Special Report

Arkansas Legislative Audit

Review of Selected Case Transfers in the Nineteenth West Judicial District Circuit Court

Benton County, Arkansas

February 25, 2026



INTRODUCTION

This report is issued in response to a request, approved by the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee (LJAC), for Arkansas Legislative Audit (ALA) to conduct a review of cases transferred between Divisions in the Nineteenth West Judicial District Circuit Court (Court).

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this report were to:

1. Document processes for random assignment of judges within the Administrative Office of the Courts' Contexte Software System (System).
2. Document processes for initiating and making transfers between the Divisions in the Court.
3. Compare distribution of case load for open cases pursuant to the Court's 2026 Administrative Plan.
4. Examine selected transfers and related documentation for propriety, and assess internal controls related to case transfers.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The review was conducted primarily for Court cases that were open on February 25, 2026, the date the data was downloaded and provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), and consisted principally of inquiries and analysis, as well as review of Court documents, administrative plans, and orders. To gain an understanding of the processes within the System and the Court, inquiries were made of individuals from the AOC and the Court. For case testing, ALA examined court documents available via Internal Court Connect (ICC) which contains case descriptions, information on parties, docket entries, and images of documents filed.

BACKGROUND

Benton County is located in northwest Arkansas and has a population of 284,333, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. The Court is comprised of seven Divisions (two criminal, four civil, and one special) and consists of Benton County in its entirety. In 2025, approximately 13,600 cases were opened in the Court, with an approximate daily average of 9,200 open cases.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 172, Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: 501-683-8600 • Fax: 501-683-8605
www.arklegaudit.gov

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Cases in the Court are assigned to judges on a random basis, as outlined in the Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit 2026 Administrative Plan (Administrative Plan), which became effective on January 1, 2026. The Administrative Plan, which was approved by the Arkansas Supreme Court and is provided in **Appendix A**, allows for the distribution of cases among the seven circuit judges with criminal, civil, juvenile, domestic relations, and probate cases separated as shown in **Exhibit I**.

Exhibit I

Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County
Summary of 2026 Administrative Plan

	Case Type							
	Criminal	**Juvenile**	**Domestic**	**Probate**	**Domestic Abuse/Civil Commitment**	**Adult Protective Services**	**Civil**	**Specialty**
Division 1	50%							
Division 2	50%							
Division 3		100%	1%	4%		100%	4%	100%
Division 4			24%	24%	25%		24%	
Division 5			25%	24%	25%		24%	
Division 6			25%	24%	25%		24%	
Division 7			25%	24%	25%		24%	
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Administrative Rules for Recusals and Transfers

Criminal, Domestic, and Probate cases transfer first to other Divisions assigned to hear similar cases.

If both Criminal Divisions recuse, then a random transfer is made to Divisions 3 - 7.

If all Domestic and Probate Divisions recuse, then a random transfer is made to Divisions 1 - 2.

Juvenile Division transfers are made from Division 3 to Divisions 4 - 7; if all recuse, transfers are made to Divisions 1 - 2.

If a case is transferred or a judge recuses, the Clerk shall assign an additional case to the recusing or transferring Division, except when transfers are from Division 3 to Division 1 or 2.

The Clerk shall maintain a recusal and transfers order book.

Note: ALA was also provided administrative plans for 2022 and 2024; there were only minor differences noted between the plans.

Source: *Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit 2026 Administrative Plan (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)*

RESULTS OF REVIEW

Objective 1: Document processes for random assignment of judges within the Administrative Office of the Courts' Context Software System (System).

As previously mentioned, assignment of cases to judges is random at the time of case creation in the System, as outlined in the Administrative Plan provided in **Appendix A** and summarized in **Exhibit I**. According to AOC staff, the System uses a weighted random method of selection[1]

[1] Weighted random selection is a probabilistic algorithm used to select an item from a collection where each item has a predefined, non-uniform probability of being chosen.

based on a set pool size. If the judge initially selected recuses, another judge is chosen based on the same method, and a "chip" from the new judge's pool is added to the recusing judge's pool for the next selection. It should be noted that, per the Administrative Plan, all Juvenile, Adult Protective Services, and Specialty Court cases (e.g., Veteran's Court, Adult Drug Court, Family Treatment Court, and Juvenile Drug Court) are assigned to Division 3; therefore, weighted random selection does not apply.

Objective 2: Document processes for initiating and making transfers between the Divisions of the Court.

Based on information provided by Court personnel, when a case is opened, the System automatically assigns a case number and randomly assigns a judge. After the initial judge is assigned, transfers between Division can be either randomly selected by the System (occurring when a judge recuses) or entered directly. Transfers entered directly into the System are appropriate in several situations, as noted below:

1. Circuit Court order transferring a case signed by the presiding judge.
2. Transfers authorized by Administrative Order No. 2015-1, provided in **Appendix B**, and initiated by the Prosecuting Attorney, such as in the following circumstances:

   A defendant's new criminal case needs to be assigned to a particular Division to coincide with other active criminal cases or revocations;

   There are co-defendants associated with a new criminal case.

   The Circuit Clerk's office instituted an internal policy in which the Prosecuting Attorney is asked to confirm the direct assignment of cases in writing. This policy is not required by Administrative Order No. 2015-1, and there are no controls in place to require this documentation in the System.
3. Circuit Court bond hearings presided over by a district judge. District judges assign cases to a particular Division of the Circuit Court at the time of the bond hearing. If the case is not randomly assigned to that Division upon creation of the case in the System, it is manually transferred to the assigned Division.

Transfers entered directly into the System should be accompanied by documentation that is entered into the official Court record.

Objective 3: Compare distribution of case load for open cases pursuant to the 2026 Administrative Plan.

On February 25, 2026, a total of 9,351 open cases were divided between the seven Divisions of the Court, as noted in **Exhibit II on page 4**. Each judge's case load by type of case was compared to the Administrative Plan. Differences between actual results and the Administrative Plan are deemed reasonable considering the direct transfers noted in **Objective 2**.

Objective 4: Examine selected transfers and related documentation for propriety and assess internal controls related to case transfers.

A total of 1,673 (18%) of the 9,351 open cases had at least one transfer between Divisions. Of these cases, 207 were transferred two or more times, resulting in a total of 2,013 transfers between Divisions, as noted in **Exhibit III on page 4**.

Exhibit II

Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County
Distribution of Case Load for Open Cases
As of February 25, 2026

			TOTAL CASE LOAD		CRIMINAL		JUVENILE		DOMESTIC		PROBATE		CIVIL	
DIVISION	ISSUE AREA	Count	Total Cases	% of Total	% Criminal	Per Admin Plan	% Juvenile	Per Admin Plan	% Domestic	Per Admin Plan	% Probate	Per Admin Plan	% Civil	Per Admin Plan
DIVISION ONE	CIVIL	51											2.0%	
	CRIMINAL	2,271			48.6%	50%								
	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	1							0.1%					
	PROBATE	3	2,326	24.9%							0.4%			
DIVISION TWO	CIVIL	31											1.2%	
	CRIMINAL	2,277			48.7%	50%								
	PROBATE	4	2,312	24.7%							0.5%			
DIVISION THREE	CIVIL	163											6.5%	4%
	CRIMINAL	123			2.6%									
	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	52							4.9%	1%				
	PROBATE	41									5.6%	4%		
	JUVENILE	404	783	8.4%			100%	100%						
DIVISION FOUR	CIVIL	544											21.8%	24%
	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	260							24.6%	24%				
	PROBATE	150	954	10.2%							20.6%	24%		
DIVISION FIVE	CIVIL	569											22.9%	24%
	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	288							27.2%	25%				
	PROBATE	130	987	10.6%							17.9%	24%		
DIVISION SIX	CIVIL	560											22.5%	24%
	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	275							26.0%	25%				
	PROBATE	235	1,070	11.4%							32.3%	24%		
DIVISION SEVEN	CIVIL	572											23.0%	24%
	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	182							17.2%	25%				
	PROBATE	165	919	9.8%							22.7%	24%		
	Totals	**9,351**	**9,351**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Source: *Data provided by Administrative Office of the Courts (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)*

ALA examined documentation and related court documents for 1,074 cases (64% of all cases with transfers). This group consisted of all cases with transfers occurring two days or less after the case initiation date and any cases with a first transfer date prior to the case initiation date. This review revealed the following instances in which documentation supporting the transfer could not be located in Internal Court Connect (ICC):

1. Three related cases were transferred to Division 1 but had all been randomly assigned by the System to Division 2. These transfers occurred without following the internal controls established by the Circuit Clerk and without proper documentation, as noted in **Objective 2**.

   The Circuit Clerk through legal counsel and the Nineteenth West Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney provided responses to these transfers, which are included in their entirety in **Appendices C and D.**

Exhibit III

Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County
Case Transfers
As of February 25, 2026

Cases With Transfers	Transfers Per Case	Total Transfers
2	7	14
18	6	108
3	5	15
8	4	32
26	3	78
150	2	300
1,466	1	1,466
1,673		**2,013**

Source: *Data provided by Administrative Office of the Courts (unaudited by Arkansas Legislative Audit)*

2. For twenty six cases, transfers confirmed by the Administrative Judge for the Nineteenth West Judicial District Circuit Court were made pursuant to court directive due to the underlying nature of each case:

   16 cases contained a notation of "PET ORDER OF PROTECTION" where security levels on imaged documents were raised for the safety of the litigants, at the request of the Arkansas State Police.

   10 cases were sealed by court order and, accordingly, cannot be released to third parties outside of the parameters of the security level listed in the order.

3. For two transfers, the assigned Division noted in the data obtained from AOC in **Objective 3**, did not agree with the actual court order uploaded to ICC. According to the Circuit Clerk, one of these transfers was entered into the System in error and has been corrected. An amended court order was uploaded to ICC on June 20, 2026, for the second transfer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ALA recommends the following:

- Although the Circuit Clerk has instituted an internal policy in which the Prosecuting Attorney is asked to confirm the direct assignment of cases in writing, the Court should consider incorporating this policy into Administrative Order No. 2015-1.
- AOC should consider strengthening System controls in regard to transfers by requiring that (1) documentation be included with all transfers and (2) a second authorized individual sign off electronically on all transfers in the System.

SUMMARY

ALA review revealed that the majority of cases within the Nineteenth West Judicial District Circuit Court are assigned to judges using a weighted random selection method at the time of case creation within the AOC Contexte Software System, as outlined in the Administrative Plan. After the initial judge is assigned, Division transfers can be either randomly selected by the System or entered directly into the System.

On February 25, 2026, a total of 9,351 open cases were divided between the seven Circuit Court Divisions; ALA staff found that differences between each judge's case load by type of case and the Administrative Plan were reasonable when direct transfers were considered.

ALA staff examined documentation and related court documents for 1,074 cases and determined that three related cases were transferred to Division 1 after being randomly assigned by the System to Division 2, in violation of internal controls established by the Circuit Clerk and without proper documentation. Furthermore, for 26 cases, transfers confirmed by the Administrative Judge were made properly, and two transfers in which the assigned Division did not agree with the actual court order uploaded to ICC were subsequently corrected.

The Nineteenth West Judicial District Circuit Court was provided an opportunity to respond to the report. No response was received.

A response from the Administrative Office of the Courts is included in **Appendix E.**

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County − 2026 Administrative Plan

Appendix B: Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County − Administrative Order No. 2015-1

Appendix C: Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County − Correspondence from Legal Counsel Regarding Certain Case Transfers

Appendix D: Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County − Correspondence from Nineteenth West Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Certain Case Transfers

Appendix E: Administrative Office of the Courts **−** Management Response

19th West Circuit

Benton County

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN
19TH WEST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Supreme Court has adopted Administrative Order No. **14,** as amended; and

WHEREAS, said Administrative Order allows for the division of cases among the seven Circuit Judges with criminal, civil, juvenile, domestic relations and probate cases permitted to be separate; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Judges of the 19th Judicial District West have taken into account the physical facilities, personnel available, historical statistical data from the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Benton County Circuit and Probate Clerks, the projected caseload of each Judge, the experience and abilities of the individual Judges to promote prompt and efficient resolution of cases; and

WHEREAS, there are seven (7) divisions of the 19th West Judicial District duly qualified to the designated Divisions of Circuit Court, as follows:

Robin Green	Division One
Brad Karren	Division Two
Thomas E. Smith	Division Three
John R. Scott	Division Four
Xollie Duncan	Division Five
Doug Schrantz	Division Six
Christine Horwart	Division Seven

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED AND AGREED by the Circuit Judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit West, as follows:

I. DIVISIONS

The existence of Divisions shall not be construed to limit or preclude Judges from hearing other cases that may come before them. At times when one or more of the Judges may be absent or unavailable, another Judge may be called upon to act upon matters assigned to another Division of Circuit Court.

