

ROANOKE CITY JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT

February Newsletter

The Clerk's Office employs a group of dedicated people whose mission is to serve with integrity, professionalism, and compassion. We take our responsibilities seriously because we understand that justice is the mission of the court, and the public has a right to expect the

highest quality service we can provide.

As part of our commitment to providing exceptional service to the legal community and the citizens of Roanoke City, we welcome your feedback and comments as we strive to serve you better.



Location:
315 W. Church Ave. S.W.
1st Floor
Roanoke, VA 24005-0986

Clerk's Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8AM to 4PM
Phone: (540) 853-2389
Fax: (540) 853-1195

The Court follows a schedule each week to determine when different case types will be heard:

Arraignments- Monday-Friday at 8:30 am

Detention Hearings- Monday-Friday at 1:30 pm

Custody & Support- Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday at 9 am, 10 am, 2 pm, & 3 pm (DCSE cases are heard Monday & Wednesday at 9 am & 1 pm)

Domestic & Adult Criminal- Tuesday & Thursday at 2 pm & 3pm

Juvenile Criminal- Monday & Tuesday at 9 am & 10 am; Thursday at 10 am

Foster Care- Tuesday & Thursday at 9 am & 10 am

Truancy- Tuesday at 2 pm

Contested Cases- Friday at 9 am & 10 am

Show Cause Docket for Court Community Corrections- 2nd Friday Every Month

* Continuance Policy: Ten day notice required for any continuance with both sides in agreement. Continuance in criminal cases must be cleared with the Commonwealth Attorney.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Listed below are community services which may be helpful:



Department of Child Support Enforcement:

DCSE is in place to be an intermediary for parents who pay support for a child. They work diligently to ensure all children are receiving the funds they need to live a happy and successful life. If you need to visit or speak to DCSE in Roanoke, the address is: 3535 Franklin Road, SW, Suite H, Roanoke, VA 24014. The phone number is (800) 468-8894.

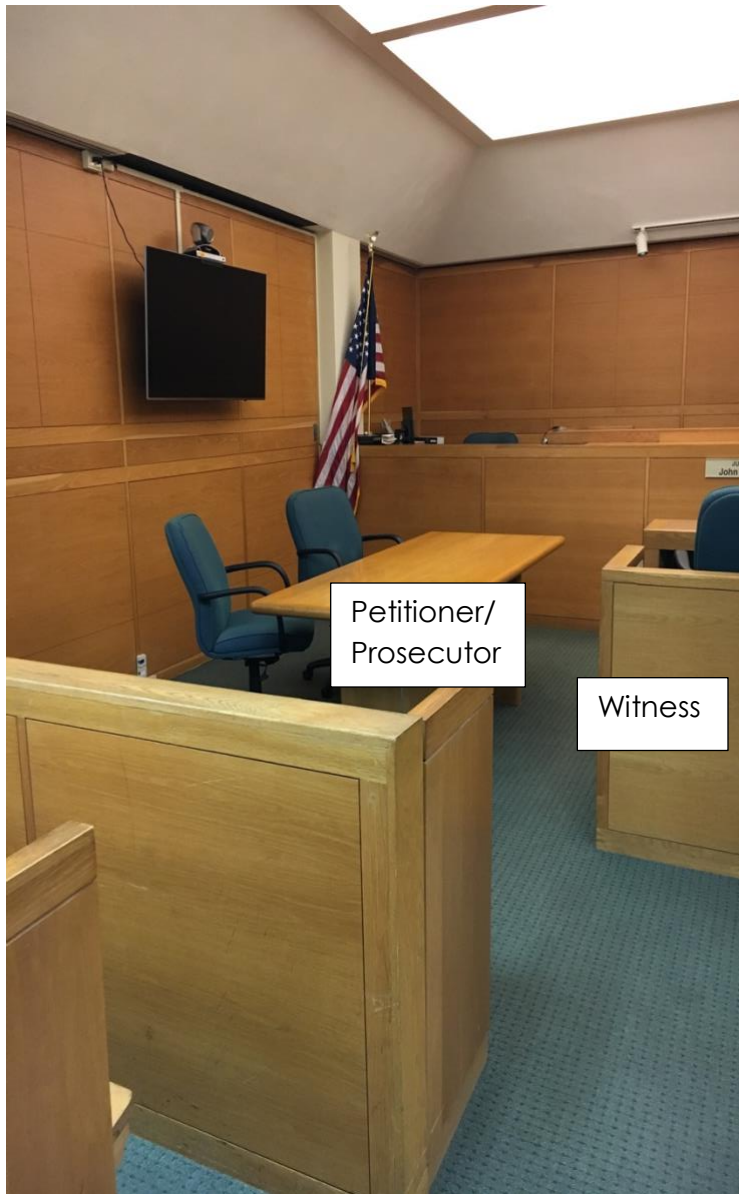
Rescue Mission

The Rescue Mission of Roanoke offers a comprehensive array of services to help people who are burdened by homelessness, disabilities, addictions, and abuse. The Rescue Mission provides meals and emergency shelter for those in need. To learn more, visit <https://rescuemission.net>.

