—No information—question was new in the 1999 survey, to which this state did not respond.

Appendix B: Case Processing Time Standards

[AL](#) : [AK](#) : [AZ](#) : [AR](#) : [CA](#) : [CO](#) : [CT](#) : [DC](#) : [DE](#) : [FL](#) : [GA](#) : [HI](#) : [ID](#) : [IL](#) : [IN](#) : [IA](#) : [KS](#) : [KY](#) : [LA](#) : [ME](#) :
[MD](#) : [MA](#) : [MI](#) : [MN](#) : [MS](#) : [MO](#) : [MT](#) : [NE](#) : [NV](#) : [NH](#) : [NJ](#) : [NM](#) : [NY](#) : [NC](#) : [ND](#) : [OH](#) : [OK](#) : [OR](#) : [PA](#) :
[RI](#) : [SC](#) : [SD](#) : [TN](#) : [TX](#) : [UT](#) : [VT](#) : [VA](#) : [WA](#) : [WV](#) : [WI](#) : [WY](#)

[Rpt.](#)

ALABAMA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1990; revised 1997

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

CIRCUIT:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 18 months
- 95% within 24 months
- 100% within 30 months

DISTRICT:

(filing to disposition)

- 95% within 10 months
- 100% within 15 months

SMALL CLAIMS:

(filing to disposition)

- 95% within 8 months
- 100% within 12 months

CRIMINAL

CIRCUIT:

CAPITAL

(arrest to disposition)

- 90% within 9 months
- 100% within 12 months

FELONY

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 9 months
- 100% within 12 months

OTHER

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 9 months
- 100% within 12 months

DISTRICT:

TRAFFIC AND MISDEMEANORS

(filing to disposition)

- 95% within 4 months
- 100% within 6 months

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

(petition date to disposition)

- 80% within 4 months
- 100% within 9 months

ALABAMA cont.

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 6 months
- 98% within 12 months
- 100% within 18 months

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1989; rescinded April 10, 1995

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

THE COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS AND THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(filing of the notice of appeal to resolution)

- 75% within 290 days
- 95% within 365 days

SUPREME COURT:

(filing to resolution)

- 50% within 290 days
- 90% within 365 days

Notes:

Time standards apply to all cases. However, no punitive action is taken against a judge if the standards are exceeded.

The *goals* for the time standards are public information. However, only the individual judge, his/her presiding judge, the chief justice, and the state court administrator receive case management reports/summaries providing caseload statistics. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly and semiannually.

They consider the most useful measures of court timeliness to be *% of cases resolved within days/months* (trial courts) and *percentage of cases resolved within existing time standards* (appellate courts).

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ALASKA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Order
EFFECTIVE DATE: 1982; amended February 17, 2000
STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

GENERAL:

(complaint to judgment)

- 75% within 365 days
- 90% within 540 days
- 98% within 720 days

CIVIL POST-TRIAL MOTIONS:

(motion ripe to ruling)

- 98% within 30 days

SMALL CLAIMS:

(complaint to judgment)

- 75% within 75 days
- 90% within 90 days
- 98% within 120 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arrest to trial)

- 75% within 120 days
- 90% within 210 days
- 98% within 270 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(filing to trial)

- 75% within 75 days
- 90% within 120 days
- 98% within 180 days

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

(complaint to judgment)

- 75% within 75 days
- 90% within 120 days
- 98% within 180 days

DOMESTIC

DIVORCE:

(complaint to judgment)

- 75% within 270 days
- 90% within 365 days
- 98% within 540 days

CUSTODY/CHILD SUPPORT:

(post-judgment motion)

- 75% within 90 days
- 90% within 120 days
- 98% within 180 days

ALASKA cont.

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2000

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

EXPEDITED CASES:

(submission to publication of decision)

- 50% within 3 months
- 75% within 4 months
- 90% within 6 months

ALL CASES:

(submission to publication of decision)

- 50% within 6 months
- 75% within 9 months
- 90% within 1 year

Notes:

In Appellate Courts, all standards over one year old are treated in an expedited manner and listed separately by the appellate clerk in the reports.

Alaska finds the most useful measure of court timeliness to be *% of cases exceeding existing time standards classified by court location.*

Case processing time standards reports are published in court publications and are available to the public through annual reports and open records requests.

Reports/summaries are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the presiding/chief judge, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator. These reports/summaries are reviewed quarterly.

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ARIZONA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1989

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

GENERAL:

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 9 months
- 95% within 18 months
- 99% with 24 months

LIMITED:

SMALL CLAIMS

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 45 days
- 99% within 60 days

FORCIBLE DETAINERS

(filing to termination)

- 99% within 5 days

HARASSMENT

(request to hearing)

- 99% within 10 days

TRAFFIC

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 45 days
- 99% within 60 days

GARNISHMENT

(request to hearing)

- 99% within 10 days

(answer filed to judgment)

- 99% within 90 days

CRIMINAL

GENERAL:

FELONY

(filing to sentencing)

- 90% within 100 days
- 99% within 180 days

LIMITED:

MISDEMEANOR (NON-TRAFFIC)

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 60 days
- 99% within 90 days

TRAFFIC:

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 60 days
- 99% within 90 days

INITIAL APPEARANCE

(arrest to hearing)

- 100% within 24 hours

ARIZONA cont.

PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

(initial appearance to preliminary hearings)

- 90% within 15 days

ARRAIGNMENT

(preliminary hearings to arraignment)

- 90% within 10 days
- 98% within 15 days

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 3 months
- 95% within 6 months
- 99% within 12 months

LIMITED:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ORDERS OF PROTECTION

(date required by party under O.P. to hearing)

- 99% within 10 days

TAX COURT

SMALL-CLAIMS CASES:

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 7 months
- 95% within 9 months
- 99% within 12 months

TAX CASES:

(filing to termination)

- 90% within 9 months
- 95% within 12 months
- 99% within 24 months

PROBATE

CONSENTED:

(joinder of issue to termination)

- 99% within 3 months

APPELLATE COURTS

None: Recommended as part of Appellate Case Processing Study in 1995, but not formally adopted by the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals uses “informal” time standards that may vary from presiding judge to presiding judge.

ARIZONA cont.

Notes:

Arizona did not respond to the Fall 2002 Update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1999.

Since 1998 the Supreme Court has made a concerted effort to implement felony case processing standards, and they have been put in statute as “goals.”

They do not currently have, but are working on, procedures to document court performance relevant to time standards and goals.

In order to accommodate special problems within individual cases, there are no time standards set at 100%. Instead, the final goal of 100% (ABA Standards) has been adjusted to 99%.

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ARKANSAS

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Administrative Order # 3
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1991
STATUS: Mandatory

CIRCUIT, CHANCERY, PROBATE, JUVENILE

TRIAL BRIEFS:

(completion of trial to filing of brief)

- 100% within 30 days

TRIAL COURT DECISIONS:

(final submission to decision)

- 100% within 90 days

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Administrative Order #3
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1991
STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

GENERAL:

(case's submission to opinion)

- 100% within 60 days

Notes:

Judges of circuit, chancery, probate, and juvenile courts are directed to submit reports of cases that have been under advisement for more than 90 days to the Administrative Office at the end of each calendar quarter. If the AOC determines that the parties or their counsel did not cause the delay, it recommends to the Supreme Court that a judge be assigned to dispose of the delayed case. Noncompliance with the order constitutes grounds for discipline.

Justices and judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are directed to submit reports of cases in which an opinion has not been issued within 60 days to the chief justice of the Supreme Court. The report will be reviewed and reassigned or appropriate actions will be taken to dispose of the case. Willful noncompliance will constitute grounds for discipline.

Reports are available to the public through open records requests. Reports/summaries are received by the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, and the Supreme Court members, and are reviewed quarterly.

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CALIFORNIA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: State and Judicial Council

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1987

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 12 months
- 98% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

LIMITED:

GENERAL

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 12 months
- 98% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

UNLAWFUL DETAINER

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 30 days
- 100% within 45 days

SMALL CLAIMS

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 70 days
- 100% within 90 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(appearance to disposition)

- 100% within 1 year

FELONY PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS:

(first court appearance to disposition by certified plea, finding of probable cause, or dismissal)

- 90% within 30 days
- 98% within 45 days
- 100% within 90 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(first court appearance to disposition)

- 90% within 30 days
- 98% within 90 days
- 100% within 120 days

JUVENILE

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

CALIFORNIA cont.

Notes:

Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through annual reports, the Web site, and other court publications.

Reports/summaries containing time standards are reviewed yearly, and are received by the magistrates, clerk of court, all judges, state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief judge, and the Supreme Court members.