II. ASSIGNMENT AND ALLOCATION OF CASES

1. CRIMINAL CASES: Criminal cases shall be randomly and equally assigned to Divisions One and Two.

2. JUVENILE CASES: Juvenile cases and Juvenile drug court cases shall be assigned to Division Three.

3. DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES: Domestic Relations cases, except domestic abuse cases, shall be randomly assigned as follows, to-wit:

Division Three	***1%***
Division Four	***24%***
Division Five	***25%***
Division Six	***25%***
Division Seven	***25%***

Domestic Relations cases involving a child or party in an open and pending Juvenile proceeding shall be transferred to Division Three.

4. PROBATE CASES: Probate cases, except civil commitment and adult protective services, shall be randomly assigned as follows, to-wit:

Division Three	***4%***
Division Four	***24%***
Division Five	***24%***
Division Six	***24%***
Division Seven	***24%***

Probate cases involving a child or party in an open and pending Juvenile proceeding shall be transferred to Division Three.

5. DOMESTIC ABUSE AND CIVIL COMMITMENT CASES: Domestic Abuse and Civil Commitment cases shall be randomly and equally assigned to Divisions Four, Five, Six, and Seven. It is intended that Domestic Abuse cases that are filed later than a Divorce or Paternity case filed in Division Three shall be transferred to Division Three.

6. ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES CASE: All Adult Protective Services cases shall be assigned to Division Three.

7. CIVIL CASES: The Circuit Clerk shall not accept for filing any original actions seeking a remedy pursuant to 2007 Ark. Acts, No. 1004. All other Civil cases shall be randomly assigned as follows, to-wit:

Division One	***0.0%***
Division Two	***0.0%***
Division Three	***4%***
Division Four	***24%***
Division Five	***24%***
Division Six	***24%***
Division Seven	***24%***

The total projected caseload for each Division based upon the above proposed

allocation of cases is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". Estimated weighting of cases accounts for the differences in case numbers.

8. SPECIALTY COURTS: Veteran's Court cases, Adult Drug Court cases, Family Treatment Court cases, and Juvenile Drug Court cases shall be assigned to Division Three.

9. TRANSFERS:

a. No case shall be transferred from one Division to another solely on the basis that the case includes issues and/or remedies sounding in both law and equity.

b. Criminal, Domestic Relations, and Probate cases shall first be transferred to the other Division(s) assigned to hear like cases. In the event both Divisions assigned to hear a Criminal case should recuse, the case shall be randomly assigned to Divisions Three, Four, Five, Six and Seven. In the event all Divisions assigned to hear Domestic Relations and Probate cases shall recuse, the case shall be randomly assigned to Divisions One and Two. Civil cases shall be reassigned in the manner provided for the initial assignment of Civil cases.

c. Transfers from Division Three on Juvenile cases originally assigned to that Division shall be randomly assigned to Divisions Four, Five, Six, and Seven. If recused from Four, Five, Six, and Seven, the recusal shall be randomly assigned to Divisions One and Two.

d. A Judge recusing from a case or transferring a case shall cause an Order of Recusal or Transfer to be entered of record. The Clerk of the Court shall assign an additional case to the recusing or transferring court in order to maintain equal distribution of cases among the divisions. (See Section 111, Random Assignment.) This shall not apply to transfers from Division Three to Divisions One or Two of juvenile delinquency cases for

disposition as an adult Criminal case.

e. The Clerk shall maintain a Recusal and Transfer Orders Book in which a copy of each and every Order of Recusal and/or Transfer shall be recorded and preserved in chronological order according to the Division of Court recusing or transferring the case and the Division to which the case is assigned or transferred.

f. The Circuit Clerk is hereby instructed to indicate in the administrative records and in the Transfer Orders Book the transfer of a Criminal case to Drug Court or Veteran's Court once the order from Drug Court or Veteran's Court approving the transfer of the criminal defendant's case to Drug Court or Veteran's Court is entered. If a defendant is terminated from Drug Court or Veteran's Court, the Criminal case shall be returned to the Division where it originated based on final ruling of Division Three.

g. A Judge may transfer a case to another Division for judicial economy to manage related cases or for purposes of redistribution of cases to assist in case management provided the Judge being assigned the case is in agreement. The order of transfer shall specify if the Clerk of the Court is to randomly assign a subsequently filed case to the transferring Division in order to maintain equal distribution of cases among the divisions in effectuating the transfer. If the order of transfer specifies that there be no transfer of a subsequently filed case to the transferring Division, the Clerk of Court shall take no action except to note the reassignment of the case. (See Section **III,** Random Assignment.) This provision shall not apply to transfers from Division Three to Divisions One or Two of juvenile delinquency cases for disposition as an adult Criminal case.

III. RANDOM ASSIGNMENT

The assignment of cases shall be random, based on case types as assigned to the various Divisions of Court as provided in Section II. The Clerk is directed not to assign a

case to a division until such time as the file-mark of the Clerk has been affixed. The Clerk is prohibited from making the Division assignment known until the number is affixed to the pleading initiating the case. The Clerk is to maintain a separate Criminal, Civil, Domestic Relations, Probate, and Juvenile docket for each of the respective numerical Divisions.

IV. CASE LOAD ESTIMATES

Division One	2,200	Criminal Cases
Division Two	2,200	Criminal Cases
Division Three	70	Domestic Cases
	70	Probate Cases
	300	Specialty Court Cases
	1,000	Juvenile Cases
	150	Civil Cases
Division Four	700	Domestic Cases
	300	Probate Cases
	750	Civil Cases
Division Five	700	Domestic Cases
	300	Probate Cases
	750	Civil Cases
Division Six	700	Domestic Cases
	300	Probate Cases
	750	Civil Cases
Division Seven	700	Domestic Cases
	300	Probate Cases
	750	Civil Cases

V. SPECIALTY COURTS

Veterans Court

A. Description of Program and How it Operates. Veteran's Court is a 15-month program which is pre or post adjudicated serving former veterans using national and state best practices.

B. Statutory Authority. Ark. Code Ann. §16-101-101 et seq.

C. Certification. The program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of the Program's Use of Court Resources. All resources are used to comply with best practices as allowed by State and Federal guidelines. We partner with Veterans Administration to provide counseling services and State supplies a probation officer which also monitors State Drug Court. The State also provides a prosecutor and public defender for said cases.

E. Source of Funding. State Specialty Court funds and Federal Grants provide all funding.

Adult Drug Court

A. Description of Program and How it Operates. Drug Court Tract 1 is a 15-month pre and post adjudicated program for high-risk participants. Tract 2 is a 9-month program designed for moderate risks. Tract 3 is a 6-month diversion program used for low-risk participants. Best practices for screening and program guidelines are used to qualify participants and monitor participants while in the program.

B. Statutory Authority. Ark. Code Ann. §16-98-301 et seq.

C. Certification. The program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of the Program's Use of Court Resources. All resources are used to comply with best practices as allowed by State and Federal guidelines. The State supplies 3 probation officers, 2 counselors, a Prosecutor, and a Public Defender. Grants pay for program coordinator, an assistant, and two counselors.

E. Source of Funding. State Specialty Court funds and Federal Grants provide all funding.

Mental Health Court

A. Type of Program Description of Operations. Benton County Mental Health Court is a voluntary, pre- and post-adjudication, highly intensive supervision program designed to address the needs of criminal defendants with mental illness or co-occurring disorders. Mental Health Court is available to defendants meeting program eligibility requirements. The defendant must be an adult resident of Benton or Washington counties and must qualify for the program pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §5-4-501(c)(2) and §16-100-201 through 209. Eligible defendants must be identified as high risk and high need as determined by a validated risk assessment, must be determined by a licensed therapist. Mental Health Court is a minimum of fifteen (15) months. It is held twice a month in Phase I, once a month every other phase, and sessions are held weekly at the Division III Courthouse located at 1301 Melissa Drive in Bentonville, Arkansas.

B. Statutory Authority. Benton County Mental Health Court is established pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §16-100-201 through 209.

C. Certification of Compliance. Benton County Mental Health Court operates in compliance with all applicable sentencing laws, including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments. Team members have attended training programs offered by the Administrative Office of the Courts and national trainings. Benton County Mental Health Court has implemented best-practice standards and operates accordingly.

D. Use of Court Resources. The Benton County Mental Health team includes (1) Circuit Judge; (1) Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; (1) Deputy Public Defender; (1) Court Coordinator; (1) Probation Officer; (1) Treatment Provider; and (1) Case Manager.

E. Sources of Funding. Benton County Mental Health Court receives funding and support from Benton County, Public Defender Commission, Benton County Prosecutors' Office, Department of Corrections, Administrative Office of the Courts, and federal providers.

Family Treatment Court

A. Description of Program and How it Operates.

Family Treatment Court uses a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to serve families affected by substance use disorders and mental health disorders who are involved with the child welfare system. A comprehensive array of clinical treatment and related support services are provided to meet the needs of each member of the family rather than only the individual receiving care for a substance use disorder or mental health disorder. Related supportive services address recovery, trauma, social, emotional, and development challenges. The program is designed to follow a trauma-informed best practice model.

Prior to the enactment of the Arkansas Family Treatment Specialty Court Act, Act 61 of 2023, this program was established under the federal Safe Babies Court program to incorporate a treatment model to reunify families or achieve permanency for children.

B. Statutory Authority. Ark. Code Ann. Sec. 9-27-801 et seq.

C. Certification. The program conforms to all applicable state statutes, findings, assessments and funding requirements.

D. Source of Funding. Family Treatment Court receives funding from the Arkansas Department of Human Services and support from the Arkansas and Federal Safe Babies Court programs.

Juvenile Drug Court

A. Description of Program and How it Operates. The program is designed for high-

risk youth to complete a 12-month program.

B. Statutory Authority. Ark. Code Ann. §16-98-301 et seq.

C. Certification. The program conforms to all applicable sentencing laws including fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of the Program's Use of Court Resources. All resources are used to comply with best practices as allowed by State and Federal guidelines. A coordinator is paid for by the State of Arkansas. The State also provides a Prosecutor and Public Defender. Other resources are used when granted by other State funds or Federal grants.

E. Source of Funding. State Specialty Court funds and Federal Grants.

VI. DOCKET MAINTENANCE

Each Division shall periodically prepare and review docket reports. Each Judge shall review the docket reports in order to be fully aware of the status of his or her docket.

Each Division shall maintain a management system for the purpose of tracking responsibility and deadlines for presentation of orders by attorneys practicing before the Court.

VII. DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

Has the Circuit Court referred matters pursuant to Administrative Order No. 18 to be heard by a State District Judge?

☒ Yes
☐ No

Participating State District Judges ····· Assignment and Allocation of Cases

The State District Judges participating in referrals from the Circuit Court include:

Name	District Court Judicial District	Assignment and Allocation of Cases
Judge Chris Griffin Division 1	1st District	25% Criminal Referrals
Judge Ray Bunch Division 2	1st District	25% Criminal Referrals
Judge A.J. Anglin Division 3	1st District	25% Criminal Referrals
Judge Jeff Conner Division 4	1st District	25% Criminal Referrals

Matters Subject to Reference

The following matters are referred from Circuit Court to State District Court and have been included in the Administrative Plan for the Circuit Court and the Administrative Plan for the District Court.

□ **Consent Jurisdiction.** Upon the consent of all parties and approval by the Circuit Judge originally assigned, the following types of cases are referred from Circuit Court:

- □ Civil
- □ Domestic Relations
- □ Probate

□ **Protective Orders.**

□ **Forcible Entry and Detainers / Unlawful Detainer.**

□ **Other Matters of an Emergency or Uncontested Nature Pending in Civil, Domestic Relations or Probate Division.** *Please provide detailed information regarding the types of matters that will be referred and where these matters will be heard below.*

Type of Other Matters	Location

Not Applicable

☒ **Other Matters, if Justification for the Reference and Procedures to be Employed are Sufficiently Demonstrated in the Circuit Court Administration Plan Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14.** *Please provide detailed information regarding the types of*

matters that will be referred and where these matters will be heard below.

Type of Other Matters	Location
Extradition Proceedings	Benton County Jail

☒ **Criminal.** The following duties are referred with respect to an investigation or prosecution of an offense lying within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Circuit Court.

