

# Miami County Juvenile Court

## 2019 Annual Report



Judge Scott Altenburger

Magistrates:

Katherine Kemp Severt

Rebecca Hall

J. Andrew Wannemacher (Court Administrator)

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## HONORABLE SCOTT ALTENBURGER



Judge Scott Altenburger was elected in 2018 to serve as Judge of the Miami County Juvenile and Probate Court. He earned his Juris Doctorate from The University of Toledo, School of Law and a Bachelor Degree in Education from The University of Toledo, receiving a state teaching license 7th grade – 12th grades. He has completed the necessary course work through the Ohio Supreme Court to mediate family law cases.

Judge Altenburger's life, education and career experiences make him uniquely qualified to lead the court. He has been a magistrate and later appointed chief magistrate of the Miami County Court of Common Pleas, General Division from May, 1995 to November, 2018. In those roles, he has handled in excess of 30,000 family law cases. For more than 18 years, he had been an adjunct instructor for Edison State Community College teaching Family Law and Legal Research and Writing. Additionally, he taught paralegal courses at Capital University Law School. He has given legal presentations to the Miami County Bar Association, Montgomery County Bar Association, Dayton Bar Association, Lucas County Bar Association, Toledo Bar Association, and The Ohio Association of Magistrates. Prior to being a magistrate, he was an assistant city law director, assistant county prosecutor, and mayor's court magistrate.

Judge Altenburger believes experience, integrity and fairness are the hallmarks of an effective judge. He pledges to give each case individual attention, which families in Miami County deserve, while adhering to the rule of law. As a fiscal conservative, he believes in the teamwork concept to ensure effective government that is efficiently run in a responsible manner. He is a member of the Miami County Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges, and past member of the Ohio Magistrates Association.

He has been married for over 32 years to Kay Altenburger, treasurer/CFO for Milton-Union Exempted Village Schools. They have two daughters: Dr. Lauren Altenburger, graduate of The Ohio State University, and Dr. Kristen Altenburger, Stanford University.

## History of Miami County Juvenile Court

Hon. Raymond Kerr	1925-1929
Hon. Harry Powell	1929-1933
Hon. Guy O'Donnell	1933-1941
Hon. Carl Felger	1941-1949
Hon. Samuel Faust	1949-1973
Hon. James R. O'Donnell	1973-1974
Hon. Richard A. Goater	1974-1996
Hon. Lynnita K.C. Wagner	1996-2008
Hon. W. McGregor Dixon Jr.	2008-2018
Hon. Scott Altenburger	2018 - Present

### **Oral History of Miami County Juvenile Court**

By attorney, local historian and author John Fulker as told to intern Trent Huelskamp

Miami County Juvenile Court started sometime in the mid to late 1930s. Reviewing what remains in the civil docket archives from the 1930s, juvenile court started sometime between 1933 and 1939. While Probate Court Judges date back to 1852, it is not until Judge Guy O'Donnell was listed as a Probate/Juvenile Judge that Miami County had its first juvenile court judge. Probate court and juvenile court shared the same space in the old courthouse until the Safety Building was constructed in 1973. Since that time, probate court and juvenile court have had separate clerk offices and public areas, although they still share courtrooms with each other. John Fulker, attorney and local historian, indicated that he knew all of the Judges that have served the citizens as Miami County Juvenile Judge. He did title work in the recorder's office with Judge Guy O'Donnell after Judge O'Donnell retired from the bench and returned to the legal practice. Mr. Fulker remembers Judge Carl Felger as a very well-liked judge and a family friend. Judge Samuel Faust was brother of John's senior law partner, Leo Faust and his wife Edith was the judge's clerk and she was a tremendous help to him. Judge James O'Donnell was the grandson of Judge Guy O'Donnell and after leaving the bench continues to practice in the probate area. Finally, Judge Richard Goater, Judge Lynnita Wagner and Judge "Greg" Dixon are remembered as being very accommodating and welcoming judges, consistent with the earlier judges.

Mr. Fulker believes Miami County Juvenile Court throughout the years has been known throughout the State of Ohio as a model example of quality judicial service. Having appeared before Judge Altenburger many times as a magistrate, Mr. Fulker looks forward to practicing law before Judge Altenburger who will continue the fine tradition of excellence as established by his predecessors.

## **Our Purpose**

The Juvenile Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Our purpose is to protect the Miami County community from juvenile crime, assist the victims of that crime, counsel and rehabilitate youth who commit crimes, protect children from abuse, neglect, and dependency and provide allocation of parental rights for children whose parents were never married.

Juvenile Court becomes involved in the lives of our children under 18 who:

- ❖ Do not obey their parents, school officials, and other custodians
- ❖ Do not attend school, who violate curfew, who drink alcohol and use drugs
- ❖ Commit violations of traffic laws
- ❖ Commit criminal acts
- ❖ Are victims of abuse, neglect or dependency
- ❖ And who's circumstances require orders of paternity, visitation, and child support

The Court also hears cases of adults who contribute to the unruliness or delinquency of a minor. Consistent with our purpose to provide safe and appropriate homes to the children of Miami County, Juvenile Court handles paternity, child support, child custody and visitation cases involving children whose parents are not married.

The Court protects the interests and rights of our children and the public by rehabilitating and holding youth and their families accountable for their actions. The Court strives to strengthen the family and empower parents to actively provide the balance of love, structure, supervision, and responsibility so that their children will develop the self-control and independence needed to become productive, self-sufficient, law abiding adults.

Referrals reach the Court through various channels, including parents, school officials, law enforcement authorities, neighbors, Children Services representatives, and the Prosecutor's office.

Under the direction of Judge Scott Altenburger and with the support of two full-time magistrates, the Court provides a broad range of community based, residential treatment and prevention services. This report is intended to help you understand the children we serve and give you an overview of the services we provided in 2018.

# The Youth We Serve

## Juvenile Delinquency

In Ohio, a juvenile delinquent is defined as “... any child who violates any law of this state, the United States, or any ordinance or regulation of a political subdivision of the state, which would be a crime if committed by an adult; except that any child who violates any traffic law, ordinance, or regulation shall be designated as a juvenile traffic offender.” This definition also includes any child who violates any lawful order of the Juvenile Court. Each year the Court handles many types of delinquency charges, some are considered misdemeanors and others are felonies. The following is a summary of some of the 2019 charges:

<b>Charges</b>	<b>2019</b>
Abuse Harmful Intox	1
Abduction	1
Arson	2
Assault Misdemeanor	20
Assault Felony	3
Breaking & Entering	2
Burglary & Agg Burglary	1
Carry/Concealed weapon	1
Child Endangering	3
Conspiracy	0
Contempt of Court Order	69
Criminal Damaging	15
Criminal Mischief	3
Cruelty to animals	0
Curfew	10
Discharge Firearm	0
Disorderly Conduct	26
Domestic Violence	40
Drug Abuse	27
Drug Paraphernalia	18
Drug Possession	15
Drug Trafficking & Agg Drug Traff	5
Escape	0
Fail Tag Deer	0
Falsification	5
Forgery	0
Illegal conveyance of drug	0
Inducing/Inciting Panic or Violence	3
Littering	1
Making False Alarms	9

Menacing/Aggravated Menacing	14
Obstructing Official Business/Justice/failure to disclose	8
Other weapons charges	0
Possession of Alcohol/underage consumption	20
Possession of Criminal Tools	1
Probation Violation	39
Public Indecency	0
Rape	9
Receiving Stolen Property	9
Robbery/Aggravated Robbery/ complicity	3
Sexting	0
Sexual Imposition & Gross Sexual Imposition	4
Tobacco violation	11
Tampering with Evidence/Property	5
Harassment	3
Theft/Grand Theft Auto/Misuse of Credit Card/Identity	37
Trespassing/Criminal Trespassing	14
Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle/Property	9
Unlawful Restraint	0
Unruly	12
Vandalism	1
Weapon on school grounds	4
<b>Total Delinquency Charges</b>	<b>488</b>
<b>Total Delinquency Cases Filed or Reactivated</b>	<b>436</b>

The Court has many dispositional options for a delinquent child including:

- ◆ Place the child on probation supervision
- ◆ Commit the child to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (felony only)
- ◆ Commit the child to West Central Rehabilitation Center or any CCF (felony only)
- ◆ Place the child in foster care or in a residential center
- ◆ Have the child attend a specific community program
- ◆ Require the child to complete community service and make restitution
- ◆ Order the child to attend a specific treatment program
- ◆ Impose a fine and court cost
- ◆ Make any order the judge finds will benefit the child

In 2018, the Court had filings in 517 delinquency cases.

