



# **2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Kansas Office of  
Administrative Hearings**

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Welcome to the Second Annual Report of the Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). This Annual Report serves as a summary of the achievements of OAH during this past year. The Annual Report seeks to collect data from the year and summarize the efforts and achievements of OAH over the past year. The purpose is to create more transparency in the operations of OAH, provide accountability, and communicate the achievements of the past while looking towards the goals for the future.

## **OAH Management Team**

Acting Executive Director, Loren F. Snell, Jr.

Court Clerk, Jessica Mack

Court Administrator, Kerry Slover

## **History of OAH**

OAH is an independent agency within the Executive Branch of State Government, established to provide a single agency to conduct much of the administrative hearing process for the State of Kansas, at a reduced cost. OAH was established on July 1, 1998. Its original purpose was to conduct all adjudicative proceedings for the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services (now the Department for Children and Families). Six years later in 2004, an independent OAH was authorized to be phased in over time, taking full effect on July 1, 2009.

## **OAH Mission Statement**

The Office of Administrative Hearings will conduct efficient, fair and impartial hearings for constituents and other affected parties when they dispute the actions of state agencies that impact them and in resolving other types of disputes lawfully referred to OAH by government entities.

## **OAH Vision**

OAH will act in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, policies, and general principles of law. The Vision of OAH is that all parties can rely on a system that respects their dignity and Due Process rights.

# Message From the Director

Welcome to the Second Annual Report of the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). As mentioned at the conclusion of 2024, the annual report was envisioned as a step towards providing more information about the efforts, accomplishments and goals of OAH. It is an effort to better communicate what we do and how well our staff does in accomplishing our vision and mission. As I am inching towards completing my fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) year as the Acting Director of OAH, I am proud of the many accomplishments that have been made, both in the courtroom and as an agency. While we take this time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are always looking forward to the upcoming year and the changes that are sure to come.

## ***OAH Goals for 2025:***

- Increase transparency
- Modernize OAH to improve efficiency and access
- Improve communication
- Enhance expertise of staff
- Launch redesigned website
- Improve OAH's Continuity of Operations Plan

## ***Launch of Redesigned Website***

This past year was another period of change and progress for OAH. This past year saw the launch of a newly redesigned website for OAH intended to not only increase transparency and accountability, but also to provide much needed information to individuals utilizing the OAH administrative hearing process. The purpose is to make it easier to access and understand the administrative hearing process, while also providing much needed information to individuals utilizing OAH's administrative hearing services, many perhaps for the first time. Additional changes to the website will be forthcoming as we continue to evaluate it for efficiency and access.

## **New Administrative Law Judge**

OAH was saddened by the retirement of our most senior Administrative Law Judge, Sandra L. Sharon, who retired after 37 years of remarkable service to the State of Kansas. With the opening of her position, OAH received resumes from multiple, excellent candidates and painstakingly reduced the number of applicants and conducted interviews of six candidates. After careful consideration, Jeremy Dorsey was appointed to replace ALJ Sharon beginning September 2, 2025.

ALJ Dorsey received his Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Kansas in 2012 and his Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law in 2015. After law school, he joined Kansas Legal Services, where he practiced family and criminal law, represented clients in misdemeanor and felony cases, and served as defense counsel for participants in the 5th Judicial District's Drug Court program. In 2021, Mr. Dorsey became legal counsel for an administrative agency until joining the Office of Administrative Hearings as an Administrative Law Judge in 2025.

We continue to be excited about the changes that have taken place already, those that are currently in the works, and those that are yet to come. While we look forward to the opportunities these changes present for our Agency and those that we serve, we are also happy to announce that not much has changed as we strive to deliver on the OAH mission and vision. OAH staff will continue to provide quality hearings and sound legal decisions in all of the cases that come before us.

I am proud of the staff here at OAH and their continued dedication to serving the State of Kansas. They are committed to upholding the mission and vision of OAH all while ensuring that those that utilize the services of OAH are provided the utmost in service and quality. The staff of OAH will continue to work diligently while ensuring that all participants in the administrative hearing process are treated with dignity and receive the Due Process they are entitled to receive.

# Agency Case Mix by Year

OAH has entered into Interagency Agreements with more than 30 different agencies or entities to provide administrative hearings. Many agencies have multiple types of cases or areas of the law that require OAH hearing services. While not each agency has regular hearings, OAH has ALJs who are trained to be able to handle the needs of any of those agencies or entities when they require our services.