☒ Issue Search Warrant Pursuant to Rule 13.1
☒ Issue Arrest Warrant Pursuant to Rule 7.1 or A.C.A. §16-81-104
☒ Issue Summons Pursuant to Rule 6.1
☒ Reasonable Cause Determinations Pursuant to Rule 4.1
☒ Conduct First Appearance Pursuant to Rule 8.1
☒ Appoint Counsel Pursuant to Rule 8.2
☒ Inform Defendant Pursuant to Rule 8.3
☐ Accept Plea of "Not Guilty" or "Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity"
☒ Conduct Pretrial Release Inquiry Rules 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3
☐ Conduct Preliminary Hearing Pursuant to A.C.A. §16-93-307

Digital Audio Recording Equipment

Is digital audio recording equipment utilized to make a verbatim record of matters referred from the Circuit Court?

☒ Yes
☐ No

Specialty Court Dockets or Programs

Does a District Court Judge preside over a Circuit Court Specialty Court Program?

☐ Yes
☒ No

The following Circuit Court Specialty Courts are conducted:

Type of Specialty Court	Location

Not Applicable

a. Type of specialty docket and description of its operation:

b. Statutory or legal authority on which it is based:

c. Certification of compliance with all applicable sentencing laws, including assessment, collection and remittance of fines, fees, court costs, probation fees:

d. Use of court resources. [Describe the court team including prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, and health professionals; that each has been consulted in setting up the program and its operation; scheduling has been coordinated; and the necessary resources are available.)

e. Sources of funding:

District Court Administrative Plans

The following District Court Administrative Plans are appended for submission to the Supreme Court:

☒ 1st District-Benton County

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

The Administrative Judge shall be selected on or before the first day of February of each year following the year in which a general election is held. The Circuit judges of the Judicial Circuit shall select one of their number by secret ballot to serve as Administrative Judge for the Judicial Circuit. The selection must be unanimous, and the Administrative Judge shall serve a term of two years. Any vacancy in the office shall be dealt with as provided in Administrative Order No. 14, as amended.

The Administrative Judge shall, in general, perform the duties as required under Administrative Order 14, as amended. The Administrative Judge shall, specifically, perform the following duties:

1. Communicate with the Chief Justice, as necessary, regarding administration of the Plan in the 19th Judicial District West. Copies of all written communication sent or received shall be provided by the Administrative Judge to the other six Judges in the Circuit. In the event the communication is not in writing, a summary of the communication shall be provided to the other six Judges in the Circuit by the Administrative Judge.

2. Ensure the Administrative Plan and its implementation are consistent with Amendment 80 and the orders of the Supreme Court.

3. Ensure that the business of the Court is apportioned among the Circuit Judges as equally as possible and that case assignments are made in accordance with the Administrative Plan. The Administrative Judge shall have the authority to enter orders and otherwise require the Circuit Judges in the district to perform the duties as required by the Administrative Orders of the Arkansas Supreme Court and by Rule 8.1 of the Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure when he/she deems it appropriate.

4. Call meetings to modify the Administrative Plan should the case apportionment become unequal. Modification of the Administrative Plan's apportionment of cases shall be done only by majority vote of the seven Judges.

5. Compute, develop, and coordinate case statistics and/or other management data for the 19th Judicial District West.

6. Submit the Administrative Plan of the 19th Judicial District West to the Supreme Court by July 1st of each year following the year in which the general election is held. The effective date of the plan will be the following January.

7. Call meetings on his/her own accord or at the request of any other Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND AGREED this 25 day of June 2025.

ROBIN GREEN, Division One

BRAD KARREN, Division Two

THOMAS E. SMITH, Division Three

JOHN R. SCOTT, Division Four

XOLLIE DUNCAN, Division Five

DOUG SCHRANTZ, Division Six

CHRISTINE HORWART, Division Seven

CERTIFICATION

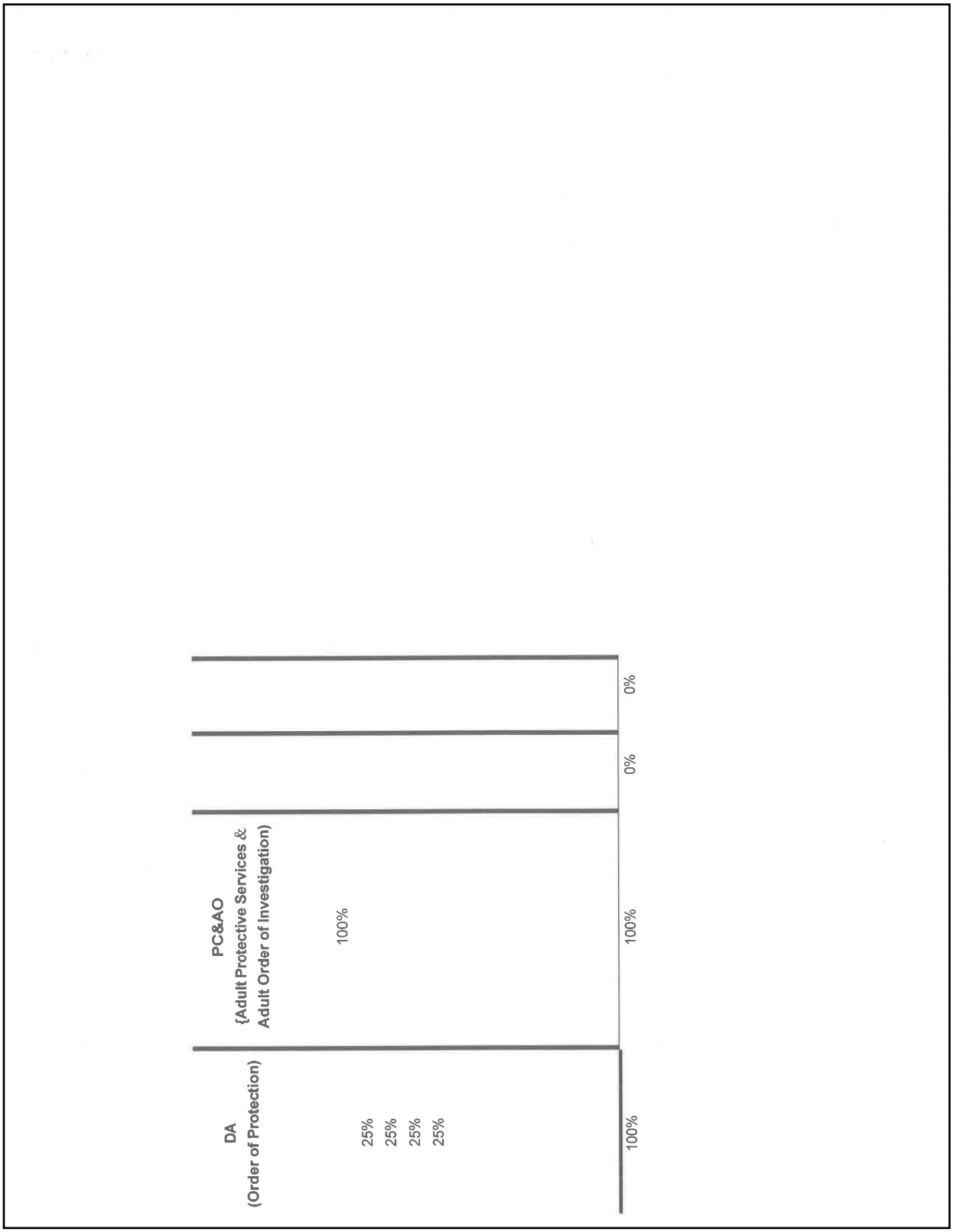
The undersigned, as Administrative Judge of the 19th Judicial District, certifies that, in accordance with Amendment 80 and Administrative Order 14, as amended, the foregoing Administrative Plan results in an equal apportionment of caseload among the Judges of the District, requires random assignment of cases, and takes into consideration the physical facilities, financial constraints, personnel available, and experience and abilities of the individual Judges in the 19th Judicial District and complies with the letter and the spirit of Amendment 80 and Administrative Order 14, as amended.

THOMAS SMITH
Administrative Judge

Judicial Circuit: 19th West
Effective Date: 1/1/2026

EXHIBIT "A"

County:	Grant	Subject Areas						Specific Case Types	
Division	Circuit Judge	CV	CR	DR	JV	PR		AI (Alcohol Commitment)	CV (Civil Commitment)
1	Robin Green	0%	50%						
2	Brad Karren	0%	50%						
3	Thomas E. Smith	4%		1%	100%	4%			
4	John R. Scott	24%		24%		24%		25%	25%
5	Xollie Duncan	24%		25%		24%		25%	25%
6	Doug Schrantz	24%		25%		24%		25%	25%
7	Christine Horwart	24%		25%		24%		25%	25%
District Judge	Chris Griffin								
District Judge	Ray Bunch								
District Judge	A.J. Anglin								
District Judge	Jeff Conner								
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%	100%


DA
(Order of Protection)
25%
25%
25%
25%
100%
PC&AO
{Adult Protective Services &
Adult Order of Investigation)
100%
100%
0%
0%

Appendix B

Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit – Benton County
Administrative Order No. 2015-1

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT – WEST

FILED
2015 DEC 14 PM 2 04
BRENDA DESHIELDS
CLERK AND RECORDER
BENTON COUNTY, AR.

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE PROCESSING OF
CRIMINAL CITATIONS AND / OR ORDERS TO APPEAR,
THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES TO DIVISIONS, THE FILING OF INFORMATIONS,
AND OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2015-1

I. APPEARANCE AND ARREST DOCUMENTS

A. All arrest and appearance documents (Citations, Bail Bonds, Appearance Bonds, Orders of Release, Affidavits of Probable Cause, Orders of Probable Cause, and Arrest Tracking Slips), shall be routed through the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. All such documents received by the Circuit Clerk shall be forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney to be processed as provided herein.

B. All Citations, Bail Bonds, Appearance Bonds, and Orders of Release shall recite the date and time of the person's appearance in the Circuit Court and shall be filed by the arresting and / or detaining agency with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office within three (3) working days. All Affidavits of Probable Cause, Orders of Probable Cause, and Arrest Tracking Slips shall also be filed with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office within three (3) working days.

C. The Arrest Tracking Number shall be entered on all documents initiating a new case if known. The Tracking number must be on all felony Informations if it is known at the time of filing. If the tracking number is not known at the time of filing, the Prosecuting Attorney shall file an amended information as soon as the tracking number is known in accordance with A.C.A. § 12-12-1007.

D. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney shall timely present the documents to the Circuit Clerk for filing and processing in accordance with Paragraph II: Assignment of Cases.

II. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

A. Except as otherwise ordered in paragraphs C and D, criminal cases shall be file-marked as to date and time received by the Circuit Clerk and assigned to Division One or Division Two of the Circuit Court by random computer generation upon the FIRST of the following events to occur, to wit:

   a. The receipt of a Citation;
   b. The receipt of an Affidavit of Probable Cause and Order to Appear;
   c. The receipt of an Appearance or Bail Bond.
   d. The filing of an Information by the Prosecuting Attorney;
   e. The filing of an appeal from an inferior court;
   f. The return of a Grand Jury Indictment;
   g. The entry of an Order remanding a Defendant to an inferior court;
   h. The entry of an Order discharging a Defendant;
   i. The entry of a served warrant;
   j. The filing of a transfer order from district court to circuit court;
   k. As may be otherwise Ordered by the Court.

B. A 'pending criminal case' is a criminal case in which an Information has not been filed but in which there has been an arrest and the Defendant has been Ordered to appear in Circuit Court.

C. When a Defendant has an active criminal case or revocation assigned to one Division of the Circuit Court, any subsequent cases shall be assigned to that Division as well. If a Defendant's new criminal case needs to be assigned to a particular Division to coincide with other active criminal cases or revocations for the same Defendant, the Prosecuting Attorney shall note in an initial filing in which Division the new criminal case needs to be filed to coincide with specified active criminal cases or revocations. The Circuit Clerk shall then assign the new criminal case to the division where there is an active criminal case or revocation as specified by the Prosecuting Attorney. In the event that a Defendant's new criminal case is not initially assigned to the same Division as the Defendant's active criminal case or revocation for whatever reason, the Prosecuting Attorney shall cause an Order to Transfer to that Division to be prepared and submit it to the Judge in the transferring division for execution.

D. The Prosecuting Attorney shall state in an initial filing of a new criminal case if there are co-defendants associated with that new criminal case and in which division they are assigned. The Circuit Clerk shall then assign the new criminal case to the appropriate Division to coincide with the earlier numbered case of the co-defendant(s). The Prosecuting Attorney shall also note if there are any co-defendants on the criminal information. In the event that a new criminal case is not initially assigned to the appropriate Division to coincide with any co-defendant(s), the Prosecuting Attorney shall cause an Order to Transfer to that Division to be prepared and submit it to the Judge in the transferring division for execution.

