

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN

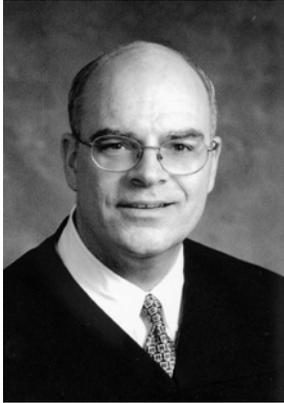
A Division of the Court of Common Pleas

93 Public Square, Medina, Ohio



2007 Annual Report

Sharon M. Danko, Court Administrator



MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

JUDGE JOHN J. LOHN

Judge John J. Lohn is one of four judges of the Medina County Common Pleas Court. Judge Lohn began his term in February 2003. The Medina County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18, including those categorized as delinquent, traffic offenders, unruly, abused, neglected, or dependent. In addition to serving as our County's Juvenile Court Judge, Judge Lohn is the Medina County Probate Court Judge.

Greetings from Judge Lohn

I am pleased to present the Annual Report which documents the activities of the Medina County Juvenile Court for 2007. I take very seriously my responsibility to protect helpless children, correct delinquent juveniles and to direct parents to their responsibilities.

It has been a successful year due in large part to our dedicated court staff. Each employee is committed to advancing the mission of the court through hard work, respect for others and a cooperative spirit.

I am grateful to the many educators, police officers, attorneys, social workers and clinicians who work in the juvenile system and who do so much to help the families of our county.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN 2008

Family Court Model: A Specialized Docket will strengthen Medina County families and reduce Court intervention. To accomplish this task, we seek to reduce barriers to services. The safety, well being and permanency for each family will increase while the length of court involvement with these families will decrease. The Family Court committee is dedicated to meet and develop a comprehensive family court model

Teen Court Program: The Court plans to implement a 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 judges, attorneys, jury members and bailiffs.

Drug Court Case Manager: The Drug Court Case Manager position is being implemented to improve home-based services.

Public Defenders: The Court, in cooperation with the County will begin using appointed attorneys from the Public Defender's office to represent juveniles in Court proceedings beginning in 2008.

Juvenile Court Imaging: In 2008 the Juvenile Court will proceed with its digital imaging integration. Every document filed in the Juvenile Court will be scanned into our digital image repository. Although court documents are not available to the public, this process is our first step to one day becoming a "paperless" Court. Instituting this technology will increase productivity and reduce costs related to paper consumption and the use of many other resources. We anticipate integrating the Probate Court in 2009.

New LISW-S: The Juvenile Detention Center has hired an LISW-S (Licensed Independent Social Worker) to work closely with the Juvenile Court and detained youth. This essential resource will also assist in providing appropriate services upon release from detention.

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT PROGRAMS

Drug Court: The mission of the Drug Court is to stop children from using alcohol and drugs. Drug Court is a coordination of efforts between alcohol and drug counseling and court services. For addicted children, Drug Court is the last and best hope for sobriety and a productive life. Drug Court includes 2 Probation Officers, home-based therapy and Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (see EAP). 44 youngsters graduated from the program in 2007.

Juvenile Traffic Night Court: Juvenile traffic offenders' hearings begin at 3:00 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week. On the first and third Tuesdays of each month, the Court has extended hours to 8:00 pm for hearings. By hearing cases in the evening it becomes more convenient for both parents and teens to attend court. Students avoid absence from classes and extra-curricular activities by coming to Juvenile Traffic Night Court. There were 1,259 Juvenile traffic cases filed in 2007.

Camp Integrity: Combating the idleness and lack of supervision for court-involved youth during the critical hours of 3pm to 9pm, Camp Integrity consists of academic study, physical activity, group discussions, life skills and social responsibility training. In 2007, 95 youth completed the program.

ID-21: Instituted in 2003, this 21-hour intensive detention program held at the Juvenile Detention Center targets parental education, drug and alcohol education and improves family relationships. In 2007, 102 juveniles completed this program.

