

Virginia Court System

Virginia, like each of the other 49 states, has its own separate court system whose organization and jurisdiction are derived from Virginia's Constitution and state laws.

Virginia Supreme Court

(Justices/no jury)

- Court of final appeal (Appellate jurisdiction)
- Limited Original jurisdiction

Has the power of **Judicial Review** - the power to decide whether any state or local law or action violates the Virginia Constitution

Courts of Appeals of Virginia

(Judges/no jury)

- Appellate jurisdiction to review decisions of Circuit Courts

Circuit Court

(Judge with/without jury)

- Original jurisdiction for felony criminal cases and for certain civil cases
- Appellate jurisdiction from District Courts

General District Court

including Juvenile and Domestic Relations and Small Claims Courts

(Judge/no jury)

- Original jurisdiction for misdemeanors and civil cases involving lower dollar amounts
- Original jurisdiction in juvenile and family cases

Use the chart on the reverse side to answer the following questions.

1. What is the only Virginia court that may have a jury?

2. For adult cases, which of the following has the level of Virginia courts in the correct order, lowest to highest? Circle the correct answer.
 - A. Circuit Court, VA Supreme Court, General District Court, Courts of Appeals of Virginia
 - B. General District Court, Courts of Appeals of Virginia, VA Supreme Court, Circuit Court
 - C. General District Court, Circuit Court, Courts of Appeals of Virginia, VA Supreme Court
 - D. VA Supreme Court, Circuit Court, Courts of Appeals of Virginia, General District Court

3. Which Virginia court would have original jurisdiction for criminal cases where a felony has been committed?

4. What is the court of final appeal in Virginia?

5. Which court never has original jurisdiction?

6. For which court is original jurisdiction available in only limited cases?

7. From which document do Virginia courts derive their organization and jurisdiction?

8. What is the power of judicial review?

9. Name the Virginia court that would handle cases that involve a 16-year-old person accused of committing a crime.

10. Which Virginia court would have original jurisdiction in a civil case where someone was taken to court for \$250,000?