## Unruly Child

An unruly child is defined as any child who does not subject himself to the reasonable control of his parents, teachers, guardian or custodian, is habitually truant from home or school; departs himself as to injure or endanger his health or morals; attempts to enter marriage without consent; is found in a disreputable place, or engages in an occupation prohibited by law. Unruly offenses include behaviors such as truancy at school, running away, and incorrigibility; these behaviors would not be considered a crime if committed by adults. The following is a summary of the 2019 unruly charges:

### 2019 Unruly Charges Filed

<b>Unruly Charges Filed</b>	<b>2019</b>
Truancy	22
Curfew Violations	10
Incorrigible	185
Behavior that injures health or morals	7
Tobacco Law Violations	13
Total Charges	237
Total Unruly Cases	243
Total dispositions entered	284

The Court has many options for dealing with an unruly child and they are:

- ◆ Counseling for the child and/or parent
- ◆ Make an order of mandatory school attendance and have the order monitored by court officers
- ◆ Have the child attend a specific program that the child could benefit from such as community service or a therapeutic program
- ◆ Place the child in a non-secure facility or with a relative
- ◆ Place the child on probation or prevention supervision
- ◆ Impose costs of the case against the juvenile
- ◆ Or, an alternative the judge finds will benefit the child

In 2018, the Court entered final disposition in 229 unruly cases.

## Juvenile Traffic Offender

The Court has jurisdiction over all traffic offenses committed by juveniles. These cases in 2019 included:

### 2019 Traffic Charges Filed

<b>Traffic Charges</b>	<b>2019</b>
Speeding	206
Fail To Control/Reckless Operation	30
Failure to Maintain Distance	54
Seatbelt/Child Restraint	17
Disregarding Traffic Control Device ( Sign/Lights)	35
Fail To Yield	34
Improper Backing, Turn or Lane Change	17
No OL/Permit/Allowing Unlicensed Driver to Drive	21
Driving Under Influence & Related	6
Driving Under Suspension	4
Fictitious/Expired/Missing	
Plate/Registration/insurance	8
Probationary or temporary license restriction	6
No head or tail lights	6
Vehicle Related Infractions	2
Leaving the Scene	3
Passing a school bus	7
Left of center	3
Squealing Tires/Noise Ordinance	2
Riding on Sidewalk	1
Fleeing/Eluding Police	1
Speed in school zone	5
Left of center	3
Distracted Driving/Texting	2
Marked Lanes	7
Open Container	1
Unsafe Vehicle	1
<b>Total Traffic Charges</b>	<b>483</b>
<b>Total Traffic Cases</b>	<b>444</b>

Possible dispositions for juvenile traffic offender including:

- ◆ Suspend the child's license for any time period up to age 21
- ◆ Place child on probation
- ◆ Impose fines or costs
- ◆ Place child in Detention (for persistent offense or serious violations)
- ◆ Order child to attend CARTEENS or a Driver's Improvement Program
- ◆ Order restitution
- ◆ Have the child attend a specific program, such as community service or a therapeutic program

In Ohio, a juvenile has a probationary license. With this license, a juvenile is subject to additional penalties imposed by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to which adults are not subject. In 2018, the Court had filings in 495 traffic cases.

### **Abused, Neglected and Dependent Children**

An abused child includes any child that exhibits evidence of any serious physical or emotional injury inflicted other than by accidental means or is the victim of sexual activity. A neglected child is one who is abandoned or lacks parental care because of the faults, habits, and indifference of the parents or custodians. A dependent child lacks proper care or support through no fault of the parents or custodian. The juvenile court has the responsibility to hear such cases and make a finding or adjudication. The Court may make orders altering legal custody or redefining the parental rights and responsibilities to protect the child. These cases are very complex and require close cooperation with Miami County Children Services Board, law enforcement, and other social agencies.

#### 2019 Abuse, Neglect & Dependency Charges Filed

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency	197
Motion for Permanent Custody	19
Bridges Program	3

The Court believes that when a child's physical, mental and emotional health is at stake and when the child's needs are not being met, that the child needs an advocate. Therefore, in all of these cases the Court appoints a guardian ad litem either through CASA/GAL of MIAMI COUNTY or a private attorney. Based on the complaint before it, and by considering the best interest of the child, the Court may use a variety of options for dealing with abused, neglected, and dependent children including:

- ◆ Order protective supervision by Miami County Children Service Board

- ◆ Remove the child from the home on a temporary basis and give custody to Children Services during which time the parties can work on a plan for reunification
- ◆ Give legal custody to a relative
- ◆ Place the child in long-term foster care when the parent is not able to assume care
- ◆ Award permanent custody to Children Services, so that the child can be adopted

The Bridges Program allows young adults, who were in foster care at the time they turned 18, to continue to receive certain services, such as education, housing and employment, until they reach the age of 21.

In 2018, the Court had filings of 124 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases, 14 permanent custody cases and 3 bridges program youth.

### **Paternity, Custody, Child Support, and Visitation**

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction in cases of children whose parents were never married. Sometimes, this involves determining who the father of a child is. It can also involve deciding which parent gets custody of a child, amount of child support, and visitation the child can have with a parent. The Court also hears case in which people, other than parents want custody of a child.

Child Support establishment an enforcement cases involve working with the Miami County Child Support Agency.

#### 2019 Paternity, Custody, Visitation & Child Support Charges Filed

Custody/Visitation	636
Support Enforcement/Modifications	544
Admin cases with no hearings	672
Parentage	32
UIFSA	16

In 2018, the Court had filings in 1712 support enforcement or modification cases, 465 custody or visitation cases, 49 parentage cases and 27 UIFSA cases.

### **Adult Misdemeanor Cases**

The Juvenile Court also has jurisdiction in misdemeanor cases against adults charged with acts against children. This includes contributing to the delinquency or unruliness of a minor, and contempt of court from orders made by the Juvenile Court.

## 2019 Adult Charges Filed

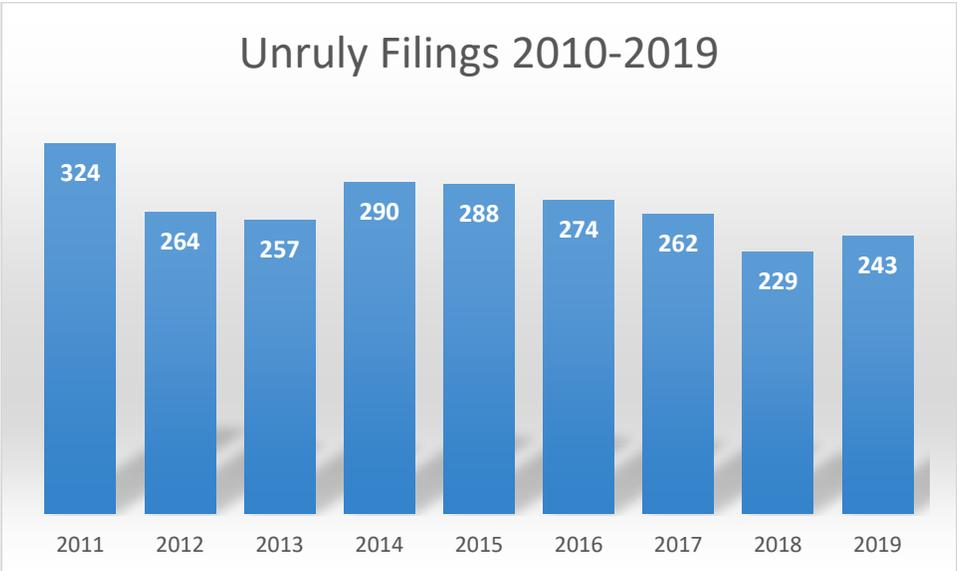
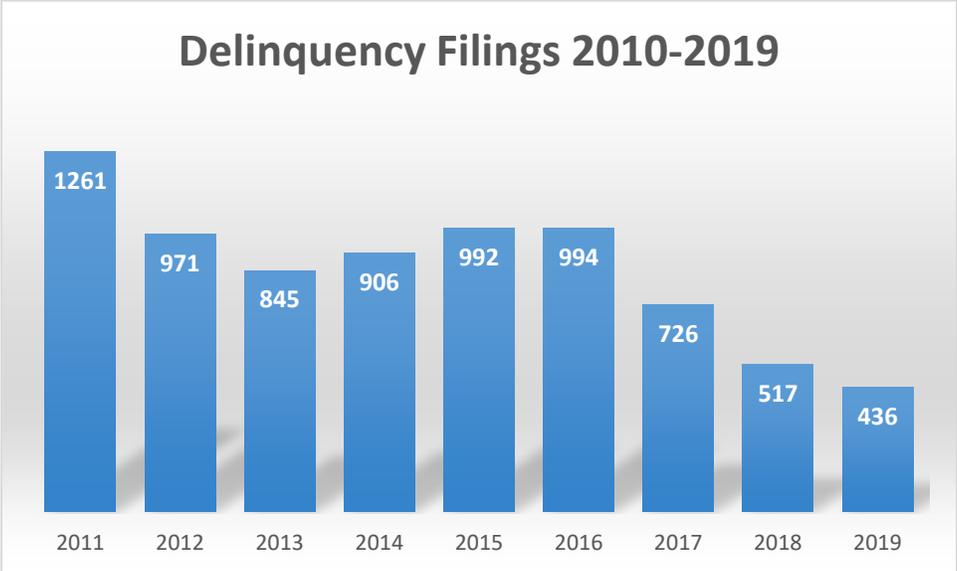
Child Endangering	0
Contempt of Court	33
Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor	23
Failure to send to school	38
Imposition of sentence	0
Adult charges filed	95
<b>Total Adult Criminal Cases Filed or Reactivated</b>	<b>101</b>

