



# MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

## Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN  
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE  
September 15, 2016

## **Probate, Juvenile Court Earns Court Improvement Program Grant to Support Efficiency in JFS Cases**

*The Ohio Supreme Court announced Wednesday that Medina County was selected to receive funds under the Children and Families Section, Court Improvement Program.*

MEDINA – Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court administrators received notice earlier this week that the Court earned a second chance to purchase necessary technology to help provide more efficient and effective administration of justice for abuse, dependency, and neglect cases.

The Court's proposal for new video conferencing equipment and a domain controller upgrade was originally submitted under the Supreme Court of Ohio Technology Grant earlier this year, among other grant requests, but was not initially approved. In June, Network Administrator Mike Stiles received an email that the Supreme Court was soliciting grant applications again, but this time offered through the Children and Families Section, Court Improvement Program (CIP). The purpose of this program is to remove barriers to efficient and effective administration of justice for children and families involved in the child welfare system.

"The Supreme Court is giving us a second chance to go forward with these projects in our Court that will help us ensure efficiency with our proceedings and provide a more secure network for these confidential abuse, neglect and dependency cases," Stiles said.

Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court has already purchased the video conferencing equipment and the domain controller upgrade for a total cost of \$14,516.58. The grant acceptance will provide a 29 percent reimbursement for the total purchase cost of the new equipment, leaving \$10,306.77 spent from the Court's budget for the new software.

"We are advancing money today for these projects, but it will save money tomorrow," Judge Kevin W. Dunn said. "With the new video conferencing capabilities, we are able to have necessary parties present who may be incarcerated in jails in other counties or imprisoned in a state facility without the additional cost and delays to coordinate transportation."

Judge Dunn said hearings are typically delayed seven or more days to coordinate transportation of prisoners. He explained that the process is more involved than a simple transport from point A to point B.

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Contact: Kristyn Cooke, 330.764.8751

To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or Court programs, visit our websites at [www.MedinaJuvenile.org](http://www.MedinaJuvenile.org) and [www.MedinaProbate.org](http://www.MedinaProbate.org).

“If we have a parent who happens to be in jail or prison in another county, we have to complete a warrant to convey for that individual, our Sheriff’s Department has to coordinate an available time to pick them up and then they have to be taken to Medina County Jail to be processed before they are brought before the Court,” Judge Dunn said. “It’s a very involved, time-consuming process that can be eliminated now that most facilities have video conferencing capabilities.”

Judge Dunn noted that the ability to video conference will not only expedite hearings, but will also assist the Sheriff’s Department who has to send deputies to convey an individual to and from Medina County.

Stiles said he hopes to have the new video conferencing software and domain server upgrade installed and available within the next few weeks.

“It’s great that the Supreme Court continues to provide funding for technology improvements,” Stiles said. “They recognize that technology is ever-changing and they are providing the support so that Medina County can keep up, ultimately benefiting the community.”

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