



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE
December 29, 2016

Medina County Juvenile Court Renews State Certification for Drug Court Program



Programming and Grants Coordinator Tony Miller, Alicia Feehery Wolf, Esq. from the Commission on Specialized Dockets and Judge Kevin W. Dunn during the Juvenile Drug Court site visit

MEDINA – The Juvenile Drug Court of Medina County has 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. Standards are set by the Supreme Court of Ohio to provide a minimum level of uniform practices for specialized dockets throughout Ohio, and allow local courts to innovate and tailor programming to meet their community’s needs and resources. In order to receive the certification, Medina County Juvenile Court had to submit an application, host a site visit, and provide specific program materials in response to certification standards that went in to effect in January 2014.

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 those 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, intervention, treatment and structure to juveniles. Medina County Juvenile Drug Court also reduces recidivism, protects the community, and teaches juveniles how to lead a healthy lifestyle. To date, 442 youth have successfully graduated from Juvenile Drug Court since the program began in 2004.

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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.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor congratulated the Medina County Juvenile Court and Judge Kevin W. Dunn for receiving final certification.

“Specialized dockets divert offenders toward criminal justice initiatives that employ tools and tailored services to treat and rehabilitate the offender so they can become productive members of society,” said Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor. “Studies have shown this approach works by reducing recidivism while saving tax dollars.”

There are more than 210 specialized dockets in Ohio courts that deal with issues such as:

- Drugs and Alcohol
- Mental Health
- Domestic Violence
- Human Trafficking

“I’m pleased that we renewed our certification from Columbus,” Judge Dunn said. “It is an arduous process, but necessary for such a successful program focused on helping youth and their families.”

The Commission on Specialized Dockets has 22 members who advise the Supreme Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts. The commission also advises the development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts, as well as the creation of training programs for judges and court personnel. The commission makes all decisions regarding final certification.

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