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COLORADO

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Directive

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 21, 1989

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

GENERAL

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 15 months

COUNTY COURT

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

SUMMARY

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 30 days

LIMITED:

COUNTY COURT

(filing to disposition)

- 95% within 10 months
- 100% within 15 months

SUMMARY CIVIL:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 30 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(not-guilty plea to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

JUVENILE

DETENTION AND SHELTER HEARINGS:

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 48 hours

ADJUDICATORY OR TRANSFER (WAIVER HEARINGS):

(filing of petition to hearing)

- 100% within 90 days

DISPOSITION HEARINGS:

(adjudicatory hearing to dispositional hearing)

- 100% within 45 days

DOMESTIC

NON-CONTESTED DIVORCE:

(date jurisdiction attaches to all parties to conclusion)

- 100% within 6 months

CONTESTED ACTIONS:

(date jurisdiction attaches to all parties to conclusion)

- 100% within 12 months

INITIAL TEMPORARY ORDER:

(setting date to hearing)

- 100% within 4 weeks

COLORADO cont.

CONTEMPT CITATIONS:

(setting date to hearing)

- 100% within 4 weeks

MAITENENCE, SUPPORT, AND CUSTODY:

(setting date to hearing)

- 100% within 2 months (less than 2 hours of court time)
- 100% within 6 months (½ day of court time)

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Reports are available to the public through open records requests, and are published in the annual reports.

The clerk of court, the presiding/chief judge, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, and the AOC staff receive reports/summaries. These reports/summaries are reviewed both monthly and quarterly.

The measure that Colorado finds to be most useful in determining court timeliness is *% of cases exceeding existing time standards*.

Colorado is currently in the process of making some changes that will include new standards. However, they do not estimate having any recommendations to the Supreme Court until 2004.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

CONNECTICUT

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Administrative Policy (civil); Chief Judge (criminal)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1994

STATUS: Mandatory (civil); Voluntary (criminal)

CIVIL

GENERAL:

(complaint to close pleadings)

- 100% within 12 months

CONTRACT COLLECTION AND SMALL CLAIMS:

(complaint to close pleadings)

- 100% within 6 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

CLASS D AND UNCLASSIFIED

(arrest to entry of plea)

- 100% within 90 days

(arrest to disposition)

- 100% within 9 months

CLASS B AND CLASS C

(arrest to entry of plea)

- 100% within 90 days

(arrest to disposition)

- 100% within 1 year

CLASS A

(arrest to entry of plea)

- 100% within 90 days

(arrest to disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

MISDEMEANORS:

(arrest to entry of plea)

- 100% within 60 days

(arrest to disposition)

- 100% within 120 days

JUVENILE

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

CONNECTICUT cont.

Notes:

For Civil Trial Courts, Connecticut finds the most helpful measure of court timeliness to be *age of pending caseload*. For Criminal Courts, the most helpful measure is *% of cases exceeding time standards classified by court location*.

Reports/summaries with time standards are available to the public through open records requests, and are published in the annual report and in court publications.

Reports/summaries are received by the clerk of court, the presiding/chief judge, the division manager, the caseload management/delay reduction unit, the chief court administrator, the chief justice, and administrative personnel. Reports/summaries with time standards are reviewed monthly and semiannually.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

DELAWARE

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Superior Court Civil Administrative Order (civil); Supreme Court Criminal Administrative Directive #130 (criminal)

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 1991 (civil); May 16, 1990 (criminal) ; amended July 11, 2001

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 365 days
- 98% within 550 days
- 100% within 730 days

CRIMINAL

CAPITAL:

(indictment to trial and/or adjudication)

- 100% within 1 year

SUPERIOR COURT:

(indictment/information to adjudication)

- 90% within 120 days
- 98% within 180 days
- 100% within 1 year

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS:

(filing to adjudication)

- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

CRIMINAL OR DELINQUENCY:

(filing to adjudication)

- 80% within 60 days
- 100% within 120 days

EFFECTIVE JULY 11, 2003

- 90% within 45 days
- 100% within 90 days

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Administrative Directive #94

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 11, 2001

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

ORAL ARGUMENTS:

(answering brief to filing)

- 100% within 45 days

ISSUING OF DECISION:

(submission to issuance)

- 100% within 90 days

DELAWARE cont.

Notes:

Reports/summaries with standards are received by the presiding/chief trial and appellate judges, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, and the Supreme Court members.

Reports/summaries with time standards are reviewed monthly and are made available to the public through open records requests.

Delaware finds *median time to disposition (number of days from filing to disposition)* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

In 2000 the Speedy Trial Committee observed that the courts are not responsible for moving cases through the justice system between the time of arrest and indictment. The change of the beginning time point in felony and capital cases from arrest to indictment reflects this observation.

In order for a judge to depart from the time guidelines for a capital case, he/she must provide written explanation to the Superior Court within 10 days of any order that would preclude compliance with the 1 year standard.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

FLORIDA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Order, approved for inclusion in the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration April 12, 1985

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1985

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

NON-JURY

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

JURY

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

SMALL CLAIMS:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 95 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arrest to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

MISDEMEANOR:

(arrest to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

DETENTION HEARING:

(arrest to hearing)

- 100% within 24 hours

ADJUDICATORY HEARING FOR DEPENDENCY:

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 180 days

ADJUDICATORY HEARING FOR DELINQUENCY:

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 90 days

ADJUDICATORY HEARING (DETAINED):

(petition to hearing)

- 100% within 21 days

DOMESTIC

UNCONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

CONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

PROBATE

UNCONTESTED:

(filing to discharge)

- 100% within 12 months

FLORIDA cont.

CONTESTED:

(filing to discharge)

- 100% within 24 months

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Rule

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2000

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

SUPREME AND DISTRICT COURTS OF APPEAL:

(oral argument or submission to rendering of a decision)

- 100% within 180 days

Notes:

Reports with time standards are received by the presiding/chief trial and appellate judges, OSCA staff, the chief justice, Supreme Court members, the trial court administrator, and the judicial council.

Time standards are available to the public by contacting the OSCA staff.

Both appellate and trial committees on performance and accountability document court performance relevant to time standards.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

GEORGIA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Georgia does not have, nor are they considering the development of, case processing time standards. However, it does informally use the ABA Standards of Timely Disposition (ABA Standards 1992) to assess case processing time and to produce an information report received by general jurisdiction courts upon request.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

HAWAII

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Developed as part of the judiciary's planning efforts

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1982

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

CIRCUIT:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 360 days

DISTRICT:

REGULAR

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 60 days

SMALL CLAIMS

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 30 days

CRIMINAL

CIRCUIT:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 180 days

DISTRICT:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 30 days

JUVENILE

DETENTION HEARING:

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 24 hours

LAW VIOLATIONS AND STATUS OFFENSES:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

PROBATE

REGULAR:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 720 days

SMALL ESTATES:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 360 days

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Developed as part of the judiciary's planning effort

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 11, 1996

STATUS: Mandatory

STANDARDS

SUPREME COURT:

(oral argument or submission to opinion)

- 100% within 12 months

HAWAII cont.

INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS:
(oral argument or submission to opinion)

- 100% within 6 months

Notes:

Hawaii finds that the *median time from filing to termination* to be the most helpful measurement of court timeliness.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, the presiding/chief judge of both trial and appellate courts, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator, and are reviewed quarterly, semiannually, and yearly.

Time standards reports are available to the public through the annual statistical report and the annual variance report.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

IDAHO

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Court Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1984; amended 1997

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

MAGISTRATE (EXCEPT PROBATE):

(complaint to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

DISTRICT:

(complaint to disposition)

- 100% within 540 days

SMALL CLAIMS:

(complaint to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

CRIMINAL

FELONIES:

MAGISTRATE

(first appearance to bind over order)

- 100% within 30 days

DISTRICT

(first appearance to disposition)

- 100% within 150 days

MISDEMEANORS, DUI CASES, AND TRAFFIC:

(first appearance to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

JUVINILE CORRECTIONS ACT CASES:

(admit/deny hearing to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

INFRACTIONS:

(first appearance to disposition)

- 100% within 60 days

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(complaint to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT:

(filing to trial)

- 100% within 60 days

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

IDAHO cont.

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Court Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1986

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

APPEALS:

(judgment to file notice of appeal)

- 100% in 42 days

(notice to lodge/transcript record)

- 100% within 42 days

(lodging to settle record)

- 100% within 21 days

(record filed to appellate brief)

- 100% in 35 days

(appellate brief filed to respondent brief)

- 100% within 28 days

(respondent brief filed to reply brief)

- 100% within 0 days

(appeal is at issue)

- 100% within 175 days

(at issue to screening/assignment retention)

- 100% within 21 days

(assignment/retention to oral argument)

- 100% in 90-180 days

(oral argument to opinion)

- 100% within 90 days

(opinion to remittitur)

- 100% within 42 days

TOTAL TIME:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 418-508 days

Notes:

These time standards are used as a guideline for judges, lawyers, and litigants to assist in the determination of the average length of time it should take to conclude a case in the trial courts.

It was ordered in 1997 that these time standards be communicated to judges and lawyers in order to enlist their support in achieving the time goals established.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, all judges, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, and the trial court administrator, and are reviewed monthly and yearly.

Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through open records requests.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

ILLINOIS

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Illinois did not respond to the 1999 survey or to the Fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1995.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

INDIANA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes

Indiana has not adopted formal case processing time standards. Some courts have chosen to use the ABA standards as informal guidelines to case processing; however, this practice is neither uniform nor required. Indiana uses a caseload management system to monitor the “minutes per type” of specific case categories, but does not have official time standards by which these cases must be processed.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

IOWA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Court Rule

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1985; amended 1988

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

NON-JURY:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

JURY:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arrest to trial)

- 100% within 6 months

MISDEMEANORS:

(arrest to trial)

- 100% within 4 months

JUVENILE

DETENTION AND SHELTER HEARINGS:

(detention facility admission to hearing)

- 100% within 24 hours

(admission to shelter care facility pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.21 court order to hearing)

- 100% within 48 hours

PRE-ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS FOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH EXAMINATIONS:

(court-ordered admission to detention or shelter care facility to hearing)

- 100% within 15 hours

(filing to hearing **if juvenile is not in detention or shelter care facility**)

- 100% within 48 hours

ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS:

(court-ordered admission to detention or shelter care facility to hearing)

- 100% within 15 days

(filing to hearing **if juvenile is not in detention or shelter care facility**)

- 100% within 30 days

(entry of order for physical or mental examination to hearing)

- 100% within 45 days

DISPOSITIONAL HEARINGS:

JUVENILE IS IN A DETENTION OR SHELTER CARE FACILITY

(entry of adjudicatory order to hearing)

- 100% within 30 days

JUVENILE IS NOT IN A DETENTION OR SHELTER CARE FACILITY

(entry of adjudicatory order to hearing)

- 100% within 40 days

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS:

(filing to hearing)

- 100% within 60 days

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 5 months

IOWA cont.

DOMESTIC

UNCONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 4 months

CONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 8 months

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

The Iowa Judicial Branch had plans to implement a new court management information system in 2000. This system would monitor the number of days from petition to disposition. The current (1999) manual system did not collect the information necessary to produce case processing analyses. The computer-generated reports will allow the Judicial Branch for the first time to measure trial court compliance with the case processing time standards.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

KANSAS

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Rule

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1980

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 6 months

LIMITED:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 2 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(first appearance to trial or plea)

- 100% within 120 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(first appearance to trial or plea)

- 100% within 60 days

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 4 months

PROBATE

GENERAL:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 1 year

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, both the presiding/chief trial and appellate judges, the state court administrator, the chief justice, Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator, and are reviewed quarterly.

Kansas finds *median time to disposition* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

KENTUCKY

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Currently Kentucky does not have, nor is it considering the development of, case processing time standards.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

LOUISIANA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Administration Rules Part G, §6

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1993

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

GENERAL:

(filing to conclusion)

- 100% within 9 months

SUMMARY:

(service of process to conclusion)

- 100% within 45 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

- Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701

MISDEMEANORS:

- Code of Criminal Procedure Article 701. Part G, §2

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

- Children's Code Provisions

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to conclusion)

- 100% within 4 months

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Resolution dated June 3, 1993

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1993

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

SUPREME COURT (ADMINISTRATIVE RULE, PART J):

APPEALS

- opinion by the end of the 6-week cycle

WRIT APPLICATIONS

(filing to decision on the writ)

- 100% within 120 days

(writ grant to oral argument)

- 100% within 90 days

(oral argument to decision)

- 100% within the following 6-week cycle.

CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL:

(payment of costs by appellant to lodging of a civil appeal)

- 100% within 105 days

(signing of the order of appeal to lodging of a criminal appeal)

- 100% within 120 days

(lodging of the appeal to the argument)

- 100% within 175 days

LOUISIANA cont.

(argument to rendering of opinion)

- 100% within 70 days

Notes:

Louisiana monitors and reports time standards relative to the Supreme Court and the five Courts of Appeal

Reports/summaries with time standards are available in the general annual report and the report on judicial performance.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

MAINE

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Maine did not respond to the 1999 survey. However, in fall 2002 they did respond to the update request and answered that they have not adopted case processing time standards.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

MARYLAND

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Judicial Council

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 2001

STATUS: Voluntary

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Maryland did not provide actual case processing time standards, though they did complete a survey, and confirm that standards had been adopted as of 2001.

In 1999 Maryland was in the process of implementing case processing time standards for all major case types in civil, family, criminal, and juvenile courts. In April of 2001, the Judicial Council adopted time standards for all major case types. Standards were developed using the ABA's Standards Relating to Trial Courts, with adjustments made according to Maryland rules and statutes.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

MASSACHUSETTS

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Standing Order I-88
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1988; amended 1996 (felony)
STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

ACCELERATED TRACK (X)

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

FAST TRACK (F)

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 14 months

AVERAGE TRACK (A)

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 36 months

LIMITED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 24 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arraignment to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

JUVENILE

ARRAIGNMENT/BAIL DETERMINATION:

(entering a detention facility by any person under arrest to arraignment/bail determination)

- 100% within the next court business day

TRANSFER HEARING PART A:

(complaint to transfer hearing Part A)

- 100% within 30 days

TRANSFER HEARING PART B:

(Part A to Part B)

- 100% within 45 days

NON-JURY CASES:

FOR PERSON IN DETENTION

(complaint or transfer hearing Part B to adjudication)

- 100% within 21 days

FOR PERSON NOT IN DETENTION

(complaint or transfer hearing Part B to adjudication)

- 100% within 30 days

JURY CAES:

(complaint to adjudication)

- 100% within 60 days

CARE AND PROTECTION:

(petition to adjudication)

- 100% within 75 days

MASSACHUSETTS cont.

PROBATE AND FAMILY

UNCONTESTED:

(request for trial to trial)

- 100% within 1 month

CONTESTED:

(request for trial to trial)

- 100% within 3 months

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, the presiding chief judge of both trial and appellate courts, the caseload management/delay reduction unit, the state court administrator, the chief justice, and the regional administration justices. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly and semiannually.

The age of civil and criminal data is available in the annual reports.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

MICHIGAN

TRIAL COURTS³

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Administrative Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 1991

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

CIRCUIT:

(filing to conclusion)

- 75% within 12 months
- 95% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

DISTRICT:

GENERAL

(filing to conclusion)

- 90% within 6 months
- 98% within 9 months
- 100% within 12 months

SUMMARY:

NON-JURY TRIAL

(date of service to conclusion)

- 100% within 35 days

JURY TRIAL

(date of service to conclusion)

- 100% within 63 days

CRIMINAL

CIRCUIT:

(date of entry of order binding the defendant over to circuit court to conclusion)

- 90% within 91 days
- 98% within 154 days
- 100% within 10 months

DISTRICT:

FELONY

(arraignment to conclusion of preliminary examination)

- 100% within 12 days

MISDEMEANOR

(first appearance to adjudication or conclusion)

- 90% within 63 days
- 98% within 91 days
- 100% within 126 days

³ On May 20, 2003, the Michigan Supreme Court entered [Order 2003-23](#), a proposed administrative order, for comment. The order would change the case processing time standards currently applicable in Michigan trial courts. The comment period expires September 1, 2003.

MICHIGAN cont.

JUVENILE

IN-CUSTODY:

(petitions/complaints to disposition)

- 90% within 84 days
- 100% within 98 days

NON-CUSTODY:

(authorization of petition to disposition)

- 75% within 119 days
- 90% within 6 months
- 100% within 7 months

DOMESTIC

DIVORCE WITHOUT CHILDREN:

(filing to conclusion)

- 90% within 91 days
- 98% within 9 months
- 100% within 12 months

DIVORCE WITH CHILDREN:

(filing to conclusion)

- 90% within 8 months
- 98% within 10 months
- 100% within 12 months

PATERNITY:

(date of service to conclusion)

- 90% within 3 months
- 98% within 6 months
- 100% within 12 months

INITIATING INTERSTATE:

(filing to conclusion)

- 100% within 24 hours

RESPONDING INTERSTATE:

(filing to conclusion)

- 90% within 91 days
- 98% within 6 months
- 100% within 12 months

CHILD CUSTODY:

(notice of request or hearing to conclusion)

- 100% within 91 days

PROBATE

CONTESTED:

(joinder of issue to resolution)

- 75% within 6 months
- 90% within 9 months
- 100% within 12 months

MICHIGAN cont.

APPEALS TO THE CIRCUIT COURT

APPEALS FROM COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION:

(filing of claim of appeal to conclusion)

- 100% within 154 days

APPEALS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES:

(filing to conclusion)

- 100% within 154 days

EXTRAORDINARY WRITS:

(filing to conclusion)

- 98% within 35 days
- 100% within 91 days

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: (UNKNOWN)

EFFECTIVE DATE: (UNKNOWN)

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

COURT OF APPEALS:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 18 months⁴

Notes:

Reports/summaries with time standards are reviewed regularly and are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the caseload management/delay reduction unit, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, trial court administrators, administrative personnel, and judicial council.

Case processing time standards reports are generated by local courts and provided on request.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

⁴ Under the terms of the court's ongoing Delay Reduction Project and if necessary funding is provided, the standard will become 95% within 18 months for cases filed on or after October 1, 2003. See reports about the [court's special projects](#).

