



Circuit Court & Records Overview & New Initiatives

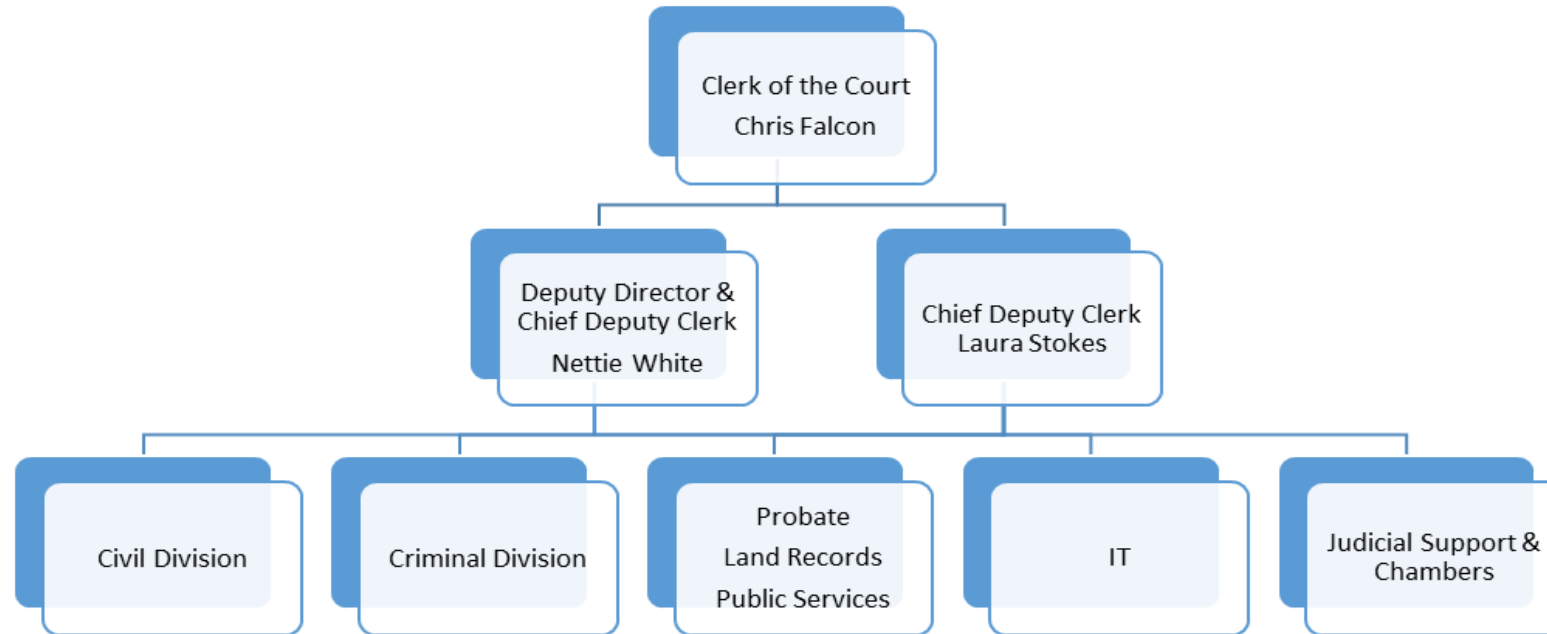
Chris Falcon, Clerk of the Circuit Court

October 1, 2024

Our Mission

To provide equitable access to justice and court services, provide administrative support to the 19th Judicial Circuit; and to preserve, maintain and protect the court’s public records.

Circuit Court & Records: Organizational Chart



Main Statutory Duties of the Clerk of Court

Maintaining Court Records

Land Records

Court Administration

Probating Wills & Trusts

Court Funds & Fees

Marriage Licenses

Oaths of Office

Historic Records

Equity Gaps in Circuit Court

- Legal Representation
 - 62% of civil cases in Virginia circuit courts include at least one unrepresented (“pro se”) party. There is no constitutional guarantee to counsel in civil matters (unlike criminal cases) includes divorce, custody, child support, evictions, and protective orders.
- Language Access
 - Over 38% of Fairfax residents speak a language other than English at home; however, there is a shortage of certified court interpreters which results in continuances or worse.
 - “Justice too long delayed is justice denied”
- Access to Case Information
 - Until this year, Fairfax residents were not able to access free online public case information in circuit court cases. **We have eliminated this barrier to justice.**
- Transportation

Closing the Equity Gap

- Satellite location users have highlighted the convenience of having a closer location in which to obtain copies of documents and perform basic civil actions.
- Residents in Fairfax County and surrounding jurisdictions have remarked on the ease of use of the eCase Search system and being able to save time and money by accessing the information remotely.
- Members of the public have expressed gratitude at the time and expense saved by satellite services. Many of these users have been happy to not have to take time off work and still be able to receive Court services.

E-Case Search: Public Access to Case Information

What is e-Case Search?

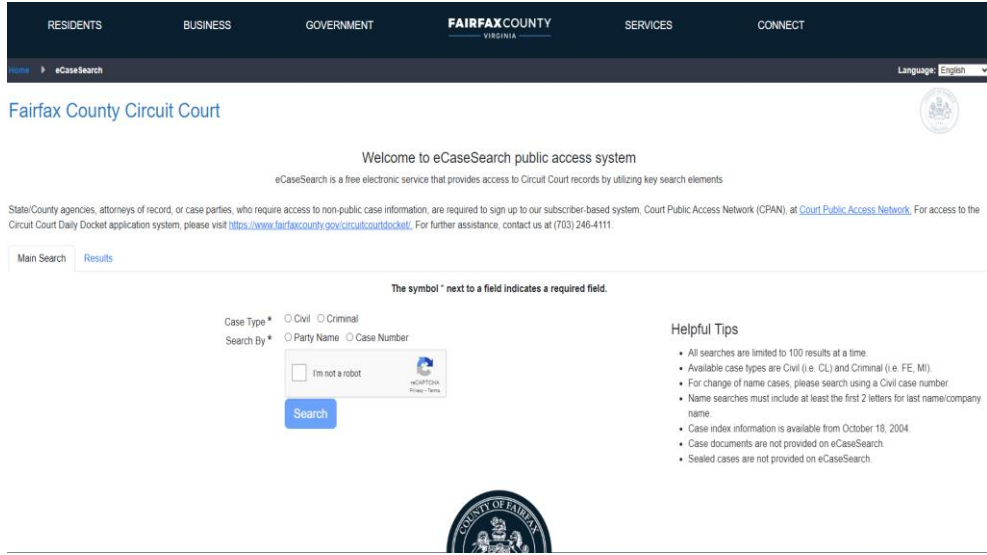
- e-Case Search is a free electronic service that provides access to Circuit Court records by utilizing key search elements.
- Available on the Circuit Court web page since July 2024.

How many users have accessed it?

- 23,046 total users in July and August
- 52,836 total searches in July and August

Fairfax County & Virginia Users

- 882 users in Fairfax County, with 2,524 total searches
- 9,418 Virginia users with 21,576 searches



Other Users.

- In the United States: 11,964 users, 27,294 searches
- International: 1664 users, 3,966 searches

What's Next: Upcoming Projects

Expungement Clinics

Use of FTR in Court

Expanding Satellite Service

Judicial Learning Center

Auto-Sealing

Deed Fraud Notifications

Upgrade of Financial Systems

Digitizing Records

Questions?