

Judicial Qualifications Checklist
Statutory Requirements
Family Court Judges
Updated July 14, 2025

	Candidate is a citizen of the United States	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-30.
	Candidate is a citizen of South Carolina.	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-30.
	Candidate is at least 32 years old.	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-30.
	Candidate has been a licensed attorney for at least the past 8 years.	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-30.
	Candidate resides in the circuit for which he seeks election.	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-30.
	Candidate has been a resident of South Carolina for at least the five years preceding the election.	S. C. Code Ann. § 63-3-30.
	<p>Additional requirements for certain circuits:</p> <p>(a) In circuits 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16, at least one family court judge must be a resident of each county in the circuit.</p> <p>(b) In those judicial circuits made up of 3 or more counties at least 1 family court judge must be a resident of 1 of the counties which does not have the largest population in the circuit.</p> <p>(c) In the 9th judicial circuit both counties in the circuit must have at least 2 resident family court judges.</p> <p>(d) No county in the 6th judicial circuit may have more than one resident family court judge.</p>	S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-40.

	<p>General Assembly shall elect a number of family court judges from each judicial circuit as follows:</p> <p>First Circuit: 4 judges Second Circuit: 2 judges Third Circuit: 3 judges Fourth Circuit: 3 judges Fifth Circuit: 4 judges Sixth Circuit: 2 judges Seventh Circuit: 4 judges Eighth Circuit: 3 judges Ninth Circuit: 7 judges Tenth Circuit: 3 judges Eleventh Circuit: 4 judges Twelfth Circuit: 3 judges Thirteenth Circuit: 6 judges Fourteenth Circuit: 4 judges Fifteenth Circuit: 3 judges Sixteenth Circuit: 3 judges</p>	<p>S.C. Code Ann. § 63-3-40.</p>
	<p>Candidate is not serving in the General Assembly and has not served there for at least one year prior to nomination as a judge or from the time the candidate failed to file for election to the General Assembly in accordance with § 7-11-15. (March 30th of the year of the election).</p>	<p>S.C. Code Ann. § 2-19-70.</p>
	<p>Candidate has not served on the Judicial Merit Selection Committee for a period of one year.</p>	<p>S.C. Code Ann. § 2-19-10(G).</p>