Truancy Program: To encourage consistent policies throughout the County and reduce truancy, the court hosts an annual truancy meeting. Present are representatives from all eight school districts as well as the Prosecutor's Office, Job and Family Services, and the Ohio State University Extension Office. 74 truancy cases were filed during the 2006-2007 school year.

COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement): Judge Lohn instituted the COPPER program to recoup part of the costs of court services. The parents of juveniles must pay a portion of the cost of court programming. In 2007 nearly \$101,700.00 was collected through COPPER.

Community Service: Nearly 8,850 hours of service were donated to benefit numerous local agencies and charities.

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP): In October of 2006, the Court began an equine assisted psychotherapy program. EAP is a rapidly growing field where horses are utilized as therapy partners to improve the emotional, behavioral and mental lives of families.

Risk Screenings: A risk screening is conducted on every youth charged with a delinquent or unruly offense. This risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. In 2007, 1,037 risk screenings were completed.

Medina County Agencies and Community Relations: The Juvenile Court has been recognized by the Medina County Drug Abuse Commission and is involved in various boards/groups in Medina County including the Medina County Police Chief's Association, Family First Council, Youth and Senior Intersystems Community Assessment Teams, Share Cluster, Collaborative Family Treatment Program, The Tobacco Coalition, Medina Police Athletic League and 2-1-1 Call for Help Initiative. The Court also has a Drug Court Advisory Board and a Programming Citizens Advisory Board.

Log on to www.medinacountyjuvenileprobatecourt.com for details about these and other programs.

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT SUPREME COURT STATISTICS

The statistical summary meets all of the statutory requirements of accounting for the number, type and disposition of cases that came before both Judge and/or Magistrate in calendar year 2007. The following chart is a breakdown of each type of case that came before the Juvenile Court and how the Court disposed of each one. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence Implementation Manual promulgated by the Supreme 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	Total
New Cases Filed	1004	1259	45	191	4	1	17	31	13	-	-	2565
Reactivated, Redesignated, or Transferred In Cases	25	12	1	2	-	-	30	163	10	-	5	248
Pending Beginning	175	68	9	42	3	-	84	161	25		4	571
Total	1204	1339	55	235	7	1	131	355	48	0	9	3384

*Totals above include cases that were open as of January 1st to reflect cases “handled” in the calendar year.

Terminations By:

Trial By Judge	3	-	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	14
Trial By Magistrate	13	19	-	-	-	-	53	72	10	-	1	168
Admit To Judge	8	-	33	1	3	1	1	2	-	-	-	49
Admit To Magistrate	839	707	1	131	-	-	37	92	3	-	3	1813
Dismissal	86	18	7	29	3	-	17	60	16	-	2	238
Certification / Waiver Granted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer	39	228	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	272
Unavailable Party	5	1	-	-	-	-	3	55	10	-	2	76
All Other	4	267	-	33	-	-	2	48	1	-	-	355
Total	997	1240	51	196	6	1	116	330	40	0	8	2985

TYPES OF CASES HEARD IN JUVENILE COURT

Delinquent Child: A delinquent child is one who commits any act (other than a juvenile traffic offense) that would be a crime under state, municipal, or federal law if committed by an adult, or who fails to obey an order of a juvenile court. In 2007, there were 922 delinquency cases filed in Medina County.

Traffic: A juvenile who violates a traffic law, ordinance or regulation (excluding parking violations) is a juvenile traffic offender. In 2007, there were 1104 juvenile traffic cases filed.

Parentage, Parental Rights and Child Support: These cases include establishing the parent/child relationship, custody and visitation matters, and payment of support for children. As of March 1, 2007, existing cases were transferred from the Juvenile Division to the Domestic Relations Division, and new cases are initiated in Domestic Relations. A small number of these cases remain in the Juvenile Division because they are related to other cases that are not included in the transfer. Juvenile Court, Domestic Relations Court and the Clerk of Courts cooperated to identify all the files transferred so that inquiries from the public could be handled promptly and the public could be directed to the appropriate court.