In 2018, the Court had filings in 79 adult cases.

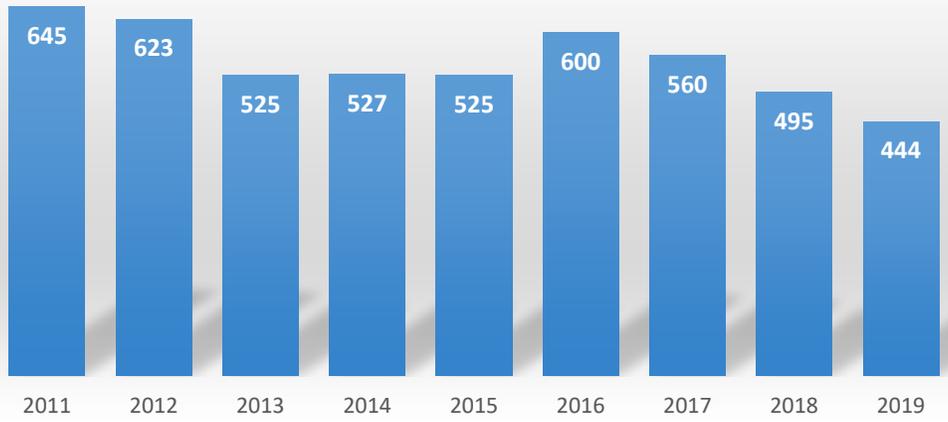
### **Miscellaneous Cases**

The Court hears a number of cases that do not fall into any particular category. These include such issues as applications for a marriage license by an underage child, hospitalization of a mentally ill minor, certain kinds of consents for medical treatment, judicial bypass, search warrants, civil protective orders, grandparent power of attorney, and motion to waive civil filing fees. In 2019, the court handled 10 such filings including civil protection cases.

