

# Court Hierarchy and Jurisdiction - WA

## The High Court

- Original: Handles constitutional matters, state conflicts, and disputes between Commonwealth and state/territory laws.
- Appellate: Hears appeals from state, territory, and federal courts on issues involving federal law.
- All decisions are final and binding on all lower courts throughout Australia.

## Family Court

- State and Federal jurisdiction in matters of family law.
- Handles cases related to divorce, marital or de facto property disputes, child-related matters, and adoptions.

## Supreme Court

- Original: Serious criminal matters, and civil claims exceeding \$750,000.
- Hears criminal and civil appeals from single judge Supreme Court decisions, and the District and Magistrates Court decisions.

## Children's Court

- All criminal matters for children aged between 10 and 18.
- Care & protection matters and restraining order applications relating to children under 18.

## District Court

- Criminal: Serious criminal offences e.g., sexual assault.
- Civil: Matters up to \$750,000, unlimited personal injury claims from motor accidents.
- Hears appeals from the Magistrates Court.

## Magistrates Court

- Criminal: Simple offences e.g., traffic offence and some 'either way' offences.
- Civil: Matters involving claims up to \$75,000.
- There are no juries in these courts.

## Family Violence List

- Consolidates cases under one Magistrate.
- Focuses on victim safety and addressing the causes of offenders' actions.

## The Drug Court

- Restricted to drug-related offenders.
- Focuses on assisting people whose offending is a result of substance misuse.

## The Intellectual Disability Diversion Program (IDDP) Court

- Helps intellectually disabled people in the criminal justice system.

## Warden's Court

- Hears disputes over mining tenements (legal permits or licenses to mine) in Western Australia.

## Coroner's Court

- Investigates unnatural, unexpected, sudden and suspicious deaths.

