

**14<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**  
**CourTools Measure 3: Time to Disposition**

**Definition:** The percentage of cases disposed or otherwise resolved within established time frames.

**Purpose:** This measure, used in conjunction with *Clearance Rates (Measure 2)* and *Age of Active Pending Caseload (Measure 4)*, is a fundamental management tool that assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. It compares a court's performance with local, state, or national guidelines for timely case processing. When the underlying data conform to the State Court Guide to Statistical Reporting, the measure takes into account periods of inactivity beyond the court control (e.g., absconded defendants, cases suspended pending decision on an appeal) and provides a framework for meaningful measurement across all case types.

The North Carolina Supreme Court first adopted Time Guidelines for Trial Courts in 1996. The following table provides information on the time to disposition for major case categories in both Superior and District Court.

MEASURE 3: TIME TO DISPOSITION IN DURHAM

		Goal	Preceding Fiscal Years			Current Fiscal Year 08/09			
			FY 05/06	FY 06/07	FY 07/08	Jul - Sep	Jul - Dec	Jul - Mar	Jul - Jun
S									
U	CIVIL CASES - 90% Disposed Within	90%	69%	76%	78%	81%	79%	79%	80%
P	One Year of Filing								
E									
R	CRIMINAL FELONY CASES - 90%	90%	67%	74%	78%	63%	67%	67%	74%
I	Disposed Within One Year of Filing								
O									
R	CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR APPEAL	90%	46%	42%	57%	74%	76%	77%	59%
C	CASES - 90% Disposed Within 180								
	Days of Transfer								
T									
D									
I	CIVIL CASES - 98% Disposed Within	98%	94%	93%	97%	99%	99%	99%	99%
S	18 Months of Filing								
T									
R	DOMESTIC CASES - 90% Disposed	90%	91%	92%	94%	91%	93%	91%	90%
I	Within Six Months of Filing								
C									
T	CRIMINAL NON-MOTOR VEHICLE	100%	85%	86%	86%	84%	85%	85%	86%
C	CASES - 100% Disposed Within One								
	Year								
T									

NOTE: Categories highlighted in blue meet or exceed established goal. When measuring time to disposition, periods of "inactivity" should be excluded from the calculation, e.g., in a criminal case in which the defendant has absconded, the number of days from the point at which the defendant failed to appear to that point when the defendant is brought back before the Court; or, in a civil case, the number of days a case is stayed while a party's bankruptcy action proceeds in federal court. The Judicial Department's information systems do not distinguish between active periods and inactive periods, and can't exclude inactive days from the time-to-disposition calculation. For additional information on case processing in Durham and throughout the State, go to the Court Performance Management System section of the North Carolina Court System's home page at <http://www.nccourts.org>.