

Colorado Judicial Branch

Cases and Parties without Attorney Representation in Civil Cases

Fiscal Year 2026



Report Date: Jul 27, 2026

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Cases and Parties without Attorney Representation in Civil Cases FY2026

Providing appropriate resources for pro se parties in the courts is important both as an access to justice issue for citizens and for the efficient operation of courts across the state.

The following tables identify the volume of parties and cases that come before the court without attorney representation. All of these measures have been limited on the time period the case was initially filed; in this sample, the time period is fiscal year 2026 (July 2025 through June 2026). There are several similar, but distinct ways to measure this activity.

Case Level Pro Se Rate: The first measure calculates the number of cases in which no attorney has entered an appearance on the case- meaning neither side has representation. This measure is significant because it illustrates the number of cases in which it is possible no one involved in the case has had experience with the courts or the legal system.

Party Level Pro Se Rate: The second measure calculates the number of parties without representation involved in court cases. This measure allows us to more fully illustrate the number of litigants who come into the court without representation. This measure can also provide further direction for court policy and resources as it can demonstrate which side of a case has representation in various case types.

Caveats and limitations: These measures are based on the moment in time the data was extracted from the court's database. The attorney representation numbers will change over time. A party that did not have an attorney on the day the data was extracted may get an attorney in the future. At the same time, a person who had an attorney at the beginning of their case may choose to proceed without an attorney in the future. Due to the way the data must be extracted, once an attorney has entered an appearance for a party, that party and case will still be measured as having an attorney. This data was extracted in Jul 27, 2026.

We have calculated these measures in three civil case classes: domestic relations, county civil and district civil. These three case classes are highlighted due to the higher volume of pro se litigant participation historically. However, it is important to note that these three case classes represent only a fraction of the cases filed in Colorado in Fiscal Year 2026. In fact, the cases included in this analysis (217,888) account for only 37% of the total number of cases filed in Fiscal Year 2026 (595,258). Therefore this report does not represent all pro se litigant activity in the State of Colorado, but rather offers a glimpse into pro se activity in a few key areas. More detailed analysis follows.

This report does not include Denver County Court filings.

Domestic Relations Cases Filed in FY2026

Judicial District	Total Cases	Total Cases without Attorney	Case Level Pro Se Rate	Total Parties	Total Parties without Attorney	Party Level Pro Se Rate
1	2,528	1,606	64%	5,144	3,684	72%
2	3,836	2,807	73%	7,875	6,377	81%
3	128	102	80%	271	235	87%
4	5,708	3,916	69%	11,549	8,849	77%
5	460	301	65%	930	672	72%
6	332	217	65%	673	493	73%
7	554	380	69%	1,130	871	77%
8	1,675	1,093	65%	3,401	2,506	74%
9	529	342	65%	1,065	781	73%
10	1,107	812	73%	2,342	1,901	81%
11	512	360	70%	1,036	796	77%
12	331	267	81%	685	589	86%
13	458	328	72%	943	755	80%
14	259	173	67%	522	386	74%
15	107	79	74%	217	174	80%
16	206	165	80%	436	378	87%
17	3,230	2,304	71%	6,601	5,254	80%
18	3,331	2,218	67%	6,793	5,149	76%
19	1,988	1,335	67%	4,062	3,088	76%
20	1,233	795	64%	2,494	1,810	73%
21	972	707	73%	1,989	1,616	81%
22	155	126	81%	310	269	87%
23	1,776	921	52%	3,574	2,194	61%
Total	31,415	21,354	68%	64,042	48,827	76%

Domestic Relations cases include dissolutions of marriage and civil unions, allocation of parental responsibility, administrative support orders, marriage invalidity, as well as legal separation. The parties included in this measure were petitioner, co-petitioner, and respondent. As this table demonstrates, 68% of the domestic relations cases filed in fiscal year 2026 had no attorney on the case, meaning that every party involved was pro se. However, within that group of cases filed, there were 64,042 parties and of those parties, 76% did not have representation when the data was extracted. When this data was broken out by specific case types, the party pro se rate was fairly consistent with the overall rate.

