

Medina County Common Pleas Court

PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

93 PUBLIC SQUARE, ROOM 104, MEDINA, OHIO 44256

Kevin W. Dunn
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

November 20, 2013

Hidden in Plain Sight Offers Tips to Recognize Drug Use and Abuse in Teens

Judge Kevin Dunn attended the traveling exhibit at Buckeye High School to provide information and answer questions on drug use trends of court involved youth



MEDINA – It could be as innocent looking as a pen simply missing the ink, or as obvious as a manipulated water bottle with marijuana residue; the goal of the Hidden in Plain Sight traveling exhibit is to help parents notice warning signs of risky behaviors that can be found in their child’s bedroom.

This was the 53rd presentation of the exhibit, created and sponsored by the Bath Township and Copley Police Departments, November 19, 2013 was hosted at Buckeye High School. Approximately 45 parents and school administrators were in attendance, as well as the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Judge Kevin Dunn and Chief Probation Officer Jodi Albertson, who were there to share drug use and possession trends seen in the Court.

Judge Dunn said, unfortunately, the Court is seeing a high percentage of marijuana use in juveniles after they have been adjudicated of a crime. Albertson added some youth on probation have attempted to use urine storage devices to mask drug use and pass toxicology screens.

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To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or court programs, visit our websites at www.MedinaJuvenile.org and www.MedinaProbate.org.

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In an effort to encourage parent involvement in decreasing drug use, the Juvenile Court orders a minimum six-month license suspension for any drug-related charge for a juvenile at disposition.

“A license suspension also hurts the parents,” Judge Dunn said. “They don’t want to have to drive their child all over town. The hope is that this suspension will motivate them to help their kids change their behaviors.”

Detective Paul Webb of the Copley Township Police Department told the parents that the peak time for youth to get into trouble is between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., before parents return home from work.

Officers from Copley Township PD informed parents that smoking devices can be created from typical items kids could find in their home, such as tin foil or fruit. The presenters also revealed some tricky hiding spots to look for, such as a deceptive safe made to look like a soda can or water bottle, or a tube of lipstick that is actually a smoking pipe. Attendees then had a chance to look at drug contraband seized by local police departments and donated to the exhibit.

“You could see the shock value on some of these parents’ faces,” Albertson said. “Kids are so creative but this exhibit is great because it’s keeping adults informed and showing them the new tricks and tips to look for.”

The next local Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit will be Monday, January 27 at Wadsworth High School.

To learn more about the Hidden in Plain Sight traveling exhibit or upcoming dates, visit www.BathTownship.org.