MINNESOTA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Conference of Chief Judges

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1985; amended 1992

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 12 months
- 97% within 18 months
- 99% within 24 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(first appearance to disposition)

- 90% within 120 days
- 97% within 180 days
- 99% within 1 year

MISDEMEANORS:

GENERAL

(first appearance to disposition)

- 90% within 120 days
- 97% within 150 days
- 99% within 180 days

GROSS

(first appearance to disposition)

- 90% within 4 months
- 97% within 6 months
- 99% within 12 months

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 3 months
- 97% within 5 months
- 99% within 12 months

DOMESTIC

DISSOLUTION:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 12 months
- 97% within 18 months
- 99% within 24 months

SUPPORT:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 6 months
- 97% within 9 months
- 99% within 12 months

MINNESOTA cont.

ADOPTION:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 4 months
- 97% within 6 months
- 99% within 12 months

OTHER FAMILY:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 12 months
- 97% within 18 months
- 99% within 24 months

ABUSE:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 2 months
- 97% within 3 months
- 99% within 4 months

PROBATE

GENERAL:

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 18 months
- 97% within 21 months
- 99% within 24 months

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: 480A.08 Decision of the Court

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2002

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

COURT OF APPEALS:

(oral argument or final submission of briefs to decision)

- 100% in 90 days

Notes:

Although the appellate standards are not formalized, both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals track cases for timelines to ensure the guidelines are met.

Reports/summaries with time standards are posted on the court system intranet for view by all court employees.

Reports/summaries are available to the public in form of a print out upon request.

Minnesota finds *% of cases resolved within existing time standards* and *clearance rates* to be the most helpful measures of court timeliness.

There are no statutory time frames set in stone for SPC appeals. However, according to the Minnesota Rules of Court (2002), the time frames are as follows:

- One has 30 days to file a petition
- One has 20 days to respond to this petition
- SPC the has 40 days to consider the petition

MISSISSIPPI

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Administrative Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2002

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

GENERAL:

(filing to conclusion)

- 100% within 18 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arraignment to conclusion)

- 100% within 270 days

MISDEMEANOR (ORIGINATING IN CIRCUIT OR COUNTY COURT):

(filing to conclusion)

- 100% within 120 days

PRELIMINARY HEARING

(arrest or initial appearance to preliminary hearing)

- 100% within 30 days

POST-TRIAL MOTIONS

(arrest or initial appearance to conclusion)

- 100% within 30 days

SENTENCING

(verdict or ruling on post-trial motions to sentencing)

- 100% within 90 days

DOMESTIC

UNCONTESTED:

(filing of complaint to conclusion)

- 100% within 180 days

CONTESTED:

(filing of complaint to conclusion)

- 100% within 1 year

JUVENILE

DETENTION/SHELTER HEARINGS:

(taking into temporary custody to detention/shelter hearing)

- 100% within 48 hours

ADJUDICATORY HEARING (IF IN DETENTION):

(first detention hearing to adjudicatory hearing)

- 100% within 21 days

ADJUDICATORY HEARING (IF IN SHELTER):

(taking into custody to adjudicatory hearing)

- 100% within 21 days

ADJUDICATORY HEARING (IF NOT DETAINED, NOT IN SHELTER, NOT IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY):

(filing of petition to adjudicatory hearing)

- 100% within 90 days

DISPOSITION HEARING:

(adjudicatory hearing to disposition hearing)

- 100% within 14 days

MISSISSIPPI cont.

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Statutory

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1995

STATUS: Mandatory

STANDARDS

COURT OF APPEALS:

(final briefs filed with court to issuing of a decision)

- 100% within 270 days

SUPREME COURT (CASES WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION):

(final briefs filed with court to issuing of a decision)

- 100% within 270 days

SUPREME COURT (CASES RECEIVED ON CERTIORARI FROM COURT OF APPEALS):

(final briefs filed with court to issuing of a decision)

- 100% within 180 days

Notes:

For trial courts, the standards excuse individual cases in which the court determines by written order that exceptional circumstances exist and for which a continuing review should occur.

For felony cases, Mississippi uses the time frame of arraignment to conclusion as a basis for case processing measurement.

For trial and appellate courts, Mississippi finds *case activity by calendar* to be the most useful measure of court timeliness.

Mississippi produces manual reports relevant to time standards. Both the AOC and local entities are authority for the reporting schedule.

Reports with time standards are received by the presiding/chief appellate judge, the state court administrator, the chief justice, and the Supreme Court members. The reports relevant to time standards are reviewed monthly.

Reports with time standards are not published, but are available to the public upon request.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

MISSOURI

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Court Operating Rule #17

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1993; amended January 1, 1997

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

CIRCUIT:

(filing to disposition)

- 50% within 12 months
- 90% within 18 months
- 98% within 24 months

ASSOCIATE:

(filing to disposition)

- 50% within 4 months
- 90% within 6 months
- 98% within 12 months

CRIMINAL

CIRCUIT:

FELONY

(indictment to disposition**excluding period of time during which a warrant is outstanding**)

- 50% within 4 months
- 90% within 8 months
- 98% within 12 months

ASSOCIATE:

(indictment to disposition**excluding period of time during which a warrant is outstanding**)

- 50% within 3 months
- 90% within 4 months
- 98% within 6 months

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to disposition)

- 50% within 4 months
- 90% within 8 months
- 98% within 12 months

APPELLATE COURTS

none

MISSOURI cont.

Notes:

The final standard is set at less than 100 percent because it is recognized that litigation involving extraordinary circumstances may require additional time.

The age of a case at resolution is used to determine compliance with the standards.

The Office of State Courts Administrator provides implementation assistance in the following forms:

- 1.) the provision of management reports showing the status of cases
- 2.) the provision of information and training on effective case management
- 3.) the identification of courts needing additional judicial and non-judicial resources and, as possible, the provision of these courts with the necessary resources.

Court Operating Rule #17 was ordered published in the *Journal of the Missouri Bar* and the *South Western Reporter*. A copy was provided to all trial judges, as well.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by all judges, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, and some AOC staff, and are reviewed quarterly and semiannually.

Reports/summaries are published in the annual reports and are also available to the public on the Web site.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

MONTANA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Rule

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1996

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

GENERAL:

(submission date to final opinion)

- 100% within 180 days

Notes:

Montana is not in the process of implementing or considering the future development of case processing time standards for its trial courts.

The appellate standard is a basic aim, and it is realized that complexities of issues and caseload may require additional time.

The Supreme Court members receive reports/summaries with time standards. These reports/summaries are reviewed monthly.

Reports/summaries are not published or available to the public.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NEBRASKA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Rule

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1982; 1997 (juvenile)

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

DISTRICT:

NON-JURY

(filing to judgment)

- 100% within 1 year

JURY

(filing to judgment)

- 100% within 18 months

COUNTY:

(filing to judgment)

100% within 6 months

CRIMINAL

DISTRICT:

(filing to trial)

- 100% within 6 months

COUNTY:

MISDEMEANORS AND TRAFFIC OFFENSES:

NON-JURY

(filing to trial)

- 100% within 60 days

JURY

(filing to trial)

- 100% within 6 months

JUVENILE

PROBABLE CAUSE HEARINGS:

(detention to probable cause hearing)

- 100% within 48 hours

ADJUDICATION HEARINGS:

DEPENDENT/NEGLECT

(filing to hearing)

- 100% within 180 days

LAW VIOLATION

(filing to hearing)

- 100% within 180 days

DISPOSITION HEARINGS:

(adjudication hearing to disposition hearing)

- 100% within 60 days

DOMESTIC

DISTRICT:

(filing to judgment)

- 100% within 9 months

NEBRASKA cont.

PROBATE

GENERAL:

(filing to judgment)

- 100% within 1 year

FEDERAL ESTATE TAX REQUIRED

(filing to final disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Nebraska added juvenile case processing time standards in 1997.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NEVADA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

The state of Nevada does not have any case processing time standards at this time. They have recently implemented the Uniform System for Judicial Records, which is the reporting and collection of statewide statistics.

The development of case processing time standards will be considered once sufficient data have been obtained through the statewide statistical reporting.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2001

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

SCREENING:

- within 90 days

FILING OF APPELLANT'S BRIEF

(record filed to brief filed)

- within 60 days

FILING OF APPELLEE'S BRIEF

(appellant brief to appellee brief)

- within 50 days

ORAL ARGUMENT:

(appellant's brief to argument)

- within 180 days

OPINION:

(submission to opinion)

- within 180 days

MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION/REHEARING:

- within 60 days

Notes:

New Hampshire did not respond to the 1999 survey or to the fall 2002 update request. However, in 2000, an operational review of the court's case processing practices was conducted by the NCSC. In July 2001 the Supreme Court adopted performance standards that included case processing time standards. These standards are used to benchmark the court's performance in appellate procedure.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NEW JERSEY

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Judiciary's Judicial Council

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1982; amended September 2000

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

GENERAL:

CIVIL TRACK 1

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

CIVIL TRACK 2

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

CIVIL TRACK 3

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 24 months

CIVIL TRACK 4

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 24 months

SPECIAL:

SMALL CLAIMS AND TENANCY

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 2 months

AUTO NEGLIGENCE, CONTRACT, FORFEITURE, PENALTY ENFORCEMENT, AND OTHER

TORT:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 4 months

CRIMINAL

PRE-INDICTMENT:

(complaint to pre-indictment disposition)

- 100% within 2 months

POST-INDICTMENT:

(complaint to post-indictment disposition)

- 100% within 4 months

JUVENILE

DELINQUENCY:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 3 months

DOMESTIC

NEW DISSOLUTION:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

REOPENED DISSOLUTION

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

NON DISSOLUTION:

(filing to disposition)

NEW JERSEY cont.