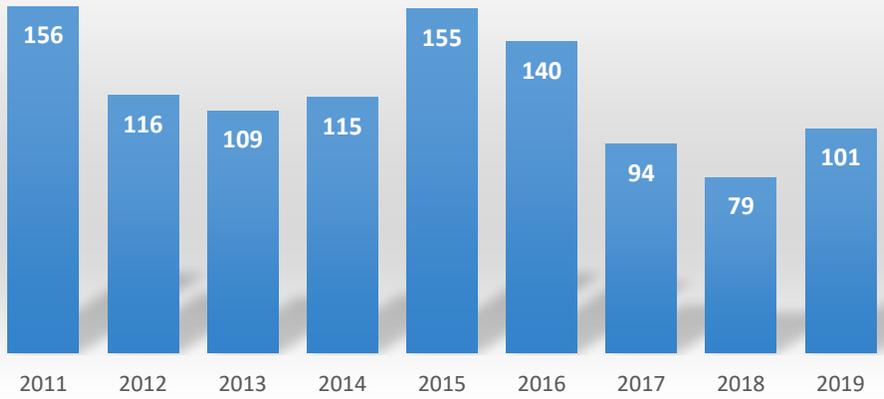
# Filing Trends 2010-2019



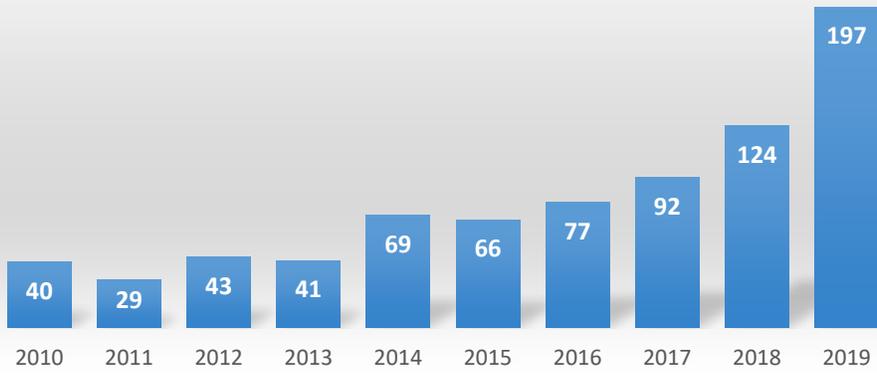
### Traffic Filings 2010-2019



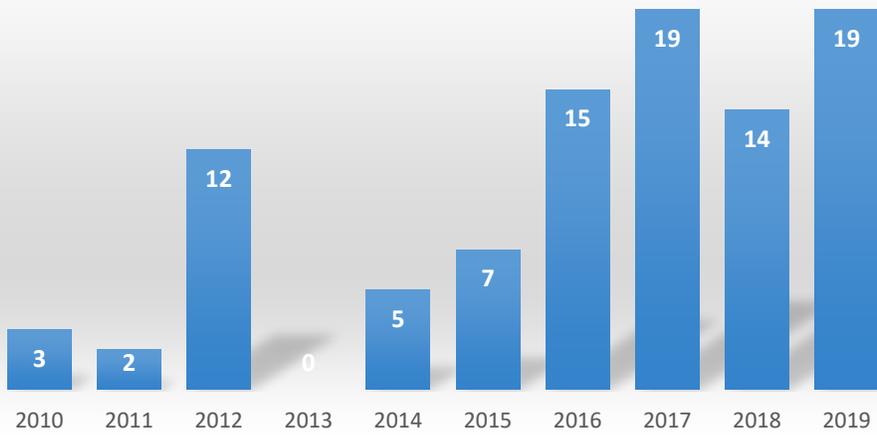
### Adult Filings 2010-2019



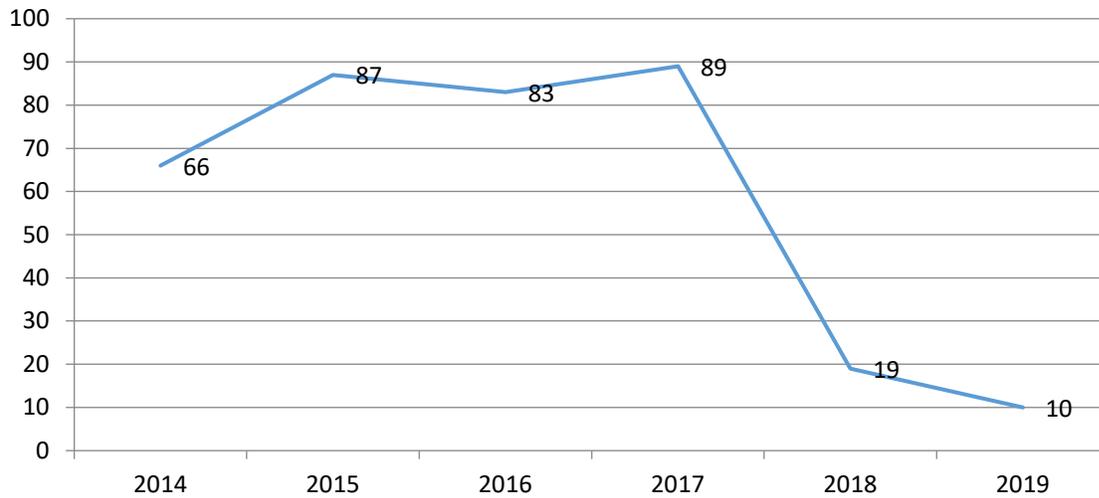
### Abuse/Neglect/Dependency 2010-2019



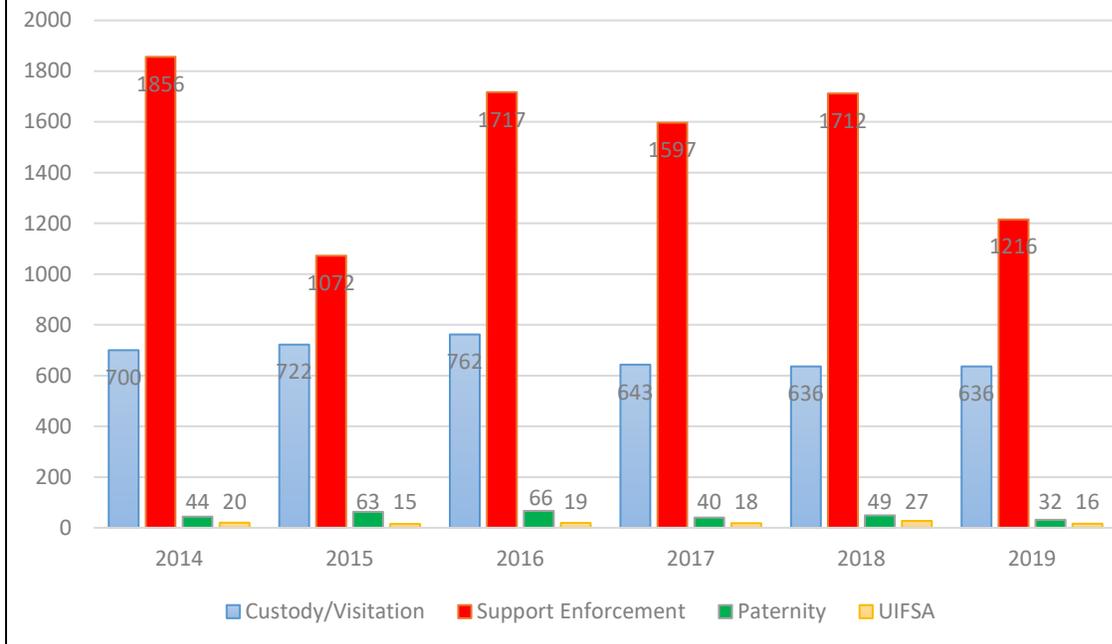
### Permanent Custody 2010-2019



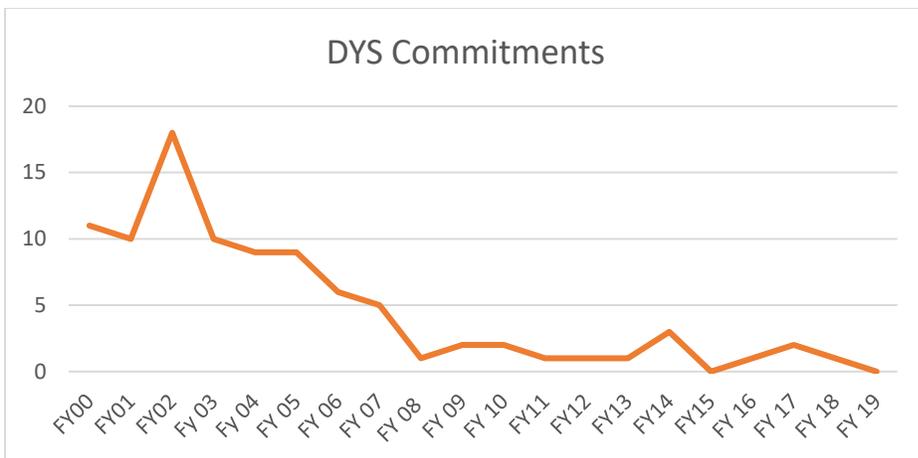
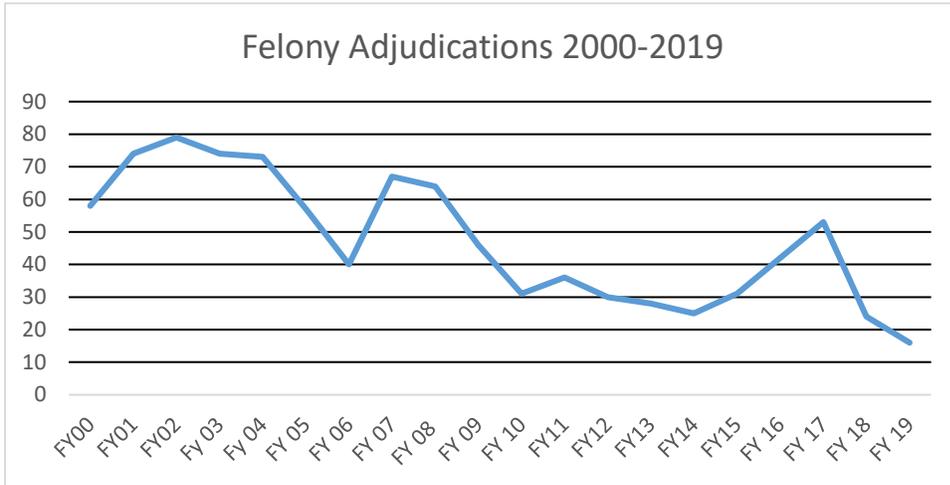
## Number of Cases Pending Beyond Supreme Court Time Guidelines



