



GWINNETT COUNTY  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

75 Langley Drive | Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6935  
O: 770.822.7000 | F: 770.822.7097  
GwinnettCounty.com

Nicole L. Hendrickson, Chairwoman  
Kirkland Dion Carden, District 1  
Ben Ku, District 2  
Jasper Watkins III, District 3  
Matthew Holtkamp, District 4

---

Unofficial

**Informal Presentation Minutes**

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – 11:00 AM

Present: Nicole L. Hendrickson, Kirkland D. Carden, Ben Ku, Jasper Watkins III, Matthew Holtkamp

**1. Child Advocacy & Juvenile Services**

Child Advocacy & Juvenile Services Update

Department Director Derek Brownlee provided the Board with an update on department divisions, highlighting responsibilities and roles, reviewing total disposed cases and filing trends and current initiatives. No official action taken.



# Child Advocacy and Juvenile Services 2026

Derek Brownlee  
Department Director

# Divisions

- Guardians ad Litem
- Juvenile Probation Officers
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Administration

# Guardians ad Litem

- 1 Division Director/Supervising Attorney and 8 Attorneys
- 1 Youth Support Manager
- 4 Coordinators
- 1 Education Advocate
- 1 Part-Time Coordinator
- 1 Support Specialist
- 17 personnel total

# GAL Responsibilities

- Dependencies
- Superior Court Transfers
- Delinquencies
- Emancipations
- Parental Notification Act
- Probate Court Transfers
- Terminations of Parental Rights





# Juvenile Probation Officers

- Work in Juvenile Delinquencies
- Assess children's needs for programs
- Supervise children during terms of probation
- Accountability Courts
- Currently 442 children on probation

# Court Appointed Special Advocates (Also known as CASAs)

- DFCS dependencies
- 4 supervisors
- 49 volunteers



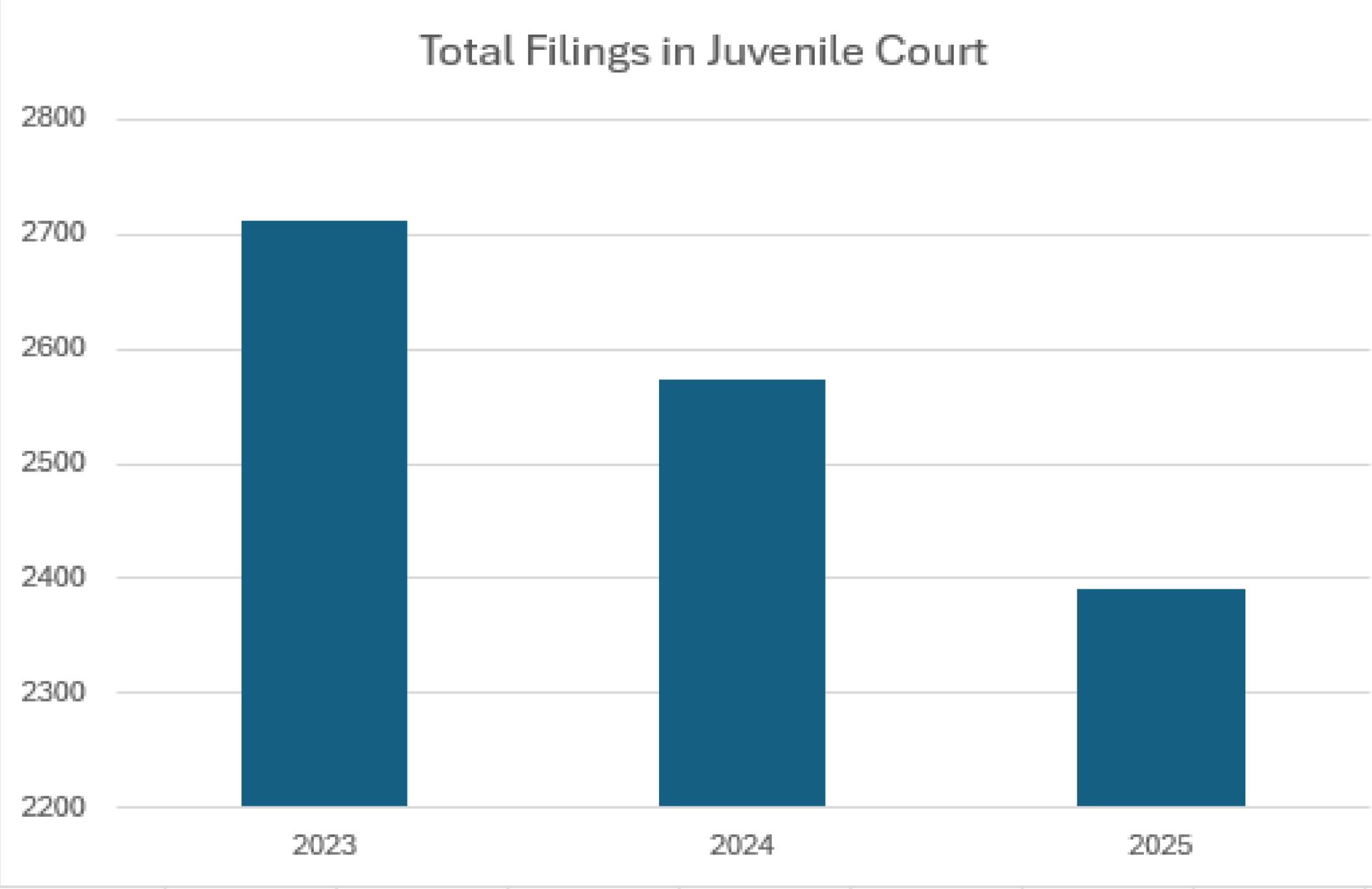
# Education Advocates and Extended Youth Support

- New initiative:
  - Keep youths progressing in their education
  - Advocate and support all types of education
  - Assists youths involved with the Juvenile Court
  - Can support youths remaining in foster care after age 18
  - Improve life skills

# Total Disposed in 2025

- Child in need of supervision - 318
- Dependencies - 373
- Special proceedings - 169
- Terminations of parental rights - 42
- Emancipations - 1

# Filing Trends: 2023-2025



# Initiatives

- Grow education advocacy initiative
- Trial skills training for dependency attorneys and GALs
- Move toward completely digital footprint
- Increase number of CASAs
- Truancy calendar and expand Children in Need of Services
- Bark Breaks
- Explore therapy dogs for court days
- Additional Trust Based Relational Intervention Training
- Infant and Toddler Court Program