- 100% within 60 days
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**
(filing to disposition)
- 100% within 1 month

PROBATE

- GENERAL:**
(filing to disposition)
- 100% within 12 months

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Judiciary's Judicial Council
EFFECTIVE DATE: 1982
STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

- MUNICIPAL APPEALS:**
(filing to opinion)
- 100% within 3 months

Notes:

The judiciary's judicial council consists of the chief justice, all 15 assignment judges, 3 presiding judges, the acting administrative director, and the deputy administrative director.

New Jersey uses *backlog per 100 average monthly filings* as their primary backlog statistic.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, both the presiding trial and appellate judges, the division director, the local court administrator, the AOC staff, the state court administrator, the chief justice, the trial court administrator, the administrative personnel, and the judicial council. Reports/summaries are reviewed monthly and are published in court publications and on the Web site.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NEW MEXICO

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Rule

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1990

STATUS: Mandatory

STANDARDS

PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER:

(filing of complaint to pretrial scheduling order)

- 100% within 120 days

TRIAL:

(filing of scheduling order to trial)

- 100% within 18 months

APPEALS:

(filing to decision or disposition)

- 100% within 10 months

(date of submission to panel to decision or disposition)

- 100% within 3 months

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Rule and Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1990; amended 1997

STATUS: Mandatory

STANDARDS

WRIT APPLICATIONS:

(denial of petition to filing with Supreme Court clerk)

- 100% within 30 days

COURT OF APPEALS:

(filing to resolution)

- 50% within 180 days
- 75% within 365 days
- 95% within 540 days

APPELLATE JUDGES:

- file an opinion in 50% of cases assigned to the judge within 90 days of submission
- file an opinion in 75% of cases assigned to the judge within 150 days of submission
- file an opinion in 95% of cases assigned to the judge within 300 days of submission

Notes:

New Mexico did not respond to the fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1999.

In the case that a pretrial scheduling order is not filed, the court shall set the case for trial in a timely manner, but no later than 18 months.

The Court of Appeals, and individual judges understand that no single fixed time standard is appropriate for each appeal. This is why the resolution goals only go up to 95 percent. The remaining 5 percent of cases are to be resolved as expeditiously as possible given the complexity of the issue, or any unusual circumstances.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, and both the presiding trial and appellate judges, and are reviewed yearly.

NEW MEXICO cont.

Notes (cont.):

Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through an open records request.

New Mexico is not included in the 1995 report.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NEW YORK

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Order
EFFECTIVE DATE: 1975; revised in 1979 and 1996
STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to trial readiness)

- 100% within 8-15 months

(trial readiness certificate to disposition)

- 100% within 15 months

TOTAL TIME:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 23-30 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(indictment to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(filing of petition to disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

(filing of petition to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

MATRIMONIAL

GENERAL:

(filing with court to trial readiness)

- 100% within 6 months

(trial readiness certificate to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

TOTAL TIME:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

New York finds the most helpful measurement of court timeliness to be the *% of cases exceeding existing time standards*.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the caseflow management/delay reduction unit, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the trial court administrator, and administrative personnel. The reports/summaries are reviewed on a daily basis.

NEW YORK cont.

Notes (cont.):

Case processing time standards reports are published in the annual report and are also available to the public through an open records request.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NORTH CAROLINA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

North Carolina did not respond to the 1999 survey or to the fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1995.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

NORTH DAKOTA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Rule

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1980, amended 1996

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to judgment entered)

- 100% within 24 months

DISTRICT:

GENERAL

(filing to judgment entered)

- 100% within 24 months

SMALL CLAIMS

(date of proof of service to judgment entered)

- 100% within 60 days

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

(date filing to notice of appeal)

- 100% within 120 days

CRIMINAL

GENERAL:

(filing of charging document to judgment)

- 100% within 180 days

(end of trial to judgment)

- 100% within 90 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(filing of complaint to judgment)

- 100% within 120 days

(end of trial to judgment)

- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to order)

- 100% within 90 days

APPELLATE COURTS

None: Official caseflow management standards have not been adopted. However, the ABA guidelines along with court rules provide the appellate courts with caseflow management deadlines. Regular management reports are provided to the judges.

NORTH DAKOTA cont.

Notes:

Juvenile Docket Currency standards are currently under consideration by the Supreme Court.

Case processing time standards are a topic that is discussed at the Council of Presiding Judges meetings and sessions on caseflow management are conducted as part of regular educational programs. Caseflow management is discussed with all new judges as part of their orientation.

North Dakota finds their *clearance rate* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the trial court administrator, and administrative personnel. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a monthly basis.

Case processing reports are published in annual reports and in court publications. They are available to the public through publications and open records requests.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

OHIO

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Rules of Superintendence

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 30, 1971 (Common Pleas); January 1, 1975 (Municipal and County Courts)

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 9 to 24 months

LIMITED:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 6 to 24 months

COMPLEX LITIGATION:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 36 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arraignment to termination)

- 100% within 180 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(warrant/summons to termination)

- 100% within 6 to 24 months

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

(complaint/summons to disposition)

- 100% within 3 to 12 months

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to termination)

- 100% within 1 to 18 months

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Court of Appeals

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1971

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

CRIMINAL APPEALS (common pleas, with death penalty, municipal, and county), CIVIL APPEALS (common pleas, domestic relations and probate/juvenile, municipal, and county), AND COURT OF CLAIMS (10th District only):

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 210 days

ORIGINAL ACTIONS

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

(filing to disposition)

OHIO cont.

- 100% within 200 days

Notes:

Ohio finds the most helpful measures of court timeliness to be the *% of cases exceeding time standards by classified type*, and *clearance rate*.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the caseload management section, the chief justice, the AOC staff, the trial court administrator, administrative personnel, and the judicial conference. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a monthly basis.

Reports/ summaries are published in the annual reports, in the newspaper, and in court and bar publications. They are also available to the public through an open records request.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

OKLAHOMA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Oklahoma did not respond to the 1999 survey or to the fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1995.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

OREGON

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Judicial Conference Resolution

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 1990; amended April 31, 1991; updated 1998

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

GENERAL:

(filing to conclusion [settled, tried, or otherwise])

- 90% within 12 months
- 98% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

SUMMARY:

(filing to conclusion [settled, tried, or otherwise])

- 100% within 75 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arraignment to adjudication or conclusion)

- 90% within 90 days
- 98% within 180 days
- 100% within 1 year

MISDEMEANORS:

(arraignment to adjudication or conclusion)

- 90% within 90 days
- 98% within 180 days
- 100% within 1 year

JUVENILE

DETENTIONAL SHELTER HEARINGS:

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 24 hours

ADJUDICATORY OR TRANSFER HEARINGS:

CONCERNING A JUVENILE IN DETENTION OR SHELTER FACILITY

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 15 days

CONCERNING A JUVENILE NOT IN DETENTION OR SHELTER FACILITY

(filing of petition to hearing)

- 100% within 30 days

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to conclusion [settled, tried, or otherwise])

- 90% within 9 months
- 100% within 1 year

APPELLATE COURTS

None: Although the Oregon Appellate Courts have not formally adopted case processing time standards, the clerk's office has developed internal benchmarks used to monitor case processing performance.

OREGON cont.

Notes:

Oregon did not respond to the fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1999.

Oregon finds the most helpful measure of court timeliness to be *% of cases resolved within existing time standards*.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the caseflow management/delay reduction unit, the chief justice, and the trial court administrator. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a semiannual basis.

The reports/summaries are available to the public through an open records request, and within the next year they should also be available on the Web site.

The case processing time standards changed in 1998 to reflect the merger of circuit and district courts.

The standards were re-approved by the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference on March 3, 1999.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

PENNSYLVANIA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Pennsylvania did not respond to the 1999 survey. However, they did respond to the fall 2002 update request, answering that, though they do follow speedy trial statutes, they have not officially adopted case processing time standards.

Case processing time standards were being developed by an ad hoc committee of president judges and trial court administrators in 1999.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

RHODE ISLAND

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Voluntary Boards Committee of the Supreme Court and Chief Judges of the Trial Courts

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1977

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(motion to assign to trial)

- 100% within 18 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arraignment to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

MISDEMEANORS:

DISTRICT

(arraignment to disposition)

- 100% within 60 days

TRAFFIC

(arraignment to disposition)

- 100% within 60 days

JUVENILE

WAYWARD/DELINQUENT AND CHILD PROTECTION:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

DOMESTIC

CONTESTED:

(assignment to calendar to disposition)

- 100% within 1 year

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Voluntary Boards Committee of the Supreme Court and Chief Judges of the Trial Courts

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1977

STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

GENERAL:

(docketing to disposition)

- 100% within 300 days

RHODE ISLAND cont.