Sabrina's Place

Sabrina's Place offers a safe haven for parents and children who have experienced domestic violence and need a safe place to stay or a neutral place to conduct supervised visitation. All services provided are free. For more information, call (540) 777-3799 or complete a contact form at <https://tapintohope.org/program/sabrinasplice/>.

Tip of the Month: Where do I sit in the courtroom?



Because of the sensitive nature of cases in the court, our policy is to limit those in the courtroom to the child and the parents/guardian and those who are parties to the case.

This month Heather Ferguson spoke with us about her role in the courtroom and how she decided on her career.

1. What are the available services as DSS?

The Department of Social Services can really be split into two sections--Services and Benefits. The Benefits side of our agency handles Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families--which also includes an employment initiative as part of the program), and Heating/Cooling Assistance. These benefits are financial in nature. The Services side of our agency handles Day Care Assistance, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and Adult Protective Services. Complaints regarding adult protective services and child protective services are called into our Hotline (853-2245) or the Statewide Hotline and are then screened to make sure they are valid complaints before being assigned to the appropriate worker. The Children's Services Act office is also housed in the DSS office. The Children's Services Act office manages the Family Assessment and Planning Teams and reports to the Community Planning and Management Team. These groups work to create individual/family service plans and then fund necessary services. (I wish it was as simple as that sentence made it sound, but unfortunately, there are very strict guidelines and criteria before the CSA can approve funding for a service.)

2. What is the purpose of DSS?

The Mission of the Roanoke City Department of Social Services is to help the citizens of our community achieve a realistic and attainable level of self-sufficiency within a safe, healthy environment. We will accomplish this by using our strengths and resources in a caring, professional manner while providing a network of protection, support, and temporary financial assistance.

3. What is your role at DSS? What tasks does that include?

I am employed by the City Attorney's office for the City of Roanoke, but my only client is DSS. (though they keep me pretty busy). I represent the City's interests in protecting the safety of children and working with families to either preserve or reunite the family unit, or in the alternative, to seek permanency for youth. I represent DSS in all of its abuse/neglect proceedings, as well as all of their foster care hearings. I continue to represent DSS in appeals in Circuit, the Court of Appeals, and the Virginia Supreme Court. I also represent DSS in administrative appeals regarding Founded Dispositions of CPS investigations. I represent DSS in adult protective services matters involving the appointment of guardians and conservators for incapacitated adults. I am typically in court 5 days a week--both in JDR and Circuit Court hearings.

4. Why did you choose this line of work?

Prior to becoming the attorney for DSS, I worked as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Franklin County and was assigned all of the Special Victims crimes as well as the JDR docket. I absolutely loved being an advocate for the victims in those cases. When the opportunity came up to work as counsel for DSS, I knew it was a job I would love, and it has been. I enjoy working with the families--both biological and foster. And I love seeing the children thrive and heal from whatever traumatic experiences they may have encountered. We are not always successful, and those are hard cases, but I am incredibly lucky to work with social workers who are caring, empathetic, and who truly love working with the children and families the agency serves.

5. What else are you involved with in the community?

My other big commitment is Susan G. Komen. I have been on the Board of Directors of our local Affiliate for the past 6 years and have served as President of the Board for 2 years. I have participated in every local Susan G. Komen Race for a Cure since its inception in the Roanoke Valley. I have also participated in two of the Komen 3Day walks (you walk 60 miles in 3 days and must raise a minimum of \$2300). I leave November 13 for my third 3Day. 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. Sadly, it happens all too often, and I am truly committed to raising money so that hopefully, we will find a cure. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Women's Attorneys Association Roanoke Chapter.



WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH CASES DECIDED THROUGHOUT VIRGINIA?

Checkout: <https://valawyersweekly.com>

**If you need forms related to cases in the
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, you
can find them at:**

<http://www.courts.state.va.us/forms/district/jdr.html>