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Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court 2018 Annual Report

GREETINGS FROM JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN



I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report of the Medina County Probate/Juvenile Court. The Court's staff and service providers are zealously committed to protecting children, correcting delinquent juveniles, reducing recidivism, and directing parents to their responsibilities. Further, in the Probate Court, the protection of those who cannot protect themselves is of paramount importance. In a continuing effort to provide services to the community, the Court is actively engaged in improving its programs.

The Court is grateful to a multitude of collaborative partners in the community including the members of law enforcement, schools, social services agencies, mental health agencies, healthcare and others who have assisted the court in its important mission.

* To view a copy of the annual report online, visit the downloads section of our website at www.medinaprobate.org

* Printed in-house at an estimated cost of \$0.33 per copy.

Judge Kevin W. Dunn is one of the four judges of the Common Pleas Court. He began his tenure on the Bench on August 5, 2013. Judge Dunn's elected six-year term began February, 2015. The Medina County Probate and Juvenile Courts, wherein Judge Dunn presides, has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18. These cases are categorized as delinquent; traffic; unruly; and abused, neglected and dependent children. Probate matters, include but are not limited to estates, guardianships, and trusts.

Juvenile and Probate Court Staff



Photo Credit: John J. Lohn

Juvenile Court Ti-180 Program Recognized by State for Excellence in Diversion Programming

Medina County Juvenile Court implemented the Teen Intervention – 180 Program (Ti-180) in November 2015 as an alternative to traditional disposition. The goal of the program is to educate youth and their parents or guardians on early intervention and warning signs for substance abuse, as well as provide skills to increase resiliency. In 2018, the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Children and Families and its Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice recognized the program as an integral step to help keep youth safely in their homes and communities, and out of the juvenile justice system.

During the program, youth and at least one parent participate together in a onetime, three-and-a-half hour session facilitated by a licensed clinician.

Programs like Ti-180 have shown to be effective at reducing delinquency and future criminality while promoting prosocial development, according to the Supreme Court of Ohio. 25 youth participated in the program in 2018.



TEEN INTERVENTION-180
(TI-180)

Probate and Juvenile Courts Upgrade Servers Thanks to Technology Grant Money

The Medina County Probate and Juvenile Courts continue to progress and utilize current technology thanks to approval from the Supreme Court of Ohio for \$52,505.60 from the Technology Grant Fund.

These funds support local Ohio courts by providing the financial resources necessary for technology based improvements. According to the Supreme Court of Ohio, over the past three years, the Court has awarded nearly \$8 million to local courts across Ohio for technology-based projects, aiding in the completion of 288 projects in 78 of Ohio's 88 counties.

Medina County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, used the awarded funds to replace the server infrastructure, which has not been upgraded since 2011. This upgrade provides the Court with better security, ease of configuration, and allows for a potential upgrade to the case management system originally created in 1995 and implemented at the court in 2001.

Juvenile Court Programming

Probation Department

Probation Officers investigate all aspects of the Juvenile's case and make recommendations to the Court to protect public safety and to achieve permanent improvement in a child's behavior. In 2018, 66 youth were placed on probation.

Teen Court Program

Teen Court is an intervention program that offers first-time misdemeanor-offending youth the opportunity to be heard by a jury of their peers. Under the supervision of the Court, local teens serve as attorneys, jury members and bailiffs. In 2018, five youth participated in and successfully completed the Teen Court program.

Community Service

More than 3,540 service hours were performed by youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities in 2018.

Drug Court

The mission of Drug Court is to stop children from using alcohol and drugs. Drug Court is a coordinated effort between counseling and court services. Drug Court includes three Probation Officers and therapeutic interventions. There were 37 successful graduates from the program in 2018.

Parent Project

Parent Project is a program for parents with difficult or out-of-control adolescents. Parents learn and practice strategies for dealing with destructive behaviors such as truancy, alcohol and drug use, gangs and other criminal behavior, running away, violence and suicide. In 2018, 41 families participated in Parent Project.

Family Resource Court

Family Resource Court helps reduce the need for court intervention on unruly and truancy cases. Assessments identify individual and family barriers. Through intensive probation supervision, case management and a team approach, the Court improves community safety and helps build healthy families. In 2018, 12 families were served by the Family Resource Court and 13 juveniles successfully completed the truancy program of Family Resource Court.

Risk Screening—Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)

Risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. 182 OYAS risk screenings were completed in 2018.

Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGP)

The Volunteer Guardian Program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for those in need of guardianship by providing trained, qualified, volunteer legal guardians to serve as decision-makers when no less restrictive alternative to guardianship is available. Volunteer guardians are only appointed when family members are unable to serve.

