

POTTS & POTTS

Dry Goods and Notions

LEESBURG, VA. 3-19-47 19

Dear Mrs. Smith:-

At our last discussion meeting I was asked to get some information on the courts and the weather has prevented our meeting again. Mrs. Bradley suggested I send what I had gotten to you as you were getting all of it together and not wait for our next meeting.

Yours truly
Ruth H. Potts

(1)

- 1) What courts hold regular sessions in your county? The circuit court holds six sessions per year - February, April, June, August, October + December. The trial justice court is in session all the time.

What is the jurisdiction of each?

The trial justice has jurisdiction over misdemeanors + criminal cases but anyone may appeal from his decision to the circuit court. The trial justice has exclusive jurisdiction over claims up to \$200⁰⁰ and concurrent jurisdiction with circuit court in claims from \$200⁰⁰ to \$1000⁰⁰. The circuit has jurisdiction over felony and exclusive jurisdiction over claims of over \$1000⁰⁰.

- (2) Do you have a county court - that is a court with jurisdiction within the
(over)

(2)

boundaries of your county? Yes

relatives
parents

Do you have a circuit court, holding sessions at intervals in your county? Yes. Feb. Apr. June - Aug. Oct. + Dec.

(3) Do you have a probate court - a juvenile court + a court of domestic relations? Yes.

The judge or clerk of the circuit court admit papers to probate, grant letters of administration, appoint administrators or executors.

The trial justice is judge of the juvenile + domestic relations court.

If you have a children's court, what procedure is followed? The trial justice has jurisdiction over children. It is an informal court and only

(3)

Yes
relatives, guardians, their attorneys, or public officials may attend.

How does this differ from the procedure in regular courts of law? It has no jury. The county court is (usually) open to the public and has certain rules of procedure in presenting evidence and getting cases ready for trial.

(4) Which courts handle civil, criminal, probate + juvenile cases? The trial justice handles civil cases. The trial justice and circuit court handle criminal + civil cases. Probate cases are handled in circuit court by the judge or clerk of the court. The juvenile

(4)

cases are handled by the trial justice. He is also judge of the juvenile court.

Which courts have original jurisdiction?
The trial justice has original jurisdiction over misdemeanors and claims up to \$200⁰⁰. The trial justice and circuit in claims from \$200⁰⁰ to \$1000⁰⁰. Circuit courts in claims of more than \$1000⁰⁰.
The circuit court has original and exclusive jurisdiction of all chancery or equity matters involving granting of divorces, sale of land, etc.

Which courts have final decision?
The court of appeals (which corresponds to the U.S. Supreme court) has final decision in all matters which exceed \$300⁰⁰. The court of appeals

permitted
court

(5)

permits an appeal from the circuit court to the court of appeals.

Which courts are subject to appellate jurisdiction? Appeal can be taken from the trial justice to circuit court and from circuit court to the court of appeals (The highest court in the state)

§-4 Do you have a county attorney who offers legal advice in an advisory capacity? We have a commonwealth attorney who is required to give legal advice to county officers and see that all criminal laws are enforced. Any citizen may seek his advice regarding a committed crime.