## Custody/Visitation, Child Support & Paternity



## Adjudication Trends

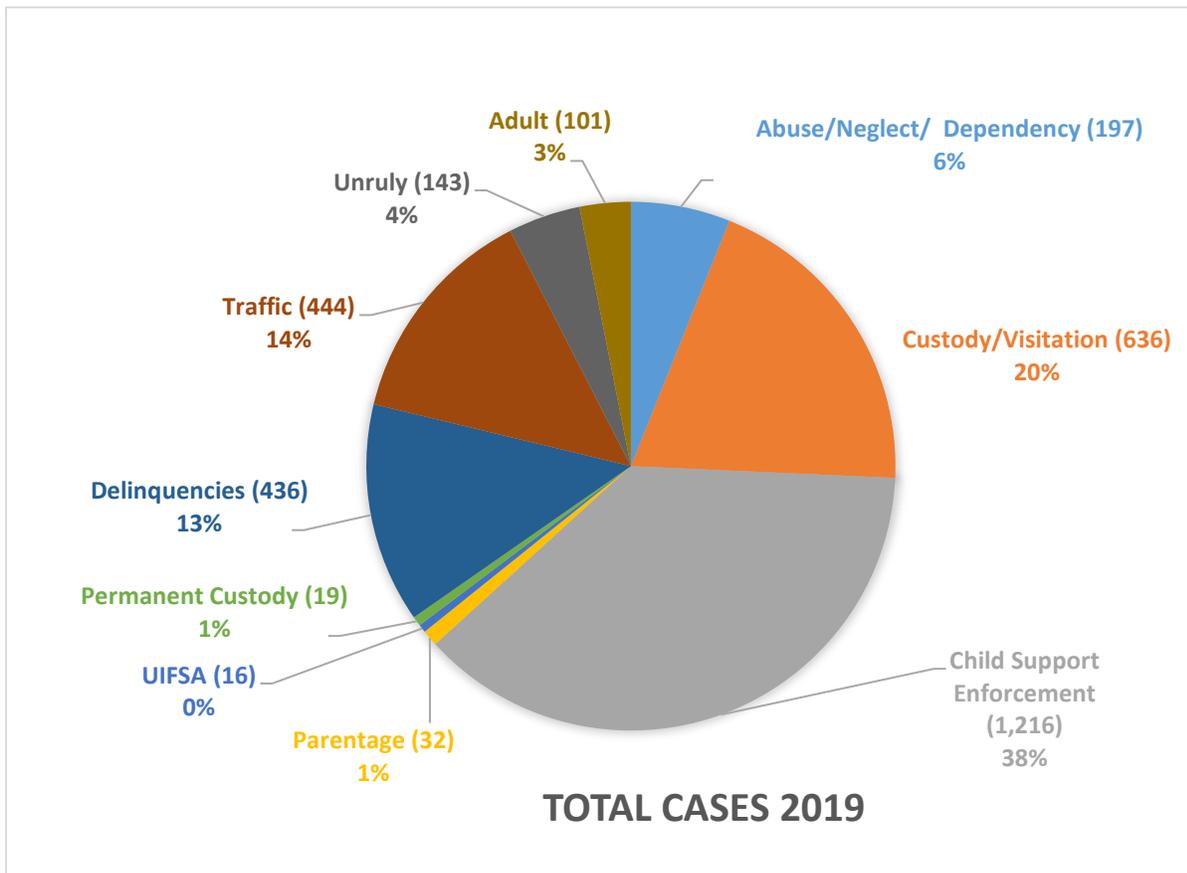


## Court Services - Clerk's Office

The clerk's office is responsible for handling all the paperwork related to any court case. It accepts the filings, schedules hearings, certifies all orders, processes all the paperwork, acts as court reporters and generally maintains all case records. Under the direction of Chief Deputy Clerk, Nicole Rodriguez and with the help of four full-time and one part-time clerk, the office serves all the clients of the Court. The 2019 FTE [full time equivalent] employees in the Juvenile Clerk's office of 5.5 employees for 2019 is a reduction from previous years of 8 FTEs. This reduction has come at a significant savings to the taxpayers of Miami County. The court has been able to accomplish this reduction of staff through the use of technology, and a highly trained and dedicated staff.

### 2019 Court Activity

Total Cases Filed	3240
Total Cases Terminated	2762



## Juvenile Probation

The Miami County Juvenile Probation Department's mission is to encourage youth to behave responsibly, and ensure the community safety through the enforcement of court orders and terms of probation. The probation department engages youth through the combination of evidence based practices, incentivized goals, and collaborations with local agencies and schools. The probation department also offers skill streaming groups for youth and parents on probation. These groups allow families to gain knowledge and skills that will make them less likely to recidivate and be back before the court on additional complaints. Through a combination of enforcing court orders, and addressing issues with the youth, the probation department hopes to work with these adolescents in changing their behavior.

The probation staff has 5 full-time probation officers, 1 probation assistant, and a full and-part-time community service supervisor. This staff is compared to 2018 when the probation department consisted of 7 full-time probation officers, 1 probation assistant, and a full and part-time community service supervisor. The probation department has been able to serve the needs of the youth and their families by utilizing a team-based approach to serving the community. In addition, for the first time, the probation department has offered online courses to both youth and their parents. This service has proven to be a great way to provide education for families. These online classes allow families to access resources from their home. This is very accommodating to families that have barriers of finances, and transportation.

To achieve the mission the department maintains the following components:

- A Diversion program for first time offenders, which includes an array of education and mental health services to assist families in addressing communication and behavior problems
- An assessment of the youth's level of risk and dispositional recommendations with individualized treatment plans using multiple modes of intervention
- Specialized supervision of sex offenders and youth in specialized out-of-home placements
- Probation supervision which concentrates on changing behavior and improving pro-social skills through individualized treatment planning and using community resources. Working with parents, officers monitor court orders to assure accountability
- House Arrest Monitoring Program which supervises youth placed on house arrest during weekend and evening hours
- Community Service Program which gives youth the opportunity to participate in supervised work projects which benefits the community

- Utilization of Carey Guides with our youth and families. This is an evidence-based practice, which helps address and educate youth on the reasons that they have made the decisions that lead them on Probation.
- Facilitation of groups by probation staff, with referrals being made by probation and the Court. These groups serve as potentially beneficial interventions for both youth and parents.

Under the direction of Scott Auxier, Chief Probation Officer, the probation department has seven full time probation officers, one probation assistant, one full-time and one part-time community service youth supervisors.

### 2019 Assessment Statistics

Miami County Juvenile Court utilizes a risk assessment to help determine the appropriate disposition and level of services. These assessments provide the Court with the level of risk that a youth poses, as well as with dispositional recommendations based on individualized treatment plans using multiple modes of intervention.

<b>Assessment statistics</b>	
Total	56
Boys	38
Girls	18

<b>Offense Type</b>	
Misdemeanor	41
Felony	7
Unruly/Truancy (first time)	0
Unruly	8
Traffic	0

<b>Children not placed on probation</b>	
Total Referred to outside services	26
Number recidivated	2

<b>City of Residence</b>	
Piqua	15
Troy	23
Tipp	5
Milton	1
Bradford	1
Covington	2
Other	9

<b>Disposition</b>	
Probation	28
Other	26
DYS	0
Lived out of county	2
WC Rehab	0
Pending	0

<b>Intakes by Charge</b>		Receiving Stolen Property	0
Unruly/truancy	8	Theft	1
CCW	1	Obstruction/falsification/Resisting	0
Criminal Trespass	1	Menacing	1
Criminal Damaging	1	Kidnapping	1
Tampering with Property	1	Drug Abuse/Possession	1
Unauthorized Use	1	Drug Paraphernalia	2
Assault/Agg Assault	9	Domestic Violence	7
UAC/Possession	2	Robbery	0
Disorderly	5	Arson related	1
Burglary	0	Weapon on School	2
B & E (or attempted)	0	Inducing Panic	0
Contempt	0	Trafficking	1
Make false alarm	5	Public Indecency	0
Furn Alcohol Minor	1	Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1
Telephone Harassment	2	Misuse of Credit Card	1
Safecracking	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>

### 2019 Probation Department

<b>Probation Assignments</b>	
Boys	30
Girls	11
Caucasian	33
African American	7
Other	1
Felony	11
Misdemeanor	18
Unruly	2
Traffic	0
Total Youth Ordered	41
Total Youth From Previous Year	52
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>93</b>

<b>Probation by Age</b>	
11-under	0
12&13	3
14&15	18
16 and up	20

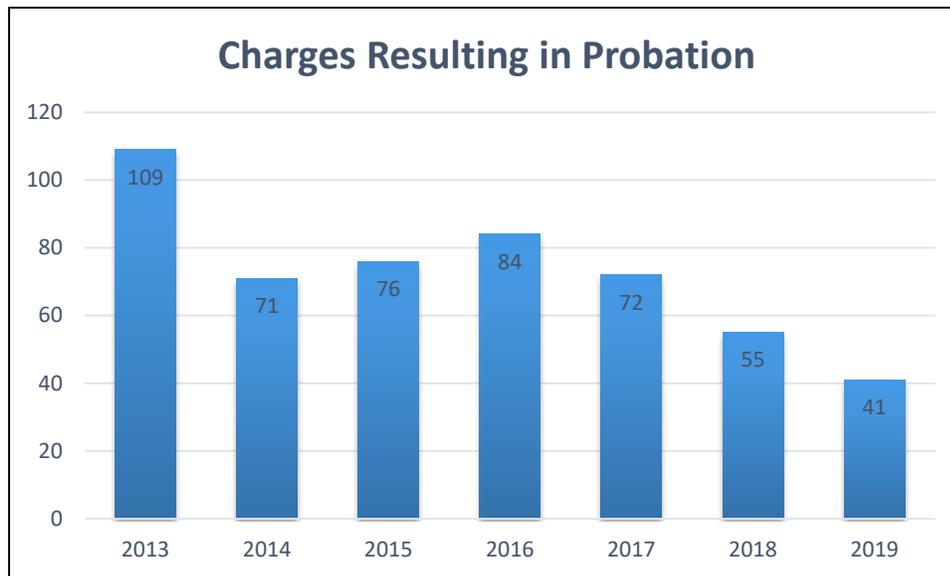
<b>Probation by City</b>	
Piqua	16
Troy	19
Tipp	3
Milton/Ludlow/Laura	2
Bradford/Covington/P Hill	1
Other	0

<b>School</b>	
Troy High School	10
Troy Jr High	3
Piqua High School	10
Piqua Jr High	0
Tipp High	4
Miami East High	4
Miami East Jr High	2
Upper Valley Career Center	0
Milton Union Middle School	3
Milton Union High School	1
Miami Valley Career Tech	0
Covington High School	2
Covington Middle School	0
Graduated/GED	0
Newton	0
Bethel High School	0
Home schooled	0
Other	2

<b>Dept. Charges filed by</b>	
Piqua	7
Troy	14
Tipp	3
West Milton	1
MCSO	2
Covington	0
Probation Officer	2
Other	2
School (THS/TJHS)	0

