

# Medina County Common Pleas Court

## PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

93 PUBLIC SQUARE, ROOM 104, MEDINA, OHIO 44256

Kevin W. Dunn  
Judge

---

### MEDIA RELEASE

October 3, 2014

---

## Medina County Teen Court Diversion Program Begins Fifth Season

*12 student volunteers from area high schools assist in the nationally recognized juvenile diversion program*

MEDINA – The Medina County Juvenile Teen Court Diversion Program, a nationally recognized program proven to reduce crime, recently kicked off the fifth season since its beginning in 2010.

Twelve Medina County student volunteers attended the training session Saturday, September 27 with Teen Court advisors; Magistrate Susana Lewis, Chief Probation Officer Jodi Albertson, Director of Programming Phillip Titterington, Public Defender Tim Lutz and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Lauren Hase.

The student volunteers spent the training day learning juvenile court vocabulary and about the Teen Court process.

“This is a smaller group than we’ve had in the past, but we found it’s more manageable and people aren’t getting lost in the shuffle,” said Magistrate Lewis.

There are usually one to two hearings held during each monthly Teen Court session. The student volunteers work alongside professionals to prepare and present both sides as prosecution and defense in an actual juvenile court case.

When a juvenile offender participates in Teen Court, they go before a jury of their peers. The student volunteers who comprise the jury members decide on consequences and sanctions for the offender, which may include but are not limited to; Community Service hours, restitution made to victims and handwritten letters of apology. The jury will also always order the offender to participate as a jury member in a future Teen Court trial, allowing the juvenile to experience the other side of the court case. In the end, when the juvenile completes all of his or her orders, their case is dismissed, almost as if it was never filed in Juvenile Court.

-more-

Contact: Kristyn Soltis, 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).

Teen Court also offers a financial incentive for the juvenile and their families. Currently, Teen Court carries a fee of 50 dollars in addition to any costs for Community Service and restitution, compared to a traditional juvenile court hearing that may cost anywhere from 180 dollars or more.

“This group seems excited, interested and really engaged in the entire process,” said Magistrate Lewis. “Their focus will be on restorative justice by considering the victims and the community in each case, but they are also going to act as a positive role model and mentor to the offenders who participate in Teen Court.”

To learn more about the Medina County Teen Court Diversion Program, visit [www.medinaprobate.org/programming.html](http://www.medinaprobate.org/programming.html).