

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court

2019 Annual Report



GREETINGS FROM JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN

I am pleased to present the 2019 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin W. Dunn", written in a cursive style.

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.

2019 Sees Upgrades to Court Technology and Accessibility

It was a productive year for technology-based improvements for Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court. Special Project funds from the Probate and Juvenile Courts were used to gain additional server storage that allows increased imaging to retain electronic Court dockets, documents, and other necessary information. We also updated staff computers to Windows 10 resulting in faster processing and efficiency, in turn, providing the public with better service. Network Administrator Mike Stiles also worked with Judge Dunn to update the court's website to a more user-friendly, modern format.

Judge Dunn's courtroom also received an update with new American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible mechanical tables and



chairs arranged to create an atmosphere of restorative justice, rather than punitive for youth.

"We have to continue to evolve and improve our technology to handle cases and daily court production appro-

priately and efficiently," Judge Dunn said. "But we must also ensure that we are improving all aspects of our daily court function for the public, including the environment where we convene during some of the most difficult times."

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 2019, 106 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 2019, 3 youth participated in and successfully completed the Teen Court program.

Community Service

More than 2,689 service hours were performed by youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities in 2019.

Ti-180 Program

Teen Intervention – 180 Program (Ti-180) is 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. 12 youth participated in the program in 2019.

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 and violence. In 2019, 28 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 2019, 5 families successfully completed the Family Resource Court and 21 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. 211 OYAS risk screenings were completed in 2019.

Medina Juvenile Drug Court Program Recertified

Medina County Juvenile Drug Court has received renewed certification from the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets. Specialized dockets are courts that are dedicated to specific types of offenses or offenders and use a combination of different techniques for holding offenders accountable while also addressing the underlying causes of their behavior.

The certification requirements include establishing eligibility requirements, evaluating effectiveness of the specialized docket, and assembling a treatment



team for implementing daily operations of the specialized docket. The team, which is led by the specialized docket judge, can include licensed treatment providers, law enforcement, and court personnel.

Medina County Juvenile Drug Court exceeds the required standards, providing an alternative for juveniles and their families whose criminal justice involvement stems from alcohol or drugs. Using community resources, the Program provides monitoring by three specialized docket probation officers, intervention, treatment and structure to juveniles. The Program also reduces recidivism, protects the community, and teaches juveniles how to lead a healthy lifestyle. There were 27 successful graduates from the program in 2019.

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	\$32,033.93	\$176,083.33	\$18,504.53

Annual report generated by and a special thanks to:

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

Mediation Process Successful

2019 saw a slight increase in the number of cases that Probate Court sent to the Medina County Court of Common Pleas Office of Dispute Resolution.

The Office of Dispute Resolution provides mediation services for civil cases in the general and probate divisions of the Medina Court of Common Pleas. Mediation is an informal process in which an impartial person works with the parties and their attorneys to attempt to resolve the lawsuit in a manner acceptable to all parties involved.

In 2019, Probate Court referred eight civil cases to the mediation program. Of those eight cases, four were settled during the mediation process. Only two cases were returned to the court for further proceedings and two remained pending at the end of 2019. The mediation program is paid for in part through fees collected on civil actions in both the general and probate divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. In 2019, the Probate Court collected \$5,420.00 for the mediation program.

Truancy by the Numbers

48 truancy complaints filed in 2019

31 juveniles placed in alternatives to adjudication

17 juveniles successfully completed the alternatives

4 juveniles did not successfully complete the alternative

Staff Trained on Evidence Based Program

Two probation officers, one traditional probation officer and one specialized dockets probation officer, attended a workshop that provided a comprehensive course on The Council for Boys and Young Men® model that sets the foundation for implementing a dynamic strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years.

The probation officers attended the two day training to gain knowledge, steps and skills to implement this structured, engaging circle model to meet a core developmental need in boys for positive peer and adult relationships. The program builds on the strengths and capabilities of the young men while challenging some ideas of masculinity which can be harmful to their development. The training demonstrated the evidence-based practices and principles utilized to build assets, promote belonging, and deconstruct harmful beliefs so that young men develop healthy identities to grow as respectful leaders and connected allies in their communities.

The training was presented by the One Circle Foundation.

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 2019. 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	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A	All Others
New Cases Filed	342	437	84	114	1	0	36	0	0	0	6
Cases Terminated	418	434	61	131	1	0	54	17	0	0	10

Probate Court	Estate	Guardianship—Minor	Guardianship—Incompetent	Conservatorships	Civil Actions	Adoptions	Minor Settlements	Wrongful Death	Change of Name	Marriage Applications
New Cases Filed	668	40	87	3	37	76	21	4	147	N/A
Cases Terminated	682	55	68	5	36	58	9	8	144	914



93 Public Sq., Room 104
Medina, OH 44256

Phone: 330-725-9709
Fax: 330-725-9173

* 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.

Juvenile Detention Center Pilot Site for Youth Programming

because I said I would is a social movement and nonprofit dedicated to the betterment of humanity through promises made and kept. The message reaches across the world through Promise Cards, awareness campaigns, and character education in middle schools, high schools and colleges. In May of 2019, the first 12 week program tailored for detained youth was implemented in the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC). Each week covers a different topic including how to handle broken promises and the courage to say no, so each week is a stand alone session for residents to take a new skill with them no matter how long they remain in the MCJDC.

Alex Sheen, founder and CEO of *because I said I would*, has visited

the MCJDC twice and created a lasting impact on residents. There is currently a curriculum in place at Pendleton Correctional Facility in Indiana, but it is tailored for adult inmates. This is what prompted Superintendent Ron Stollar to reach out and see if a program for detained youth could be created and utilized to continue spreading the inspiring message with the residents and facility staff.

All detained youth participate in the mandatory curriculum and begin by writing down their own promise to complete. The promise has to be something attainable and must be within the residents' means to complete on their own. After they identify a promise they would like to fulfill, they will work on a Promise Planner, detailing

all parties involved, best practices they will need to use, and discuss any barriers to completing their intention.

The residents need to identify necessary actionable steps and may earn achievement badges throughout the process. Achievement badges can be earned for apologizing, sharing a personal story, maintaining a personal code of honor based on core values, and accountability. The badges are designed to help inspire the youth to continue creating and following through with thoughtful, impactful individual promises moving forward in their lives. Upon successfully completing each promise, the cards will be returned to them.