<b>Charges resulting in Probation</b>	
Arson	0
Drug Trafficking	0
Drug/Alcohol Possession	3
Kidnapping	1
Criminal Damage/mischief/Vandalism	1
Breaking Entering/Burglary	0
Weapon on School Grounds	1
Disorderly Conduct	5
Unruly/truancy/curfew	3
Theft related	1
Contempt of Court	2
Assault	5
Tampering	1
Unauthorized use of MV	1
Furnishing alcohol to a minor	1
Domestic Violence	5
Menacing	3
Obstruction/Resisting	1
Sex Offenses	7
<b>Total Charges</b>	<b>41</b>

<b>Felony Charges</b>	
Rape	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	4
Burglary	0
Kidnapping/abduction	1
Breaking Entering	0
Theft	2
Aggravated Assault	1
Robbery	0
Weapon on School	0
Drug trafficking	0
Drug Abuse	0
CCW	0
Vandalism	0
Domestic Violence	0
Fleeing/Alluding	1
Inducing Panic	0
Receiving Stolen Property	1
<b>Total Charges</b>	<b>11</b>



## Child Placement Services

Miami County Juvenile Court Probation Department may take custody/care and control of an adjudicated unruly or delinquent youth when the parent is unable to effectively parent or manage the child’s behavioral problems. The child can be placed in an out-of-home setting such as foster care or residential treatment. This decision is only made when the Probation Department has made reasonable efforts to prevent placement and the Court determines it is in the child’s best interest to live away from their parent or guardian.

In 2012, Miami Juvenile Court Probation Department became a Title IV-E certified court. Title IV-E is a federal program that subsidizes the cost of out-of-home care for eligible youth. The goal of the program is to reduce the reliance on out-of-home care and encourage the use of preventative and reunification services. Through this program the Court acts as a child service agency and provides services which are individualized and in the best interest of a child. To be eligible for this program, each Court must be approved by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and must comply with federal and state regulations.

If a child in custody meets income eligibility, the Court can receive reimbursement for some of the foster care maintenance costs and reimbursement for administrative and training costs related to serving youth at risk for placement. The Court utilizes FFP funds to improve services to children and youth services in Miami County, with special emphasis given to specialized placements for high risk youth and reducing the number of placements in state funded Correctional Institutions.

2019 Care & Control Statistics

<b>Placed in Care and Control</b>	<b>2019</b>
Boys	0
Girls	0
Caucasian	0
African American	0
Other	0
IV(e) eligible	0

Total Youth entering care in current year	0
Youth in care from Previous Year	1
Youth released from care in current year	0
Youth still in care at end of year	1
Total Served in care/control	1

<b>Charges resulting in Care/Control</b>	
PV/Contempt	0
Fleeing/Alluding Police	0

<b>Where placed</b>	
MARSH	0
Abraxas	0
Foundations for living	0
Mohican Youth	0
Michael's Group Home	0
Buckeye Ranch	0

<b>Released from custody during year to :</b>	
Parental Home	0
Relative Placement	1
MCCSB	0
Other Custodian	0

<b>Age</b>	
12/13	0
14/15	0
16 & up	1

## Alternatives to Detention

House arrest and electronic home monitoring are two alternatives that allow a youth to remain in the community yet restrict a youth's movement within the community. These strategies allow a youth to continue to live at home and attend school, jobs, counseling and other approved activities. These programs serve as a short-term sanction and remind juveniles that they need to pay attention to curfews and other court imposed expectations. House arrest is less restrictive and relies heavily on a youth's compliance, parental participation and monitoring. Electronic home monitoring uses an ankle bracelet technology that detects movement and alerts probation officers when a child is engaging in activity away from approved venues. Both approaches are used extensively by probation officers to enhance supervision.

## Electronic Home Monitoring

The Electronic Home Monitoring Program is one that uses ankle bracelets to allow the probation department to know the whereabouts of the child at all times. This program allows the probation department the ability to monitor the youth's whereabouts. It gives the youth the ability to remain in their home while remaining a part of the community. Youth in the EHMA program are typically permitted to attend school and other supportive outlets including counseling, behavior groups and community service.

### 2019 Electronic Home Monitoring

Boys	26
Girls	16
Caucasian	36
African American	6
Other	0
Felony	8
Misdemeanor	34
Unruly	0
Traffic	0
Terminated Unsuccessfully	2
Terminated Successfully	40
Total Youth Ordered	42
<b>TOTAL YOUTH SERVED</b>	<b>42</b>
Average days on EMHA	26

## House Arrest Monitoring Program

The probation department does random, unscheduled visits to the home of youth placed under an order of House Arrest by the Court in order to determine their compliance with the Court's orders. In addition to monitoring youth's compliance with the Court's orders it also allows the probation officers to have a more visible presence after "traditional Court hours", in the evenings and on weekends.

### 2019 House Arrest Monitoring

Boys	76
Girls	51
Caucasian	103
African American	23
Other	1
Felony	25
Misdemeanor	95
Unruly	7
Traffic	0
Terminated Unsuccessfully	28
Terminated Successfully	99
<b>Total Youth Ordered</b>	<b>127</b>
still on house arrest	0
# of Compliance Checks done by PO's	440
# of man hours PO spent doing HA checks after hours/weekends	168
Average length of time on HA	45 days

## Piqua Office

The Piqua Probation Office is located at 110 S. Wayne Street in downtown Piqua. To reach the Piqua office call 937-615-0657. This office is used by probation officers to conduct visits with youth and their families and to provide group treatment programming. The office was remodeled in 2017 and equipped with smartboards using a state grant.



## Diversion Services

The Court uses the Diversion Program as an alternative to formal court proceedings. All charges against first-time offenders are reviewed by Krista Hoying to assess whether diversion is appropriate. Only specific types of charges, such as unruly offenses, (school truancy, running away, curfew violations, tobacco offenses or violating the rules set by their parents or school officials), as well as minor delinquencies such as petty theft, disorderly conduct, criminal trespassing and criminal damaging are diversion eligible. This year the diversion program was increased to include drug and alcohol complaints. The Court has been expanding its diversion to include sexting type cases. The youth and their parents are given the opportunity to participate in educational groups as an alternative to appearing in court. Youth are also offered volunteer opportunities to assist in redirecting behavior. When youth and families complete the program, the original citation or complaint is sealed and never filed with the Court.

As a component of diversion youth are to provide \$25 worth of can goods to the St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen. In 2019 youth donated \$1,985 worth of food.

### 2019 Diversion Program

<b>Family Diversion</b>	
Retained from Previous Year	58
Filed this year	227
Successfully Completed	204
Declined Services	0
Inappropriate for Service	0
Unsuccessful	36
Total Pending at end of year	46
<b>Total Served</b>	<b>285</b>

<b>Truancy Charges</b>	
# sent to diversion	56
# of diversion cases	
Succ	37
Unsucc	19
# of adjudicated truancy charges	13

<b>Offenses referred in 2019</b>	Successful	Unsuccessful	Pending
Curfew	15	1	0
Tobacco	12	0	0
Unruly	66	12	0
Theft related	13	1	0
Truancy	37	19	0
Assault	16	1	0
Criminal Damaging/Mischief	8	0	0
Menacing	0	1	0
Disorderly Conduct	18	3	0
Inducing Panic	1	0	0
Disseminating	3	0	0
Pandering	25	0	0
Open Cont/Possession/UAC	7	0	0
Drug Abuse/Possession	7	0	0
Tampering with property	13	2	0
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	0	1	0
Dog at Large	1	0	0
Poss Criminal Tools	2	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>

## Community Service/Restitution

The Community Service Program is designed for youth that have been ordered by the Court to perform community service hours as a consequence for their behavior. The program also serves as an opportunity to educate and mentor youth. The Work Opportunity program allows youth to work to reimburse victims for their losses. The purpose of the program is to hold juveniles accountable for their actions by requiring them to participate in a work program that gives back to the community. It is also intended to promote appropriate work and employment skills. Both youth on formal probation and those informally supervised by the Court can be enrolled in the program.

Youth work at sites in the community and are supervised by part-time and court staff. Work is scheduled so as not to interfere with school, occurring late afternoon, weekends, and on school vacations. Efforts are made to enroll youth in sites within their home communities. The program has 13 sites including local nursing homes, city and county municipal buildings, and football stadiums. In 2019, 416 youth provided 1560 hours of service to the community.