Agency	CY 2022	CY 2023	CY 2024	CY 2025
<b>Administration, Department of - Debt Setoff</b>	284	258	204	253
<b>Aging and Disability Services, Department for</b>	259	144	201	226
<b>Agriculture, Department of</b>	5	19	10	10
<b>Attorney General</b>	1		3	
<b>Bank Commissioner, Office of State</b>	1		3	
<b>Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board</b>	1	7	2	
<b>Children and Families, Department for</b>	583	757	792	750
<b>Commerce, Department of</b>		2		
<b>Cosmetology, Board of</b>	3	7	4	
<b>Credit Unions, Department of</b>		1		
<b>Dental Board</b>	1	2		1
<b>Education, Department of</b>	16	19	12	19
<b>Emergency Medical Services, Board of</b>	5	1	2	
<b>Fire Marshal, Office of State</b>				1
<b>Governmental Ethics Commission</b>				
<b>Board of Healing Arts</b>	1			1
<b>KDHE – Division of Health Care Finance</b>	620	917	1007	1036
<b>KDHE – Division of Public Health</b>	33	46	45	63
<b>KDHE – Division of Environment</b>	2	4	3	4
<b>Housing Resources Corporation</b>				
<b>Kansas State University (Title IX)</b>		2	2	
<b>Labor, Department of</b>	88	120	149	121
<b>Nursing, Board of</b>	15	12	3	14
<b>Optometry Examiners, Board of</b>				
<b>Personnel Services – Civil Service Board</b>	14	8	13	12
<b>Pharmacy, Board of</b>	5	3	1	8
<b>KS Public Employees Retirement System</b>	4	2	5	2
<b>Real Estate Commission</b>	6	3	11	10
<b>Regents, Board of</b>	16			
<b>Revenue, Department of</b>		4	2	2
<b>Transportation, Department of</b>		3	1	
<b>Veterinary Examiners, Board of</b>	3		2	2
<b>Total Cases</b>	1966	2341	2478	2535

# 2025 Agency Case Mix

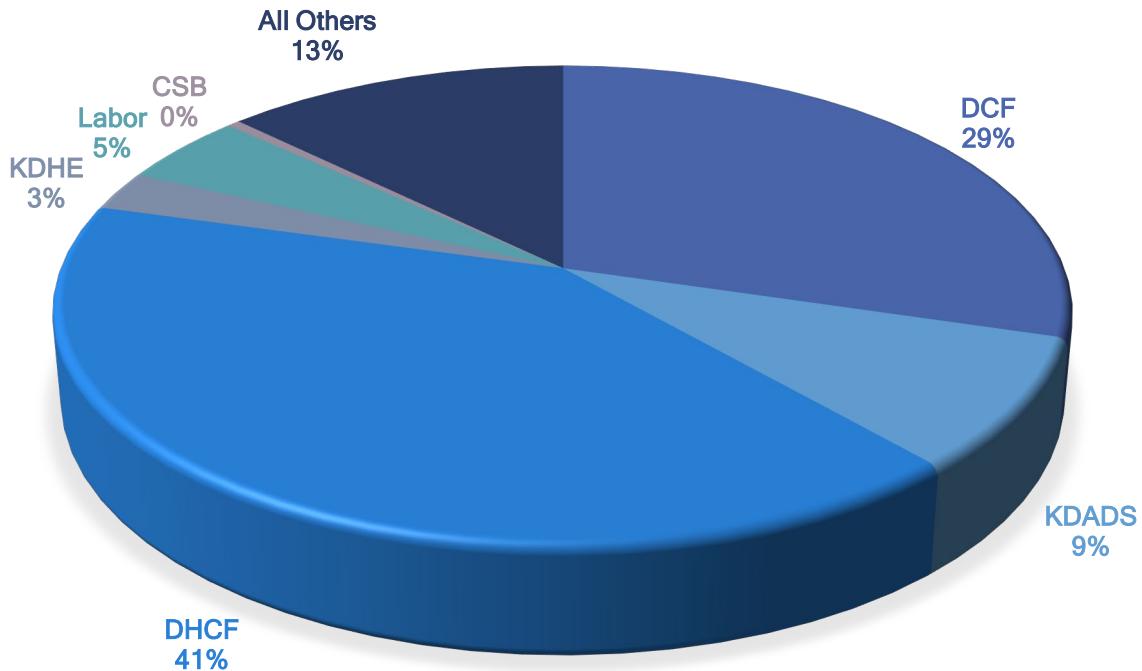
In 2025, OAH received 2,535 cases from 19 different agencies or entities. Consistent with years prior, the two (2) primary sources of OAH cases were the Kansas Department for Children and Families and the Kansas Department for Health and Environment – Division of Health Care Finance.

