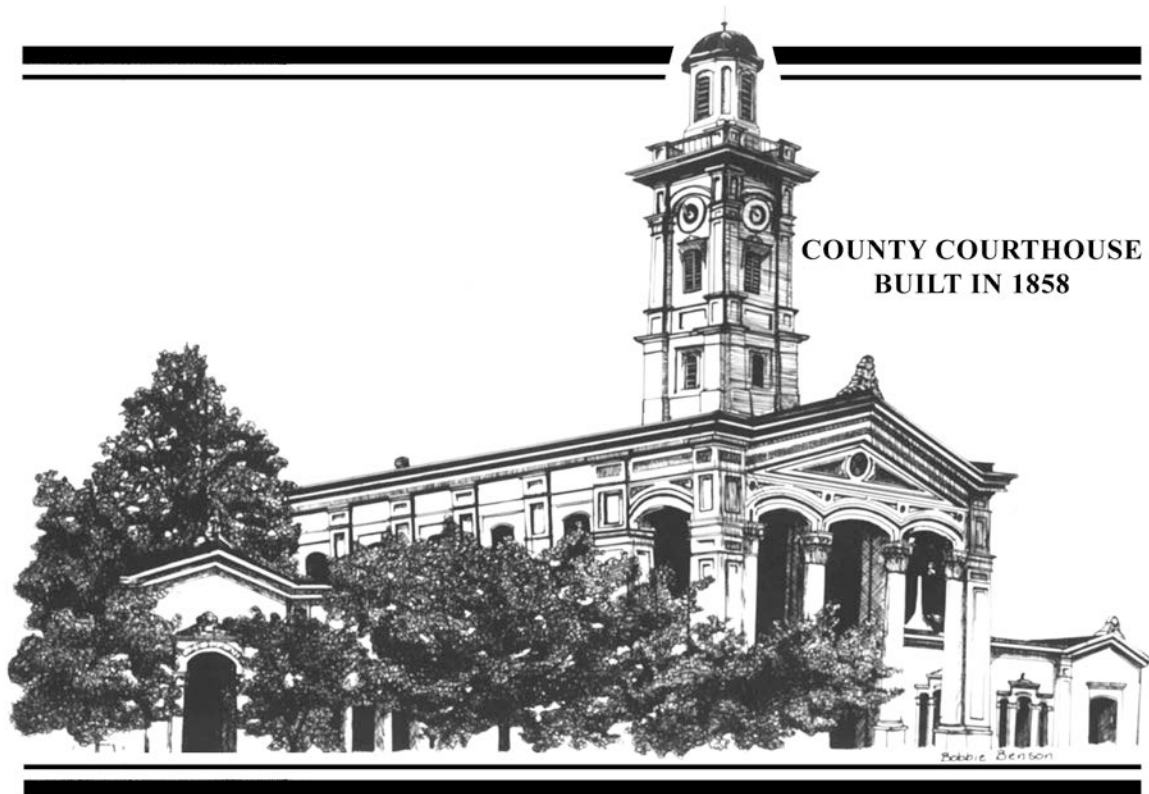


ROSS COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISIONS
2 N. PAINT STREET, SUITE A
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601
(740) 774-1177/774-1179

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



J. Jeffrey Benson, Judge

Ross County Commissioners and Citizens of Ross County:

Attached please find the Annual Report of the Ross County Probate/Juvenile Court. We continue to strive to be staffed and structured in a manner that will best serve the needs of every citizen of Ross County. This Court is very aware of the new, evolving and serious issues facing our families and children as well as the changes in Ohio law designed to best address those issues. We acknowledge that what worked in the past may not necessarily work in the future. We will continue to budget/ utilize our resources, prioritize our services, and promote coordination of efforts among the other Ross County Courts and our support agencies.

The information set forth in the Annual Report is intended to document the increased demands upon and services provided by the Ross County Probate/Juvenile Court. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation and support.

J. Jeffrey Benson

J. Jeffrey Benson
Ross County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Divisions

PROBATE DIVISION

THE RECORDS OF THE PROBATE COURT OF ROSS COUNTY, OHIO PRE-
DATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF OHIO IN 1803

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBATE DIVISION

The Probate Division of the Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction concerning estates of deceased persons and of incompetent persons and minor children, adoptions, trusts, mental illness proceedings, marriage licenses, civil actions, and various miscellaneous matters touching on inheritance and family law, other than divorce and dissolution.

There were 1,098 probate court cases filed in 2017. This is a 5.8% decrease from 2016 when there were 1,166 probate court cases filed.

CASE FILINGS

■ Estates

The Probate Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Ross County, Ohio, reports that:

- Three hundred three (303) new estate cases were filed
- Two hundred sixty (260) estate cases were pending at the end of 2016.
- In 2017, there were 338 terminations or closings, leaving 225 estates pending at the end of the year.

■ Guardianships

Sixty-seven (78) new guardianships were filed in 2017.

- Seventy (70) were guardianships of an incompetent person.
- Eight (8) of the guardianship cases were guardianships of minors.

■ Trusts

Four (4) new trusts filed.

- At the end of 2016, there were 46 cases pending. During 2017, five (5) cases were terminated, leaving a caseload of forty-five (45) trust cases pending at the end of the year.

■ **Civil Actions**

Seventeen (17) new civil actions were filed.

- At the end of 2016, there were 13 civil actions pending. In 2017, fourteen (14) cases were terminated leaving 16 civil actions pending at the end of the year.

■ **Adoptions**

Thirty-seven (37) new adoptions were filed.

- Fifteen (15) were adoptions by individuals or Agencies.
- Fifteen (15) were step-parent adoptions.
- Two (2) were adult adoptions.
- Two (2) were foreign adoptions.
- Three (3) were court ordered placement.
- Forty-four (44) adoptions were completed.

■ **Mental Illness**

Sixty-five (65) mental illness cases were filed.

- Fourteen (14) for the Veteran's Administration Medical Center
- Forty (40) for Adena Regional Hospital
- Eleven (11) for the Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center
- None were for an Involuntary Treatment for Alcohol and/or Drug Abuse.

■ **Minor Settlement**

Twelve (12) new applications for approval to settle injuries to minors were filed in the year 2017.

- Two (2) cases were pending at the end of 2016.
- Nine (9) cases were terminated in 2017 leaving five (5) cases pending at the end of the year.

■ **Birth Registrations**

Two (2) delayed birth registrations were filed.

■ **Birth Corrections**

One (1) application for birth correction was filed.