### 2019 Community Service Program

<b>Program admissions</b>	
Boys	238
Girls	178
Felony	15
Misdemeanor	225
Unruly	67
Traffic	0
Diversion	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>

## 2019 Crops for Change Program

In 2016, the Court re-introduced “Crops for Change”. This project was originally conceptualized by Miami County Juvenile Court Magistrate Katherine Kemp Severt. The youth plant, weed, water, and harvest crops, consisting of a variety of vegetables including peppers, cabbage, and tomatoes. After harvest, the juveniles make salsa which they share with staff and other county employees. This experience helps the participating juveniles understand the growth cycle of plants and that food doesn’t have to come from the grocery. It also enables them to see their hard work provides food to those families in need. In 2019, 19 youth participated in this project.

Funding for the program comes from the Department of Youth Services Reclaim Grant.



## Community Partnerships

Miami County Juvenile Court has developed many partnerships with community agencies to provide services to the youth involved with the Court. Through contracts with the Court, these agencies provide needed services developed specially for the Court involved youth and their parents. Juveniles are ordered into these programs according to their needs.

## Contract Services

- ❖ Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment provided by contract with Kate Benton, a licensed sex offender therapist. Youth convicted of a sexual offense receive assessment, outpatient group and individual treatment on a weekly basis. In 2019, seven (7) youth were assessed.
- ❖ HEALTH class is provided by contract with Miami County Recovery Council. This program works with first time offenders who have come before the Court on an alcohol or substance abuse charge. The program includes an all-day educational session, a substance use assessment, and a parent component. In 2019, 38 youth successfully completed this program. A total of nine (9) groups were held.
- ❖ Shoplifters Group is provided by contract with the Miami County Recovery Council. The Recovery Council provides a home study course and a one-day educational class for youth involved in shoplifting. The sessions help youth understand the dynamics of shoplifting and why they have chosen this risky behavior. The course strives to help youth get better control of their lives and change these destructive and unlawful behaviors. In 2019, 14 youth were served in this program. A total of six (5) groups were held.
- ❖ Independent Living is provided by contract with the local Ohio State University Extension Office. Program consists of 8 weekly classes that teach and demonstrate skills that are important to aid in their transition into adulthood. Program is geared toward youth ages 15-18. Skills covered in these groups include health and safety, housing and meal prep, job readiness, financial management, life decisions and responsibilities, and personal and social relationships. In 2019, four (4) groups were held, educating 23 youth.
- ❖ Anger Management Group is designed to address the lack of skills/competencies to appropriately express and deal with anger as well as conflict resolution skills. The goal is to provide education, intervention and usable skills to youth who are struggling with anger management issues in order to assist them in the reduction or elimination of their involvement in violent or aggressive behaviors. This ten week group is facilitated by Megan Landis, a probation officer with the assistance of a doctorate level psychiatric intern assigned to the Court. In 2019, 29 youth participated in the group.
- ❖ Outreach is provided by contract with Miami County Recovery Council to provide on- going education, intervention and usable skills to youth age 13-18 who are struggling with substance abuse issues. The goal of the group is to provide information and increase the youth's knowledge of their own personal use patterns as well as teaching skills to assist them in decreasing or eliminating their own use of substances and to decrease their risk of addiction and future substance abuse related offenses. In 2019, 19 youth participated in Outreach.

- ❖ Parent Project is a nationally recognized educational and support program for parents and guardian. This program offers guidance and real applicable lessons and skills for parents who are having difficulty with their children. These skills can be used with children who are exhibiting both unruly and delinquent behavior. The class is 10 weeks in length with 24 hours total in classroom time. This is facilitated by trained probation staff.
- ❖ Psychological Services are provided through contracts with licensed psychologists. Psychological evaluations are performed to provide the Court with needed assessments integral to further court treatment plans. Forensic evaluations are also provided. These are required when deciding if a youth should be tried as an adult, and whether the child is competent to stand trial.
- ❖ Collaboration with Wright State's Psychology Department to provide a Doctoral Student Candidate to be at the Court a couple of days per week, under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Liptak. This student assesses, counsels, attends treatment team meetings, and facilitates groups. This partnership allows the probation department and the Court the ability to offer supportive services to families that normally would be difficult to attain.

### **Shared Placements**

Placement services are provided for youth who receive assistance from multiple agencies, such as **Miami County Children Services, Riverside Developmental Disabilities, and Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health**. The Court shares in the placement costs of some youth in the custody of Children Services who are also involved with the Court. Youth are placed in various types of settings including foster care, group homes, and residential treatment. In 2019, Juvenile Court contributed \$15,597.63 in shared funding for the placement of two youth.

### **Guardian Ad Litem**

Juvenile Court provides funding to **CASA/GAL OF MIAMI COUNTY** to provide advocacy services on behalf of abused and neglected children. The advocates, specially trained volunteers serving as Guardian ad Litem (GAL), represent the best interest of children involved in dependency, neglect, and abuse cases for which placement is being determined by the Court, and, any other case where permanent custody has been filed. CASA/GAL OF MIAMI COUNTY is a private non-profit agency. In 2019, 49 volunteers served 194 children, up from 2018, when 47 volunteers served 166 children.

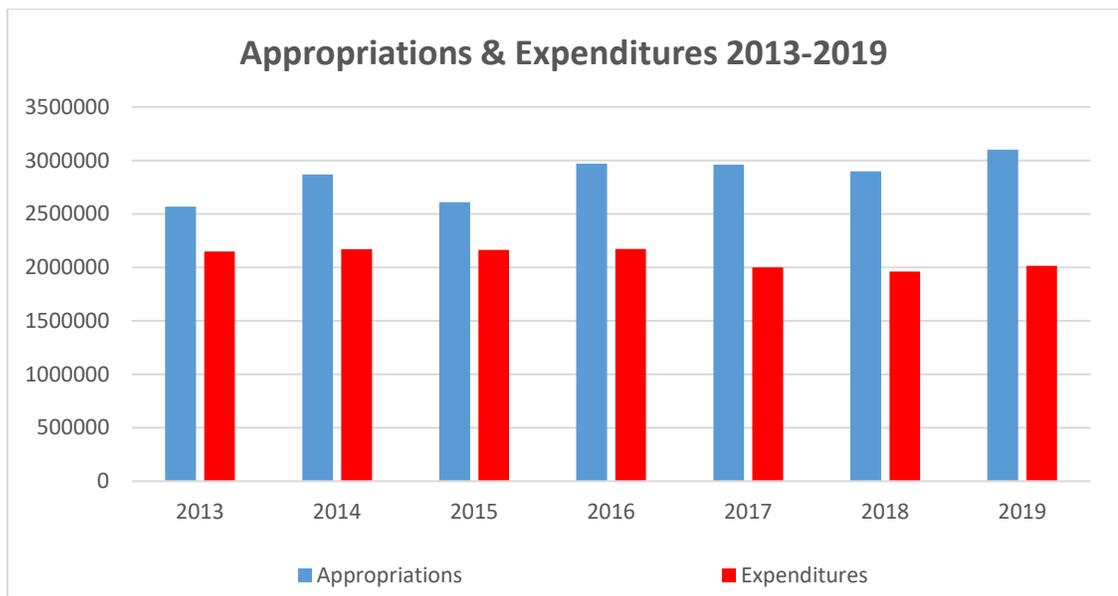
The Court also may provide an attorney to represent the child.

## Financial Report

Miami County Juvenile Court receives funding from a variety of sources including the Miami County General Fund, the Department of Youth Services, and various federal and state grants.

	Appropriations & Carryover	Expenditures
General Fund - Juvenile Court	\$1,236,524.90	\$1,109,465.58
General Fund - Juvenile Probation	\$ 673,670.07	\$ 408,965.46
General Fund - Juvenile Probation (Special Int. Prg.)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Felony Delinquent Care and Custody	\$ 512,554.52	\$ 350,417.58
Juv. Probation Title IV-E Administration	\$ 300,048.39	\$ 79,704.20
Juv. Probation Title IV-E Maintenance	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -
Juv. Court Child Support Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Juv. Computerization	\$ 58,725.00	\$ 51,255.72
Special Projects - General	\$ 110,501.20	\$ 9,171.67
Legal Research	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 5,971.35
Indigent Driver Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,103,024.08</b>	<b>\$2,014,951.56</b>

\*Does not include Budgets of West Central Detention, and West Central Rehabilitation Center



## Fines and Court Costs

Fines and court costs are ways to hold youth and adults accountable for their actions. Miami County Juvenile Court believes that these fines and costs should be assessed to youth and they are encouraged to pay their own costs. Adults who are convicted in this court are also assessed fines and costs. Juvenile Court has taken an aggressive stance in an effort to collect fines and court costs. Fines are assessed and collected immediately after court hearings. When individuals cannot pay immediately, a payment plan is established. Fines and costs are dispersed to the general fund and to other agencies as defined by law. Failure to pay fines can result in further court hearings and/or a suspension of driver's license.