III. ARRAIGNMENTS

A. The appearance date for a Defendant to appear for Arraignment shall be scheduled by the law enforcement agencies for the first published Arraignment date no later than 42 days and no earlier than 35 days from the date of arrest, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. **No law enforcement agency shall be authorized to schedule an Arraignment date for a Defendant except in accordance with the arraignment schedule published and distributed as set forth below.** Nothing contained herein shall prohibit a Defendant from applying for an earlier Arraignment.

B. Arraignments shall be conducted on the first four Mondays of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m., except on legal holidays and as may otherwise be ordered. **The Defendants shall be ordered to appear for Arraignment at 8:00 a.m. The Sheriff shall transport those in custody and scheduled for Arraignment or other hearings in court to their respective courtrooms by 8:00 a.m.** The Arraignments for Division One shall be on the First and Third Mondays of each month, and the Arraignments for Division Two shall be on the Second and Fourth Mondays of each month, unless otherwise ordered.

C. The Trial Court Assistants for Divisions One and Two shall prepare on or about November 1ST of each year a schedule of arraignment dates for the following calendar year. **The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney shall distribute a Joint Arraignment Schedule for both divisions of the Circuit Court to all law enforcement agencies in Benton County.**

IV. APPEALS FROM INFERIOR COURTS

A. Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal of a case from an inferior court by the Circuit Clerk, the Clerk shall file-mark as to date and time received and cause it to be electronically assigned to Division One or Division Two in the same manner as set forth above. **The Circuit Clerk shall immediately make a copy of said appeal and send it to the Trial Court Assistant of the assigned division.** The Trial Court Assistant will set the case for Arraignment date and time, and notify counsel through a Setting Notice.

V. SEQUESTRATION

A. **ARREST WARRANTS: An Order for an Arrest Warrant and its accompanying Affidavit shall remain sequestered until the arrest of the Defendant, unless otherwise ordered.**
B. **SEARCH WARRANTS: A Search Warrant and its accompanying Affidavit and Return shall remain sequestered for ten (10) days after they are filed with the Circuit Clerk, unless otherwise ordered.**

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. A separate written case file shall be maintained for each Defendant by the Circuit Clerk, with the Defendant's name and case number prominently displayed on the outer cover.
B. The Circuit Clerk is authorized to electronically file the criminal cases in the manner set forth by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
C. All prior Administrative Orders in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.
D. Effective Date: This Order shall become effective on 14 day of December 2015

IT IS SO ORDERED on this 14 **day of** December, **2015.**

Robin Green, Circuit Judge
Division One

Brad Karren, Circuit Judge
Division Two

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONCURRENCE:

Nathan Smith, Prosecuting Attorney

Brenda Deshields, Circuit Clerk

Appendix C

Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County
Correspondence from Legal Counsel Regarding Certain Case Transfers

Harrington Miller
HARRINGTON | MILLER | KIEKLAK | EICHMANN | BROWN

April 14, 2026

Mr. Charles B. Camp, CPA
Special Projects Manager
Arkansas Legislative Audit
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 172
Little Rock, AR 72201

Via email: charles.camp@arklegaudit.gov

RE: Follow-up to Legislative Audit Meeting with Benton County

Dear Mr. Camp:

I am an attorney and represent Benton County and am providing the following information in response to your request for additional information regarding the transfer of the following three cases from Benton County Circuit Court Division Two to Benton County Circuit Court Division One. Thank you very much for allowing me the additional time to gather all necessary information to provide this response. If, after you have reviewed the information, please let me know if there is any additional information that we can provide.

The three cases in which additional information were requested are: 04CR-25-717-[redacted]; 04CR-25-718-[redacted]; and 04CR-25-719-[redacted]. All three cases involve juvenile co-defendants being charged as adults with two counts of Rape Class Y felonies. Pursuant to the Administrative Order No. 2015-1, all cases involving co-defendants are to be assigned to the same Division. Exhibit 1, Administrative Order. Because the three cases are required to be assigned to the same division, they will be referred to herein collectively as the Juvenile Cases.

Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 9-35-412[1], the Prosecuting Attorney elected to charge the three juveniles co-defendants as adults. The matter proceeded under a compressed timeline. The juveniles had been detained in the Benton County Juvenile Detention Center and were required to have a detention hearing within 72 hours of being detained pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 9-35-420.[2]

Detention hearings for juveniles charged as adults follow a different process than standard juvenile detention hearings or typical adult first appearance hearings. Juvenile detention hearings are conducted by the Division Three Circuit Court Juvenile Judge. Adult first appearance hearings

[1] Repealed and renumbered from § 9-27-318 by Acts of 2025, Act 518, §§ 2, 44, eff. Aug. 5, 2025.
[2] Repealed and renumbered from § 9-27-326 by Acts of 2025, Act 518, §§ 2, 44, eff. Aug. 5, 2025.

4710 South Thompson, Suite 102 | Springdale, Arkansas 72764 | T: (479) 751-6464 | F: (479) 751-3715 | arkansaslaw.com

are usually heard by either the Division One or Division Two judge, depending on the next scheduled first appearance date and formal criminal charges are not necessary at the first appearance. In cases in which a juvenile is charged as an adult, the detention hearing is held by the Division Three Juvenile Judge. Also, at the time of the detention hearing, the formal charging documents, in these cases the criminal information, are required to be filed at or prior to the detention hearing to ensure that jurisdiction is proper and the case can proceed in criminal court.

With respect to the assignment of a criminal case, Administrative Order No. 2015-1 provides that criminal cases shall be file-marked as to date and time received by the Circuit Clerk and assigned to Division One or Division Two by random computer generation. Exhibit 1. There are exceptions to the random assignment as set forth in Administrative Order. In these situations, the Prosecuting Attorney provides information to the Circuit Clerk or Deputy Clerk advising the Clerk as to a specific division to which the cases should be assigned. In these situations, an order of the court is not required to direct the filing in a specific division. However, the Circuit Clerk's office does not have a way to bypass the random computer assignment. So, in situations in which the Circuit Clerk's office is instructed to directly, as opposed to randomly, assign a case, the Clerk is required to open the matter in the division randomly assigned and then immediately transfer the case in accordance with the Prosecuting Attorney's instructions. To document why a case may be transferred by the Clerk's office without an order of the Circuit Court, the Circuit Clerk's office instituted an internal policy in which the Prosecuting Attorney was asked to confirm the direct assignment in writing. This was an internal control in place by the Circuit Clerk and not required by Administrative Order No. 2015-1.

Deputy Benton County Prosecuting Attorneys are assigned to a specific Benton County Circuit Court Division. On May 5, 2025, at 9:36 a.m., the Legal Assistant to the Benton County Division One Deputy Prosecutor sent an email to the Circuit Clerk's office with the Criminal Information and Criminal Cover Sheet for each respective defendant. See, Exhibit 2, 5/5/25 9:36 a.m. Email. In the email, the Legal Assistant requested "Can you please rush these information (sic), they need a case number assigned." It is typical that such emails are also accompanied by follow-up telephone calls between the Prosecutor's office and the Circuit Clerk's office. The Juvenile Cases were opened by [redacted], who was at the time the Criminal Courts Supervisor in the Benton County Circuit Clerk's Office. The cases were randomly assigned to Division Two and immediately assigned to Division One, a practice consistent with instructions for the direct as opposed to the random assignment of a case. Both [redacted] and then Division One Deputy Prosecuting Attorney are not currently employed by Benton County. The internal documentation required by the Circuit Clerk as a control measure was not provided. Accordingly, we are unable to ascertain at this time the specific reason for the transfer. It should be noted that the transfer is noted in the Contexte Case Management system as well as the internal Court Connect that is available to all court staff and the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

On May 5, 2025, the juveniles appeared before the Division Three Judge for their detention hearings. At the conclusion of their hearings, the Division Three Judge entered orders finding probable cause to try the juveniles as adults and ordered them to each appear in Division One for further proceedings. Exhibit 3, Order of Probable Cause and Order to Appear.

The Circuit Clerk has provided significant employee training and instituted internal controls in an effort to document compliance with the request for direct assignment, as opposed to the random assignment, of cases as well as to document the necessary work around required to comply with Administrative Order No. 2015-1. The Circuit Clerk is agreeable to any proposed processes, including requesting or requiring an order in every case that should be assigned to a specific division in order to ensure that it is documented that every transfer between Division One and Division Two has been reviewed and ordered by the respective Circuit Judge. This is the practice that is utilized by the other Divisions of the Benton County Circuit Courts.

Again, we thank you for allowing us the opportunity and time to respond and are happy to provide you with any additional information as requested.

Sincerely,

/s/ Susan Keller Kendall

Susan Keller Kendall

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT – WEST

FILED
2015 DEC 14 PM 2 04
BRENDA DESHIELDS
CLERK AND RECORDER
BENTON COUNTY, AR.

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE PROCESSING OF
CRIMINAL CITATIONS AND / OR ORDERS TO APPEAR,
THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES TO DIVISIONS, THE FILING OF INFORMATIONS,
AND OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2015-1

I. APPEARANCE AND ARREST DOCUMENTS

A. All arrest and appearance documents (Citations, Bail Bonds, Appearance Bonds, Orders of Release, Affidavits of Probable Cause, Orders of Probable Cause, and Arrest Tracking Slips), shall be routed through the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. All such documents received by the Circuit Clerk shall be forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney to be processed as provided herein.

B. All Citations, Bail Bonds, Appearance Bonds, and Orders of Release shall recite the date and time of the person's appearance in the Circuit Court and shall be filed by the arresting and / or detaining agency with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office within three (3) working days. All Affidavits of Probable Cause, Orders of Probable Cause, and Arrest Tracking Slips shall also be filed with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office within three (3) working days.

C. The Arrest Tracking Number shall be entered on all documents initiating a new case if known. The Tracking number must be on all felony Informations if it is known at the time of filing. If the tracking number is not known at the time of filing, the Prosecuting Attorney shall file an amended information as soon as the tracking number is known in accordance with A.C.A. § 12-12-1007.

D. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney shall timely present the documents to the Circuit Clerk for filing and processing in accordance with Paragraph II: Assignment of Cases.

II. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

A. Except as otherwise ordered in paragraphs C and D, criminal cases shall be file-marked as to date and time received by the Circuit Clerk and assigned to Division One or Division Two of the Circuit Court by random computer generation upon the FIRST of the following events to occur, to wit:

   a. The receipt of a Citation;
   b. The receipt of an Affidavit of Probable Cause and Order to Appear;
   c. The receipt of an Appearance or Bail Bond.
   d. The filing of an Information by the Prosecuting Attorney;
   e. The filing of an appeal from an inferior court;
   f. The return of a Grand Jury Indictment;
   g. The entry of an Order remanding a Defendant to an inferior court;
   h. The entry of an Order discharging a Defendant;
   i. The entry of a served warrant;
   j. The filing of a transfer order from district court to circuit court;
   k. As may be otherwise Ordered by the Court.

EXHIBIT
tabbies
1

B. A 'pending criminal case' is a criminal case in which an information has not been filed but in which there has been an arrest and the Defendant has been Ordered to appear in Circuit Court.

C. When a Defendant has an active criminal case or revocation assigned to one Division of the Circuit Court, any subsequent cases shall be assigned to that Division as well. If a Defendant's new criminal case needs to be assigned to a particular Division to coincide with other active criminal cases or revocations for the same Defendant, the Prosecuting Attorney shall note in an initial filing in which Division the new criminal case needs to be filed to coincide with specified active criminal cases or revocations. The Circuit Clerk shall then assign the new criminal case to the division where there is an active criminal case or revocation as specified by the Prosecuting Attorney. In the event that a Defendant's new criminal case is not initially assigned to the same Division as the Defendant's active criminal case or revocation for whatever reason, the Prosecuting Attorney shall cause an Order to Transfer to that Division to be prepared and submit it to the Judge in the transferring division for execution.

D. The Prosecuting Attorney shall state in an initial filing of a new criminal case if there are co-defendants associated with that new criminal case and in which division they are assigned. The Circuit Clerk shall then assign the new criminal case to the appropriate Division to coincide with the earlier numbered case of the co-defendant(s). The Prosecuting Attorney shall also note if there are any co-defendants on the criminal information. In the event that a new criminal case is not initially assigned to the appropriate Division to coincide with any co-defendant(s), the Prosecuting Attorney shall cause an Order to Transfer to that Division to be prepared and submit it to the Judge in the transferring division for execution.