■ **Change of Name**

Forty-three (43) change of name applications were filed.

- Eighteen (18) applications were for the change of name of an adult
- Twenty-five (25) applications were for the change of name of a minor

- Forty-seven (47) changes of name cases were closed in 2017 leaving 4 cases pending at the end of the year.

▪ **Marriage License**

Five hundred three (503) marriage licenses were issued.

▪ **Other**

There were thirty-three (33) additional probate filings.

- Six (6) INRE filings
- Twenty-seven (27) Wills were placed on deposit with the Court for safekeeping.

PROBATE FINANCES

\$102,836.08 in court costs was paid in the Probate Division.

\$464,905.02 was expended in the Probate Division.

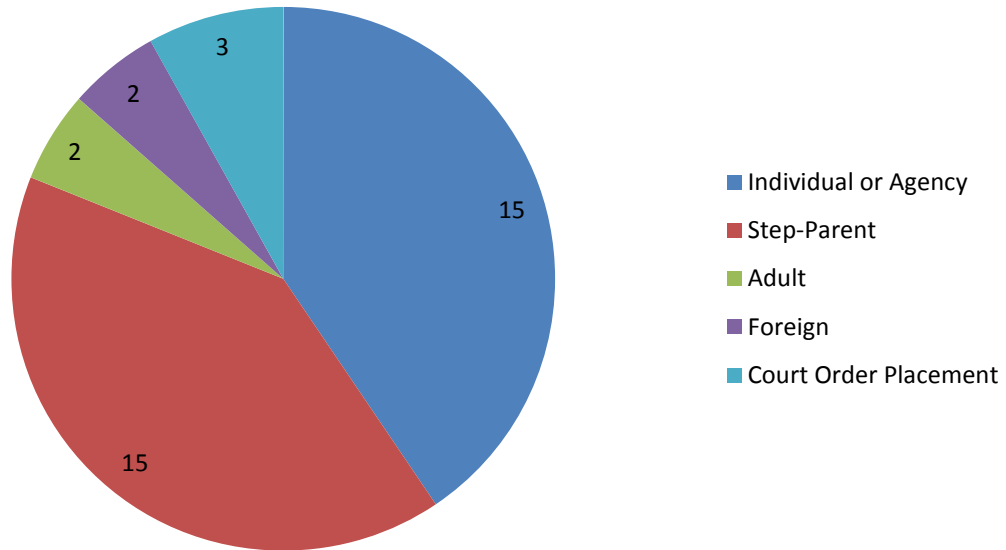
All pending litigation is current.

PROBATE CASE COMPARISONS

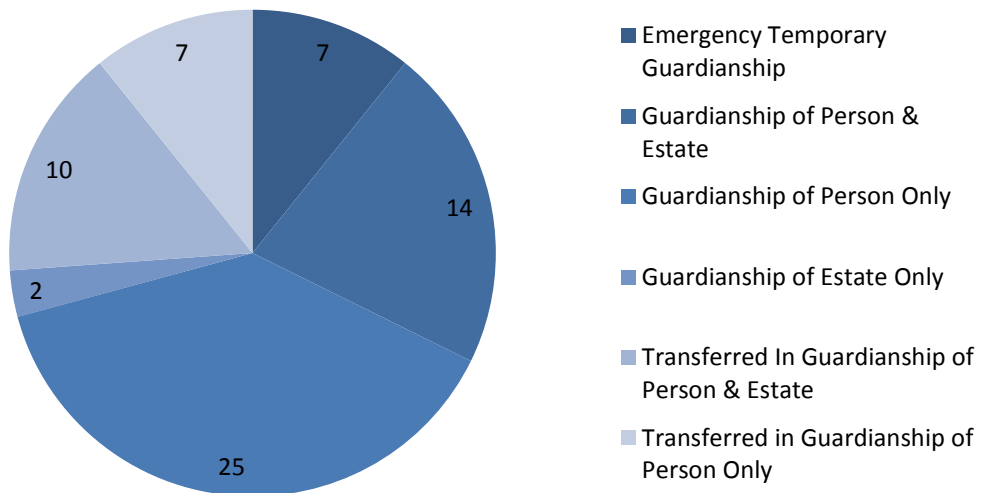
Probate Case Table

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Estates	380	409	444	416	330	352	355	303
Trusts & Guardianships	50	59	45	57	75	49	63	82
Civil Actions	13	15	10	22	21	27	13	17
Adoptions	25	39	41	23	33	16	46	37
Mental Illness	65	55	52	57	88	57	76	65
Others	584	622	554	591	597	644	613	594
Total	1117	1199	1146	1166	1144	1145	1166	1098

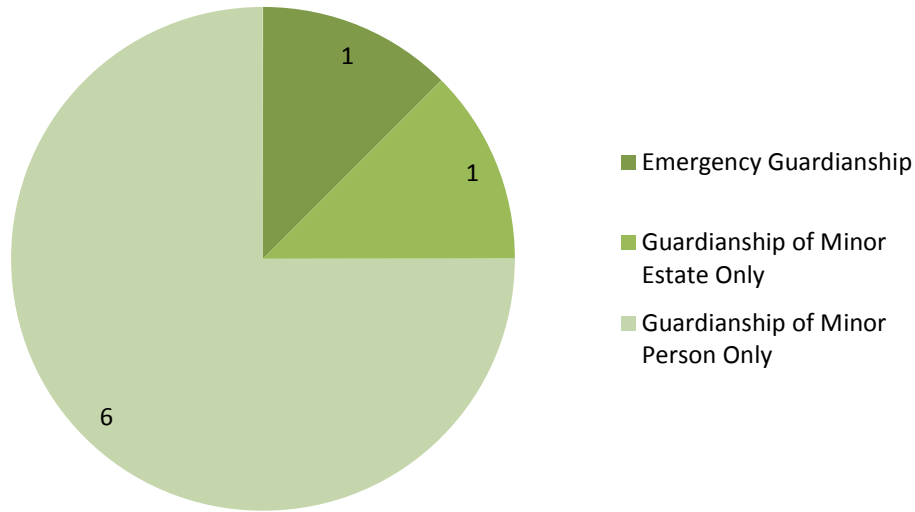
Adoptions



Guardianships of Incompetents



Guardianships of Minors



JUVENILE DIVISION

INTRODUCTION TO THE JUVENILE DIVISION

The Juvenile Division of the Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction concerning juveniles, including: delinquency, unruly, school truancy, juvenile traffic offender, alternative school assignments, dependency, neglect, abuse, and other juvenile matters. This division also has jurisdiction concerning adults: custody, paternity, child support, visitation, and contributing to the delinquent and/or unruliness of a minor. The Juvenile Division also has jurisdiction concerning adults in regards to school truancy matters: Failure to cause and compel the child under their charge to attend school in accordance with law, and aiding and abetting the unruliness of the minor by failing to cause the child under their charge to attend school in accordance with law.

