

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court

2020 Annual Report



GREETINGS FROM JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN

I am pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report of the Medina County Probate/Juvenile Court. 2020 was a year unlike any we have seen in our lifetime. As directed by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Emergency Orders, our court remained open to emergency hearings in-person only at the onset of the pandemic.

Juvenile and probate courts are entrusted with the care of citizens that must have access to the court at all times. These citizens include abused or neglected children, children or adults who are developmentally disabled and in need of protection, persons in need of emergency hospitalizations, and more. For these reasons, our court has long had a continuing orders of operations plan (COOP), to allow us to function during emergency closures. Admittedly, the COVID-19 pandemic was not the emergency anyone envisioned, but the Court responded swiftly and with great resolve nonetheless.

As you can see from this report, the Juvenile and Probate Courts remained active and busy throughout 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin W. Dunn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Judge Kevin W. Dunn is one of the four judges of the Common Pleas Court. He began his tenure on the Bench on August 5, 2013. Judge Dunn's second elected six-year term began February, 2021.

The Medina County Probate and Juvenile Courts, wherein Judge Dunn presides, has 2 distinct jurisdictions. Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over all cases involving persons under age 18. These cases are categorized as delinquent; traffic; unruly; and abused, neglected and dependent children. Probate matters, include but are not limited to estates, guardianships, and trusts.

Pandemic Requires Changes in Juvenile and Probate Courts

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Courts adapted quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 brought about numerous changes to the Court. Immediate safety measures including adapting social distancing requirements, increased sanitization and staff reassigned to work remotely or rotated shifts where possible were some of the first steps taken in March.

With the help of the Medina County maintenance professionals, a new window with a glass divider was installed in Probate Court to safely shield court employees and the public needing assistance.

In May, the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court was awarded a technology grant by the Supreme Court of Ohio to help fund the purchase of necessary technology to conduct hearings remotely and



Probate Court had a window installed in the clerks' area by Medina County Maintenance as a means of practicing social distancing.

to allow for telework where possible. No sooner did the new technology get installed, the

Court began the use of a virtual internet application, Zoom, to conduct uncontested hearings. The use of technology has allowed the court to set and resolve many matters that COVID-19 curtailed. The court began a protocol to create meetings and send litigants a private email with a link to attend on a given date and time. Litigants, attorneys and others have been smoothly attending hearings virtually since May of 2020.

The platform is used to conduct Drug Court review hearings, some delinquency and traffic proceedings, civil status hearings, and more. The use of technology also allowed a child's extended family to be present virtually in her adoption hearing, showcasing a moment of absolute joy in such trying times.

Juvenile Court Programming

Probation Department

Probation Officers investigate all aspects of the Juvenile's case and make recommendations to the Court to protect public safety and to achieve permanent improvement in a child's behavior. In 2020, 73 youth were placed on probation.

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 court roles. Due to the pandemic, the Teen Court program did not operate in 2020.

Drug Court Program

Medina County Juvenile Drug Court provides an alternative for juveniles and their families whose criminal justice involvement stems from alcohol or drugs. Using community resources, the program provides monitoring by three specialized docket probation officers, intervention, treatment and structure to juveniles. The program also reduces recidivism, protects the community, and teaches juveniles how to lead a healthy lifestyle. There were 27 successful graduates from the program in 2020.

Community Service

More than 1,044 service hours were performed by youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities in 2020. Despite the pandemic, community service staff were still able to come up with socially distant alternatives.

Ti-180 Program

Teen Intervention – 180 Program (Ti-180) is an alternative to traditional disposition. The goal of the program is to educate youth and their parents or guardians on early intervention and warning signs for substance abuse, as well as provide skills to increase resiliency. 6 youth participated in the program in 2020.

Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)

MST is a family, home-based treatment that tries to change how youth function in their natural settings. Natural settings include home, school and neighborhood. A clinician operates in the home to promote positive social behavior while decreasing antisocial behavior. Seven families successfully completed the program in 2020.

Parent Project

Parent Project is a program for parents with difficult or out-of-control adolescents. Parents learn and practice strategies for dealing with destructive behaviors such as truancy, alcohol and drug use, gangs and other criminal behavior, running away and violence. In 2020, 12 families participated in Parent Project.

Risk Screening – Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)

Risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. 176 OYAS risk screenings were completed in 2020.