III. ARRAIGNMENTS

A. The appearance date for a Defendant to appear for Arraignment shall be scheduled by the law enforcement agencies for the first published Arraignment date no later than 42 days and no earlier than 35 days from the date of arrest, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. **No law enforcement agency shall be authorized to schedule an Arraignment date for a Defendant except in accordance with the arraignment schedule published and distributed as set forth below.** Nothing contained herein shall prohibit a Defendant from applying for an earlier Arraignment.

B. Arraignments shall be conducted on the first four Mondays of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m., except on legal holidays and as may otherwise be ordered. **The Defendants shall be ordered to appear for Arraignment at 8:00 a.m. The Sheriff shall transport those in custody and scheduled for Arraignment or other hearings in court to their respective courtrooms by 8:00 a.m.** The Arraignments for Division One shall be on the First and Third Mondays of each month, and the Arraignments for Division Two shall be on the Second and Fourth Mondays of each month, unless otherwise ordered.

C. The Trial Court Assistants for Divisions One and Two shall prepare on or about November 1ST of each year a schedule of arraignment dates for the following calendar year. **The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney shall distribute a Joint Arraignment Schedule for both divisions of the Circuit Court to all law enforcement agencies in Benton County.**

IV. APPEALS FROM INFERIOR COURTS

A. Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal of a case from an inferior court by the Circuit Clerk, the Clerk shall file-mark as to date and time received and cause it to be electronically assigned to Division One or Division Two in the same manner as set forth above. **The Circuit Clerk shall immediately make a copy of said appeal and send it to the Trial Court Assistant of the assigned division.** The Trial Court Assistant will set the case for Arraignment date and time, and notify counsel through a Setting Notice.

V. SEQUESTRATION

A. **ARREST WARRANTS: An Order for an Arrest Warrant and its accompanying Affidavit shall remain sequestered until the arrest of the Defendant, unless otherwise ordered.**
B. **SEARCH WARRANTS: A Search Warrant and its accompanying Affidavit and Return shall remain sequestered for ten (10) days after they are filed with the Circuit Clerk, unless otherwise ordered.**

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. A separate written case file shall be maintained for each Defendant by the Circuit Clerk, with the Defendant's name and case number prominently displayed on the outer cover.
B. The Circuit Clerk is authorized to electronically file the criminal cases in the manner set forth by the Administrative Office of the Courts.
C. All prior Administrative Orders in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.
D. Effective Date: This Order shall become effective on 14 day of December 2015

IT IS SO ORDERED on this 14 **day of** December, **2015.**

Robin Green, Circuit Judge
Division One

Brad Karren, Circuit Judge
Division Two

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND CONCURRENCE:

Nathan Smith, Prosecuting Attorney

Brenda Deshields, Circuit Clerk

From: Edith G. Barbosa <Edith.G.Barbosa@bentoncountyar.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:36 AM
To: CRCircuitClerk <crcircuitclerk@bentoncountyargov.onmicrosoft.com>
Cc: Courtney Stokes <Courtney.Stokes@bentoncountyar.gov>; Selena Procter <Selena.Procter@bentoncountyar.gov>; Gabriel Stultz <Gabriel.Stultz@bentoncountyar.gov>
Subject: RUSH CRIMINAL INFORMATIONS
Importance: High

Good morning,

Can you please rush these information, they need a case number assigned.

Thank you,

Edith Barbosa
Legal Assistant II to:
Wilson Raines, Division I Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Tyler Dunn, Division I Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Benton County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
100 NE "A" St.
Bentonville, AR 72712
(479)271-1030 ext. 8527



ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Benton County Circuit Court
Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk
2025-May-06 11:57:38
04CR-25-717
C19WD01 : 1 Page

CR25-0717-4

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BENTON COUNTY ARKANSAS

STATE OF ARKANSAS **PLAINTIFF**

VS

[redacted] **DEFENDANT**

WHITE/MALE DOB: [redacted]

Order of Probable Cause and Order to Appear

Now on this 5 day of May, 2025 came on for consideration in the matter of Probable Cause for the continued detention of; [redacted] witnesses having been sworn and evidence having been taken, the Court finds that there is sufficient probable cause for detaining [redacted] for the offense(s) of:

- **Rape, Class Y felony x 2**

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant be released on his/her personal recognizance and Defendant is hereby ordered to appear on the _____ day of _____, 20___ at _____. m. in the Benton County Circuit Court, Division_____, for further proceedings.

OR

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant be detained upon probable cause for the offense(s) set forth herein above in the custody of the Sheriff of Benton County, Arkansas, without bond, pending further proceedings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that bail be set in the amount of $ 100,000.00 to ensure the Defendant's future appearances, and should such be posted on behalf of Defendant, the Defendant is hereby ordered to appear on the 16th day of June 2025 at 8:00 a.m. in the Benton County Circuit Court, Division I for further proceedings.

THE NATURE OF THE BAIL IS ORDERED TO BE:

X Cash or Corporate Surety Bond

_____ 10% Deposit

_____ Defendant's Unsecured Signature Bond

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

Josh Marsh Attorney at Law be ~~appointed to~~ P.D. represent Defendant.

_____ No attorney be appointed at this time.

Judge: _____ Date: 5/5/2025

EXHIBIT
tabbies
3

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Benton County Circuit Court
Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk
2025-May-06 12:02:23
04CR-25-718
C19WD01 : 1 Page

CR25-0718-1

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BENTON COUNTY ARKANSAS

STATE OF ARKANSAS **PLAINTIFF**

VS

[redacted] **DEFENDANT**

WHITE/MALE DOB: [redacted]

Order of Probable Cause and Order to Appear

Now on this 5 day of May, 2025 came on for consideration in the matter of Probable Cause for the continued detention of; [redacted] witnesses having been sworn and evidence having been taken, the Court finds that there is sufficient probable cause for detaining [redacted] for the offense(s) of:

- **Rape, Class Y felony x 2**

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant be released on his/her personal recognizance and Defendant is hereby ordered to appear on the _____ day of _____, 20___ at _____. m. in the Benton County Circuit Court, Division_____, for further proceedings.

OR

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant be detained upon probable cause for the offense(s) set forth herein above in the custody of the Sheriff of Benton County, Arkansas, without bond, pending further proceedings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that bail be set in the amount of $ 100,000.00 to ensure the Defendant's future appearances, and should such be posted on behalf of Defendant, the Defendant is hereby ordered to appear on the 16 day of June 2025 at 8:00 A.M. m. in the Benton County Circuit Court, Division 1 for further proceedings.

THE NATURE OF THE BAIL IS ORDERED TO BE:

X Cash or Corporate Surety Bond

_____ 10% Deposit

_____ Defendant's Unsecured Signature Bond

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

Public Defender Attorney at Law be appointed to represent Defendant.

_____ No attorney be appointed at this time.

Judge: _____ Date: 5/5/2025

04CR-25-719-1

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Benton County Circuit Court
Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk
2025-May-06 12:13:13
04CR-25-719
C19WD01 : 1 Page

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BENTON COUNTY ARKANSAS

STATE OF ARKANSAS **PLAINTIFF**

VS

[redacted] **DEFENDANT**

WHITE/MALE DOB: [redacted]

Order of Probable Cause and Order to Appear

Now on this 5 day of May, 2025 came on for consideration in the matter of Probable Cause for the continued detention of; [redacted] witnesses having been sworn and evidence having been taken, the Court finds that there is sufficient probable cause for detaining [redacted] for the offense(s) of:

- **Rape, Class Y felony x 2**

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant be released on his/her personal recognizance and Defendant is hereby ordered to appear on the _____ day of _____, 20___ at _____. m. in the Benton County Circuit Court, Division_____, for further proceedings.

OR

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant be detained upon probable cause for the offense(s) set forth herein above in the custody of the Sheriff of Benton County, Arkansas, without bond, pending further proceedings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that bail be set in the amount of $ 75,000.00 to ensure the Defendant's future appearances, and should such be posted on behalf of Defendant, the Defendant is hereby ordered to appear on the 16 day of June 2025 at 8:00 . m. in the Benton County Circuit Court, Division 1 for further proceedings.

THE NATURE OF THE BAIL IS ORDERED TO BE:

X Cash or Corporate Surety Bond

_____ 10% Deposit

_____ Defendant's Unsecured Signature Bond

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

Public Defender Attorney at Law be appointed to represent Defendant.

_____ No attorney be appointed at this time.

Judge: _____ Date: 5/5/2025

Appendix D

Nineteenth West Judicial Circuit − Benton County
Correspondence from Nineteenth West Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Certain Case Transfers

BRYAN SEXTON
Prosecuting Attorney
Nineteenth Judicial District West
Benton County, Arkansas

DEPUTY PROSECUTORS

Joshua Robinson
Wilson Raines
Justin Harper
Zach Morton
Seth Segovia
Dylan Price
Jackson Hannah
Josiah Prock
Lauren Aldridge
Baley McClellan
Steve Lowry
Hannah Kiely
Mark Booher
Clayton Caple
Robyn Nance
Tony Noblin
Reed Graddy
Jake Stringer
Madeline Brink
Ben Poole
Chris Carwile
Maddie Bailey

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Charles B. Camp, CPA
Special Projects Manager
Arkansas Legislative Audit
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 172
Little Rock, AR 72201
Via email: charles.camp@arklegaudit.gov

RE: Your email of 6/2/2025, regarding Audit of Benton County Circuit Court

Mr. Camp:

I have received your email and have had an opportunity to review the Benton County Attorney's letter as well. As there are procedural and legal issues that require clarification, I would like to respond accordingly.

The County Attorney is correct as to the procedure and time constraints required for a juvenile case to be lodged as an adult proceeding and correct as to the statutes that empower the Prosecuting Attorney to do so. However, the first appearance for a juvenile filed as an adult is in Division 3 Circuit Court and Judge Smith handles the bond hearing and release determination of a first appearance adult felony case and follows the same procedures so I am unsure what is different from the "standard adult first appearance hearing" other than the announcement of the Prosecuting Attorney's decision by the filing of a criminal information.

The letter is also correct that the criminal information is required to be filed prior to first appearance. In cases that have been arrested and held over a weekend, the filing decision may be made at 8:30 am on Monday, drafted by 9:00 am, and ready to present to the court before an 11:00 am first appearance. That time line requires some coordination between the prosecutor, his staff, and the circuit clerk. I have personally made those decisions and drafted those filings under that system. After review of the emails, I believe that this case presented a similar expedited timeline.

The information in a case is submitted via the State's e-flex electronic filing system. An electronic filing mark is visible on each of the information herein attached as Exhibits 1-3. As the State is unaware at filing which adult felony circuit court division the case will be assigned to, the information and coversheets are left blank as to both case number and circuit judge assignment when submitted via e-flex.

I have seen the email of May 5, 2025 from [redacted] the assistant who submitted the information and provided as exhibit 2 in the County Attorney letter. As time is of the essence in these cases, neither an email requesting that the clerk expedite these filings surprising nor would a phone call to the clerks directly to make sure the email and the filing notice were not over looked. I have made that phone call to get those filings priority above other regular

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matters. A response email from [redacted] the Criminal Courts Supervisor is attached as Exhibit 4 and does not note anything beyond the filing of the case.

However, the procedure described to bypass a random assignment is surprising. I am not aware that such an arrangement was possible. I have practiced long enough in this county to remember the physical pulling of a randomized object, a "chip" from a bag, to obtain a case assignment. It has been my assumption that the randomized assignment would have been carried on to the Contexte system. However, as my office does not use the Contexte system and I do not have access to it, I do not know the exact procedures or processes that create that randomization, nor would I know that there was a bypass to that procedure.

This office is under the same administrative order, 2015-1, as the Circuit Clerk is and our office will notify the clerk when a case should be assigned to a division based on the order's Assignment of Cases subsection C and D as when a case file has open charges, revocations, or suspended sentences assigned to a division or if a defendant has co-defendant with cases already assigned to a division and needs to be assigned with those co-defendants in that division. However, that instruction is a part of the Administrative Order and to ensure the orderly functioning of the circuit courts and not an instruction for case assignments as the order clearly delineates that the clerk will provide random computer generation.

I would note that even the signature of a division one prosecutor on an information would not take precedent over a random assignment. In the past, it was not uncommon for a juvenile prosecutor to sign the information and the case be subject to assignment once the random draw was done. Furthermore, the email provided as County Attorney's exhibit 2 carbon copies [redacted] who was a Division 2 attorney and then Senior Trial Deputy and therefore subject to the other division. Currently, it is assigned to another deputy prosecutor who is not either [redacted] or [redacted], the deputy who signed the information. Although both have since left the prosecutor's office, both attorneys still practice in Benton County and neither remember calling the clerk's office that day in recent phone calls I have had with them.

