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Juvenile Court Receives Grant

In July 2022, the Supreme Court of Ohio solicited applications for grants from juvenile courts to enhance court technology to focus on the administration of justice for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Medina County Juvenile Court was awarded a grant of \$942.00.

The basis of the technology grant was to improve the case processing of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases. The request was for licenses for Adobe Pro in order to convert the court’s paper forms for custody, child support, visitation, grandparent power of attorney and foster parent/caregiver information forms to fill-in PDF forms. Prior to this project, the forms were only available as paper copies at the courthouse. By making them editable and placing them on the court’s website, the public will have the ability to read, review and complete the forms without the pressure of sitting in the courthouse. They would also be able to take the forms to an attorney to help them complete the forms properly prior to filing them. This removed travel barriers and promoted an access to justice electronically for families that are, or will be, involved in juvenile court.

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	\$15,254.40
Court Costs (Including COPPER)	\$132,727.04
Fines	\$16,229.06

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court

2022 Annual Report



GREETINGS FROM JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN

I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report of the Medina County Probate/Juvenile Court. 2022 proved to be the year of preparation for new things to come in 2023.

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.

As you can see from this report, the Juvenile and Probate Courts remained extremely busy throughout 2022 whilst navigating preparation for the upcoming changes.

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.

Ribbon Cutting for New Medina County Courthouse



(L to R: Justice Patrick Fischer, former Commissioner Bill Hutson, Ret. Judge Christopher Collier, Judge Joyce Kimber, Commissioner Colleen Swedyk, Judge Julie Schafer, Judge Kevin Dunn, Commissioner Steve Hambley and former County Administrator Scott Miller)

On December 20, 2022 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Medina County Courthouse. Remarks on the opening of the building were presented by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick Fischer, then Commissioner Bill Hutson, Commissioner Steve Hambley, Commissioner Colleen Swedyk and State Representative Sharon Ray.

With the opening of the first two floors of the courthouse, the Courthouse project was completed on time and under budget.

Probate and Juvenile Court was able to move into the fourth floor space approximately three weeks after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

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 2022, 103 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. The Teen Court program had one case in 2022.

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 7 successful graduates from the program in 2022.

Risk Screening — Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS)

Risk screening assists the Court in identifying the appropriate sanction, program, or referral for each youth. 134 OYAS risk screenings were completed in 2022.

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. 10 youth participated in the program in 2022.

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. Six families participated in the program in 2022.

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 2022, 28 families participated in Parent Project.

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 2022, 6 families successfully completed the Family Resource Court. Thirty-four truancy complaints were filed in 2022, 23 were diverted to the truancy program and 6 juveniles successfully completed the program.

Community Service

More than 2,692 service hours were performed by youth to benefit numerous local agencies and charities in 2022.

Staff Prepares for Changes to Operations

2022 was a full year of preparation for the new multi-court use case management system. In 2020, Medina County signed a contract with Tyler Technologies to implement the Odyssey Case Management System.

In 2021, the jury software and juvenile detention center software went live.

In 2022, in addition to the day to day work of the courts, the probate and juvenile court staff spent hours reviewing data, writing and testing business processes and inputting cases into a test system to allow for a successful switch over in early 2023.

All in all, staff in the probate and juvenile courts reviewed and tested 172 business processes, 357 forms and 26 custom reports in addition to reviewing all the data merged from the legacy system.

Annual report generated by and special thanks to:

Juvenile & Probate Staff
Juvenile Detention Center Staff

Programming Staff
Juvenile Probation Staff

New Group of High Schoolers Train for Teen Court



On June 30, 2002, a new group of high school students trained with Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis to be volunteers for the Medina County Juvenile Court Teen Court Program. It was a full day training on the basics of juvenile court, including the process a delinquency case follows along with the dispositional alternatives and diversion programs.

In addition, the students received training in direct examination, cross examination, closing arguments and trial decorum. They are assisted by attorneys from the juvenile division of the prosecutor’s office as well as local attorneys who take court appointed cases as defense counsel.

These students then spend the next school year hearing actual cases of juvenile offenders who have already admitted to a non-violent offense for a dispositional hearing. After hearing the evidence and arguments from the teen defense attorney and prosecutor, the jury will deliberate to determine what penalty will be given to the offender. The dispositions include community service, research projects or paying restitution to the victim of their crime. If the youthful offenders abide by the conditions of their sanctions, the charge(s) against them will be dismissed. If they are unsuccessful, they will appear before the Judge or Magistrate to face a formal disposition.



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 2022. 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	308	127	136	0	0	33	75	0	0	12
Cases Terminated	357	289	129	126	0	0	35	67	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	832	22	77	3	35	48	11	0	103	N/A
Cases Terminated	715	39	66	0	31	53	12	8	122	933