There were 1,450 juvenile court cases filed in 2017. This is a 2.8% decrease from 2016 when there were 1,492 cases filed.

CASE FILINGS

■ Delinquent

There were 367 delinquent cases filed. Of these cases, there were 447 charges filed.

- A delinquent child is a child who commits a violation that would be a crime if committed by an adult.
- BIND OVER – A bind over is a delinquent case in which the State files a motion to transfer jurisdiction of the case to the General Division of Ross County, Ohio to try the juvenile as an adult. In 2017, there were no motions for bind over/motion for discretionary transfer filed.
- Of the 447 charges, fifty-nine (59) were felonies.
 - Three (3) were 1st degree felonies
 - Nine (9) were 2nd degree felonies
 - Thirteen (13) were 3rd degree felonies
 - Ten (10) were 4th degree felonies
 - Twenty-four (24) were 5th degree felonies

■ Unruly

There were one hundred twelve (112) unruly cases filed.

- Of the 112 cases:
 - Eight-one (81) were for Unruly conduct
 - One (1) was for Tobacco Violation
 - Thirteen (13) were for Home Truancy (runaway)
 - Seventeen (17) were for Curfew

■ Truancy

There were five hundred fifty-one (551) child placed in truancy alternatives to adjudication. This number encompasses all county schools, the city school district and Ross County youth enrolled at Pickaway-Ross Career and Technical Center.

- Of the 551 youth, forty-six (46) were referred to the Court due to failed to successfully complete alternative to adjudication.
 - Leaving five hundred and five (505) youth who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication.
- Of those forty-six (46), two (2) were adjudicated and seven (7) are pending hearing.

■ Adult

There were one hundred forty-nine (149) adult cases filed.

- Of these adult case filings:

- Nine (9) were for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.
- One hundred thirty (130) were for failure to cause and compel school attendance.
 - Cause and compel charges are related to a parent(s), guardians(s) or custodian(s) not causing the child under their charge to attend school in accordance with the law.
- Ten (10) cases were for parent educational neglect or failure to attend parent education classes.
 - In late 2000, the Court and the surrounding school systems, county and city, adopted a new school truancy program, which changed how juvenile and adult charges are filed in truancy complaints.

H.B. 410, effective April 6, 2017, made significant amendments to Ohio's Compulsory School Attendance laws, which generally require public schools to pursue alternative remedies before filing charges with the Court. The Court and local school districts are working together to best implement these amendments.

▪ Traffic

Two hundred eight-five (285) traffic citations were filed against juveniles. This is an 16.5% decrease in the number of citations from 2016 in which there were 341 cases filed.

- Of those citations, there were three hundred fourteen (314) charges filed.

▪ Dependent, Neglect, Abuse

Two hundred fifty (250) dependent, neglect and abuse cases were filed in 2017. This is a 30% increase in filings from 2016, in which there were 176 cases filed.

- Of those 250 cases, nineteen (19) were for abuse. An abused child is one who is a victim of physical or sexual abuse.
 - Two (2) were for sexual abuse
 - Four (4) were for physical abuse
 - Thirteen (13) were for babies born with positive drug tests
- One (1) was for neglect. A neglected child is a child who lacks proper parental care due to the faults or habits of their parents, guardians, or custodians.
- Two hundred thirty (230) were dependent filings. A dependent child is a child who lacks proper care, through no fault of his parents, guardians, or custodians.
 - One hundred five (105) were generally defined as dependency
 - One hundred eight (108) were for drug abuse
 - Seventeen (17) involved physical abuse
 - Four (4) involved sexual abuse
 - One (1) was for special immigrant status

In 2017, parents of dependent, neglect and abused children were reportedly using the following drugs: heroin, buprenorphine, benzodiazepines, cocaine/crack cocaine, opiates, oxycodone, percocet,

suboxone, morphine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, marijuana, gabapentin, heroin, subutex, fentanyl, seroquel, restoril, klonopin, and alcohol.

▪ **Paternity Child Support, Visitation, Custody**

Two hundred twelve (212) cases were filed regarding paternity, child support, visitation and custody.

- There were thirteen (13) paternity proceedings.
 - Paternity cases establish the parent/child relationship for children born of unwed parents.
- One hundred three (103) were child support cases.
- Ninety-six (96) were custody/visitation cases.

▪ **Grandparent Power of Attorney/Child Caretaker Authorization Affidavit**

Description: House Bill 130 creates two ways for grandparents to obtain “care, physical custody, and control” over grandchildren *without changing legal custody*: 1) Power of Attorney (POA) completed by parent(s), a custodian, or a guardian of a child; and 2) Child Caretaker Authorization Affidavit (CAA), created by the grandparent when the child’s parent(s), guardian, or custodian cannot be located. The documents must be properly signed and notarized. They are valid for one year, unless terminated earlier as specified in the bill. They may be renewed after one year, subject to court review.

- Twenty-four (24) grandparent power of attorney/child caretaker authorization affidavits were filed.

▪ **Marriage Consent**

No marriage consents were filed.

▪ **Juvenile Civil Protection Order**

Amended Substitute House Bill 10 authorized juvenile courts to issue and enforce civil protection orders against juveniles who commit certain offenses of violence, aggravated trespass, sexually oriented offenses, or domestic violence regardless of the familial relationship between the parties.

- There were four (4) filings for juvenile protections orders. All filings were for juvenile civil protection orders.
 - Two (2) were dismissed
 - None were granted
 - Two (2) are pending

▪ **Miscellaneous Cases**

- Seven (7) INRE cases were filed.
- Thirty-nine (39) assignments to Paint Creek Youth Center (Lighthouse) were filed.
- One (1) parental agreement was filed.
- No permanent surrender, courtesy supervision or interstate compact cases were filed.

JUVENILE FINANCES

\$61,756.39 in court costs, was paid in the Juvenile Division.

