

# Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court

## 2021 Annual Report



### GREETINGS FROM JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN

I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report of the Medina County Probate/Juvenile Court. 2021 continued to present challenges as the world entered the second year 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. Our court operations went uninterrupted as we utilized our continuing orders of operations plan (COOP) in modified versions as we weathered the changes throughout the year.

As you can see from this report, the Juvenile and Probate Courts remained extremely busy throughout 2021 despite the continued changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin W. Dunn".

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.

### Mandala Mural Created by JDC Residents on Display in Courtroom

Ten residents at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC) had the opportunity to create a mural representing how we can all put in effort to create a small piece of value to contribute to the larger picture, despite social distancing.

The interactive art program, The Joy Project, came to the MCJDC in a collaborative effort with the Akron Art Bomb Brigade and funding from Access the Arts. The Akron Art Bomb Brigade virtually hosted five, two-hour classes with the residents to learn how to create their own mandala, a geometric configuration of symbols. Mandalas have been used in spiritual traditions to help focus attention and aid in meditation, and have been shown in clinical studies to reduce stress and pain, lower blood pressure and ease depression.

The MCJDC began utilizing therapeutic art in 2017 as an



outlet for residents. It has been shown to promote positive youth development, address social skills, interpersonal communication and problem solving, as well as increase creativity, critical thinking, and emotional management.

Residents of MCJDC have reported that art helps them take their mind off of negative

things in their life, and focus on expressing their emotions and thoughts in a healthy, positive manner.

The mural was fixed into its new home in Judge Kevin W. Dunn's courtroom. He said he sees it as a symbol for the effort needed by all to achieve a common goal.

# 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 2021, 56 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 continued pandemic, the Teen Court program did not operate in 2021.

## 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 8 successful graduates from the program in 2021.

## Community Service

More than 1,936 service hours were performed by youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities in 2021.

## 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. Five families successfully completed the program in 2021.

## 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 2021, 5 families participated in Parent Project.

## 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. 19 youth participated in the program in 2021.

## Risk Screening — Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)

Risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. 156 OYAS risk screenings were completed in 2021.

## 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 2021, 6 families successfully completed the Family Resource Court. Fifty-five truancy complaints were filed in 2021, 31 were diverted to the truancy program and 8 juveniles successfully completed the program.

## Judge Kevin W. Dunn Elected to Executive Committee of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges

Medina County Probate Judge Kevin W. Dunn was sworn in via Zoom by Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor to the Executive Committee of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges on June 8, 2021.

Judge Dunn was nominated and elected by fellow members of the OAPJ to serve as Secretary and Historian to the Executive Committee. His duties will include maintaining meeting minutes and ensuring all documentation is in order.

The OAPJ is comprised of judges in Ohio with probate court jurisdiction and operates for educational and charitable purposes, and allows the sharing of ideas and experiences concerning the operation of probate courts. Judge Dunn has been a member of the Association since 2013.

## 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
\$34,650.55	\$148,139.47	\$15,959.57

Annual report generated by and special thanks to:

Juvenile & Probate Staff  
Juvenile Detention Center Staff

Programming Staff  
Juvenile Probation Staff

# Waterline Failure Prompts Court to Close and Extensive Clean Up

The Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court had to close the first working day of 2021 due to a water line failure in the courthouse that occurred on New Year's Day. SERVPRO, the Medina County Maintenance Department and court staff responded quickly to



assist in clean-up efforts. Juvenile and Probate staff were contacted and volunteers immediately responded to the Courthouse with paper towels and fans to help dry the floor and documents that were breached by the water. Documents affected include Wills, Marriage Certificates, Estates, and Job and Family Services files. "This is an unfortunate way to begin the year but thanks to quick action and assistance from our team, we have been able to quickly dry and save countless documents and files," said Judge Kevin W. Dunn. Staff spread out in courtrooms and at desks placing paper towels between individual pieces of paper in each file. While most documents have been dried and restored over the weekend, staff will spend the working



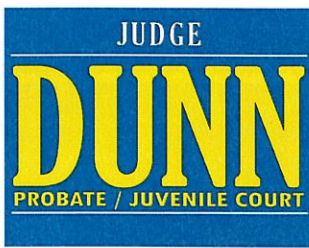
day Monday to ensure that everything is back in order. Any documents that were not salvageable will be noted and necessary parties will be contacted by the Court for further action. "We will be sure to contact everyone in a timely manner as needed," said Judge Dunn. "This year threw us a curveball already but we have proven our resiliency and will overcome this obstacle as well."

## 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	326	325	56	113	3	0	27	1	0	0	15
Cases Terminated	309	306	57	121	3	1	52	24	0	0	11

Probate Court	Estate	Guardianship—Minor	Guardianship—Incompetent	Conservatorships	Civil Actions	Adoptions	Minor Settlements	Wrongful Death	Change of Name	Marriage Applications
New Cases Filed	807	21	72	0	27	61	16	5	117	N/A
Cases Terminated	675	42	47	0	18	63	13	5	109	921



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\* To view a copy of the annual report online, visit the downloads section of our website at [www.medinaprobate.org](http://www.medinaprobate.org)

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

## Ground Broken for New Medina County Courthouse

In July of 2021, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Medina County Courthouse. Medina County Juvenile and Probate Judge Kevin Dunn, all three Medina County commissioners, and Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell attended the ceremony.

The project is slated to be finished in December of 2022 and has a budget of approximately \$30 million.

Probate and Juvenile Courts will be located on the fourth floor of the building, creating a centralized clerks' office for the two courts.



Photo By: Brian S. Gallatin