The letter notes that [redacted], the clerk who responded to the [redacted] email, failed to provide internal documentation as a control measure. I would note that this is the second case file wherein assignment issues were identified that [redacted] handled. In the first, State v. Amber Waterman, Case No 04CR-2355, a similar reassignment was discovered by the circuit court. However, in that case, a notation was made in the file on Court Connect recognizing that reassignment in the Case Parties section. (See Exhibit 5). No such notation is made in these files. (See Exhibit 6-8). As I am not trained in the Contexte system that the Circuit Clerk uses, I cannot account for this difference in the record entry of these cases but find it confusing and unexplained.

In short, it was my belief that the circuit clerks used the normal procedure to assign this case as there are no indications that any of these files were reassigned or that a procedure existed that would allow the clerk to directly assign a criminal case outside of the random assignment procedure except for the procedures set forth in Order 2015-1. I will be glad to provide any further information I can and can be contacted at the numbers listed below.

Respectfully,

Bryan Sexton
Prosecuting Attorney
19th West Judicial District
Benton County, Arkansas

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04CR-2025-0717-1

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Benton County Circuit Court
Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk
2025-May-05 09:47:26
04CR-25-717
C19WD01 : 2 Pages

CRIMINAL INFORMATION

This criminal information sheet is required by Supreme Court Administrative Order 8. The data contained herein shall not be admissible as evidence in any court proceeding or replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings, orders, or other papers as required by law or Supreme Court rule. This criminal information form should be used in conjunction with the criminal cover sheet.

County: Benton **District:** 19th Judicial **Filing Date:** 5/5/2025
Judge: **Division:** **Case ID:** P2025

State of Arkansas vs [redacted]

I, **Bryan Sexton**, Prosecuting Attorney, Nineteenth Judicial District West, in the name of the State of Arkansas, Benton County, Accuse the above-named Defendant of the following crime(s):

Code #	Offense name/Description	A/S/C	Offense Date	Counts	F/M	Class
5-14-103	Rape		4/22/2025	1	F	Y
5-14-103	Rape		4/27/2025	1	F	Y

Committed as follows: **Count #1**, Offense: **5-14-103 ~ RAPE Class Y Felony**

The Defendant on or about April 22, 2025 in Benton County, Arkansas, (a) A person commits rape if he or she engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with another person:
(1) By forcible compulsion;
(2) Who is incapable of consent because he or she is:
(A) Physically helpless;
(B) Mentally defective; or
(C) Mentally incapacitated;

To Wit: On or about April 22, 2025, in Benton County, Arkansas, the defendant or an accomplice engaged in deviate sexual activity by forcible compulsion with [redacted]

against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

Committed as follows: **Count #2**, Offense: **5-14-103 ~ RAPE Class Y Felony**

The Defendant on or about April 27, 2025 in Benton County, Arkansas, (a) A person commits rape if he or she engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with another person:
(1) By forcible compulsion;
(2) Who is incapable of consent because he or she is:
(A) Physically helpless;
(B) Mentally defective; or
(C) Mentally incapacitated;

To Wit: On or about April 27, 2025, in Benton County, Arkansas, the defendant or an accomplice engaged in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with [redacted] **by forcible compulsion or engaged in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with** [redacted] **when she was incapable of consent because she was physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.**



against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

Entered this 5th day of May, 2025.
BRYAN SEXTON, Prosecuting Attorney

By: Ty Dunn
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

04CR-2025-0718-1

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Benton County Circuit Court
Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk
2025-May-05 09:55:00
04CR-25-718
C19WD01 : 2 Pages

CRIMINAL INFORMATION

This criminal information sheet is required by Supreme Court Administrative Order 8. The data contained herein shall not be admissible as evidence in any court proceeding or replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings, orders, or other papers as required by law or Supreme Court rule. This criminal information form should be used in conjunction with the criminal cover sheet.

County: Benton **District:** 19th Judicial **Filing Date:** 5/5/2025
Judge: **Division:** **Case ID:** 2025

State of Arkansas vs [redacted]

I, **Bryan Sexton**, Prosecuting Attorney, Nineteenth Judicial District West, in the name of the State of Arkansas, Benton County, Accuse the above-named Defendant of the following crime(s):

Code #	Offense name/Description	A/S/C	Offense Date	Counts	F/M	Class
5-14-103	Rape		4/27/2025	1	F	Y
5-14-103	Rape		4/22/2025	1	F	Y

Committed as follows: **Count #1**, Offense: **5-14-103 ~ RAPE Class Y Felony**

The Defendant on or about April 22, 2025 in Benton County, Arkansas, (a) A person commits rape if he or she engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with another person:
(1) By forcible compulsion;
(2) Who is incapable of consent because he or she is:
(A) Physically helpless;
(B) Mentally defective; or
(C) Mentally incapacitated;

To Wit: On or about April 22, 2025, in Benton County, Arkansas, the defendant or an accomplice engaged in deviate sexual activity by forcible compulsion with [redacted]

against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

Committed as follows: **Count #2**, Offense: **5-14-103 ~ RAPE Class Y Felony**

The Defendant on or about April 27, 2025 in Benton County, Arkansas, (a) A person commits rape if he or she engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with another person:
(1) By forcible compulsion;
(2) Who is incapable of consent because he or she is:
(A) Physically helpless;
(B) Mentally defective; or
(C) Mentally incapacitated;



To Wit: On or about April 27, 2025, in Benton County, Arkansas, the defendant or an accomplice engaged in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with [redacted] **by forcible compulsion or engaged in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with** [redacted] **when she was incapable of consent because she was physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.**

against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

Entered this 5th day of May, 2025.
BRYAN SEXTON, Prosecuting Attorney

By: /s/ Tyler Dunn
Depuy Prosecuting Attorney

04CR-25-0719-1

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
Benton County Circuit Court
Brenda DeShields, Circuit Clerk
2025-May-05 10:01:28
04CR-25-719
C19WD01 : 2 Pages

CRIMINAL INFORMATION

This criminal information sheet is required by Supreme Court Administrative Order 8. The data contained herein shall not be admissible as evidence in any court proceeding or replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings, orders, or other papers as required by law or Supreme Court rule. This criminal information form should be used in conjunction with the criminal cover sheet.

County: Benton **District:** 19th Judicial **Filing Date:** 5/5/2025
Judge: **Division:** **Case ID:** 2025

State of Arkansas vs [redacted]

I, **Bryan Sexton**, Prosecuting Attorney, Nineteenth Judicial District West, in the name of the State of Arkansas, Benton County, Accuse the above-named Defendant of the following crime(s):

Code #	Offense name/Description	A/S/C	Offense Date	Counts	F/M	Class
5-14-103	Rape		4/22/2025	1	F	Y
5-14-103	Rape		4/27/2025	1	F	Y

Committed as follows: **Count #1**, Offense: **5-14-103 ~ RAPE Class Y Felony**

The Defendant on or about April 22, 2025 in Benton County, Arkansas, (a) A person commits rape if he or she engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with another person:
(1) By forcible compulsion;
(2) Who is incapable of consent because he or she is:
(A) Physically helpless;
(B) Mentally defective; or
(C) Mentally incapacitated;

To Wit: On or about April 22, 2025, in Benton County, Arkansas, the defendant or an accomplice engaged in deviate sexual activity by forcible compulsion with [redacted]

against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

Committed as follows: **Count #2**, Offense: **5-14-103 ~ RAPE Class Y Felony**

The Defendant on or about April 27, 2025 in Benton County, Arkansas, (a) A person commits rape if he or she engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with another person:
(1) By forcible compulsion;
(2) Who is incapable of consent because he or she is:
(A) Physically helpless;
(B) Mentally defective; or
(C) Mentally incapacitated;

To Wit: On or about April 27, 2025, in Benton County, Arkansas, the defendant or an accomplice engaged in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with [redacted] **by forcible compulsion or engaged in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with** [redacted] **when she was incapable of consent because she was physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.**



against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

Entered this 5th day of May, 2025.
BRYAN SEXTON, Prosecuting Attorney

By: /s/ Tyler Dunn
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Selena Procter

From: Stephanie Clark
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 10:24 AM
To: Edith G. Barbosa; Selena Procter
Cc: Brittany Cadell; Brenda Deshields
Subject: RE: NEW CASES
Attachments: 04CR-25-0719-1 2.pdf; 04CR-25-0719-1.pdf; 04CR-2025-0717-1 (1).pdf; 04CR-2025-0717-1 2 (1).pdf; 04CR-2025-0718-1 2 (1).pdf; 04CR-2025-0718-1.pdf

See attached

Sincerely,

Stephanie Clark
Criminal Courts Supervisor

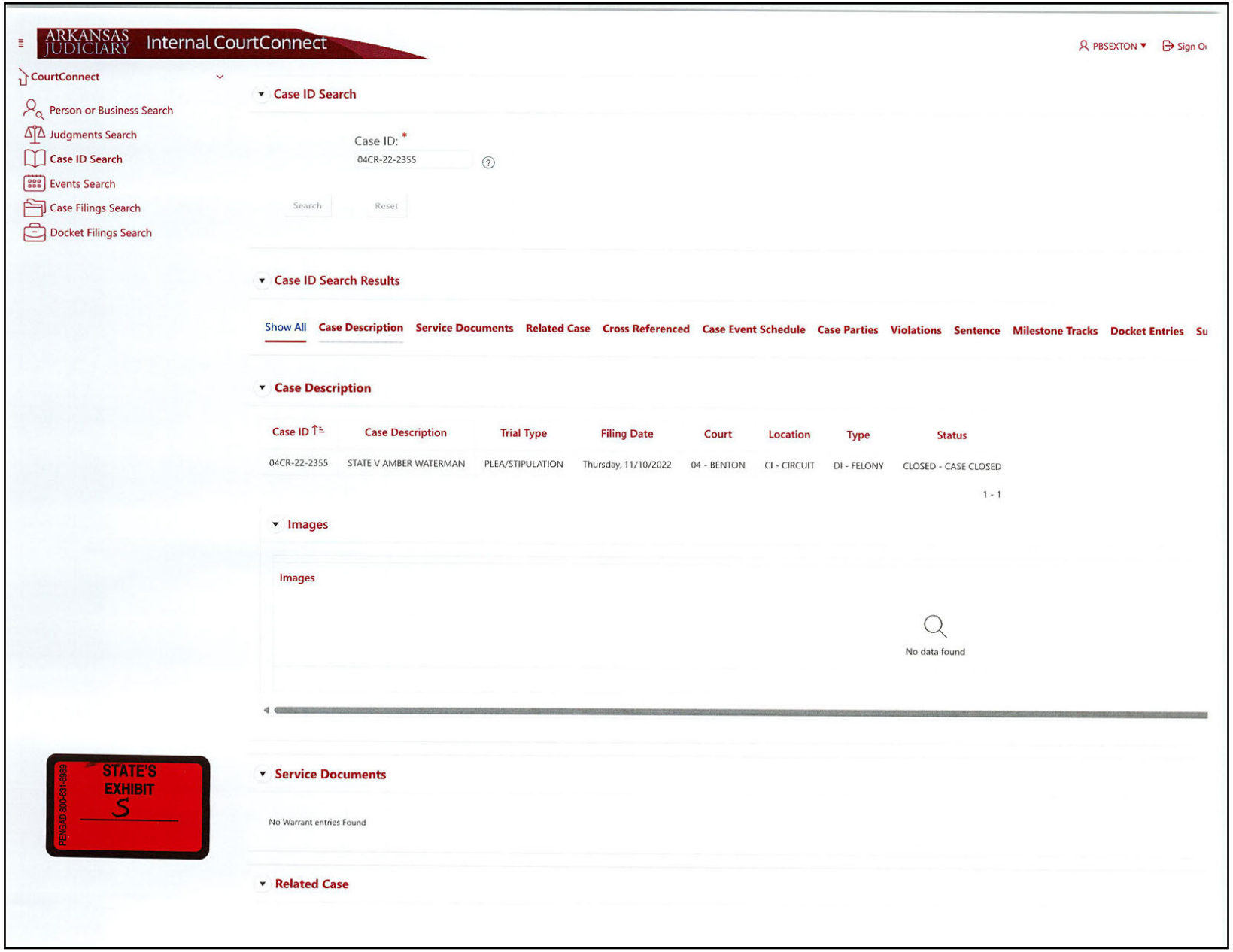
Benton County Circuit Clerk's Office
Phone: 479-271-1016
Email:
Stephanie.A.Clark@bentoncountyar.gov