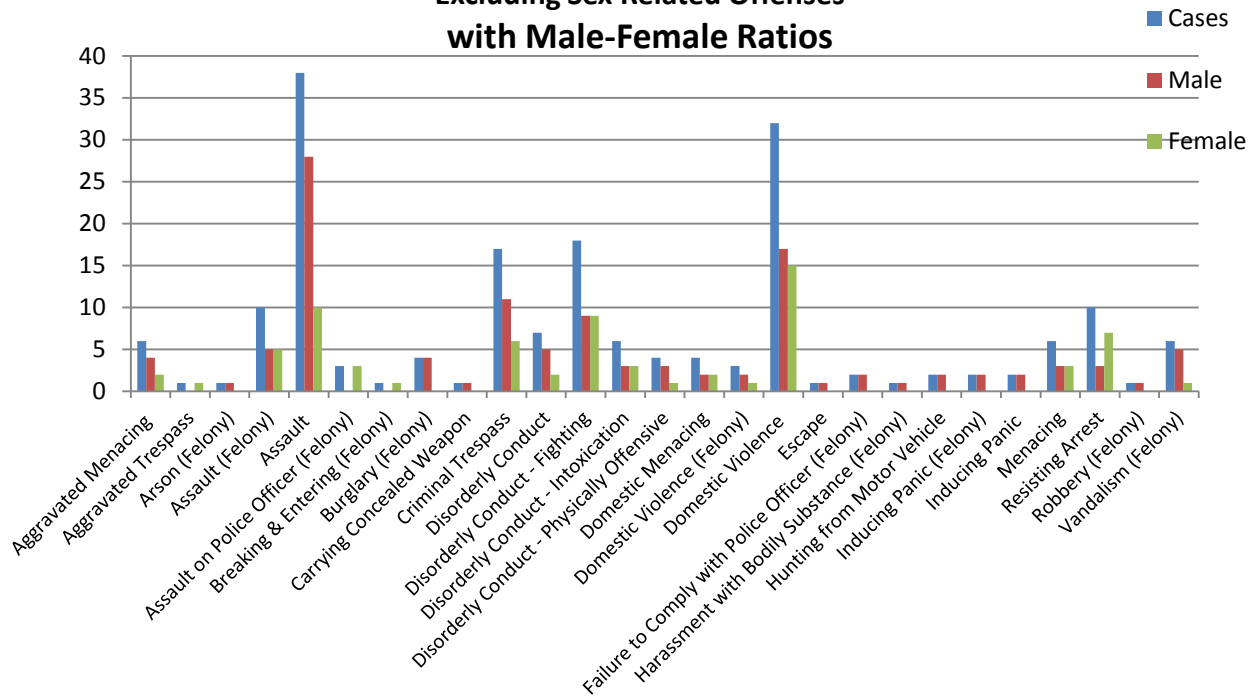
\$932,223.25 was expended in the Juvenile Division.

JUVENILE CASE COMPARISONS

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Delinquent (cases not charges)	311	321	338	304	372	367
Unruly	43	46	66	70	89	112
Traffic (cases not charges)	306	267	264	338	341	285
Dependent/Neglect/Abuse	192	257	243	316	176	250
Adult	113	123	120	77	179	149
Paternity/Custody/Child Support	214	215	186	183	237	212
Grandparent Power of Attorney/CA	33	28	25	24	32	24
Juvenile Civil Protection Order	3	7	4	2	4	4
Miscellaneous Filings	81	83	77	90	62	47
Total	1206	1347	1323	1404	1492	1450