Agency	Number of Cases	Percent of Total Cases
<b>Administration, Department of - Debt Setoff</b>	253	9.98%
<b>Aging and Disability Services, Department for</b>	226	8.92%
<b>Agriculture, Department of</b>	10	.39%
<b>Children and Families, Department for</b>	750	29.59%
<b>Dental Bd, Kansas</b>	1	.04%
<b>Education, Department of</b>	19	.75%
<b>Fire Marshal, Office of State</b>	1	.04%
<b>Healing Arts, Board of</b>	1	.04%
<b>KDHE – Division of Health Care Finance</b>	1036	40.87%
<b>KDHE – Division of Public Health</b>	63	2.49%
<b>KDHE – Division of Environment</b>	4	.16%
<b>Labor, Department of</b>	121	4.77%
<b>Nursing, Board of</b>	14	.55%
<b>Personnel Services – Civil Service Board</b>	12	.47%
<b>Pharmacy, Board of</b>	8	.32%
<b>KS Public Employees Retirement System</b>	2	.08%
<b>Real Estate Commission</b>	10	.39%
<b>Revenue, Department of</b>	2	.08%
<b>Veterinary Examiners, Board of</b>	2	.08%
<b>Total Cases</b>	2,535	

# 2025 Agency Case Mix - Graphs

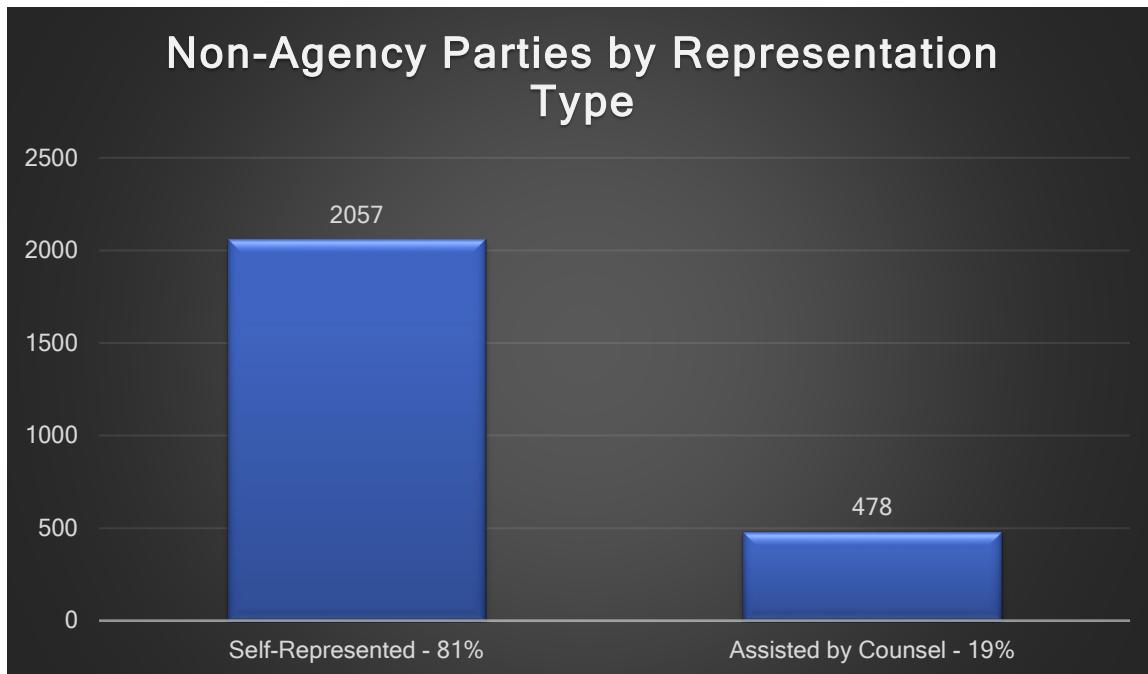
OAH has 6 Agencies that make up majority of the cases handled by OAH. They are the Department for Children and Families (DCF), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), KDHE – Division of Health Care Finance (DHCF), Department of Labor (Wage Claims), Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), and the Civil Service Board (CSB).

