



# news

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**Colorado courts service-improvement program returning to  
the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**  
*Surveys to be conducted in La Junta, Las Animas and Ordway*

LA JUNTA, Colo. – People with business in the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District courts in La Junta, Las Animas and Ordway in June and July 2019 will be asked to participate in an ongoing program designed to help ensure the Colorado Judicial Department is providing the best service possible to the public.

Throughout each day of the survey, court and probation employees at courthouses in the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Bent, Crowley and Otero counties) will ask people leaving the buildings to fill out brief, anonymous survey forms asking about their experiences as jurors, parties to a case or recipients of other Judicial Department services. Surveys will be conducted June 20, 2019, at the Otero Combined Court, 13 W. Third Street, in La Junta; July 1, 2019, at the Bent Combined Court, 725 Bent Avenue, in Las Animas; and July 9, 2019, at the Crowley Combined Court, 110 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, in Ordway.

Survey forms will be available in English and Spanish. In addition, attorneys, law enforcement officers and anyone else who does business with the courts is encouraged to participate.

Similar surveys have been conducted in the past in La Junta, most recently in 2017, but this will be the first time surveys have been conducted in Las Animas and Ordway.

The surveys measure public opinion about access to and fairness of the courts. Questions include whether people felt safe in the building, whether they could easily understand the forms they needed, and whether they felt their case was handled in a fair manner. Participants also are asked whether they felt the judicial officer listened to them and had all the necessary information before making a decision, and whether they felt they were treated with courtesy and given clear information about the next step in their case.

During Fiscal Year 2018, the District Courts in the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District received 1,628 case filings. The Bent County Court received 645 case filings, the Crowley County Court received 410 case filings, and the Otero County Court received 2,301 case filings.