

# Medina County Common Pleas Court

## PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

93 PUBLIC SQUARE, ROOM 104, MEDINA, OHIO 44256

Kevin W. Dunn  
Judge

---

### MEDIA RELEASE

November 5, 2015

---

## Proactive Plan Addresses Heroin Use in Medina County Juvenile Court

*Judge Kevin Dunn has planned a preemptive strike against highly addictive drugs in his Court, creating a best practices plan that the Court will enforce to help address the issue of increased heroin use in our community.*

MEDINA – With heroin use on the rise in Medina County, Judge Kevin W. Dunn’s Court has implemented a plan of action for court-involved teens engaged in opiate abuse or trafficking.

“Heroin has become a serious concern to the citizens of our county,” Judge Dunn said. “It is on the rise at an alarming rate and the Court is doing everything possible to connect kids and families to services.”

As of October 14, 2015, the Medina County Drug Task Force reports 118 heroin overdoses in Medina County for the year, resulting in 20 reported deaths. Medina County Juvenile Court has also seen a considerable increase in court-involved teens testing positive for opiates within the past year.

The Court’s best practices plan will be used to help determine the depth of a juvenile’s drug use and dependence, as well as determine necessary treatment and supervision needs. The plan also calls for a parental education component designated to give parents the critical tools to address this crisis.

If a youth tests positive for opiates or is charged with an opiate-related offense, the Court will determine the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the juvenile and the community. Each child will be evaluated and based upon his or her needs, the Court will determine appropriate orders. The Court may order a juvenile to be detained at the Juvenile Detention Center, be placed on intensive probation services, including Drug Court Probation, and place the youth on a path of intensive inpatient or outpatient treatment and counseling.

“With the prominence of social media, children and teens connect to people who may pose a high risk of harm to them without your knowledge,” Judge Dunn said. “I encourage parents to be vigilant and to avail themselves of programs such as Hidden in Plain Sight when available in local schools, secure your medications, alcohol and weapons, and remember that as parents, kids don’t have the right to privacy. You have the right and duty to know what your children are doing, what they are involved in and who

-more-

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).

their friends are because you are the first line of defense. If you have any concerns, address them immediately, directly and through counseling.”

For a list of available programs and services for teens and adults who may be struggling with heroin abuse, visit [www.MedinaJuvenile.org](http://www.MedinaJuvenile.org) or the Medina County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board website at [www.MedinaMentalHealth.com](http://www.MedinaMentalHealth.com).

*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).*