Grandparent Powers of Attorney and Caretaker Affidavit: The Power of Attorney is used when a parent is available and able to sign the power of attorney to the grandparent. The Caretaker Authorization Affidavit is used when the grandparent is unable to locate or contact the parents. Both allow grandparents to obtain care, physical custody and control over grandchildren without changing legal custody and are in effect for one year. If a renewal is desired, a court hearing must then be held. In 2007, 24 powers of attorney, and 3 caretaker affidavits were filed.

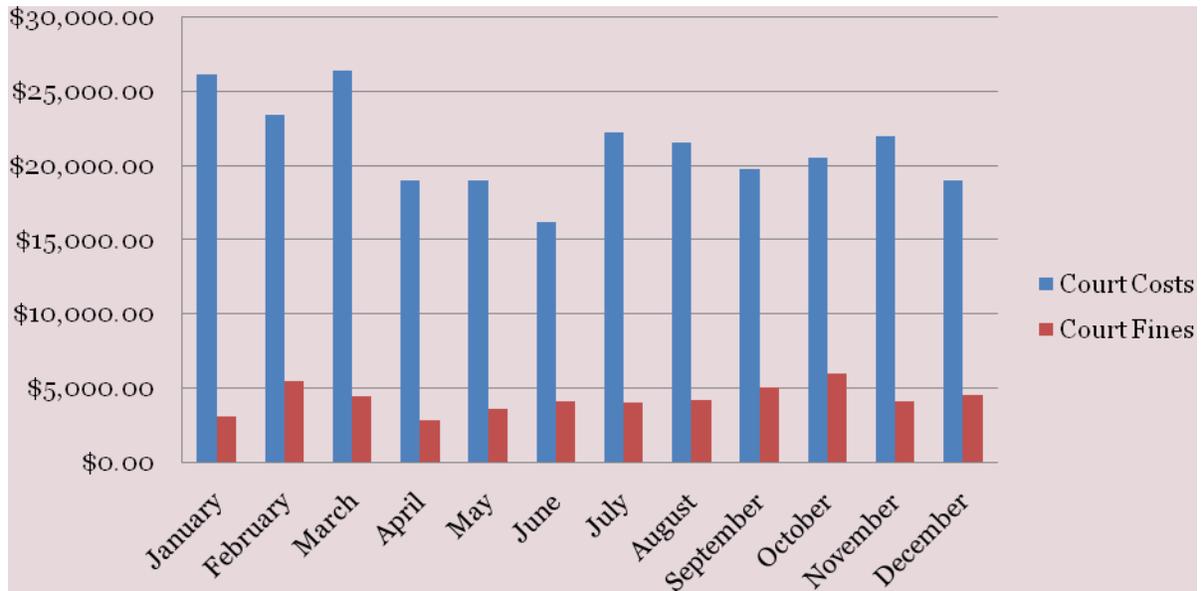
Dependency, Neglect and Abuse: Children living in inappropriate environments as defined by state law may be removed from parents or other caregivers. With Juvenile Court involvement, the children may be reunited with their families under supervision, placed in foster care, or placed with relatives while the conditions that caused removal are remedied. In 2007, there were 51 dependency, neglect and abuse cases filed.

Unruly: Any child who commits a status offense (conduct that would not be a crime if committed by an adult) is an unruly child. An unruly child includes any child who does not submit to the reasonable control of their parents, teachers, guardian or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient; habitually truant from school; behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger his or her health or morals or the health or morals of others; and, any child who violates a law (other than tobacco and gun violations) applicable only to a child. In 2007, 178 unruly child cases were filed.

Adult: Adults may fall under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court if they commit an act that contributes to the delinquency or unruliness of a minor. Also, an adult may be charged with failing to support their child educationally. In 2007, 9 adult cases were filed in Medina County.