Notes:

Rhode Island uses *% of cases resolved within existing time standards* to help measure court timeliness.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the state court administrator, the caseload management/delay reduction unit, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, the administrative personnel, and the trial court administrator. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Reports/summaries are published in court publications.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Order
EFFECTIVE DATE: August 17, 1983; revised June 5, 1992
STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to final disposition)

- 100% within 365 days

LIMITED:

(filing to final disposition)

- 100% within 90 days

CRIMINAL

GENERAL:

(arrest to final disposition)

- 100% within 180 days

SUMMARY:

(arrest to final disposition)

- 100% within 60 days

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

(filing to final disposition)

- 100% within 270 days

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to final disposition)

- 100% within 270 days

APPELLATE COURTS

None: Although neither the Supreme Court nor the Court of Appeals have established standards for appellate case processing times, they do prepare statistical reports, which compare the number of filed appeals, motions, petitions, and other matters with the number of decided appeals, motions, petitions, and other matters.

Notes:

General sessions for criminal courts may hear felonies and certain misdemeanors. Summary courts, including Municipal and Magistrate's, may hear traffic offenses and misdemeanors with penalties not to exceed 30 days incarceration and/or \$500 fine.

Statistical information related to time standards is available to the public through annual reports and by request. Reports will be available to the public via the Judicial Department's Web site in the near future.

South Carolina uses % listing of cases exceeding time standards classified by court location to measure court timeliness.

SOUTH DAKOTA

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

South Dakota did not respond to the fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1999.

South Dakota does not currently have any case processing time standards. They are implementing time standards for criminal cases, and are considering the development of time standards for civil cases.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

TENNESSEE

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Tennessee courts do not have formal case processing time standards, with the exception of statutes that require hearings to be held or dispositions to be made for specific case types. In addition, other statutes require certain cases, such as capital cases in the appellate courts, to be given priority, but no specific time standards are set. The appellate courts have unpublished internal rules that require opinion drafts to be circulated within a certain time frame. Judges are to self-report noncompliance with statutes creating time lines for cases involving post-conviction petitions in criminal cases. The AOC then compiles the records of noncompliance into an annual report to the general assembly.

[Rpt.](#)

[App. B](#)

TEXAS

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Supreme Court Order

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1984; readopted 1987

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

NON JURY

(appearance to trial)

- 100% within 12 months

JURY

(appearance to trial)

- 100% within 18 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(complaint to announcement of reading by state)

- 100% within 120 days

MISDEMEANORS:

CLASS A

(complaint to announcement of reading by state)

- 100% within 90 days

CLASS B AND C

(complaint to announcement of reading by state)

- 100% within 60 days

JUVENILE

DETENTION HEARING:

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within the next business day

ADJUDICATORY OR TRANSFER HEARINGS:

CONCERNING A JUVENILE IN DETENTION FACILITY

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 10 days

CONCERNING A JUVENILE NOT IN DETENTION OR SHELTER FACILITY

(filing of petition to hearing)

- 100% within 30 days

DISPOSITIONAL HEARING:

(adjudicatory hearing to dispositional hearing)

- 100% within 15 days

DOMESTIC

UNCONTESTED:

(appearance date to trial)

- 100% within 3 months

CONTESTED:

(appearance date to trial)

- 100% within 6 months

TEXAS cont.

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Texas did not respond to the 1999 survey or to the fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1995.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

UTAH

TRIAL COURTS

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Although the Utah State Courts have not formally adopted a specific set of time standards, their 1999 survey response stressed that they have gone to great lengths to reduce delays and to develop timeliness and responsiveness as core values among judiciary and staff.

The Utah State Courts (all eight districts) conduct annual case management/delay reduction workshops that focus on improving case processing times.

The AOC has developed a statewide court data system through which judges may see how long their cases are taking to process in relation to the district or statewide average. The data system may be used by trial court executives and presiding judges to compare workloads between different judges and make adjustments accordingly.

The data warehouse helps the AOC to follow caseload trends. Generally, the AOC uses the time frame of filing to disposition to produce statistics.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

VERMONT

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Trial Judges; Supreme Court

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1981

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to disposition)

- 80% within 1 year

LIMITED:

(filing to disposition)

- 80% within 6 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(filing to disposition)

- 80% within 90 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(filing to disposition)

- 80% within 60 days

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

UNCONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 80% within 6 months

CONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 80% within 1 year

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Although the above time standards remain correct, Vermont does not consider them realistic or appropriate. Vermont plans to modify its time standards for divorce and juvenile matters this year, and for criminal matters next year.

Vermont finds % listing of cases exceeding time standards classified by court location to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly, quarterly, and yearly.

VERMONT cont.

Notes (cont.):

Reports/summaries are available to the public through annual reports, the Web site, and bar publications.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

VIRGINIA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Judicial Council of Virginia
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1991; 1994 (General District Court)
STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to conclusion)

- 90% within 12 months
- 98% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

LIMITED:

UNCONTESTED

(filing to disposition)

- 95% within 60 days
- 100% within 120 days

CONTESTED

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 90 days
- 100% within 180 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arrest to conclusion)

- 90% within 120 days
- 98% within 180 days
- 100% within 1 year

PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

(arrest to conclusion)

- 100% within 45 days

TRAFFIC AND MISDEMEANORS:

(arrest or citation to conclusion)

- 90% within 60 days
- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

none

APPELLATE COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Court of Appeals
EFFECTIVE DATE: 1989
STATUS: Voluntary

STANDARDS

MUNICIPAL APPEALS:

(filing to opinion)

- 100% within 3 months

COURT OF APPEALS:

(filing of notice of appeal to conclusion)

- 100% within 280 days

VIRGINIA cont.

SUPREME COURT:

(filing of notice of appeal to disposal)

- 100% within 12 months

Notes:

Virginia is considering the development of case processing time standards for juvenile courts.

The time standards are viewed as voluntary guidelines or goals, not as mandatory “standards.”

The magistrates, clerk of court, all judges, the AOC staff, the chief judge, and the Supreme Court members receive reports/summaries with time standards through the *Annual State of the Judiciary Report*. These reports/summaries are reviewed yearly.

Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through the annual report.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

WASHINGTON

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Board for Judicial Administration and Court Management Council

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1992; revised 1997

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

(filing to resolution)

- 90% within 12 months
- 98% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

LIMITED:

(filing to resolution)

- 90% within 3 months
- 98% within 6 months
- 100% within 9 months

SMALL CLAIMS:

(filing to resolution)

- 90% within 45 days
- 98% within 2 months
- 100% within 4 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(filing to resolution)

- 90% within 4 months
- 98% within 6 months
- 100% within 9 months

MISDEMEANORS:

(filing to resolution)

- 90% within 3 months
- 98% within 6 months
- 100% within 9 months

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(filing to resolution)

- 90% within 8 months
- 98% within 10 months
- 100% within 14 months

PROBATE

GENERAL:

(filing to resolution)

- 90% within 10 months
- 98% within 14 months
- 100% within 18 months

WASHINGTON cont.

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Washington has not adopted appellate time standards. However, standards are measured at the appellate level.

Monthly reports and on-demand reports are available for generation by clerks and administration in superior courts, as well as by the AOC staff. Calendar year reports are published.

Voluntary trial court standards are available in the court rules book.

Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through the annual report and court publications.

The trial court standards, though advisory, are measured and published for all superior and general jurisdiction courts.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

WEST VIRGINIA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Administrative Order of the Supreme Courts

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1986

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

REGULAR:

NON-JURY

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

JURY

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arrest to trial)

- 100% within 180 days

MISDEMEANORS:

(arrest to trial)

- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

GENERAL:

(petition to dispositional hearing)

- 100% within 45 days

ADJUDICATORY HEARING:

(detention to hearing)

- 100% within 30 days

DOMESTIC

UNCONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 3 months

CONTESTED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

West Virginia did not respond to the 1995 update, to the 1999 survey, or to the fall 2002 update request. Therefore, this information is current as of 1992.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

WISCONSIN

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Committee of Chief Judges and District Court Administrators

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1985

STATUS: Voluntary

CIVIL

REGULAR:

GENERAL

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

PERSONAL INJURY

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

LIMITED:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 3 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(first appearance to adjudication)

- 100% within 180 days

MISDEMEANORS:

IN CUSTODY

(first appearance to adjudication)

- 100% within 2 months

NOT IN CUSTODY

(first appearance to adjudication)

- 100% within 3 months

TRAFFIC

(first appearance to adjudication)

- 100% within 4 months

FORFEITURES

(first appearance to adjudication)

- 100% within 4 months

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

DIVORCE:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

OTHER FAMILY:

(filing to disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

APPELLATE COURTS

none

WISCONSIN cont.

