

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

In re: Time Standards for Case Closure)	M.R. 31228
in Illinois Trial Courts)	
)	

ORDER

In October 2018, the Illinois Supreme Court amended Supreme Court Rule 41 to reconstitute the Illinois Judicial Conference. The amended rule provides that “[t]here shall be a Judicial Conference to consider the work of the courts and to suggest improvements in the administration of justice. The Judicial Conference shall be the body to strategically plan for the Illinois judicial branch.” The Conference subsequently created the Court Data & Performance Measures Task Force (“Task Force”) charged with “developing accurate and uniform data collection for every circuit and based on those data points, establishing time standards for all case types.”

The Task Force was divided into three subgroups - domestic relations & juvenile, criminal, and civil. Each subgroup considered information from the National Center for State Courts, American Bar Association Standards, Conference of State Court Administrators, Conference of Chief Justices, data from individual states, and the few existing time standards in Illinois circuits, all of which was reviewed by members with years of institutional knowledge and experience in Illinois courts.

The Task Force released its Report and Recommendations in October 2021. The Report and Recommendation were reviewed with the Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court in December 2021.

The developed time standards represent the time during which the court exercises control over and is accountable for the progress and timely closure of a case. A case is closed by entry of the final order as prescribed by the 2022 Manual on Recordkeeping (“MRK”). Time to case closure is the standard for efficient use of court time and resources, cost-effective litigation in both private and public sectors, and access to a full and fair hearing with procedural due process. Implementing time standards establishes a statewide expectation for judges, litigants, and attorneys. These time standards require each court to evaluate its actual performance compared to a statewide expectation. They provide a management tool that allows the courts to regularly evaluate their operations and enhance their delivery of services.

The Task Force adopted interim benchmarks for time to case closure at 75%, 90%, and 98% of total cases. By including only 98% of cases rather than 100%, the Time Standards inherently acknowledge that there will always be outlier cases. Further, the 2022 MRK mandates new case types, imposes strict case status criteria for open, inactive, reinstated, and closed cases, and, most importantly, requires that all circuits henceforth uniformly collect and submit data in conformity with the 2022 MRK. Therefore, it was

proposed that Time Standards apply prospectively only on cases filed on or after January 1, 2022.

Additionally, the Task Force stressed that the purpose of the Time Standards is to assist the courts in meeting their fundamental obligation to resolve disputes fully, fairly, and promptly, and are not to be used as the sole means for judicial discipline.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

Effective July 1, 2022, the *Time Standards for Case Closure in the Illinois Trial Courts* are hereby established for cases filed on or after January 1, 2022. The Administrative Director of the Illinois Courts has the authority to amend the *Standards* as is necessary and appropriate.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Circuit Clerks shall provide the statistical reporting required pursuant the 2022 MRK; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that training for judges and justice system stakeholders shall be overseen by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the *Time Standards for Case Closure in the Illinois Trial Courts* shall not be used as the sole means for judicial discipline.

Order entered by the Court.

FILED
March 25, 2022
SUPREME COURT
CLERK

Time Standards for Case Closure in the Illinois Trial Courts
Effective July 1, 2022

Family/Juvenile Categories

<u>Case Type/Category</u>	<u>% Complete</u>	<u>Time in Months to Completion</u>	<u>Time in Days to Completion</u>	<u>Notes</u>
DC	75%	9 Months	274 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	15 Months	457 Days	
	98%	18 Months	548 Days	
DN	75%	9 Months	274 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	12 Months	365 Days	
	98%	15 Months	457 Days	
JD	90%	3 Months	91 Days	Date of Filing to Disposition (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	98%	6 Months	183 Days	
JA	75%	6 Months	183 Days	Date of Filing of the TPR or Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	15 Months	457 Days	
	98%	24 Months	731 Days	
FA	75%	9 Months	274 Days	Custody & Paternity; Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	15 Months	457 Days	
	98%	18 Months	548 Days	
JV	75%	9 Months	274 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	15 Months	457 Days	
	98%	18 Months	548 Days	
AD	75%	9 Months	274 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	15 Months	457 Days	
	98%	18 Months	548 Days	