District Civil Cases Filed in FY2026

Judicial District	Total Cases	Total Cases without Attorney	Case Level Pro Se Rate	Total Parties	Total Parties without Attorney	Party Level Pro Se Rate
1	2,098	166	8%	6,540	2,720	42%
2	5,445	919	17%	20,831	11,048	53%
3	92	11	12%	326	145	44%
4	3,147	354	11%	9,685	4,152	43%
5	606	33	5%	3,196	1,955	61%
6	286	40	14%	925	422	46%
7	421	46	11%	1,358	564	42%
8	1,204	123	10%	3,540	1,423	40%
9	520	43	8%	1,730	656	38%
10	689	49	7%	2,031	767	38%
11	358	36	10%	1,180	434	37%
12	191	23	12%	598	308	52%
13	255	51	20%	679	306	45%
14	300	23	8%	1,029	434	42%
15	56	13	23%	154	74	48%
16	104	20	19%	293	140	48%
17	2,533	165	7%	7,202	2,782	39%
18	3,240	332	10%	9,331	3,668	39%
19	1,231	74	6%	3,580	1,409	39%
20	1,226	144	12%	3,815	1,554	41%
21	571	89	16%	1,612	705	44%
22	71	8	11%	203	87	43%
23	1,531	146	10%	4,669	1,799	39%
Total	26,175	2,908	11%	84,507	37,552	44%

In this case class both tax liens (distrain warrants) and residential foreclosures (Rule 120s) have been excluded from the measure. Tax lien cases are filed administratively with no attorney, and have experienced volatile filing volumes in the past several years, skewing the pro se numbers in this category. Similarly, foreclosure cases almost always have an attorney representing the filing party, which is generally a bank, while the responding party (the homeowner) rarely does. The parties included in these cases were plaintiff/petitioner (including 3rd, 4th, 5th party plaintiffs), respondent/defendant (including 3rd, 4th, 5th party defendants) and intervenors and interpleaders (included as filing parties).

This table demonstrates that in 11% of cases no party has an attorney. More dramatically, the table

District Civil Cases Filed in FY2026

shows that of the 84,507 parties involved in these cases, 44% were not represented when the data was extracted.

County Civil Cases Filed in FY2026

Judicial District	Total Cases	Total Cases without Attorney	Case Level Pro Se Rate	Total Parties	Total Parties without Attorney	Party Level Pro Se Rate
1	14,418	1,683	12%	31,213	17,988	58%
3	545	136	25%	1,160	716	62%
4	28,176	4,225	15%	60,511	35,487	59%
5	1,219	338	28%	2,702	1,706	63%
6	1,116	359	32%	2,463	1,629	66%
7	2,185	450	21%	4,714	2,814	60%
8	8,277	1,227	15%	17,738	10,206	58%
9	1,894	334	18%	4,110	2,454	60%
10	7,094	1,347	19%	15,726	9,418	60%
11	2,094	570	27%	4,366	2,728	62%
12	1,508	506	34%	3,157	2,103	67%
13	1,824	430	24%	3,799	2,325	61%
14	781	239	31%	1,672	1,062	64%
15	427	174	41%	908	644	71%
16	857	276	32%	1,888	1,279	68%
17	27,004	2,837	11%	58,584	33,669	57%
18	27,815	2,440	9%	60,731	34,505	57%
19	12,605	1,462	12%	27,287	15,557	57%
20	5,718	1,055	18%	12,045	7,104	59%
21	4,904	1,366	28%	10,321	6,616	64%
22	674	206	31%	1,435	933	65%
23	9,162	898	10%	19,619	10,989	56%
Total	160,297	22,558	14%	346,149	201,932	58%

County Court civil cases are made up primarily of collection cases (“money”). In addition, county court civil cases include eviction cases (“forcible entry and detainer”), as well as restraining order and name change cases. Parties included in this measure were plaintiffs, petitioners, defendants and respondents. While only 14% of county civil cases had no attorney, 58% of parties had no representation at the time the data was extracted. Denver County Court is not included in this report.

Pro Se Rate by Party Type - Cases Filed in FY2026

Filing Parties - Petitioner, Co-Petitioner, Plaintiff (including 3rd, 4th, 5th), Intervenor and Interpleaders

Case Class	Total Parties	Total Parties with Attorney	Total Parties without Attorney	Party Level Pro Se Rate
Domestic Relations	45,096	10,742	34,354	76%
District Civil	30,674	25,805	4,869	16%
County Civil	164,683	137,281	27,402	17%
Total	240,453	173,828	66,625	28%

Responding Parties - Defendant, Respondent (including 3rd, 4th, 5th)

Case Class	Total Parties	Total Parties with Attorney	Total Parties without Attorney	Party Level Pro Se Rate
Domestic Relations	19,606	5,033	14,573	74%
District Civil	53,849	21,153	32,696	61%
County Civil	181,523	6,943	174,580	96%
Total	254,978	33,129	221,849	87%

What these two tables demonstrate is while the total number of parties in county civil without attorneys is 58%, the total number of responding parties in the case without representation is 96%. This gives us a more accurate picture of the number of cases in which one party is represented, most often the filing party, while the other is not. At the same time, it is interesting to note in domestic relations cases, the pro se party rate is similar for both filing and responding parties.

As stated previously, the value of this analysis is in helping the courts to better anticipate and serve the needs of those seeking the services of the courts, regardless of whether they are represented by an attorney or not. For further information or questions about this data, please contact courtdatarequests@judicial.state.co.us.