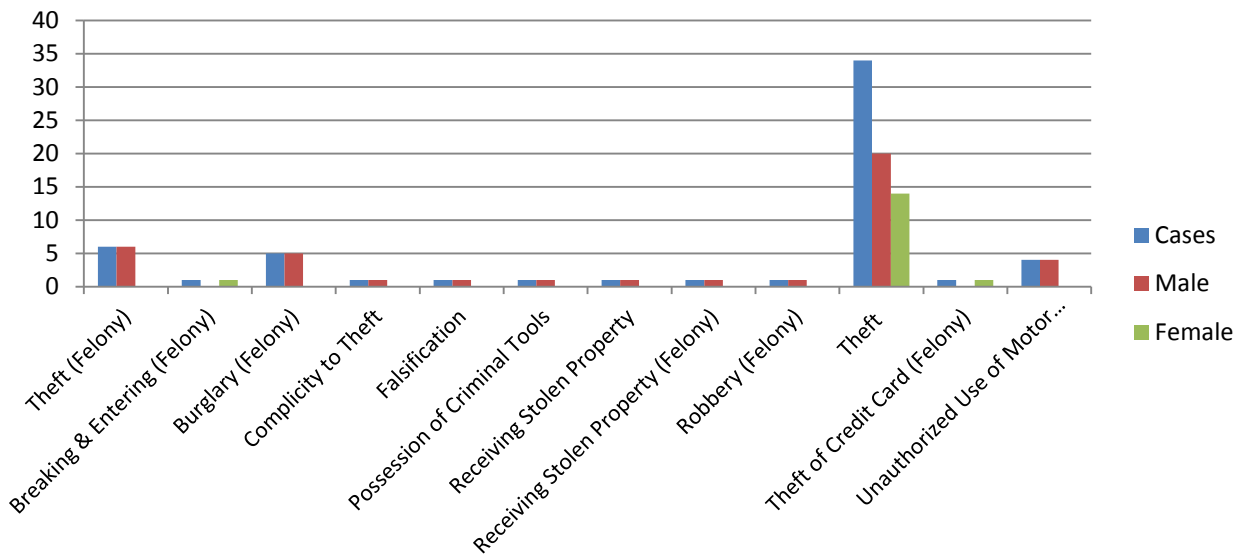
Juvenile Offenses of Violence

Excluding Sex Related Offenses
with Male-Female Ratios

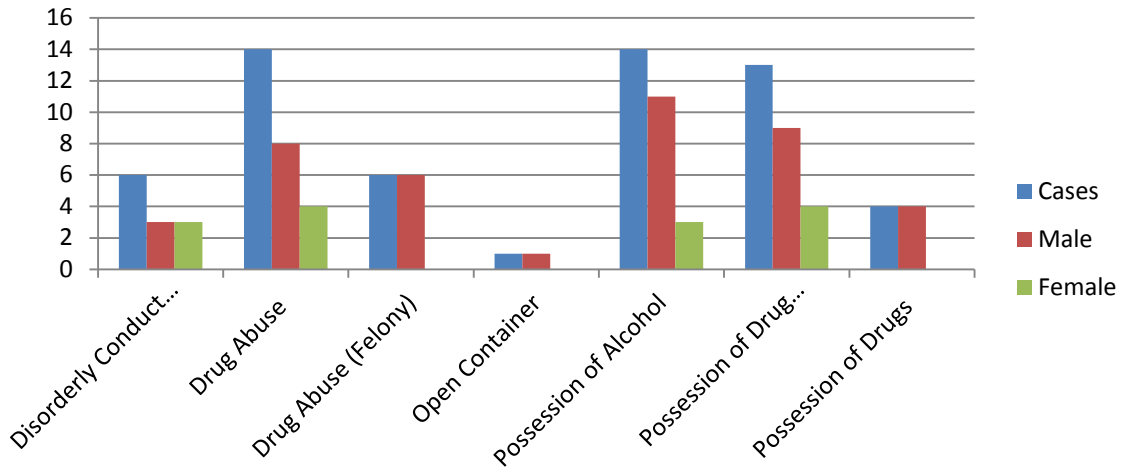


Juvenile Theft Related Charges

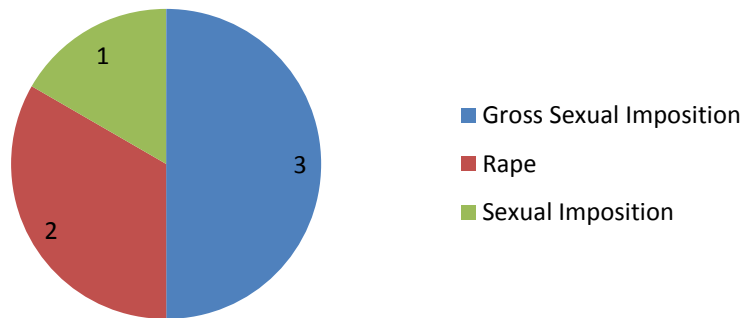
With Male-Female Ratios



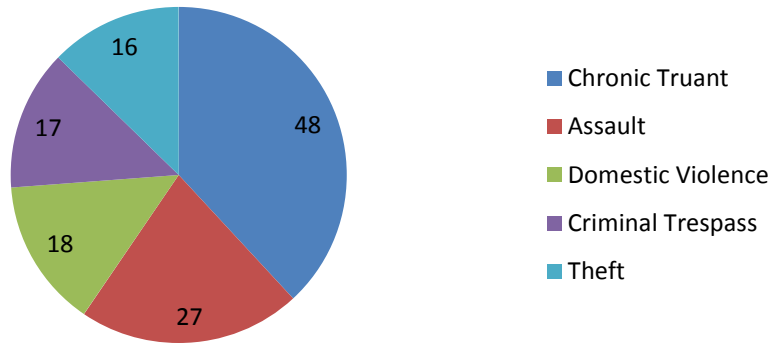
Juvenile Drug-Alcohol Related Offenses With Male-Female Ratios



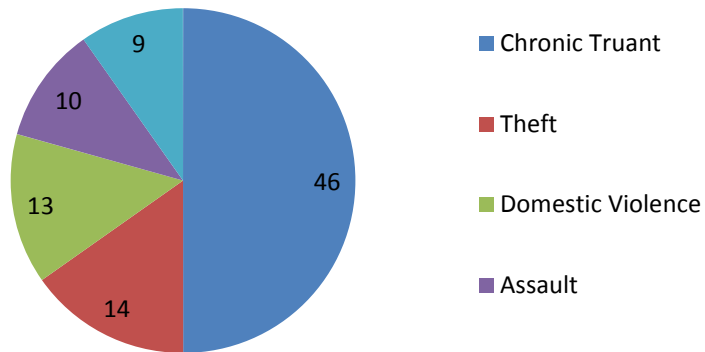
Sex Related Juvenile Offenses



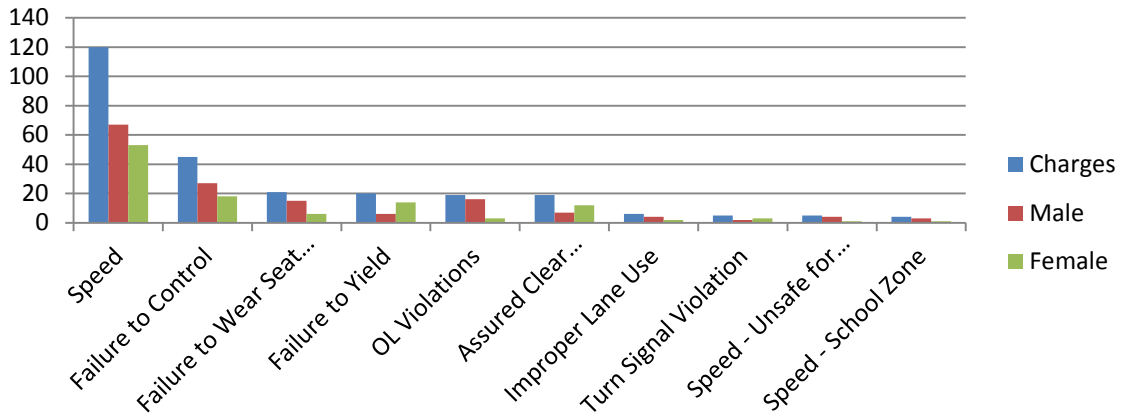
Top 5 Male Delinquent Charges



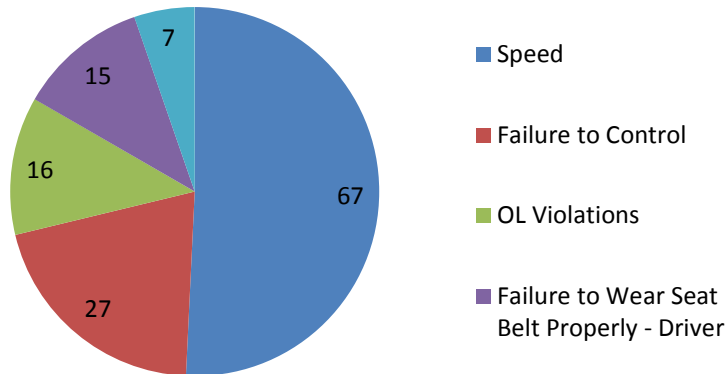
Top 5 Female Delinquent Charges



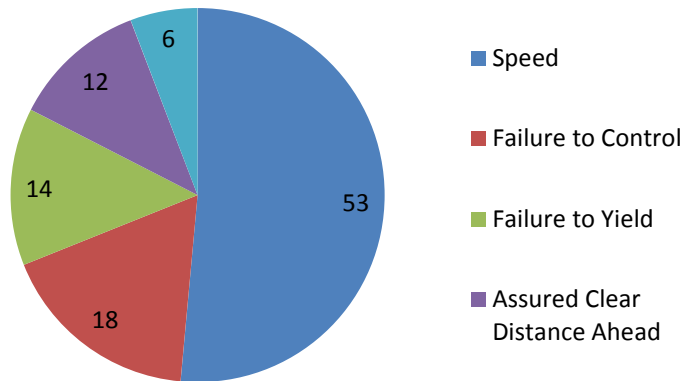
Top 10 Juvenile Traffic Charges with Male-Female Ratios



