

## ABOUT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COURT SYSTEM

*www.courts.state.nh.us*

The New Hampshire Court system is composed of the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the District Court, the Family Division, the Probate Court, and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Supreme Court:** The five-member New Hampshire Supreme Court sits in Concord and is the state's only appellate court. The Supreme Court hears appeals from the trial courts and administrative agencies. The Chief Justice and associate justices work with the administrative judges from the trial courts on issues involving policy and court management.

**Superior Court:** The Superior Court is the only forum in the state for jury trials. It has jurisdiction over a wide variety of criminal, domestic relations, and civil cases.

**District Court:** The District Courts, located in 36 cities and towns across the state, are known as New Hampshire's "community courts." Cases within the jurisdiction of the district court involve families, juveniles, small claims, landlord tenant matters, minor crimes and violations and civil cases in which the disputed amount does not exceed \$25,000.

**Family Division:** The Family Division, which is currently expanding statewide, now operates in 16 locations in six counties: Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Rockingham or Sullivan. The Family Division will expand to Merrimack County in the late spring of 2007, with Strafford, Hillsborough and Cheshire counties to follow. Family Division cases include divorce/parenting action, child support, domestic violence petitions, guardianship of minors, termination of parental rights, abuse/neglect cases, children in need of services, juvenile delinquency, and some adoptions.

**Probate Court:** The Probate Court has jurisdiction over trusts, wills and estates, adoptions, name changes, guardianship of incapacitated persons, guardianship of minors, termination of parental rights, partition of property and involuntary admissions.

**Administrative Office of the Courts:** The AOC provides centralized and specialized services to the Supreme Court and the trial courts throughout the state including accounting, auditing, fiscal management, grant administration, personnel, and technology.

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