Notes:

The clerk of court, the presiding trial judge, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, and the trial court administrator receive reports/summaries with time standards. These reports/standards are reviewed monthly. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through the annual report and on the Web site.

Wisconsin finds the most helpful measure of court timeliness to be the *median time to disposition*.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

WYOMING

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Wyoming Judicial Conference (felony); Wyoming Supreme Court (misdemeanors)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1984 (felony); 1986 (misdemeanors)

STATUS: Mandatory

CIVIL

none

CRIMINAL

DISTRICT:

FELONY

(filing of information or indictment to trial)

- 100% within 120 days

COUNTY:

MISDEMEANORS

(filing of information or indictment to trial)

- 100% within 120 days

JUVENILE

none

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Wyoming did not respond to the 1999 survey or to the fall 2002 update request; therefore, this information is current as of 1995.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TRIAL COURTS

IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY: Published by Chief Judge

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1991

STATUS: Voluntary (civil); Mandatory (criminal and domestic)

CIVIL

GENERAL

(filing to disposition)

- 90% within 1 year
- 98% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

LANDLORD/TENANT

(jury demand to trial)

- 100% within 90 days

SMALL CLAIMS

(jury demand to trial)

- 100% within 90 days

CRIMINAL

FELONIES AND MISDEMEANORS:

none

PREVENTIVE DETENTION CASES:

(filing to trial)

- 100% within 180 days

JUVENILE

none

DOMESTIC

ABUSE AND NEGLECT:

(removal from home to adjudication)

- 100% within 105 days

PERMANENCY HEARING:

(removal from home to hearing)

- 100% within 12-14 months

PATERNITY AND SUPPORT:

(filing to hearing)

- 100% within 45 days

APPELLATE COURTS

none

Notes:

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the presiding/chief judges, the division director/managers, and the executive officer. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly.

The case processing time standards reports are neither published nor available to the public. The District finds *% of cases resolved within existing time standards* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. B](#)

APPENDIX C: COSCA and ABA Case Processing Time Standards

COSCA NATIONAL TIME STANDARDS FOR CASE PROCESSING*

[Rpt.](#)

TRIAL COURTS

ADOPTED: July 27, 1983

CIVIL

NON-JURY TRIAL:

(date of filing or service of complaint to trial, settlement, or disposition)

- 100% within 12 months

JURY TRIAL:

(date of filing or service of complaint to trial, settlement, or disposition)

- 100% within 18 months

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arrest to trial)

- 100% within 180 days

MISDEMEANOR:

(arrest to trial)

- 100% within 90 days

JUVENILE

DETENTION AND SHELTER HEARINGS:

(admission to hearings)

- 100% within 24 hours

ADJUDICATORY OR TRANSFER HEARINGS:

CONCERNING A JUVENILE IN A DETENTION OR SHELTER FACILITY

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 15 days

CONCERNING A JUVENILE NOT IN A DETENTION OR SHELTER FACILITY

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 30 days

DOMESTIC

UNCONTESTED:

(date of filing to trial, settlement, or disposition)

- 100% within 3 months

CONTESTED:

(date of filing to trial, settlement, or disposition)

- 100% within 6 months

Notes:

*These standards were to apply in all cases, except for individual cases in which the court determined exceptional circumstances exist. COSCA no longer advocates these particular standards.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. C](#)

ABA STANDARDS RELATING TO TRIAL COURTS

[Rpt.](#)
[App. C](#)

TRIAL COURTS ADOPTED: 1992

CIVIL

GENERAL:

(filing to trial, settlement, or conclusion)

- 90% within 12 months
- 98% within 18 months
- 100% within 24 months

SUMMARY:

(filing to conclusion)

- 100% within 30 days

CRIMINAL

FELONY:

(arrest to adjudication or conclusion)

- 90% within 120 days
- 98% within 180 days
- 100% within 1 year

SENTENCING

(rendering of the court's decision to filing with the court)

- 90% within 14 days
- 98% within 21 days
- 100% within 28 days

MISDEMEANOR:

(arrest or citation to adjudication or conclusion)

- 90% within 30 days
- 100% within 90 days

PERSONS IN PRETRIAL CUSTODY:

(arrest to determination of custodial status or bail set)

- 100% within 24 hours

JUDGMENT ENTRY (ALSO PERTAINS TO DOMESTIC CASES):

(rendering of court's decision to filing with court)

- 90% within 14 days
- 98% within 21 days
- 100% within 28 days

(CONT.)

ABA cont.

JUVENILE

DETENTION AND SHELTER HEARINGS:

(admission to hearings)

- 100% within 24 hours

ADJUDICATORY OR TRANSFER HEARINGS:

CONCERNING A JUVENILE IN A DETENTION OR SHELTER FACILITY

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 15 days

CONCERNING A JUVENILE NOT IN A DETENTION OR SHELTER FACILITY

(admission to hearing)

- 100% within 30 days

DISPOSITIONAL HEARINGS:

(adjudicatory hearing to dispositional hearing)

- 100% within 15 days

DOMESTIC

GENERAL:

(case filing to trial, settlement, or conclusion)

- 90% within 3 months
- 98% within 6 months
- 100% within 1 year

Notes:

These standards are to apply in all cases, except for individual cases in which the court determines exceptional circumstances exist.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. C](#)

APPENDIX D: The Monitoring of Case Processing Time Standards

[Rpt.](#)

Alabama documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. The time standards themselves are public information; however, only the individual judge, his/her presiding judge, the chief justice, and the state court administrator receive performance information in the form of case management reports/summaries providing caseload statistics. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly and semiannually. Alabama considers the most useful measure of court timeliness to be *% of cases resolved within a specified number of days or months* (trial courts) and *percentage of cases resolved within existing time standards* (appellate courts). Time standards apply to all cases; however, no punitive action is taken against a judge if the standards are exceeded.

Alaska documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the presiding/chief judge, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator. These reports/summaries are reviewed quarterly. Case processing time standards reports are published in court publications, and are available to the public through annual reports and open records requests. Alaska finds the most useful measure of court timeliness to be *% of cases exceeding existing time standards classified by court location*.

Arizona does not currently have, but is working on the development of, procedures to document court performance relevant to time standards and goals.

Arkansas documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing manual reports. Reports/summaries are received by the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, and the Supreme Court members and are reviewed quarterly. Reports are available to the public through open records requests. Judges of criminal, civil, domestic relations, probate and juvenile courts are directed to submit reports of cases that have been under advisement for more than 90 days to the Administrative Office at the end of each calendar quarter. If the AOC determines that the parties or their counsel did not cause the delay, it recommends to the Supreme Court that a judge be assigned to dispose of the delayed case. Noncompliance with the order constitutes grounds for discipline. Justices and judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are directed to submit reports of cases in which an opinion has not been issued within 60 days to the chief justice of the Supreme Court. The report will be reviewed and reassigned or appropriate actions will be taken to dispose of the case. Willful noncompliance will constitute grounds for discipline.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. D](#)

California documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing both manual and computer-generated reports with information compiled on a statewide level. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through annual reports, the Web site, and court publications. Reports/summaries containing time standards are reviewed yearly, and are received by the magistrates, clerk of court, all judges, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief judge, and the Supreme Court members.

Colorado documents court performance relevant to time standards on a statewide level. Reports are available to the public through open records requests, and are published in the annual reports. The clerk of court, the presiding/chief judge, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, and the AOC staff receive reports/summaries with time standards. These reports/summaries are reviewed both monthly and quarterly. The measure that Colorado finds to be most useful in determining court timeliness is *% of cases exceeding existing time standards*.

Connecticut documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries are received by the clerk of court, the presiding/chief judge, the division manager, the caseload management/delay reduction unit, the chief court administrator, the chief justice, and administrative personnel and are reviewed monthly and semiannually. Reports/summaries with time standards are available to the public through open records requests, and are published in the annual report and in court publications. For civil trial courts, Connecticut finds the most helpful measure of court timeliness to be *age of pending caseload*. For criminal courts, the most helpful measure is *% of cases exceeding time standards classified by court location*.

Delaware documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing both computed and manually generated reports with information compiled at local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with standards are received by the presiding/chief trial and appellate judges, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, and the Supreme Court members. Reports/summaries with time standards are reviewed monthly and are made available to the public through open records requests. Delaware finds *median time to disposition (number of days from filing to disposition)* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

Florida documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing statewide reports that are received by the presiding/chief trial and appellate judges, AOC staff, the chief justice, Supreme Court members, the trial court administrator, and the judicial council. Both an appellate and trial committee on performance and accountability document court performance relevant to time standards. Time standards are available to the public by contacting the OSCA staff.

Georgia district court administrators typically monitor case processing time for judges within their districts as requested. When asked, the district court administrators produce an informational report to general jurisdiction courts based on the informal use of the *ABA Standards of Timely Disposition* (ABA Standards 1992). The district court administrators use the ABA standards as the basis of comparison for case processing times in the particular court.