Criminal/Quasi Criminal Categories

<u>Case Type/Category</u>	<u>% Complete</u>	<u>Time in Months to Completion</u>	<u>Time in Days to Completion</u>	<u>Notes</u>
CF	75%	18 Months	548 Days	Date of Filing to Sentencing/Dismissal (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	24 Months	731 Days	
	98%	30 Months	913 Days	
CM DV	75%	6 Months	183 Days	Date of Filing to Sentencing/Dismissal (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	9 Months	274 Days	
	98%	12 Months	365 Days	
DT MT	75%	9 Months	274 Days	Date of Filing to Sentencing/Dismissal (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	12 Months	365 Days	
	98%	15 Months	457 Days	
TR OV QC CV	75%	3 Months	91 Days	Date of Filing to Sentencing/Dismissal (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	98%	6 Months	183 Days	

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Civil Case Categories

<u>Case Type/Category</u>	<u>% Complete</u>	<u>Time in Months to Completion</u>	<u>Time in Days to Completion</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Complex: ED FC LA CH PR	75%	18 Months	548 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	24 Months	731 Days	
	98%	36 Months	1096 Days	
General: AR GC LM MR	75%	12 Months	365 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	18 Months	548 Days	
	98%	24 Months	731 Days	
Summary: EV MH SC TX	75%	6 Months	183 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	98%	12 Months	365 Days	
GR	75%	6 Months	183 Days	Date of Filing to Appointment of Guardian (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	98%	12 Months	365 Days	

Other Case Categories

<u>Case Type/Category</u>	<u>% Complete</u>	<u>Time in Months to Completion</u>	<u>Time in Days to Completion</u>	<u>Notes</u>
CC	75%	6 Months	183 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	98%	12 Months	365 Days	
OP*	98%	3 Months	91 Days	Date of Filing to Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
CL	75%	3 Months	91 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	98%	6 Months	183 Days	
MX	75%	9 Months	274 Days	Date of Filing to Final Order/Judgment (Case Closed per 1/1/22 RKM)
	90%	12 Months	365 Days	
	98%	15 Months	457 Days	

*There is an assumption the majority of Order of Protection cases are initiated by a petition for an emergency order. The case is closed upon entry of the first order in the case. If the first order is for an emergency order of protection, any further interim or plenary proceedings are post-judgment.

Time Standards for Case Closure in the Illinois Trial Courts

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Case Category Descriptions

Family & Juvenile:

<u>Category Code</u>	<u>Category Title</u>	<u>Category Description</u>
DC	Dissolution with Children	Dissolution of marriage or civil union, declaration of invalidity (annulment), petitions for legal separation, or separate maintenance as defined in 750 ILCS 5/303 when at the time of filing there are minor children
DN	Dissolution without Children	Dissolution of marriage or civil union, declaration of invalidity (annulment), petition for legal separation, or separate maintenance as defined in 750 ILCS 5/303 when at the time of filing there are no minor children
JD	Juvenile Delinquent	Addicted minors as defined by the Substance Use Disorder Act (20 ILCS 301/1-1 et seq.) in the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405/4-1 et seq.) or delinquent minors as defined by the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 (705 ILCS 405/5-101 et seq.)
JA	Juvenile Abuse & Neglect	Dependent, neglected or abused minor as defined by 705 ILCS 405/2-1, et seq. of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987
JV	Juvenile	Minors requiring authoritative intervention as defined by 705 ILCS 405/3-1 et seq. of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 or to any other proceedings initiated under 705 ILCS 405/1-1 et seq. of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987
FA	Family	Proceedings to establish the parent-child relationship, notice to putative fathers, and certain actions relating to child support
AD	Adoption	Cases filed pursuant to 750 ILCS 50/0.01 et seq

Criminal & Quasi-Criminal:

<u>Category Code</u>	<u>Category Title</u>	<u>Category Description</u>
CF	Criminal Felony	Complaint, information or indictment is filed in which at least one count charges a felony as defined in the Unified Code of Corrections (730 ILCS 5/5-1 et seq.) (Class M, X, 1, 2, 3, or 4)
CM	Criminal Misdemeanor	most serious charge carries a penalty of less than one-year imprisonment, limited to Class A, B or C offenses as defined in the Unified Code of Corrections (730 ILCS 5/5-1 et seq.)
DV	Domestic Violence	Violation of domestic battery under Section 12-3.2 of the Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5/12-3.2).
DT	Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	charging a violation of a statute, ordinance, or regulation governing driving or operating under the influence of alcohol, other drug, or combination thereof under Section 11-501 of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-501), Section 5-7 of the Snowmobile Registration and Safety Act (625 ILCS 40/5-7), and Section 5-16 of the Boat Registration and Safety Act (625 ILCS 45/5-16) and not classified as a felony
MT	Major Traffic	Class A, B, or C as defined by Supreme Court Rule 501(f)(1)(i), except DUI cases.
TR	Minor Traffic	Class P or B as defined by Supreme Court Rule 501(f)(1)(ii)
OV	Ordinance Violation	violation of a local ordinance is charged, other than a traffic ordinance
QC	Quasi-Criminal	Any offense classified as Petty or Business as defined in the Unified Code of Corrections (730 ILCS 5/5-1 et seq.), which is not otherwise defined as a DT, MT, TR, or CV case
CV	Conservation	As defined by Supreme Court Rule 501(c)

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Civil:

<u>Category Code</u>	<u>Category Title</u>	<u>Category Description</u>
ED	Eminent Domain	Proceedings involving compensation to an owner for property taken for public use
FC	Foreclosure	Residential or commercial foreclosure proceedings
LA	Law	Tort, contract, and a variety of other actions in which the damages sought are greater than \$50,000
CH	Chancery	Complaints for equitable relief in matters such as contract actions, trusts, and title to real property
PR	Probate	Estates of decedents and missing persons
AR	Arbitration	Arbitration-eligible cases are defined by Supreme Court Rules 86 - 95
GC	Governmental Corporation	Petition seeking consideration by the court on new matters not included in the permanent case containing such matters as organization, appointment of officers, approval of bonds, and routine orders confirming annexation
LM	Law Magistrate	Tort, contract, and a variety of other actions in which the damages sought are \$50,000 or less
MR	Miscellaneous Remedy	Review of administrative decisions (other than of a tax commission) and a variety of other actions that include change of name, demolition, and corporation dissolution
EV	Eviction	Commercial or residential eviction proceedings and for any proceeding for ejection
MH	Mental Health	Proceedings involving hospitalization, discharge, or restoration to legal status
SC	Small Claims	Tort or contract for money not in excess of \$10,000, exclusive of interest and costs (defined in Supreme Court Rule 281)
TX	Tax	Annual tax sale, petitions for tax deed, objections, and a variety of other actions relating to the collection of taxes
GR	Guardianship	Guardianship of a minor, person with a disability, or an estate of any person under the Probate Act of 1975, as amended

Other:

<u>Category Code</u>	<u>Category Title</u>	<u>Category Description</u>
CC	Contempt of Court	Direct or indirect contempt of court, for charges initiated against a person who is not a party to the action in which the contemptuous conduct allegedly occurred, including a juror who has been impaneled
OP	Order of Protection	Any petition for an order of protection, petition for stalking no contact order, firearms restraining order, or civil no contact order
CL	Civil Law	Civil law violations as defined in Supreme Court Rule 585
MX	Miscellaneous Criminal	Variety of actions for civil processes relating to criminal proceedings such as search warrants, grand jury proceedings, statutory summary suspensions (when no DT case exists), probationer transfers, eavesdropping, seized property, sealing and expungement petitions (when no criminal case exists), habeas corpus and administrative subpoenas