

What is the Mexico City judicial branch?

The Mexico City judicial branch is comprised of the Mexico City Superior Court of Justice and the Council of the Mexico City Judiciary. Its purpose is to administer justice through judges who hear cases stemming from the commission of offenses. Said cases are submitted by the Mexico City Attorney General's Office, which is in charge of compiling dockets and exhibits in order to bring the accused before the court.

The Mexico City Superior Court of Justice hears cases of alleged juvenile offenses.

The judicial branch also hears family matters involving claims such as divorce, suits for alimony, probate matters, care and custody rights over minors, among others. Those kinds of claims are filed by one of the involved parties or by their legal representative via the Office of the Clerk of the Court.

Furthermore, the judicial branch deals with civil matters concerning controversies derived from affectations on individual rights such as property rights. Civil matters also encompass commercial disputes between companies due to default, breach of contract or others.

The judicial branch has individual chambers for each of the previously mentioned matters. In those chambers, upon request of one of the parties involved in a case, the justices of the Mexico City Superior Court of Justice can review the sentences passed on trial by other judges.

Cases are randomly allocated to courts and chambers.

Council of the Mexico City Judiciary

It consists of seven advisors who compose the Plenary of the Council of the Mexico City Judiciary, the supreme body of the Court's management and monitoring.

The Council manages its own budget as well as the Court's, appoints judges and justices, and — through the Judicial Discipline Commission— removes them from office in the event of poor practices.



English

The Internal Inspection —responsible for overseeing the performance of chambers and courts—, and the Office of the Comptroller —responsible for supervising errors of the Court’s administrative areas— are also part of the Council of the Judiciary.

Structure of the Mexico City Superior Court of Justice

The highest authority of the Mexico City Supreme Court of Justice is the Plenary of Justices, which is comprised of one chief justice and all other justices. They, as a whole, make decisions with the intention of administering justice in the most efficient way.

The Court is composed of 78 justices and one chief justice who acts as its representative. Additionally, the Court relies on around 400 judges who hear every type of legal matter.

Likewise, the Supreme Court of Justice counts with other support areas for judges, such as the following:

- **Center for Alternative Justice.** It gives advice to people involved in civil, family, criminal, or juvenile cases. Mediators encourage the parties to settle their dispute via dialogue without resorting to a trial. The settlement they reach is then formalized by signing an agreement. This process takes less time than a trial would.
- **Institute of Forensic Sciences.** Its staff conducts autopsies on the corpses of people who died under violent circumstances so as to determine their cause of death. The Institute stores bodies that remain unidentified after a certain period of time, and keeps a list of them for identification purposes.
- **Registry of the Court.** It is the section responsible for both receiving surety bonds ordered by a judge as payment guarantee and delivering them to the appropriate individual.
- **Court Records Office.** It holds the records submitted by all courts for safekeeping. Moreover, it allows people to consult the record of a case in which they took part.
- **Supervised Visitation Center.** Only when supervised at these centers will noncustodial parents have access to their child if a judge considered said minor to be in danger under their care or in their presence.
- **Psychological assessments.** This office conducts psychological assessments on minors and parents involved in a trial with a view to discarding or confirming any psychological profiles that may affect their lives as a family.