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT 2007 Juvenile Court Collections

The Juvenile Court assesses and collects the same costs as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas does for similar services. Court costs are assessed against juveniles found to be delinquent, truant, traffic offenders, or unruly. The fines and court costs the Court collects are distributed to the state, the county, and to local government.



Month	Court Costs	Court Fines	Total
January	\$26,197.16	\$3,062.45	\$29,259.61
February	\$23,443.64	\$5,479.36	\$28,923.00
March	\$26,422.90	\$4,469.24	\$30,892.14
April	\$18,993.87	\$2,778.47	\$21,772.34
May	\$18,977.67	\$3,577.53	\$22,555.20
June	\$16,151.15	\$4,123.23	\$20,274.38
July	\$22,271.94	\$3,970.16	\$26,242.10
August	\$21,561.53	\$4,207.35	\$25,768.88
September	\$19,792.13	\$5,014.82	\$24,806.95
October	\$20,537.21	\$5,976.07	\$26,513.28
November	\$21,961.31	\$4,092.74	\$26,054.05
December	\$18,989.55	\$4,522.93	\$23,512.48
Total	\$255,300.06	\$51,274.35	\$306,574.41

Medina County Juvenile Court Copper Reimbursements: Judge Lohn instituted the COPPER (Cost of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement) program to recoup part of the costs of court services. In 2007, nearly \$101,700.00 was collected by the Court through COPPER fees.

COPPER Program Costs

<u>Program</u>	<u>Amount Charged</u>	<u>How Amount Determined</u>
Camp Integrity	\$150 for program	Length of time ordered into the program may vary between 3-6 weeks.
Community Service	\$10 per 4 hours	Weekday program runs for 4 hours per night. Saturday is an 8 hour program.
Drug Court	\$150 intensive supervision; \$50 non-intensive supervision; \$800 intensive treatment	Supervision and treatment fees.
Drug Test	\$3.50-\$8.20	The cost of each test, panel and supplies.
Electronic Monitoring	\$20 initial installation; \$7 per day	The cost of hook-up and daily monitoring.
ID-21	\$150 for program	The cost of JDC, food, and program providers
Juvenile Detention Center	\$30 per day	Per day cost. Court orders number of days.
Probation	\$150 per Placement	Probation supervision. Length on probation will vary.
Transportation	\$10 per trip	Personnel, gas, vehicle maintenance costs.

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center is a maximum-security, thirty bed facility. The 26,000 square foot facility is comprised of thirty individual detention cells, two holding cells, three classrooms, dining hall, medical office with attached examination room, gymnasium, library, a multi-purpose room and a secured outdoor recreation area.

The juvenile detention facility is reserved for the detainment of youth who have been charged with committing delinquent acts. Detention is used as a last resort and principally for youth who have committed serious offenses and are a risk to themselves or the community.



Ron V. Stollar
Superintendent



The Detention Center is not a treatment facility, but it is our philosophy that everyone coming in contact with our residents should do the most that they can to make a positive impact on the youth in hopes of diverting them from further trouble.

While we do offer programs to the residents while they are here, the loss of personal choice and freedom cannot be offset by the activities and programming provided through the detention experience.

