

OPD.MT.GOV



OPD Materials

December 19, 2025, Sub-D IBC Follow-Up

Mission

Providing the most compassionate and expert defense of clients and the Constitution.

Vision

Creating expert teams of advocates for justice, bringing respect and dignity to our clients to achieve holistic and equitable outcomes.

December 19, 2025, IBC Follow-Up Items

Information requested by Senator McGillvray

During the December 16, 2025, IBC-D hearing, Senator McGillvray, while reviewing OPD's Quarter 1 statics for number of matters received and total weight of matters received, asked for the average case weight hours per matter received. The following charts provide three looks at OPD's average case weight hours per matter received.

The first chart reports the average case weight hours per matter received in Quarter 1 broken out by type of matter. The listed matter types are "DC" (district court felonies), "DD" (developmental disability commitments), "DG" (guardianships), "DI" (mental health commitments), "DJ" (youth court juveniles), "DN" (child abuse and neglect), "DPA" (private adoption terminations of parental rights), "Lower Court" (municipal, city, and justice court misdemeanors), "SR" (sentence review), and "TE" (treatment court). The chart shows, for example, that the average case weight per felony received was 14.9 hours while the average case weight per misdemeanor received was 6.0 hours.

Matters Received by Matter Type - FY 26 Q1			
Trial Divisions			
Matter Type ↑	Matters Received	Total Matter Base Weight Received	Average Matter Base Weight
DC	2,180	32,499.5	14.9
DD	4	16.0	4.0
DG	72	347.0	4.8
DI	131	589.5	4.5
DJ	203	2,274.0	11.2
DN	531	8,660.0	16.3
DPA	4	80.0	20.0
Lower Court	5,476	32,863.5	6.0
SR	64	192.0	3.0
TE	14	0.0	0.0
UNIQUE COUNT	TOTAL	TOTAL	TABLE AGGREGATE
10	8,679	77,521.5	8.9

OPD groups its case weights by categories of charges or petitions. The next chart breaks out all matters received in Quarter 1 by these case-weight groupings. For each case weight group, it lists the case weight hours per case, the total Quarter 1 number of such matters received, and the total Quarter 1 weight received. Of the 77,521.5 total, base case weight hours received in Quarter 1, the group of non-DUI, non-sexual misdemeanor cases accounted for the most case weight hours at 28,105 and the group of felony thefts, felony assaults, and parental rights termination cases accounted for the second most at 23,780 case weight hours. In addition to these base case weights, misdemeanor cases with five or more charges have a two-hour weight enhancement and Emergency Protective Services (EPS) hearings in abuse and neglect cases have an additional three weight hours, which respectively added a total of 340 case hours and 1,617 in Quarter 1.

Matters Received by Matter Weight Category - FY 26 Q1 (Trial Divisions)

Charge/Action Case Weight Group	Matter Base Weight	Matters Received	Total Matter Base Weight Received
treatment court appointments and additional DN child cases	0	163	0.0
fugitive/warrants	2.5	60	150.0
city and county ordinance, traffic offense, disorderly conduct, obstructing, and MIP charges, sentence review, and habeas petitions	3	1,657	4,971.0
developmental disability petitions	4	4	16.0
mental health commitment petitions	4.5	131	589.5
guardianship petitions and misdemeanor petitions to revoke	5	381	1,905.0
misdemeanor charges not traffic or sexual offenses and felony petitions to revoke	7	4,015	28,105.0
misdemeanor sexual offense charges and felony property and public order charges	10	405	4,050.0
felony drug and DUI charges	15	597	8,955.0
felony theft and assault charges, abuse and neglect petitions, and private adoption termination petitions	20	1,189	23,780.0
felony sexual offense charges	50	54	2,700.0
homicide charges	100	23	2,300.0

The final chart graphs the average case weight hours per matter received across all cases by month for the past two years. It shows that the average size of the matters to which OPD has been appointed decreased by roughly one hour over the past two years.