CASE MIX OF THE BIG 6 VS. ALL OTHERS



# Non-Agency Party Representation

Non-agency parties (citizens and businesses) that appear in contested cases before OAH may be represented by counsel. K.S.A. 77-515(b). For 2025, the majority of those parties were self-represented:

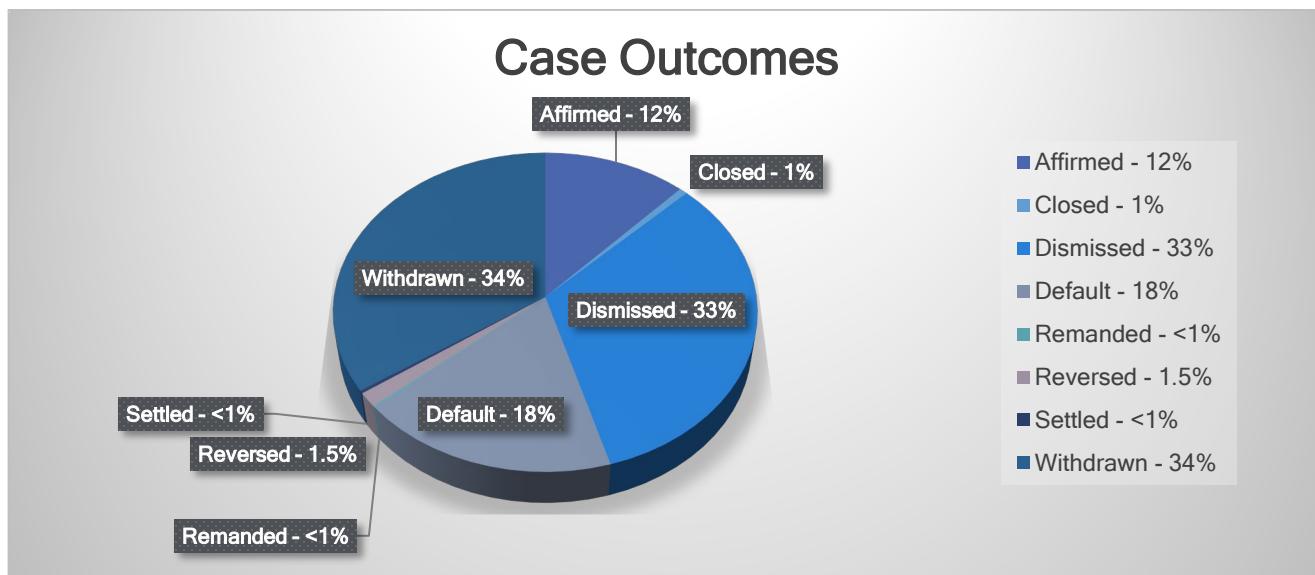


This is the first year that OAH has tracked non-agency party representation. Out of 2,535 cases that were filed with OAH in CY 2025, nearly 19% had an attorney representing them. The other 81% participated without utilizing an attorney.

# Case Outcomes

In CY 2025 OAH staff completed 1,859 cases by issuing written decisions, orders or rulings on motions. There were an additional 60 cases that were handled by the State Appeals Committee, which the OAH Director monitors, bringing the total number of cases handled by OAH in CY 2025 to 1,919. Of the 1,859 cases completed by OAH staff, 78 were disqualification cases related to the government benefit program.

The following outcomes were achieved in the non-SAC cases:

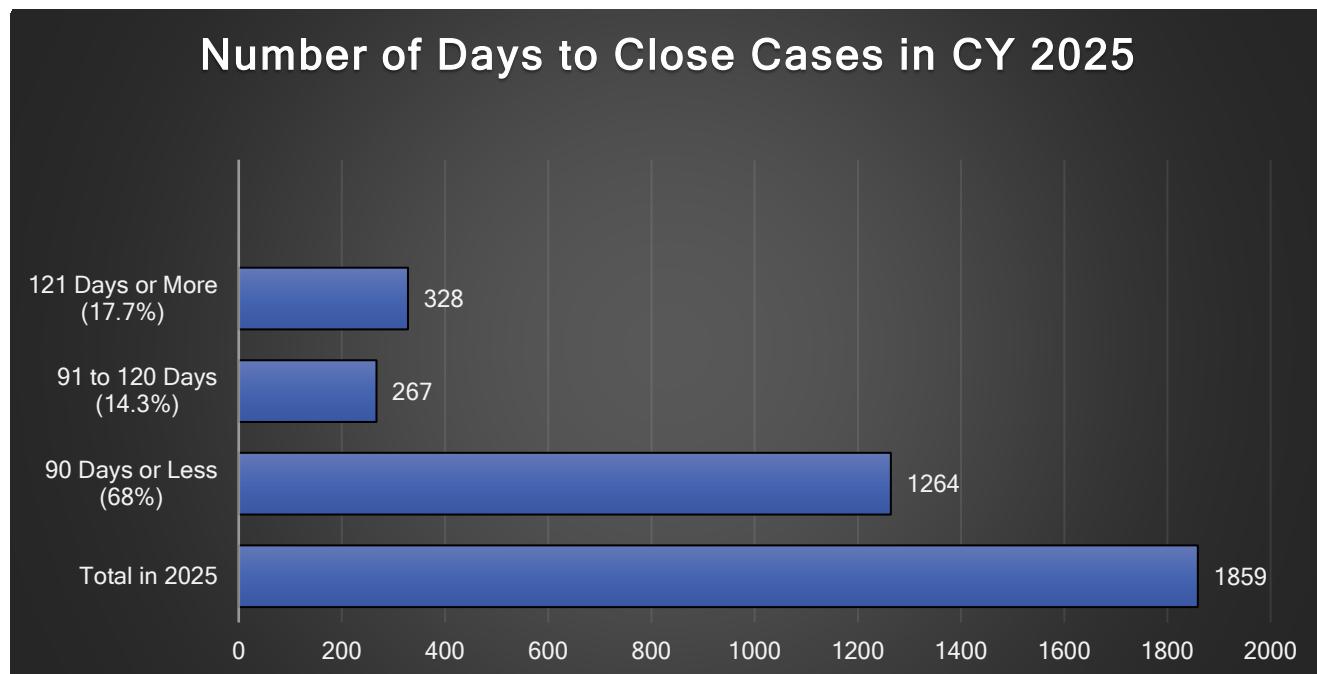


# Timeliness – From Filing to Disposition

The goal for OAH has always been to have cases resolved within 90 days of filing. As cases become more involved, this is a much more difficult goal to achieve because many cases involve complicated issues and require more time for preparation and rendering the decision. Some of these factors are outside of the control of OAH. Nonetheless, OAH strives to have all decisions rendered in a timely fashion. The new goal of OAH is to have 95% of all cases completed within 120 days of filing.

For 2025, 1,264 or 68% of the cases filed with OAH were completed in 90 days or less, 267 or 14.3% of the cases filed with OAH were completed in 90 to 120 days, and 328 or 17.7% of cases were completed in more than 120 days. The average time-to-order for all cases was approximately 79 days.

These figures do not include the cases decided by OAH that were appealed to the State Appeals Committee.



# Budget

For FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025), OAH was staffed with seven (7) ALJs, seven (7) Legal Assistants, and one (1) Judicial Clerk. The actual expenditures for OAH for FY 2025 were \$1,880,774, out of \$2,070,435 that was appropriated. Approximately 82% of OAH's FY 2025 budget expenditures was dedicated to salaries and benefits. The breakdown of OAH's FY 2025 expenditures is:

82% - Salaries and benefits

17% - Contractual services, including rent, legal services, etc.

0.2% - Commodities, consisting of office supplies

0.8% - Capital outlays, including furniture and computer equipment

The budget appropriated to OAH for FY 2026 is \$2,164,667.

# Staff Trainings

OAH believes that all ALJs have an ongoing duty to continually engage in training to educate themselves and remain informed on the various matters that may come before them. OAH ALJs were involved in the following training opportunities:

- National Association of Administrative Law Judges Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada, October 19-23, 2025.
- Tri-State Regional Special Education Law Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, November 13-14, 2025.
- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs sponsored by the Kansas Attorney General's Office and the Kansas Department of Administration.

OAH was also involved in providing the following training courses to others:

- Acting Director, Loren Snell, participated in a panel discussion at the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) 2025 Professional Practices Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, entitled "Is this a Licensure Issue or a District Issue?" The panel addressed scenarios concerning licensing and/or employment issues for teachers.



# Upcoming

Calendar year 2026 promises to be an outstanding year as OAH prepares to uphold its mission and works to improve the type and quality of information that will be available for public consumption.

Now that we have completed our Second Annual Report, and the website, <https://oah.ks.gov/>, has been revised and relaunched, OAH will now start the arduous process of reviewing the E-filing Portal to make changes that will make the portal more user friendly and efficient, while also serving the needs of OAH staff. This is a process that is sure to take some time.

## ***OAH Goals for 2026:***

- Increase transparency
- Modernize OAH to improve efficiency and access
- Improve communication
- Improve the OAH E-filing Portal
- Ongoing training of staff
- Train ALJs as mediators
- Meet with the agencies for which OAH conducts administrative hearings
- Update Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Review and update OAH policies and procedures

As we begin this new year, we will be reaching out to the various agencies and entities that we provide hearing services to evaluate what changes can be made to make the process and the experience better for all involved. We are already aware of some significant changes that will need to occur and are working to implement those changes as quickly as possible. Please let us know if you have concerns or suggestions. Thank you for a great year.

# Questions

If you have any questions regarding this report or the activities of the Office of Administrative Hearings, they may be directed to:

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