Top 5 Male Traffic Charges

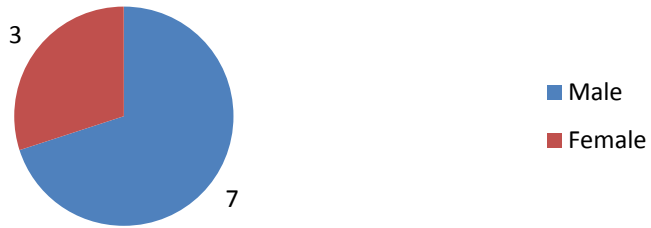


Top 5 Female Traffic Charges



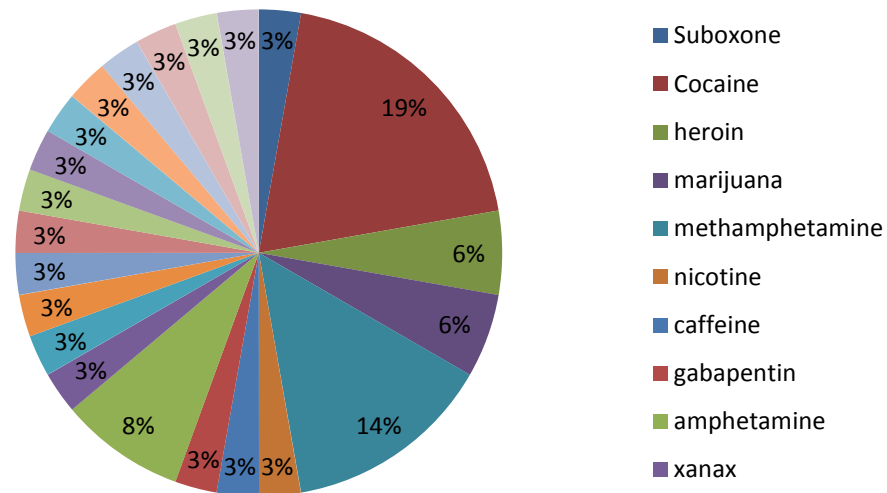
Juvenile OVI/Physical Control Offenses

Male-Female Ratios

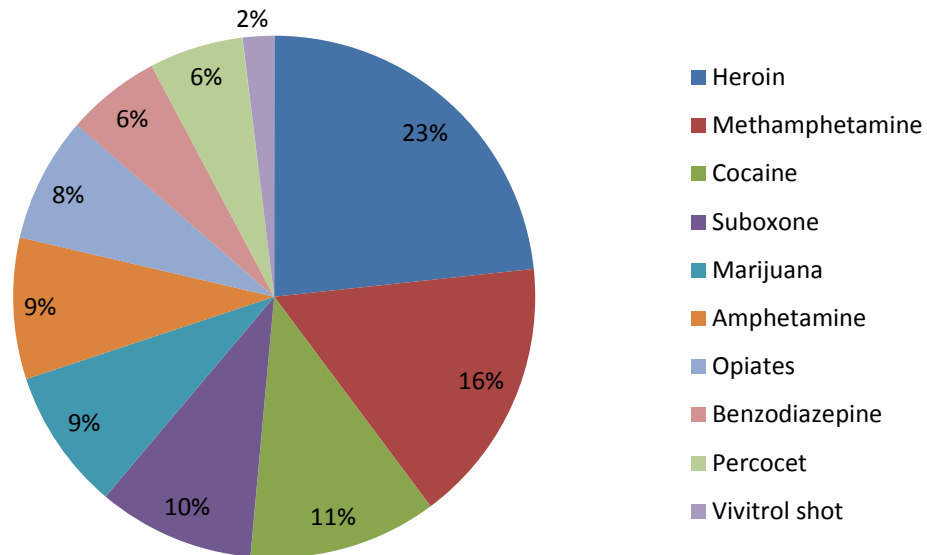


NOTE: The average miles per hour over the posted speed limit for juveniles cited in Ross County for the year 2017 was 17.46.

Type of Drugs Reported in the System of New Born Babies



Top 10 Reported Drugs used by parents in 2017 in Abuse/Neglect/Dependency Cases



JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

INTRODUCTION TO THE JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

The Juvenile Probation Department monitors juveniles placed on probation by the Judge or Magistrates in the Juvenile Court. The juvenile court assesses youth for community risk, level of care and brokers a range of services for youth and families. When necessary, the Juvenile Court will assume the care and custody of unruly and delinquent youth and it will ensure that the education, comprehensive mental and behavioral health intervention services, and treatment are provided to youth and families to promote family preservation. Oversight of RECLAIM Ohio and the development of programs and services remains under the administration of juvenile programs.

The Juvenile Probation Department also:

- prepares and files monthly reports for the individuals on probation;
- prepares and files reports and memos ordered by the Juvenile Court;
- finds residential placements and non-residential treatment programs for juveniles with alcohol and drug abuse problems;

- monitors the probationer's school attendance;
- assigns community service worksites and monitors the juvenile's performance;
- assigns juveniles placed in the RESCUE program worksites; and
- takes payments for restitution.
- Monitors service delivery in accordance with case plan activities
- Pre-dispositional investigations
- Recommend and supervise placements of unruly/delinquent youth
- Facilitates reunification efforts between youth and family
- Facilitates social service development for youth and family
- Supervises and case manage youth "at risk" for removal from the home
- Participates in identifying community service gaps and the development of collaborative relationships that proactively meets the needs of youth and family in the community.
- The Juvenile Probation Department further administers drug tests and monitors children placed on electronic monitoring; and various other duties as directed by the Juvenile Court.

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT CASE LOAD

The Juvenile Probation Department began 2017 with 135 probationers and received 296 new referrals.