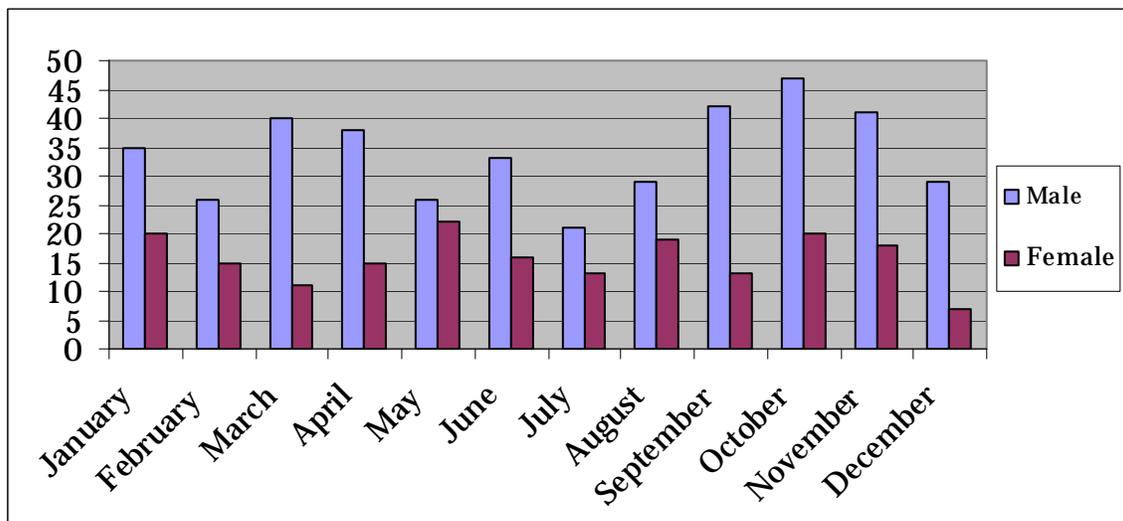
Residents are required to attend school daily from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. During the summer months, residents attend summer school. With the collaboration of the Medina County Schools, residents receive work from their home schools. Those youth that do not participate in a regulated school curriculum are provided a curriculum designed by the JDC teachers.

596 Juveniles were admitted to the Juvenile Detention Center in 2007.

While at the JDC, youth are provided with programming and voluntary participation in various activities. Speakers from various county agencies provide education and information to the residents. Programming and services include but are not limited to the following:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Anger Management | Commissary |
| Drug and Alcohol | Medical |
| Social Services | Mental Health |
| Project Learn | Recreation |
| Health Department - Education | Telephone |
| Book Discussion Group – Wadsworth Library | Religious Services |
| Trustee | Mail |
| Medina Library - Book Discussions | Visitation |

2007 Juvenile Detention Center Admissions



JUVENILE COURT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The purpose of probation is to hold juvenile's accountable for their delinquent or unruly conduct. Juvenile law assumes children are capable of rehabilitation and correction. Probation officers investigate all aspects of the juvenile's case and make recommendations to the court as the best way to protect public safety and to achieve a permanent improvement in a child's behavior.

The juvenile probation officers have difficult jobs because of the many variables which affect a child's behavior. These variables include: the motivation and skills (or lack thereof) of the parent's, the child's interaction with siblings, behavior at school and academic performance, the predominant influence of peers and the high incidence of mental health and social problems of today's teens.

The work of the probation officer is challenging and complicated but it is also rewarding. The probation department can point to hundreds of adults who have transcended the juvenile justice system to become outstanding people and law-abiding, productive citizens.

The Probation Officers have experience in both juvenile corrections and probation totaling 34 years of experience. All Medina County Probation Officers have Bachelor Degrees in Criminal Justice.

Overview:

125 youth were on Probation as of 01/01/2007
216 youth placed on Probation during 2007
213 youth terminated from Probation during 2007
128 youth on probation as of 12/31/2007

Demographics of Probationers:

Gender: 149 Males (69%), 67 Females (31%)
Age: 10 Youngest, 19 Oldest, 16 Average
Race: 7 Black (3%), 7 Bi-Racial (3%), 5 Hispanic (2%), Caucasian 196 (91%)
Other: 1 (1%)

School District:

4 Black River (2%), 63 Brunswick (30%), 8 Buckeye (4%), 34 Cloverleaf (16%), 14 Highland (6%), 44 Medina (20%), 33 Wadsworth (15%), 16 Other (7%)

Offense Information:

Felony	41	(19%)
Misdemeanor	132	(61%)
Traffic	5	(2%)
Status Offense	38	(18%)