### 2019 FINES & COURT COSTS COLLECTED

COURT COSTS	46,519.50
COMPUTER FEES	11,645.00
LEGAL RESEARCH	2,484.00
SHERIFF FEES	829.00
LAW LIBRARY	1,250.00
COUNTY FINES	6,651.63
MOTOR VEHICLE FINES	2,175.37
COUNTY DRUG FINES	315.00
SHERIFF DRUG FINES	25.00
COPY SERVICE	523.70
WITNESS FEES	28.50
SPECIAL PROJECT - GEN	23,580.15
DRUG TESTING	1,160.00
P.D. APPLICATION FEE	1,657.00
P.D. RECOUP FEES	0.00
TOBACCO FEES	0.00
IDAT	459.00
STATE OF OHIO	18,357.80
BOARD OF PHARMACY	75.00
ARRESTING AGENCY	175.00
SUNDRIES	734.00
BONDS RECEIVED	0.00
DEPOSIT RECEIVED	545.00
TOTALS	119,189.65



## **West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center**

The West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center is a state-of-the-art, secure residential facility for 32 juvenile boys, who have committed felonies. Youth go through a rigorous re-socialization program designed to correct flawed thought processes which contributed to their criminal behavior. The center has a specialized sex offender treatment program. All boys receive an individualized academic educational plan, family and individual counseling and intensive supervision. The average length of stay is six months to one year.

The Center's 2019 budget was \$1,843,492. The Ohio Department of Youth Services provides funding for the center. Local Counties are debited from their RECLAIM Allocation through the Ohio Department of Youth Services for youth placed at the center. Local school districts pay per school day to support educational programming.

Located on 25A in Troy, the West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center serves Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby, and Miami counties providing Juvenile Judges a local alternative to committing youth to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Center also takes boys from other counties in the state if there is space available. Gary Link is the Director of the Center.

**Admissions: 23**

**Releases: 26**

Successful: 19      Unsuccessful: 3      withdrawn prior to completion: 4

<b>County</b>	<b># boys</b>	<b>County</b>	<b># boys</b>
Allen	1	Licking	1
Auglaize	7	Mercer	0
Champaign	2	Miami	4
Clark	3	Preble	1
Delaware	1	Shelby	1
Greene	1		
Harrison	1		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

<b>Age at Admission</b>	
12 years	0
13 years	0
14 years	2
15 years	5
16 years	9
17 years	6
18 years	1

<b>Felony Level</b>	
F-5	6
F-4	3
F-3	6
F-2	5
F-1	3

<b>Committing Offense</b>	
Assault	1
Agg Drug Possession	2
Agg Vehicular Assault	1
Abduction	2
Disseminating Harm Mat	1
Domestic Violence	1
Failure to Comply	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	3
Illegal Conv of Weapon	1
Pandering by Obscenities	2
Rape	4
Tampering w/ evidence	1
Theft	2
Unauth Use	1

<b>Race</b>	
Caucasian	20
Other	3

<b>Average Length of Stay</b>	
Sex Offender Program	437 days
General Offender Program	222 days



## **WEST CENTRAL JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center is a secure holding facility serving youth from Auglaize, Clinton, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble, Shelby and Van Wert counties. The Center can house up to 44 boys and girls who will attend school year-round, undergo counseling and psychological assessments as needed. All youth participate in a variety of treatment and educational programming while detained.

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center opened in January 1993 as a 24-bed facility and later added a 20-bed pod. The 2019 operational expenses were \$1,769,103. All operational funding comes from the counties utilize the facility with no contribution from the Miami county General Fund.

West Central JDC provides youth with all the basic necessities. The residents receive three hot meals a day; they have structured gym exercise every day and attend an on-site school Monday through Friday. Youth must participate in-group programs such as: anger management, substance abuse, health & hygiene, Planned Parenthood, life choices, and receive education on various topics from community leaders, and motivational speakers. The youth have the option to participate in a bible study program and to attend a Sunday morning service while at the Center. There are visitation appointments for parents to visit three times per week. The residents may make phone calls at designated times and are provided all the necessary materials for writing letters to family.

The West Central JDC also provides a prevention program called STAR (Start Today Accepting Responsibility). This program is for “high risk” youth between ages 12 – 17 who must be referred from a Juvenile Court to be eligible for the realistic tour of the detention center. At least one parent must attend the program with the youth and remain on site at West Central JDC for the two-hour program. STAR is free of charge to the courts under contract to the courts under contract with West Central JDC.

The West Central JDC is located in the Miami County Government Complex at 2044 North County Road 25A, north of Troy. Lance Ray is the Superintendent of Detention.

<b>County</b>	<b>WCJDC</b>	<b>Auglaize</b>	<b>Clarke</b>	<b>Clinton</b>	<b>Darke</b>	<b>Mercer</b>	<b>Miami</b>	<b>Preble</b>	<b>Shelby</b>	<b>Van Wert</b>
Male	577									
Female	184									
Intakes	761	175	2	45	103	9	195	103	123	43
Total Days in Detention	9,986	2,010	96	811	1,710	818	2,810.00	679	2,306.00	830
Average Length of Stay Days	13.1	11.3	48	16.6	16.2	9.2	13.1	6.6	18.7	18.9
Average Age	15.8	15.6	16.7	15.8	15.8	16.1	15.8	16.4	15.7	15.2

**West Central Juvenile Detention Center 2019**

**Miami County Juvenile Court**  
**2019 Annual Report Statistical Summary**

**Cases Filed in 2019**

<b>Cases Filed/Transferred In</b>	
Delinquent	436
Traffic	444
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	112
Unruly	277
Adult	101
Permanent Custody	541
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	643
Support Enforcement/Modifications	32
Parentage	16
UIFSA	10
Other	10
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>2634</b>

**Cases Terminated in 2019**

<b>Cases terminated by Case Type</b>	
Delinquent	471
Traffic	436
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	114
Unruly	284
Adult	93
Permanent Custody	12
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	588
Support Enforcement/Modification	696
Parentage	39
UIFSA	18
Other	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>2762</b>

**Cases Terminated by Type of Termination**

Trial by Judge	30
Trial by Magistrate	387
Dismissal	527
Admission by Judge	150
Admission by Magistrate	1390
Certification/Waiver Granted	0
Unavailability of Party for Trial	115
Transfers to another Court	64
Interlocutory Appeal	0
Other Terminations	99
<b>Total</b>	<b>2762</b>

**Types of Dispositions for Youth in 2019**

<b>Types of Dispositions</b>	
Bind over to adult court	0
Commitment to DYS	0
Detention	133
West Central Rehabilitation Center	5
Other CCF	0
Suspended commitment to DYS	13
Community Service	237
Probation	47
Electronic Home Monitoring	32
House Arrest	100
Temporary Custody CSB	74
Protective Supervision CSB	115
Permanent Custody CSB	10
Jail Sentence (Adult)	35
Restitution	20
Cases with Fines Assessed	383
Cases with costs Assessed	464
Waiver due to Indigence	431
Fines and Court costs	\$119,189.65

## Miami County Juvenile Court Important Phone Numbers

Judicial Assistant/Fiscal Officer – Hannah Parshall.....	440-3503
Juvenile Court Clerks Office (general information) .....	440-5970
Chief Deputy Clerk –Nicole Rodriguez.....	440-3533
Chief Probation Officer – Scott Auxier .....	440-5980
Court Administrator – J. Andrew Wannemacher.....	440-5990
West Central Detention Center - Lance Ray (Director).....	440-5428
West Central Rehabilitation Center –Gary Link (Director).....	440-5675

Please visit our web site at: [www.miamicountyohio.gov](http://www.miamicountyohio.gov)

### Printing Costs

Ohio Revised Code § 2151.18 requires that the Court include on each printed copy of the Annual Report the cost of each printed copy. The 2018 Annual Report was printed using the Court's color copier so no exact costs are associated with its printing. Only two printed copies are being made in order to satisfy the legal requirements that two copies remain on file with the Court, with distribution of the Annual Report being made electronically in order to minimize costs. The Annual Report can be found on the Court's web site at [www.miamicountyohio.gov/133/Juvenile](http://www.miamicountyohio.gov/133/Juvenile)