- 206 probationers were terminated during the year.
- Leaving 101 probationers for 2018.
- Of the 296 juveniles referred to probation in 2017:
 - 205 were Caucasian.
 - 91 were non-Caucasian.
 - 101 were female.
 - 195 were male.

Not all youth referred to the probation department for monitoring were placed on formal probation. Some of those cases were pre-adjudication supervision, community service, and/or mediation agreements.

The Court placed 24 juveniles in 2017, with 20 of these youth entering court custody:

- 6 females and 18 males.
- 19 were Caucasian.
- 5 were non-Caucasian
- 14 were placed in foster care homes.
- 2 youth (one male one female) were placed at a residential facility after being unsuccessful in foster care.
- 12 youth (11 males and one female) were placed in either a corrections facility or in a behavioral health and alcohol/drug IV-E certified program.
- 4 youth (all males) were placed at a Community Corrections Facility (DYS program). Both youth failed to successfully complete the terms of community based programming and three were sentenced to ODYS and another placed in an alternative residential placement.

Reunification Outcomes

Of the 24 youth in placement settings with juvenile court during 2017:

- 16 were reunified with a parent.
- 1 was placed with relative/kinship care.
- 0 non-relative care placement.
- 1 aged out of care.
- 6 remain in court placements as of December 31, 2017.

Electronic Monitoring

In 2017, the Juvenile Probation Department had a total of eleven (28) youth placed on electronic monitoring. The cost of electronic monitoring was \$11.00 per day.

The use of electronic monitoring is an effective tool for the probation department and is more cost effective than alternative costs such as the per diem rate of \$111.00 for the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the per diem rate of \$74.00 for the Hocking Valley Community Residential Center, and a varied per diem rate at the Juvenile Detention Center (a non-member rate is \$85.00 per day).

Department of Youth Services

In 2017, three juveniles were committed to the custody of the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Commitment to the Department of Youth Services is only for felony offenders. All were new commitments.

- All were male.
- 2 were Caucasian. One was bi-racial.

Court Contracted Services

Lighthouse at Paint Creek started working out of the Juvenile Probation Department in 2015 to provide mental/behavioral health and alcohol and other drug services to court involved youth. Staff have been working with two different populations. A primary focus is providing outpatient sex offender treatment to youth who have been adjudicated or identified as having inappropriate sexual behavior and involved with the court. The other focus is providing treatment to youth exhibiting alcohol and other drug related problems. The program has been very successful and the court will continue the contract through 2018.

The Juvenile Court is also working on several pilot programs for the upcoming year to provide additional services to the at-risk youth of Ross County

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT FINANCES

\$224,567.44 was expended in the Juvenile Probation Department in 2017.

\$952,533.30 was expended in the IVE Department in 2017.

\$8,309.81 was expended in the CASA program in 2017

\$7,623.82 was expended in the Drug Court program in 2017.

Introduction to Court Alternative Programs

The Juvenile Court has had a high degree of involvement and interest in community programs and collaborative ventures that support youth and families. The court has initiated diversion programs and fostered alternative strategies to divert youth from court sanctions and out of home placements. With dwindling budgets and increased pressures to serve unruly and delinquent youth the court has identified alternative resources to administer justice, rehabilitate juveniles, promote public safety and provide opportunities to strengthen families.

MEDIATION/GUARDIANSHIP INVESTIGATION

In 2017, the Mediator/Guardianship Investigator was assigned three hundred forty-three (343) juvenile cases. Of those juvenile cases, there were:

- Fifty-one (51) delinquency cases
- Fifty-seven (57) unruly cases
- Twenty-two (22) custody cases
- Four (4) adult cases
- Two hundred and seven (207) school truancy cases
- One (1) abuse case, and
- One (1) paternity case

In 2017, \$7,279.15 was paid in the the mediation/diversion fund.

In 2016 the Mediator was also given the responsibility of handling guardianship of incompetent investigations. In 2017, he performed eight-nine (89) guardianship investigations. In the course of these investigations, he traveled one thousand five hundred sixteen point 8 (1516.8) miles services guardianship notices and conducting investigations.

Family Dependency Drug Court

In 2017, Ross County was facing some of the highest Heroin and Opioid addictions per capita and our deaths from drug over doses were on the rise. The drug epidemic was becoming more and more evident in the courts through crime and child welfare actions. In our previous year, the Juvenile Court had over 20 newborns test positive for drugs and roughly 60% of all dependency and neglect filings identified drugs as the primary problem. The drug problem in our community was impacting our most vulnerable population; our children. Children were removed from the home and placed in alternative care for extended periods of time at a significant cost to our community. Judge Benson, committed to making a difference began the journey of building a Family Dependency Treatment Court. The program by design provides collaborative evaluation and treatment services for substance dependent parents who have lost or are at risk of losing custody of their children due

to abuse, neglect, or dependency. These intensive services were offered and provided to participants with the expectation that the parents will eliminate substance abuse and will address mental health resulting in a more fully functioning parent, which facilitates case plan compliance and expedited permanency.

In February of 2017, Ross County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division earned initial certification from the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Specialized Dockets to begin implementation of a Family Dependency Treatment Court. In May of 2017, the court received final certification. The program is comprehensive and takes a holistic approach to treating not only the parent but the family. The program is challenging and requires participants to be actively engaged in services for mental health, drug addiction treatment, parenting, education, employment/job skills training and any other supportive services the participant and/or family needs to be self-sufficient. In the first year of operation the court anticipated 6 cases however; we tripled our projected number of participants.

The Program received 26 referrals to the program and 18 individuals entered the program in the first year. The remaining 8 referrals failed to comply with or follow through with initial program requirements or due to violent or criminal histories were deemed inappropriate.

- Enrollment: 18
- Number of children: 44 (6 children reunified)
- Carry-over for 2018: 11
- Program Discharges: 7
 - 1 neutral discharge (agreed by all parties)
 - 6 unsuccessful discharge, non-compliance with treatment, unable to abstain and/or non-compliance with program rules/court orders.

CASA

In June of 2017, Judge Benson met with Doug Stephens, Director of the Ohio Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) to begin the development of a court program. Ross County was awarded funding to begin implementation starting July 1, 2017. A director was hired in August and the court began the State and National application and certification process. In October, the court was able to provide training for 5 volunteers which were sworn in in early November. In late November, the Ross County Juvenile Court was awarded provisional membership status with National CASA. One case was assigned in December and we anticipate all these volunteers will have CASA assignments after the first of the year. In addition, another training session has been set up and the Court currently has close to 18 volunteers pre-registered.