Type of Offense:

Homicide, Assault Threats	17	(8%)
Kidnapping, Abduction, Extortion	0	(0%)
Sex Offenses	8	(4%)
Arson, Vandalism, Criminal Damaging	11	(5%)
Robbery, Burglary, and Trespass	9	(4%)
Theft and Fraud	15	(7%)
Disorderly Conduct	21	(10%)
Offenses against the Family	10	(5%)
Offenses against Justice	12	(6%)
Drug and Alcohol Offenses	62	(29%)
Weapon Offenses	3	(1%)
Other Traffic	5	(2%)
Truancy	29	(13%)
Unruliness	14	(6%)

Probation Department



Left to right: Nicole Vale, Stephanie Yockey, Jodi Albertson,
Jamie Leonard and Jamie Thomas

THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the State agency responsible for youth incarcerated by local juvenile courts. The Department operates eight facilities and contracts with one private facility. Some facilities are dedicated to particular programming needs such as substance abuse or sex offender programming.

Juvenile courts receive annual allocations from DYS for the local treatment of youthful offenders. Annual allocations are based on the number of felony adjudications a county reports in relation to the number of felony adjudications statewide; as well as another allocation based on county demographics. Medina County averages about 1% of the statewide felony adjudications during a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30. From these allocations, deductions are made based on the Court's projection of the fiscal year commitments. After the courts actual incarceration costs are subtracted from the annual allocation, any remaining funds are paid to the Court for use in community-based programming.

Medina County Commitments: During calendar year 2007, 10 males and 2 females were committed to DYS.

Felony Filings: 125 Felony Cases were filed in 2007.

Gender		Age	
Females	18 14%	Average	15.9
Males	107 86%	Youngest	11
		Oldest	20 (offense occurred before age 18)

Felony Levels Filed:

Level	Number	Percentage
F-1	4	3%
F-2	11	9%
F-3	27	22%
F-4	32	26%
F-5	51	41%

Month of Filing:

Month	Number Filed	Percent of Total
January	12	10%
February	7	6%
March	9	7%
April	6	5%
May	8	6%
June	10	8%
July	8	6%
August	9	7%
September	19	15%
October	14	11%
November	15	12%
December	8	6%

Agency Filing Complaint:

Name	Number Filed	Percent of Total
Brunswick Hills PD	3	2%
Brunswick PD	30	24%
Drug Task Force	8	6%
Lodi	2	2%
Medina County Sheriff	24	19%

Montville PD	14	11%
Medina PD	24	19%
Medina Township PD	5	4%
Out of County	6	5%
Wadsworth PD	9	7%

2007 Felony Filings – Adjudication Information

Adjudicated Felonies	84
Amended to Misdemeanors	23
Dismissed	7
Disposition Only (Adjudicated Elsewhere)	5
On-going	4
Transferred to Another County	2

2007 Felony Offenses Filed

Offense Name	Number	Percent
Aggravated Possession of Drugs	4	3.2%
Aggravated Possession of Ritalin	5	4.0%
Arson	1	0.8%
Assault	2	1.6%
Assault on Peace Officer	1	0.8%
Assault on School Official	3	2.4%
Attempted Breaking & Entering	2	1.6%
Breaking & Entering	8	6.4%

