

National Center for State Courts: Court Statistics Project Frequently Asked Questions & Mapping Guidance

General Mapping FAQ

- Q:** In civil cases, there is often more than one cause of action. Do we report one or all?
- A:** Each case should only be counted once in CSP. The cause that is the predominant cause of action should be the case type reflected in reporting. If there is not one clear predominant cause, the one that typically consumes more of the resources of the court should be the one selected. This will be the one indicated on the cover sheet or as part of the case filing if the filer indicates it. Otherwise, it is acceptable to choose the first claim listed.
- Q:** In the case of a stepparent adoption, the TPR/adoption are sometimes handled together. Is this a TPR case or an adoption case?
- A:** In this case, the adoption is the predominant cause, so it should count as an adoption.
- Q:** In our state, misdemeanors can be punished by more than one year in jail. Should they be classified as felonies for purposes of the CSP?
- A:** Yes
- Q:** In our state, adults can be tried as juveniles based on mental capacity. Do we count those as criminal or juvenile?
- A:** If the petition/filing is in juvenile court, count it as a juvenile proceeding.
- Q:** If a juvenile is tried as an adult, do we count those as criminal or juvenile?
- A:** Criminal
- Q:** What if a juvenile receives a citation (traffic or local ordinance)?
- A:** This should be counted in the traffic/local ordinance section.
- Q:** When a case is remanded to the trial court from an appeal, is that a new case or a reopen?
- A:** A case counts the same in CSP whether it's new or reopened, so it is decision on the state level. If the remanded case is heard de novo, counting it as a new case is likely the most accurate reflection of workload.
- Q:** What is the difference between a non-domestic relations restraining order (line 32), a civil protection/restraining order in domestic (line 44) and a protection order violation (line 65)?
- A:** A civil or domestic relations restraining order case occurs when a petition for a restraining order is filed. These cases can be opened as new cases or as reopened cases.

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If a person violates a civil or domestic restraining order and is charged with a misdemeanor, it counts as a new protection order violation case in criminal. However, if a person violates a restraining order arising from a criminal case, it would count as a reopen of the original criminal case type (as with a probation violation).

Q: How do we report traffic cases that are civil rather than criminal in nature?

A: Report them as non-criminal traffic offenses.

Case Type Mapping Guide

Case type	CSP case type	Notes
Civil		
Construction defect	Buyer Plaintiff Real Property - Other	Depends on specific state statute whether it's more appropriately grouped as a contract issue (buyer plaintiff) or real property
Name Change	Civil - Other	
Replevin/Claim & delivery	Civil - Other	Recovery of personal property
Foreign Judgment	Civil - Other	
Declaratory Judgment	Civil - Other	
Foreign Judgment	Civil - Other	Registering a judgment from another jurisdiction
Election	Civil - Other	
Property Forfeiture	Civil – Other	Unless real estate
Complex commercial litigation	Contract - Other	
Condemnation	Eminent Domain Real Property-other	Whether condemnation is eminent domain or real property depends on the state's definition of the case type
Forcible Detainer	Landlord Tenant - Other	
Ejectment	Landlord Tenant - Other	
Mechanics Lien	Seller Plaintiff	
Class action or "mass tort"	Tort – type depends on subject of the class action	
Post-conviction Relief	Writs – Other	
Criminal		
Bullying	Person	