Hawaii documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing both manual and computer-generated reports with information compiled at statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator and are reviewed quarterly, semiannually, and yearly. Time standards reports are available to the public through the *Annual Statistical Report* and the *Annual Variance Report*. Hawaii finds the *median time from filing to termination* to be the most helpful measurement of court timeliness.

Idaho documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, all judges, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, and the trial court administrator and are reviewed monthly and yearly. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through open records requests. It was ordered in 1997 that the time standards be communicated to judges and lawyers in order to enlist their support in achieving the time goals established.

The **Iowa** Judicial Branch implemented a new court management information system in 2002. This system monitors the number of days from petition to disposition. The computer-generated reports will allow the Judicial Branch for the first time to measure trial court compliance with the case processing time standards.

Kansas documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing both computer-generated and manual reports compiled at a statewide level.

Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, both the presiding/chief trial and appellate judges, the state court administrator, the chief justice, Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator and are reviewed quarterly. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through annual reports and court publications.

Louisiana monitors and reports time standards relative to the Supreme Court and the five Courts of Appeal. Reports/summaries with time standards are available in the general annual report and the report on judicial performance.

Massachusetts documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated and manual reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, the presiding/chief judge of both trial and appellate courts, the caseflow management/delay reduction unit, the state court administrator, the chief justice, and the regional administration justices. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly and semiannually. The age of civil and criminal data is available in the annual report.

Michigan documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated and manual reports with information compiled at local levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are reviewed regularly and are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the caseflow management/delay reduction unit, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, trial court administrators, administrative personnel, and the judicial council. Michigan is currently updating and implementing case age reporting procedures.

Minnesota documents court performance relevant to criminal time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are posted on the court system intranet for viewing by all court employees. Reports/summaries are available to the public in the form of a print out upon request. Minnesota finds *% of cases resolved within existing time standards* and *clearance rates* to be the most helpful measures of court timeliness.

Mississippi produces manual reports relevant to time standards. Both the AOC and local entities are authorities for the reporting schedule. Reports with time standards are received by the presiding/chief appellate judge, the state court administrator, the chief justice, and the Supreme Court members. The reports relevant to time standards

are reviewed monthly. Reports with time standards are not published, but are available to the public upon request. For trial and appellate courts, Mississippi finds *case activity by calendar* to be the most useful measure of court timeliness. At the trial level, improvements in case processing credited to case processing reports are too early to articulate, having just started in 2001. However, at the appellate level, reports relevant to time standards have been useful in performing self-assessments, identifying problem judges, and recommending possible solutions.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. D](#)

Missouri documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by all judges, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, and some AOC staff and are reviewed quarterly and semiannually. Reports/summaries are published in the annual reports and are also available to the public on the Web site. The implementing Court Operating Rule #17 was ordered published in the *Journal of the Missouri Bar* and the *South Western Reporter*. A copy of the rule was also provided to all trial judges. The age of a case at resolution is used to determine compliance with the standards. The Office of State Courts Administrator provides implementation assistance in the following forms:

- 1.) the provision of management reports showing the status of cases
- 2.) the provision of information and training on effective case management
- 3.) the identification of courts needing additional judicial and non-judicial resources and, as possible, the provision of these courts with the necessary resources

In March of 1995 the Case Management Committee was appointed by the Supreme Court to monitor the efficacy of Court Operating Rule #17. In July of 2000 this committee worked with David Steelman from the National Center for State Courts to develop the Missouri CTE (Caseflow Timeliness and Efficiency) Index, the criteria used to identify circuits that appear to be in the greatest need of assistance in improving their case processing time standards.

Montana does not publish or make available to the public reports/summaries with time standards. The Supreme Court members receive reports/summaries with appellate time standards. These reports/summaries are reviewed monthly.

Nebraska documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing local computer-generated and manual reports with information compiled at statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by magistrates, clerks of court, all judges, the state court administrator, AOC staff, and Supreme Court members. Nebraska anticipates dropping the manual reports shortly as computer-generated reporting will soon be in place, and fully applicable.

[Rpt.](#)
[App. D](#)

Nevada does not have any case processing time standards at this time. They have recently implemented the Uniform System for Judicial Records, which is the reporting and collection of statewide statistics. The development of case processing time standards will be considered once sufficient data have been obtained through the statewide statistical reporting.

New Jersey documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, both the presiding trial and appellate judges, the division director, the local court administrator, the AOC staff, the state court administrator, the chief justice, the trial court administrator, administrative personnel, and the judicial council. Reports/summaries are reviewed monthly and are published in court publications and on the Web site. New Jersey uses *backlog per 100 average monthly filings* as their primary backlog statistic. (New Jersey defines *backlog* cases as those that are older than the time goals; those younger than time goals are considered to be in inventory.) This statistic allows the court to look at backlog while controlling volume. While *backlog per 100 average monthly filings* has become the primary measure of court timeliness, New Jersey still reports on other traditional measures, including *number of cases in backlog*, *percent change in backlog*, and *percent of cases in backlog*.

New Mexico documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated and manual reports with information on the *median time for resolution*, and the *% of cases resolved*. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court and all judges, and are reviewed yearly. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through an open records request.

New York documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing manual and computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the caseflow management/delay reduction unit, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the trial court administrator, and administrative personnel. The reports/summaries are reviewed on a daily basis. Case processing time standards reports are published in the annual report and are also available to the public through an open records request. New York finds the most helpful measurement of court timeliness to be the *% of cases exceeding existing time standards*.

North Dakota makes reports with time standards available to the clerk of court, all judges, administrative personnel, the state court administrator, and the AOC staff. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a monthly basis. Case processing reports are published in annual reports and in court publications. They are available to the public through publications and open records requests. North Dakota finds their *clearance rate* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

Ohio documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing manual and computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the caseflow management section, the chief justice, the AOC staff, the trial court administrator, administrative personnel, and the judicial conference. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a monthly basis. Reports/summaries are published in the annual reports, the newspaper, and in court and bar publications. They are also available to the public through an open records request. Ohio finds the most helpful measures of court timeliness to be the *% of cases exceeding time standards by classified type*, and *clearance rate*.

Oregon documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the caseflow management/delay reduction unit, the chief justice, and the trial court administrator. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a semiannual basis. The reports/summaries are available to the public through an open records request, and within the next year they should also be available on the Web site. Oregon finds the most helpful measure of court timeliness to be *% of cases resolved within existing time standards*.

Rhode Island documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing reports with information compiled at statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the state court administrator, the caseflow management/delay reduction unit, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, the administrative personnel, and the trial court administrator. These reports/summaries are reviewed on a quarterly basis. Reports/summaries are published in court publications. Rhode Island uses *% of cases resolved within existing time standards* to help measure court timeliness and *number of cases pending that exceed the time standard*.

South Carolina makes statistical information related to time standards available to the public through annual reports and by request. Reports will be available to the public via the Judicial Department's Web site in the near future. South Carolina uses *% listing of cases exceeding time standards classified by court location* to measure court timeliness.

In **Tennessee**, though formal case processing time standards have not been adopted, judges are to self-report any noncompliance with statutes creating timelines for cases involving post-conviction petitions in criminal cases. The AOC then compiles the records of noncompliance into an annual report to the General Assembly. The reports are available to the public through annual reports and open records requests.

In **Utah**, though formal case processing time standards have not been adopted, the AOC has developed a statewide court data system through which trial court executives and presiding judges compare workloads between different judges and make adjustments accordingly. The data warehouse helps the AOC to follow caseload trends. Generally, the AOC uses the time frame of *filing to disposition* to produce statistics.

Vermont documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing manual and computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the magistrates, the clerk of court, all judges, the division manager, the local court administrator, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, the chief justice, the Supreme Court members, and the trial court administrator. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly, quarterly, and yearly. Reports/summaries are available to the public through annual reports, the Web site, and bar publications. Vermont finds *% listing of cases exceeding time standards classified by court location* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.

Virginia documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. The magistrates, clerk of court, all judges, the AOC staff, and the Supreme Court members receive reports/summaries with time standards through the Annual State of the Judiciary Report. These reports/summaries are reviewed yearly. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through the annual report.

Washington documents court performance relevant to superior court time standards by producing computer-generated reports with data input at local levels. Monthly reports and on-demand reports are available for generation by clerks and administration in superior courts, as well as by the AOC staff. Calendar year reports are published. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through the annual report and court publications.

Wisconsin documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports with information compiled at both local and statewide levels. The clerk of court, the presiding trial judge, the state court administrator, the AOC staff, and the trial court administrator receive reports/summaries with time standards. These reports/standards are reviewed monthly. Case processing time standards reports are available to the public through the annual report and on the Web site. Wisconsin finds the most helpful measure of court timeliness to be the *median time to disposition*.

The **District of Columbia** documents court performance relevant to time standards by producing computer-generated reports. Reports/summaries with time standards are received by the presiding/chief judge, the division director/manager, and the executive officer. The reports/summaries are reviewed monthly; they are not available to the public. The District of Columbia finds *% of cases resolved within existing time standards* to be the most helpful measure of court timeliness.