102 NE A ST
Bentonville, AR 72712

www.bentoncountyar.gov/circuit-clerk/



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Case Parties
Violations
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Milestone Tracks
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Case Description
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Filing Date
Court
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Type
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Related Case

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04SW-22-527
04SW-23-10

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Cross Referenced

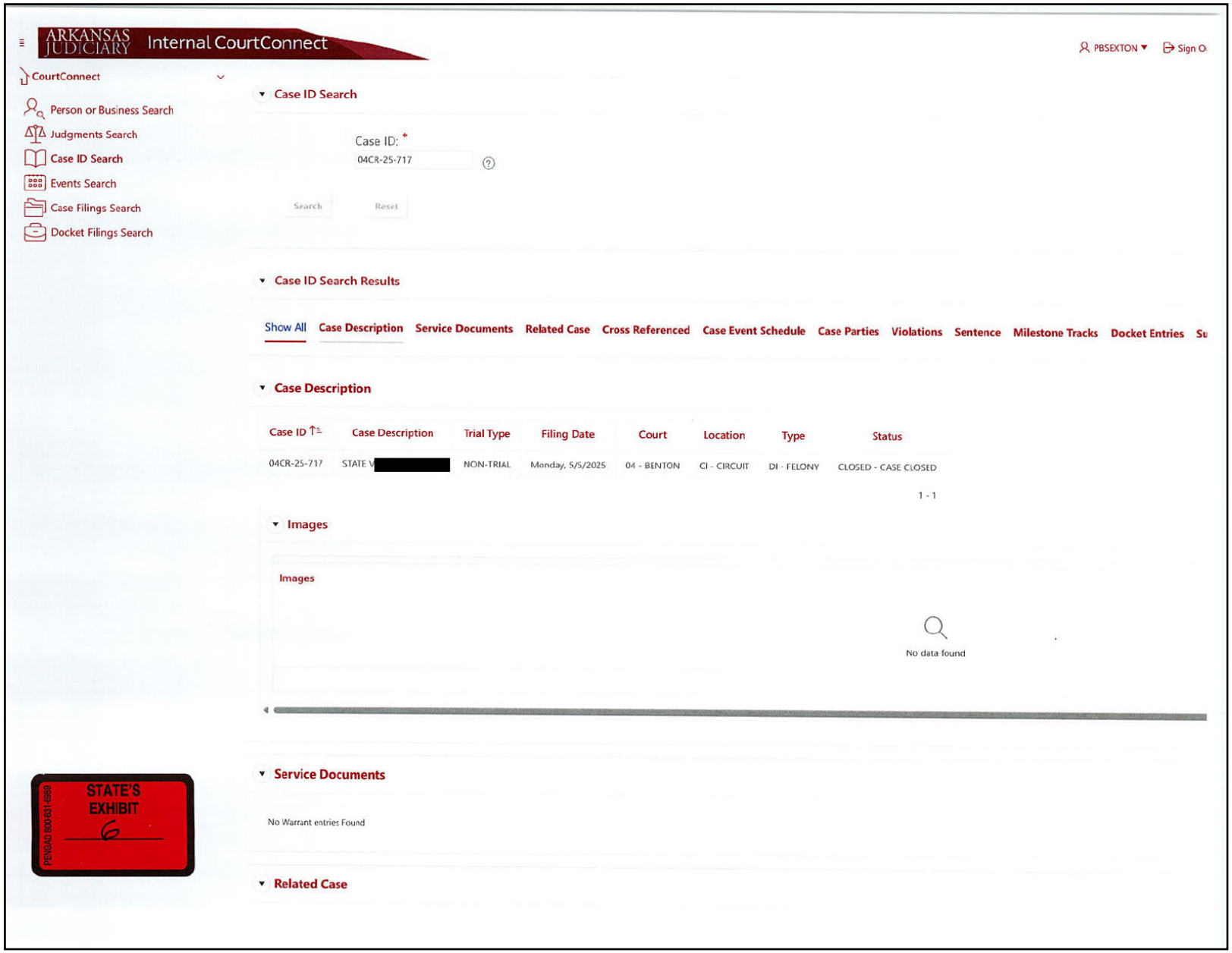
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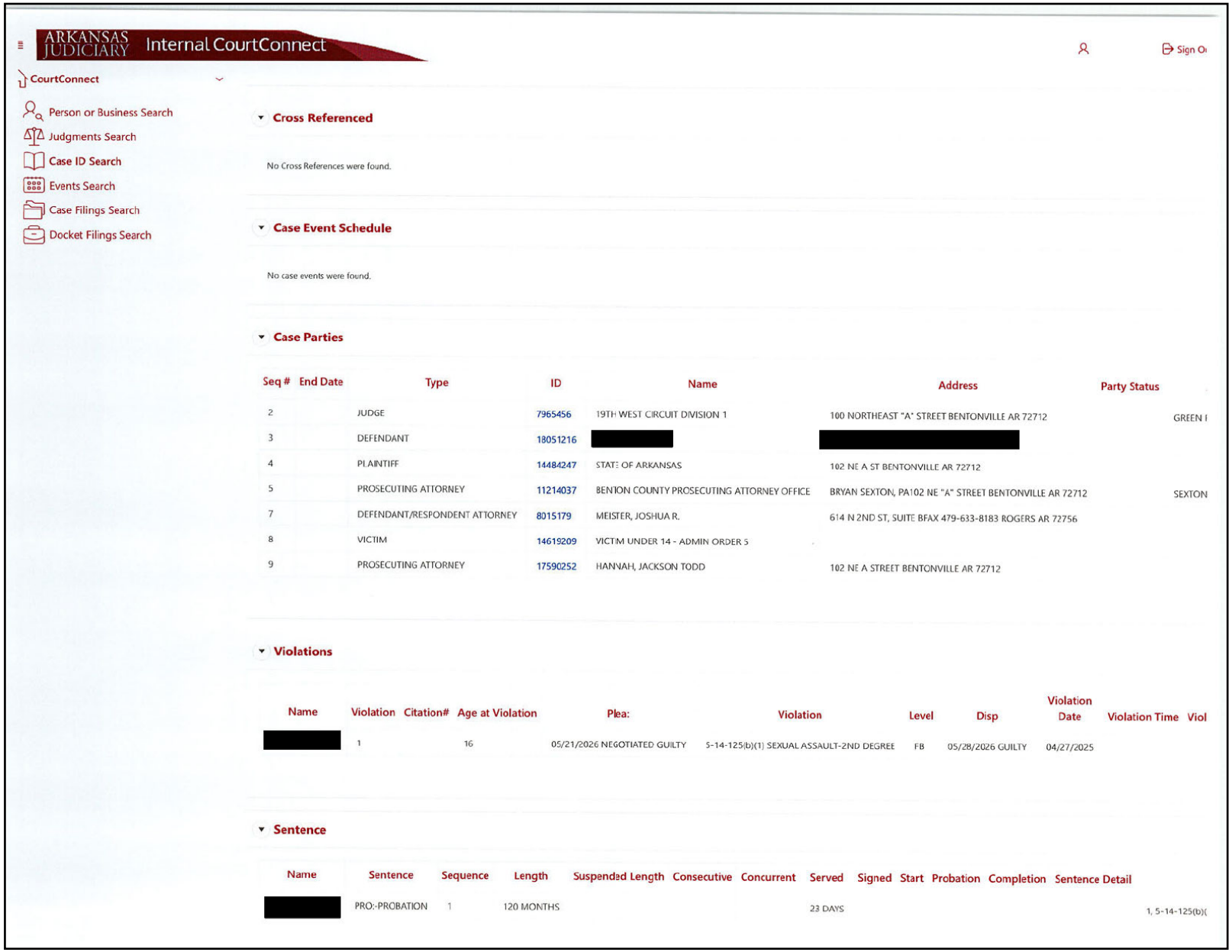
Case Event Schedule

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Case Parties

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1	11/10/2022	JUDGE	7965457	19TH WEST CIRCUIT DIVISION 2	201 NE 2ND STCOURTHOUSE ANNEX BENTONVILLE AR 72712	TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DIVISION
3		DEFENDANT	17828945	WATERMAN, AMBER DAWN	BENTON COUNY DETENTION CENTER 1300 SW 14TH STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
4		PLAINTIFF	14484247	STATE OF ARKANSAS	102 NE A ST BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
5	10/30/2023	PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	1008527	SMITH, NATHAN ROBERT	102 NE 2ND ST. BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
7		VICTIM	14619209	VICTIM UNDER 14 - ADMIN ORDER 5		
8		DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT ATTORNEY	1002038	ROSENZWEIG, JEFFREY MARX	300 SPRING STSTE 310 LITTLE ROCK AR 72201	
9		DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT ATTORNEY	1005075	STREETT, KATHERINE SANDERSON	300 SOUTH SPRING ST STE 508 LITTLE ROCK AR 72201	
10		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	11214037	BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OFFICE	BRYAN SEXTON, PA102 NE "A" STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
11		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	12712945	ROBINSON, JOSHUA E	102 NE "A" STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
12		JUDGE	7965457	19TH WEST CIRCUIT DIVISION 2	201 NE 2ND STCOURTHOUSE ANNEX BENTONVILLE AR 72712	TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DIVISION


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Case Description
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Related Case
Cross Referenced
Case Event Schedule
Case Parties
Violations
Sentence
Milestone Tracks
Docket Entries
Case Description
Case ID
Case Description
Trial Type
Filing Date
Court
Location
Type
Status
04CR-25-717
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04 - BENTON
CI - CIRCUIT
DI - FELONY
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Cross Referenced

No Cross References were found.

Case Event Schedule

No case events were found.

Case Parties

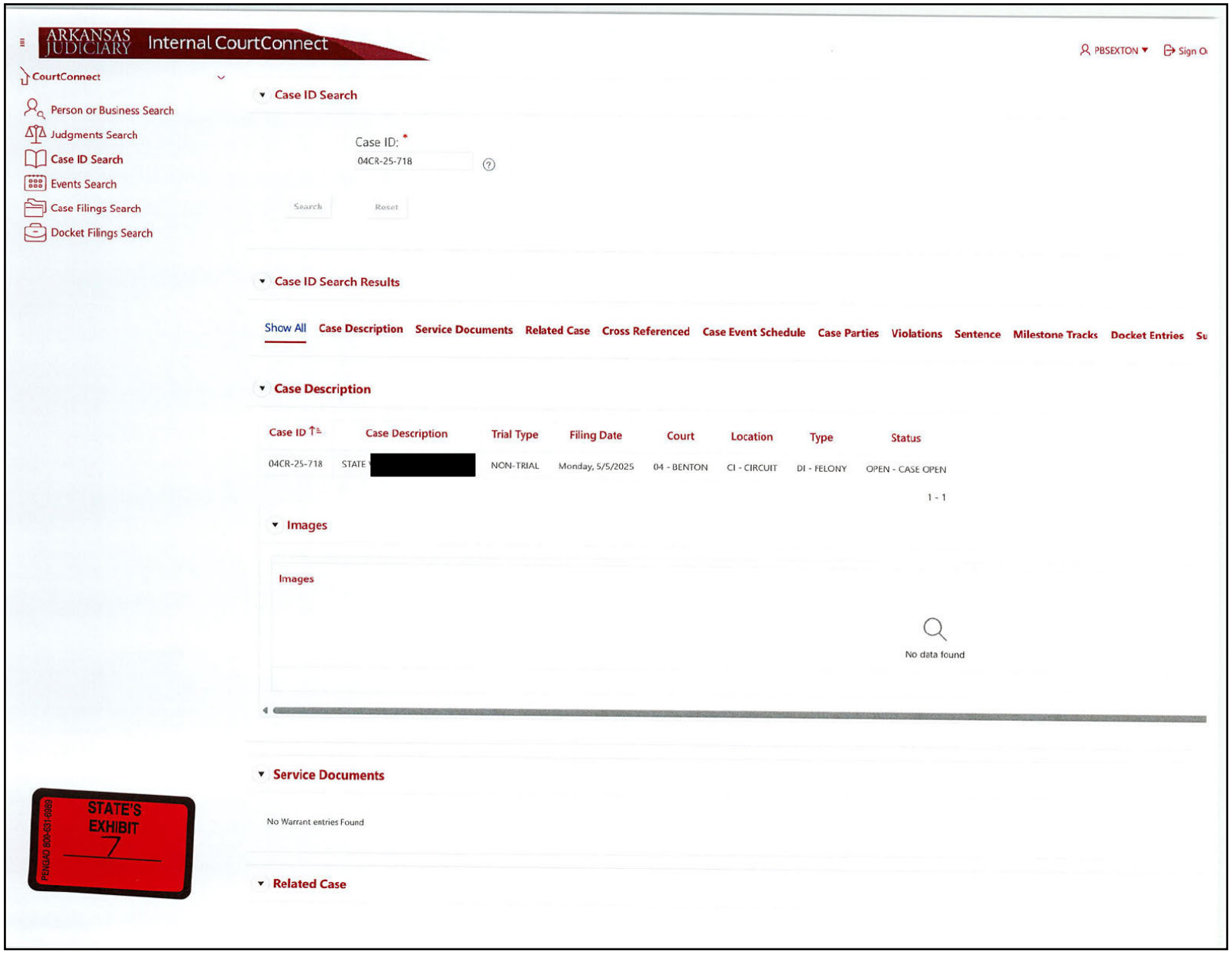
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3		DEFENDANT	18051216	[redacted]	[redacted]		
4		PLAINTIFF	14484247	STATE OF ARKANSAS	102 NE A ST BENTONVILLE AR 72712		
5		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	11214037	BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OFFICE	BRYAN SEXTON, PA102 NE "A" STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712		SEXTON
7		DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT ATTORNEY	8015179	MEISTER, JOSHUA R.	614 N 2ND ST, SUITE BFAX 479-633-8183 ROGERS AR 72756		
8		VICTIM	14619209	VICTIM UNDER 14 - ADMIN ORDER 5			
9		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	17590252	HANNAH, JACKSON TODD	102 NE A STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712		