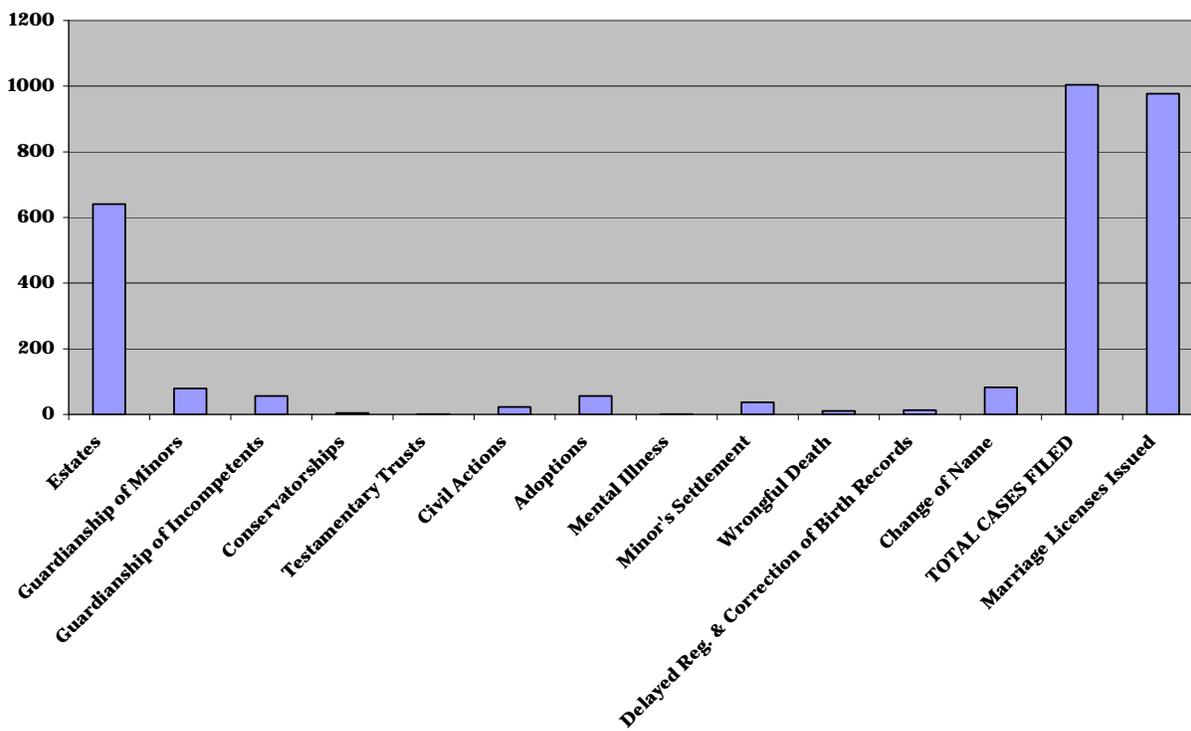
Burglary	13	10.4%
Complicity to Breaking & Entering	1	0.8%
Complicity to Commit Robbery	2	1.6%
Complicity Gross Sexual Imposition	1	0.8%
Concealing/Destroying VIN	1	0.8%
Domestic Violence	7	5.6%
Escape	1	0.8%
Fleeing & Eluding	4	3.2%
Forgery	1	0.8%
Grand Theft	3	2.4%
Grand Theft Motor Vehicle	8	6.4%
Grand Theft of Firearm	2	1.6%
Gross Sexual Imposition	12	9.6%
Inducing Panic	3	2.4%
Obstructing Official Business	1	0.8%
Participating in Criminal Gang	1	0.8%
Passing Bad Checks	1	0.8%
Possession of a Deadly Weapon	2	1.6%
Possession of Cocaine	4	3.2%
Rape	4	3.2%
Receiving Stolen Property	6	4.8%
Trafficking in Drugs	16	12.8%
Vandalism	5	4.0%