The volunteer guardian's responsibilities are to make health and placement decisions on behalf of the ward. The needs of the ward are matched with the abilities of the guardian. The guardian is a friend and advocate of the ward. In rare instances, the guardian makes financial decisions involving very small amounts of money.

This program continues to help incompetent, indigent adults in Medina County. In 2018, there were 29 trained volunteer guardians and 30 wards actively being served.



From left to right: Nicki Shook, Lin Humpal, Christy Rickbrodt, Gail Houk, Judge Kevin W. Dunn, Nancy Likens, Audra Gackowski, Lori Betz, and Joyce Giles.

Continuing Legal Education



From left to right: Bradley Proudfoot, Judge Kevin W. Dunn, Monica Russell

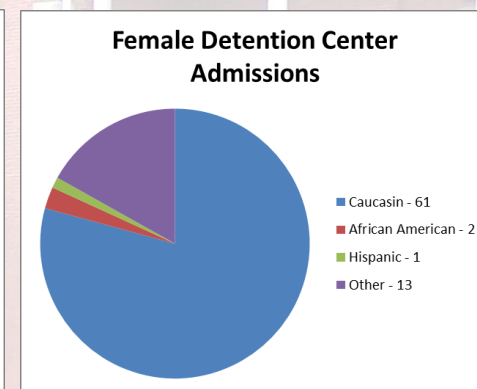
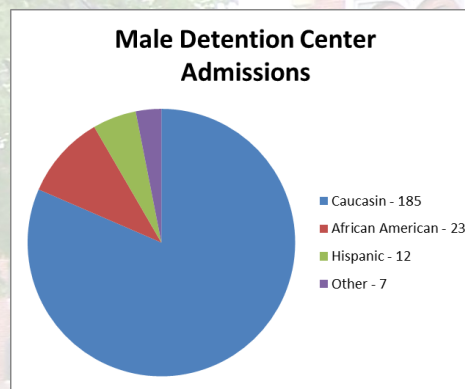
In 2018, Probate and Juvenile Court partnered with the Medina County Bar Association to bring Continuing Legal Education Seminars to the local bar in an effort to provide CLEs specifically in the areas of juvenile and probate law. Probate and Juvenile Court was recognized by Medina County Bar Association President Monica Russell and President-Elect Bradley Proudfoot for the work put in by the Judge, Magistrates

and court staff to provide the full day trainings. The juvenile training met the training requirement needed for qualification to be appointed to represent juvenile offenders pursuant to the regulations of the Ohio Public Defender's Office and the three-hour annual training requirement to serve as a guardian *ad litem*. The probate training focused on guardianships and general probate law. Both trainings were highly attended.

Juvenile Detention Center

In 2018, the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center admitted 304 juveniles, 121 being held on complaints involving felony level charges. The average length of stay of a resident in 2018 was 14 days.

While in the JDC, residents are exposed to a variety of services including mental health services, educational services, art therapy, therapy dogs, gardening and numerous educational and motivational speakers. The mission of the JDC is to make Medina a better place by inspiring troubled youth to become responsible, productive citizens.



Supreme Court Statistics

This statistical summary meets all of the requirements of accounting for the number, type and disposition of cases that came before the Judge and/or Magistrate in calendar year 2018. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court.

Juvenile Court	Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, Neglect, or Abuse	Unruly	Adult Cases	Motion For Permanent Custody	Custody or Visitation	Support	Percentage	U.I.F.S.A	All Others
New Cases Filed	373	420	54	92	1	0	37	0	0	0	20
Cases Terminated	479	442	52	118	2	0	55	15	0	0	18

Probate Court	Estate	Guardianship—Minor	Guardianship—Incompetent	Conservatorships	Civil Actions	Adoptions	Minor Settlements	Wrongful Death	Change of Name	Marriage Applications
New Cases Filed	663	44	96	0	14	52	22	7	86	N/A
Cases Terminated	660	58	78	2	28	356	24	5	85	969

COURT COLLECTIONS

Court costs assessed by the Juvenile Court are distributed to state, county and local governments. The COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement) program was created to recoup part of the cost of court services.

	COPPER Program	Court Costs (Including COPPER)	Fines
Total	\$37,483.38	\$199,066.75	\$20,673.28

Annual report generated by and a special thanks to:

- Juvenile Staff
- Probate Staff
- Programming Staff
- Michael R. Stiles
- Juvenile Probation
- Medina County JDC