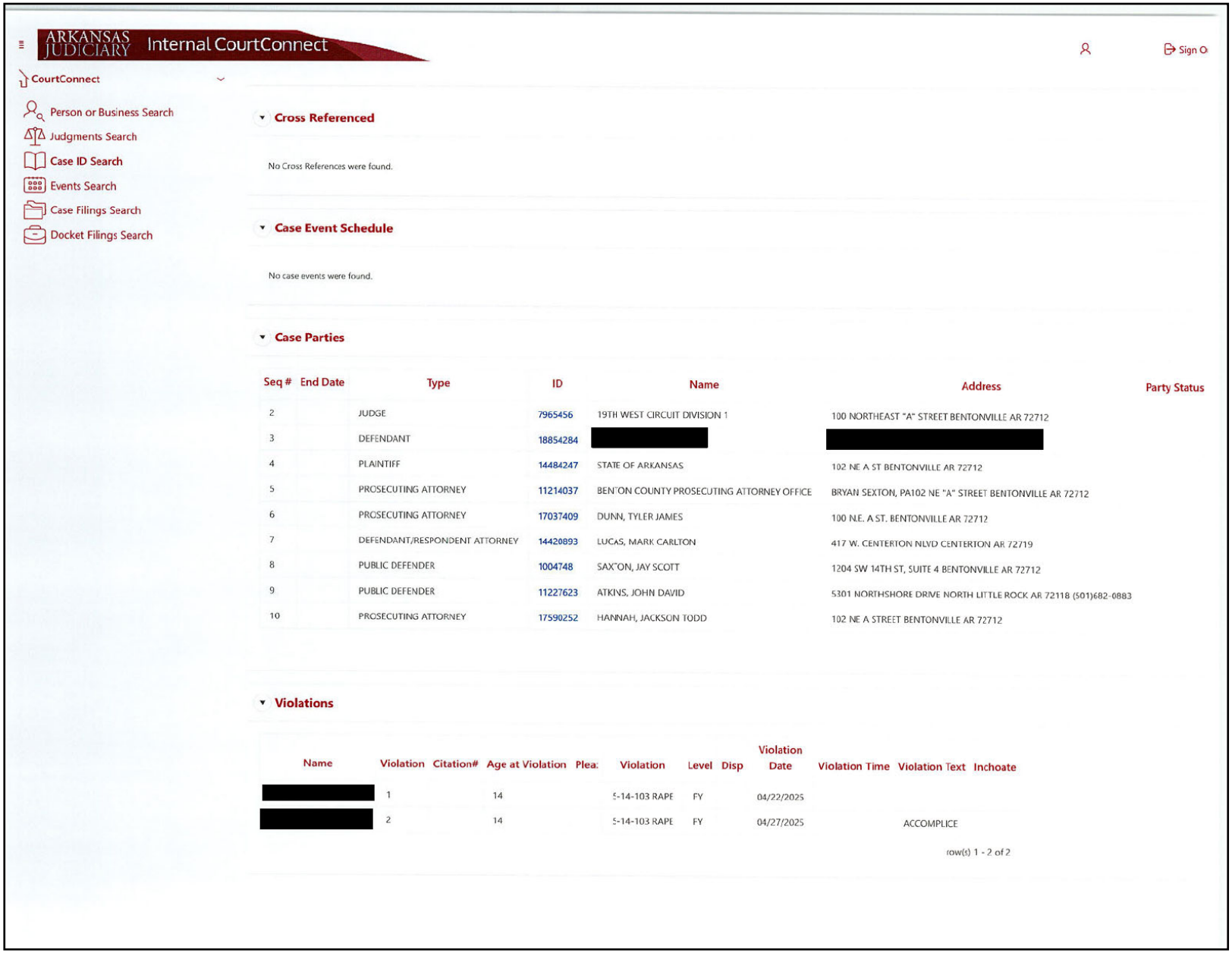
Violations

Name	Violation	Citation#	Age at Violation	Plea:	Violation	Level	Disp	Violation Date	Violation Time	Viol
[redacted]	1		16	05/21/2026 NEGOTIATED GUILTY	5-14-125(b)(1) SEXUAL ASSAULT-2ND DEGREE	FB	05/28/2026 GUILTY	04/27/2025		

Sentence

Name	Sentence	Sequence	Length	Suspended Length	Consecutive	Concurrent	Served	Signed	Start	Probation	Completion	Sentence Detail
[redacted]	PRO:-PROBATION	1	120 MONTHS				23 DAYS					1, 5-14-125(b)(


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Show All
Case Description
Service Documents
Related Case
Cross Referenced
Case Event Schedule
Case Parties
Violations
Sentence
Milestone Tracks
Docket Entries
Case Description
Case ID
Case Description
Trial Type
Filing Date
Court
Location
Type
Status
04CR-25-718
STATE
NON-TRIAL
Monday, 5/5/2025
04 - BENTON
CI - CIRCUIT
DI - FELONY
OPEN - CASE OPEN
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No Warrant entries Found
Related Case
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Cross Referenced

No Cross References were found.

Case Event Schedule

No case events were found.

Case Parties

Seq #	End Date	Type	ID	Name	Address	Party Status
2		JUDGE	7965456	19TH WEST CIRCUIT DIVISION 1	100 NORTHEAST "A" STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
3		DEFENDANT	18854284	[redacted]	[redacted]	
4		PLAINTIFF	14484247	STATE OF ARKANSAS	102 NE A ST BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
5		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	11214037	BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OFFICE	BRYAN SEXTON, PA102 NE "A" STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
6		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	17037409	DUNN, TYLER JAMES	100 N.E. A ST. BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
7		DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT ATTORNEY	14420893	LUCAS, MARK CARLTON	417 W. CENTERTON NLVD CENTERTON AR 72719	
8		PUBLIC DEFENDER	1004748	SAXTON, JAY SCOTT	1204 SW 14TH ST, SUITE 4 BENTONVILLE AR 72712	
9		PUBLIC DEFENDER	11227623	ATKINS, JOHN DAVID	5301 NORTHSHORE DRIVE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72118 (501)682-0883	
10		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	17590252	HANNAH, JACKSON TODD	102 NE A STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712	

Violations

Name	Violation	Citation#	Age at Violation	Plea	Violation	Level	Disp	Violation Date	Violation Time	Violation Text	Inchoate
[redacted]	1		14		5-14-103 RAPE	FY		04/22/2025			
[redacted]	2		14		5-14-103 RAPE	FY		04/27/2025		ACCOMPLICE	

row(s) 1 - 2 of 2

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- Docket Filings Search

Case ID Search

Case ID: *
04CR-25-719

Search Reset

Case ID Search Results

Show All | Case Description | Service Documents | Related Case | Cross Referenced | Case Event Schedule | Case Parties | Violations | Sentence | Milestone Tracks | Docket Entries | Su

Case Description

Case ID	Case Description	Trial Type	Filing Date	Court	Location	Type	Status
04CR-25-719	STATE V [redacted]	NON-TRIAL	Monday, 5/5/2025	04 - BENTON	CI - CIRCUIT	DI - FELONY	OPEN - CASE OPEN

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No data found

Service Documents

No Warrant entries Found

Related Case

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STATE'S EXHIBIT
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- Judgments Search
- Case ID Search
- Events Search
- Case Filings Search
- Docket Filings Search

Cross Referenced

No Cross References were found.

Case Event Schedule

No case events were found.

Case Parties

Seq #	End Date	Type	ID	Name	Address	Party Status	Al
2		JUDGE	7965456	19TH WEST CIRCUIT DIVISION 1	100 NORTHEAST "A" STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712		GREEN RO
3		DEFENDANT	18854298	[redacted]	[redacted]		
4		PLAINTIFF	14484247	STATE OF ARKANSAS	102 NE A ST BENTONVILLE AR 72712		
5		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	11214037	BENTON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OFFICE	BRYAN SEXTON, PA102 NE "A" STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72712		SEXTON B
6		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	17037409	DUNN, TYLER JANES	100 N.E. A ST. BENTONVILLE AR 72712		
7		PUBLIC DEFENDER	1004748	SAXTON, JAY SCOTT	1204 SW 14TH ST, SUITE 4 BENTONVILLE AR 72712		SAXTON J
8		PUBLIC DEFENDER	11227623	ATKINS, JOHN DAVID	5301 NORTHSHORE DRIVE NORTH LITTLE ROCK AR 72118 (501)682-0883		

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Violations

Name	Violation	Citation#	Age at Violation	Plea:	Violation	Level	Disp	Violation Date	Violation Time	Violation Text	Inchoate
[redacted]	1		14		5-14-103 RAPE	FY		04/22/2025			
[redacted]	2		14		5-14-103 RAPE	FY		04/27/2025			

row(s) 1 - 2 of 2

Sentence

Appendix E

Administrative Office of the Courts
Management Response

From: Kristin J. Clark
To: Charles Camp
Cc: Timothy N. Holthoff; Marty E. Sullivan
Subject: AOC Response to ALA Recommendations
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026 11:23:57 AM

Charles,

Thank you for the recommendations regarding strengthening system controls for clerk-initiated case transfers within the Contexte case management system. The Administrative Office of the Courts appreciates the guidance and agrees that strengthening documentation and authorization requirements is an important component of maintaining sound internal controls. Although the current legacy case management system does not support all the requested internal control enhancements, the recommended controls will be incorporated into the functional requirements and design of the new case management system under development.

(1) Documentation for Transfers

AOC acknowledges the importance of ensuring that all clerk-initiated case transfers between judicial divisions reflect a clear and auditable rationale. AOC will recommend the adoption of procedures requiring clerk's offices to document the reason for each clerk-initiated case transfer and retain the supporting documentation. Implementation of this internal control will help ensure transparency, support the integrity of the case management process, and provide an accessible record for both internal and external review.

(2) Second Authorization for Electronic Transfers Initiated by Clerk's Office

AOC supports the recommendation to incorporate an additional electronic authorization step for clerk-initiated case transfers between judicial divisions. A dual approval process in which a second authorized user must electronically verify and approve a clerk-initiated transfer will provide an added layer of control and reduce the risk of unauthorized or inappropriate movement of cases.

Additionally, AOC supports incorporating a requirement that both the transferring judge and the receiving judge be notified at the time a clerk-initiated case transfer is completed to reduce the risk that either judge is unaware of the division change. This notification requirement will be incorporated into the design of the new case management system as an automated system-generated notice. Until implementation of the new system, AOC will recommend that clerk's offices provide notification by memorandum or email, with a corresponding docket entry and a copy of the communication retained in the case record to document compliance.

Kristin

Kristin Clark
Legal Services Division Director | Administrative Office of the Courts
625 Marshall St. | Little Rock, AR 72201
Office: 501-682-9400 | Fax: 501-682-9410
kristin.clark@arcourts.gov | https://www.arcourts.gov/


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