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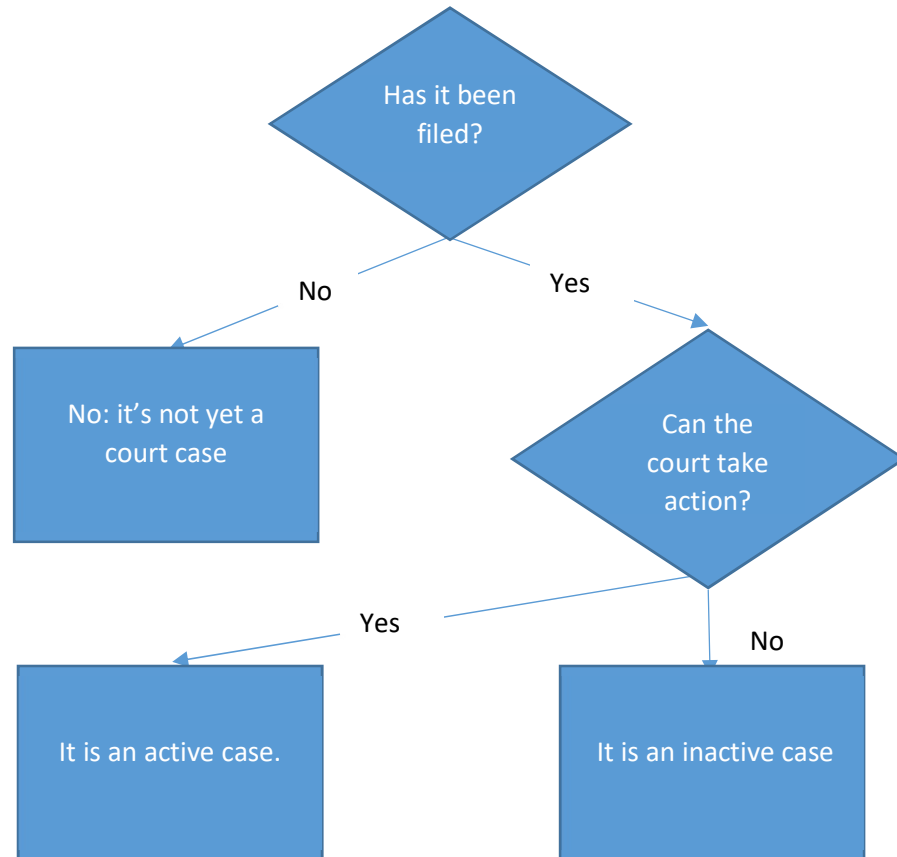
Endangering the welfare of a child/failure to protect	Person	
Human/sex/labor trafficking	Person	
Internet stalking of a child	Person	
Permitting the abuse of a minor/ Endangering the welfare of an incompetent	Person	
Sexting juvenile	Person	
Providing false information/falsifying forms	Property	Form of fraud
Welfare Fraud	Property	Fundamentally theft
Child pornography	Public Order	
Cruelty to animals	Public Order	
Toxic disposal/hazardous waste dumping	Public order	
Boating/Flying While Intoxicated	Motor Vehicle DWI	
Escape	Other	
Failure to Appear	Other	
Failure to report as a sex offender	Other	
Fishing/Game violations	Other	
Obstruction of Justice	Other	
Perjury	Other	
Probation revocation	Reopen of original criminal type	
Domestic		
Annulment	Dissolution/Divorce	
Separate Maintenance	Domestic Relations - Other	
Juvenile		
Juvenile mental health commitment	Civil - commitment	
Juvenile protection order	Civil – protection order	
Juvenile criminal motor vehicle cases	Delinquency – other	
Juvenile Weapon	Delinquency – other	If simply possession
Juvenile using weapon to harm	Delinquency – person	
Juvenile buying/selling weapon	Delinquency – property	
Juvenile DWI/DUI	Delinquency – public order	
Emancipation	Juvenile - other	

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Juvenile probation revocation	Reopen of original delinquency type	
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Status Categories FAQ

Q: Does diversion count as inactive?



Case Characteristic FAQ

Interpreters

Q: Does it count as a case with an interpreter even if it was just a witness who needed the interpreter?

A: Yes. Count it if an interpreter was used by the court for any reason.

Self-Represented Litigants (SRL)

Q: If the SRL is an attorney, is it still a an SRL case?

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- A:** Yes. We do not make any education, knowledge, or experience distinctions in defining an SRL.
- Q:** **Does it count as an SRL if it is a non-contested traffic case?**
- A:** Yes.
- Q:** **Does it count as an SRL if it is a case type in which attorneys are not permitted (small claims, for example)?**
- A:** Indicate NJ if having an attorney is not an option statewide in a particular case type.
- Q:** **Does it count as an SRL if the adoptee does not have an attorney?**
- A:** If the adoptee is eligible for an attorney but is not represented, it counts as an SRL.
- Q:** **Does it matter if more than one party is self-represented?**
- A:** No. SRL is counted at the case level, so is counted whether 1 litigant is an SRL or if all litigants are.
- Q:** **If a case has more than one disposition (when it was reopened, for example), should it count as SRL for each disposition?**
- A:** Yes, assuming at least one litigant was self-represented for that portion of the case.
- Q:** **If a respondent or defendant never participated in the case (typically a default judgment or dismissal), is this considered a case with an SRL?**
- A:** Not unless the plaintiff or other participating party was self-represented.
- Q:** **If the party has a non-attorney advocate, are they SRL?**
- A:** Yes, assuming they do not also have an attorney.
- Q:** **If the party has limited scope representation, are they SRL?**
- A:** Yes. In the future, CSP may introduce a third category.
- Q:** **If a non-person party (corporation or other) does not have an attorney, are they SRL?**
- A:** Yes, if the party could be represented (as in the case of a small business or corporation). No if the party is an object that cannot respond (State vs. \$53,000 in U.S. Currency, for example).

What cases don't count under the Court Statistics Project?

For CSP purposes, we count cases where there is a possibility of judicial intervention, so purely administrative cases are not counted for CSP. Cases that are counted for CSP purposes must

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involve a contested issue, or one that **may** be subject to judicial intervention/could become contested by the court without the need to file an appeal. For example, the appointment of a member to a board of trustees may be handled by the court clerk, but it is not considered a case for CSP. However, if that appointment is then appealed, the appeal becomes a CSP case since it involves a contested issue to be settled by the judiciary.

The case types below are not counted as part of CSP because they are primarily administrative in nature.

- Marriage license
- Civil/marriage ceremonies
- Warrants
- Investigative subpoenas
- Extradition
- Firearms license (though violations do count)
- Fishing or game licenses (though violations do count)
- Cross-claims, third-party claims, and counter claims in an existing case.

Motions typically do not count as a CSP case, but if a motion is used to reopen a closed case it would count as a reopen.