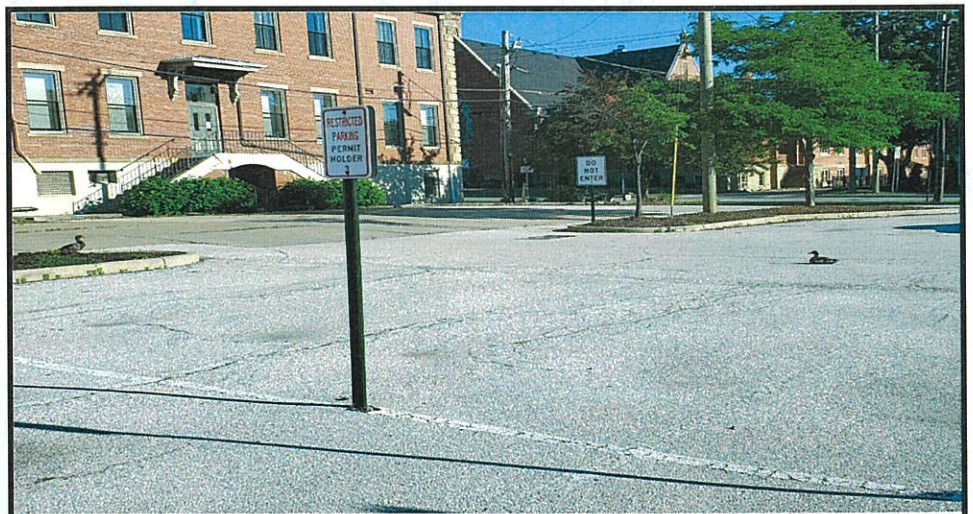
Family Resource Court

Family Resource Court helps reduce the need for court intervention on unruly and truancy cases. Assessments identify individual and family barriers. Through intensive probation supervision, case management and a team approach, the Court improves community safety and helps build healthy families. In 2020, 5 families successfully completed the Family Resource Court. Twenty-three truancy complaints were filed in 2020, 17 were diverted to the truancy program of Family Resource Court and 12 juveniles successfully completed the program.

JUVENILE COURT COLLECTIONS

Court costs assessed are distributed to state, county and local governments. The COPPER (Costs of Probation and Programming Expense Reimbursement) program was created to recoup part of the cost of court services.

COPPER Program	Court Costs (Including COPPER)	Fines
\$21,519.35	\$141,857.57	\$7,763.28



Local wildlife took advantage of the lack of people at the courthouse in 2020. Instead of appearing virtually, they chose to do their court business in person.

Gov. DeWine Visits Medina County to Show Support for Take Control Program

In 2013, a teen driving program was created in Medina County out of tragedy when three local families experienced the pain of losing a child. Governor Mike DeWine knows that pain firsthand. His 22-year-old daughter, Becky, was killed in a car crash on August 4, 1993 about three miles from their family's home. The Governor visited the Medina County Career Center in early March to speak with two of those families; the DiPiero family and the Schaffer family, and to learn more about the structure of Take Control.

Thanks to a joint effort between Montville Police Department, Judge Dunn and juvenile court, local foundations and agencies, and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, licensed teen drivers can sign up to take a free three-hour course on advanced driving training to gain confidence and experience in difficult driving situations. The class is taught in the parking lot of the Medina County Career Center and offers teen drivers increased awareness and development of driving techniques such as

eye positioning, shuffle steering, skid recovery, vehicle pivot points in forward and reverse, emergency braking, and collision avoidance.

Take Control is funded by three main foundations – Ehrbar Angels Foundation, MStar Foundation, and the Jessica Lynn Schaffer Memorial Fund – as well as the Medina County Juvenile Court, and local donations. Gov. DeWine applauded the families and all sponsors for their efforts with the Take Control Program, noting that there are initiatives to make distracted driving and failure to wear a seatbelt a primary offense in Ohio.

Gov. DeWine looked to the State of Ohio BMV Registrar and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office representative noting that this program should be replicated all over the State. Judge Dunn and Chief Grice explained that while the structure of the program is already



Juvenile and Probate Judge Kevin W. Dunn; Ohio Governor Mike DeWine; Montville Police Department Executive Assistant Rebecca Byrne; and Montville Police Department Chief Terry Grice

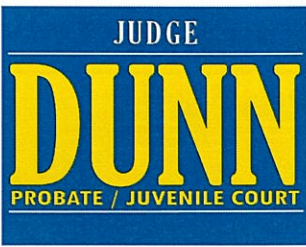
complete, other counties would need to form partnerships with law enforcement and sponsors, as well as a dealership to lease vehicles, and find a location to host the program.

Supreme Court Statistics

This statistical summary meets all of the requirements of accounting for the number, type and disposition of cases that came before the Judge and/or Magistrate in calendar year 2020. These statistics are compiled and maintained pursuant to the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court.

Juvenile 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
New Cases Filed	359	266	49	71	0	0	25	0	0	0	11
Cases Terminated	405	287	73	86	2	1	56	24	0	0	12

Probate Court	Estate	Guardianship—Minor	Guardianship—Incompetent	Conservatorships	Civil Actions	Adoptions	Minor Settlements	Wrongful Death	Change of Name	Marriage Applications
New Cases Filed	670	27	57	1	24	56	9	6	89	N/A
Cases Terminated	532	42	55	3	28	76	9	6	95	886



93 Public Sq., Room 104
Medina, OH 44256

Phone: 330-725-9709
Fax: 330-725-9173

* To view a copy of the annual report online, visit the downloads section of our website at www.medinaprobate.org

* Printed in-house at an estimated cost of \$0.33 per copy.

Judge Dunn Marries 17 Couples in Gazebo on Historic Medina Public Square



Saturday, May 30 was a beautiful day on Medina City Public Square when Judge Kevin W. Dunn joined 17 couples and their guests to begin their married life together. Back in April, Judge Dunn had the idea to officiate civil ceremonies for any couples who wished to be married, but were forced to place their big day on hold because of COVID-19.



Annual report generated by and special thanks to:

- Juvenile Staff
- Probate Staff
- Programming Staff
- Michael R. Stiles
- Juvenile Probation
- Medina County JDC