MEDINA COUNTY PROBATE COURT

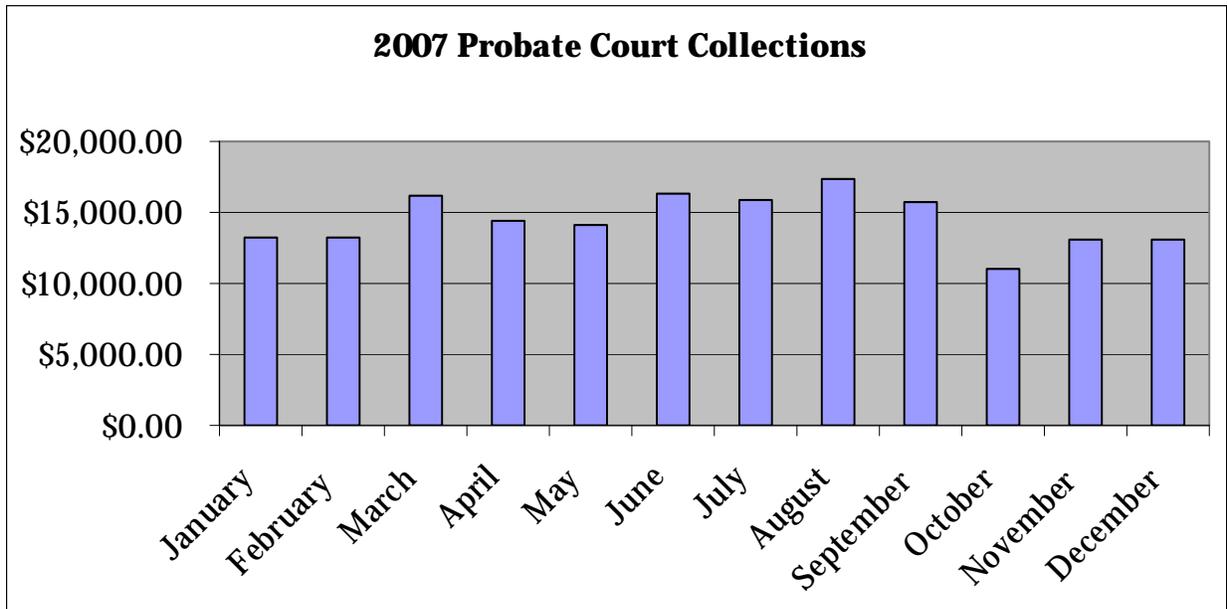
The Probate Court handles many different types of cases, including estates, adoptions, guardianships, marriage licenses and name changes. Following is a summary of all the new filings in Probate Court during 2007.

Estates	641
Guardianship of Minors	79
Guardianship of Incompetents	56
Conservatorships	4
Testamentary Trusts	1
Civil Actions	23
Adoptions	56
Mental Illness	1
Minor's Settlement	37
Wrongful Death	11
Delay Registrations & Correction of Births	13
Change of Name	82
TOTAL CASES	1004
Marriage Licenses Issued	977

2007 Probate Court Cases Filed and Marriage Licenses Issued



2007 Probate Court Collections: The Probate Court assesses and collects Court costs just as the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas does for similar services. Court costs are assessed against all Probate cases, which include estates, guardianships, adoptions and trusts. The court costs the Court collects are distributed to the state, the county, and to local government.



Month	Court Costs
January	\$13,289.52
February	\$13,228.27
March	\$16,177.03
April	\$14,381.02
May	\$14,168.63
June	\$16,252.27
July	\$15,907.53
August	\$17,312.02
September	\$15,724.00
October	\$11,016.90
November	\$13,118.58
December	\$13,056.13
Total 2007 Collections	\$173,631.90

Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGP): In January, 2005, Judge Lohn initiated the Volunteer Guardianship Program to address the increasing need for court-appointed guardians for our elderly. The program expanded in 2006 to include any adult in need guardianship services. This program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for others by providing trained, qualified, dedicated volunteer guardians. Currently, there are 29 active volunteer guardians and 26 volunteer attorneys. Since the inception of the program, 29 wards have been assigned guardians through this program, 17 cases are currently open to our volunteers.



First Row: Sharon Danko, Michelle Hearn, Joyce Giles
Second Row: Kathe Shook, Karen Bennett, Laura Toth, Judge Lohn
Not Pictured: Gail Carmon, Lori Betz

Annual report generated by and a special thanks to:

Lynn M. Stover
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Programming Staff

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Medina County JDC



Sharon M. Danko
Court Administrator