The Staff

THE STAFF OF THE PROBATE-JUVENILE DIVISIONS

- ❖ Judge J. Jeffrey Benson became the Ross County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge on February 9, 2015. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Benson was a self-employed trial lawyer in Ross County for over thirty-three years. He received his Law Degree from Capital University in 1982 after graduating from Otterbein University in 1979. Judge Benson previously served three years as an Assistant Ross County Prosecuting Attorney, seven years as a member of the Chillicothe City Council, and eight years as a member of the Chillicothe City School District Board of Education. He is married to Shawn T. (Stephens) Benson and the proud father of four (4) boys.
- ❖ Magistrate Christine B. Hannan joined the Probate and Juvenile Court of Ross County in 1995 and retired in 2011. She was re-appointed as Magistrate. At the time of her initial appointment as Referee/Magistrate, Mrs. Hannan was an assistant prosecuting attorney for Ross County and a practicing lawyer with the law firm of Ward, Kellenberger, Nusbaum and Wissler. She received her Law Degree from Capital University School of Law in 1980 after graduating from Ball State University in 1977.
- ❖ Magistrate Steven E. Drotleff joined the Probate and Juvenile Court of Ross County in November of 2002. At the time of his appointment as Referee/Magistrate, Mr. Drotleff, was an assistant prosecuting attorney for Ross County and a practicing lawyer with the firm of Nusbaum, Ater, and Wissler. He received his Law Degree from Ohio State University College of Law in 1994 after graduating from Ohio University in 1991.
- ❖ Court Administrator, Donald E. Darby, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1994. Mr. Darby started at with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a Youth Counselor. He was certified as a mediator in dispute resolution and domestic relations through the Supreme Court of Ohio and was appointed to the position of Mediator in 1999. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree Cum Laude in Criminology from St. Leo College in 1994. He is federally trained Drug and Alcohol Program Administration and also a state certified guardianship investigator.
- ❖ Administrator of Juvenile Programs, Cheri Smitley, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2005. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Community Health Education, Master Degree in Management and Public Administration and is a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor. Mrs. Smitley started with the Court as a Title II grant project director.
- ❖ Data Systems Analyst, Lisa M. Bair, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1990. Mrs. Bair started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a court reporter and was formally appointed to the position of Data Systems Analyst in 2000.
- ❖ Administrative Clerk/Mediation Secretary, Wendy McWhorter, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1991. Mrs. McWhorter started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a Deputy Clerk and was appointed to the position of Administrative Clerk/Mediation Secretary in 1999.

- ❖ General Deputy Clerk/Grant Administrator, Shelley Harper, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1988. Ms. Harper started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a Deputy Clerk and is currently working in the Juvenile Probation Department.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Billie Lytle, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1992. Mrs. Lytle started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk and is currently working in the Court's probation department.
- ❖ Chief Juvenile Clerk, Lois Smith, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1993. Mrs. Smith started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk in the Court's Juvenile Division. In 2005, Mrs. Smith was promoted to Chief Juvenile Clerk.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Penny Fannon, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1995. Mrs. Fannon started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk and is currently working in the Court's Probate Division.
- ❖ Juvenile Diversion Officer, Joseph Glandon, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1996. He has a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from Ohio University. Mr. Glandon started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a Probation Officer. He is currently still serving in that position.
- ❖ Archivist, Janet Ackley, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1997. Mrs. Ackley started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as the Court's Archives and currently retains that position.
- ❖ Security Bailiff, Gary Steen, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1998. Mr. Steen started with the Court as the security bailiff and has since retired.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Sara Mick, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1998. Mrs. Mick started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk. Mid-year, Mrs. Mick was moved to the Probate Division.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Tonya Wright, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 1998. Mrs. Wright started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk and is currently working in the Court's Juvenile Division.
- ❖ Community Liason Officer, Brandy McCord, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2000. Mrs. McCord joined the Probate and Juvenile Court as a social worker. In 2011, upon the retirement of Linda Young, Mrs. McCord now is the Community Liason Officer. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from Ohio University in 1998. She also received a Master of Arts in Sociology with a specialization in Crime and Deviance from Ohio University in 2003.
- ❖ Probation Officer, Matt Sutherland, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2001. He has a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and an Associates Degree in Law Enforcement Technology from Ohio University. Mr. Sutherland started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a probation officer and currently retains that position. He is also a state certified guardianship investigator and was certified as a mediator in dispute resolution and domestic relations through the Supreme Court of Ohio.

- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Tammy Kellough, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2001. Mrs. Kellough started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk and continues to maintain her position working in the Court's Juvenile Division.
- ❖ Chief Probation Officer, Shanna Haybron, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2007. Ms. Haybron started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a reunification probation officer in the Title IV-E Department. In 2016, she was promoted to Chief Probation Officer. She holds a Juvenile Sex Offender Counseling Certification from the University of Louisville.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Stephanie Wells, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2007. Miss Wells works with the Probate and Juvenile Court as an intake clerk in the Court's front office.
- ❖ Reunification Probation Officer, Quincey Bailey, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2010. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Juvenile Sex Offender Counseling Certification from the University of Louisville. Mr. Bailey works as a probation officer in the Juvenile Probation Department.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Hancock, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2012. Mrs. Hancock started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk in the Juvenile Division.
- ❖ Reunification Probation Officer, Jessica Richmond, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2013. Ms. Richmond works with the Probate and Juvenile Court in the Juvenile Probation Department.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Toni DeTillian, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2014. Mrs. DeTillian started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk and is currently working in the Juvenile Division.
- ❖ Bailiff, Benjamin Copher, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2016. Mr. Copher started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a bailiff. Mr. Copher took an extended leave of absence and then moved on to other employment in 2018.
- ❖ Bailiff, Joe Batey, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2017. Mr. Batey started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a bailiff during Mr. Copher's leave of absence and has since moved on to other employment.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Chrissy Miller, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2016. Mrs. Miller started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk and is currently working as an intake clerk in the Court's front office.
- ❖ Deputy Clerk, Leslie Hatfield, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2017. Ms. Cutright started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as a deputy clerk and is currently working as an intake clerk in the Court's front office.
- ❖ CASA Director, Kaylyn Pryor, joined the Probate and Juvenile Court in 2017. Mrs. Pryor started with the Probate and Juvenile Court as the CASA Director and still maintains that position.

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