

# Miami County Juvenile Court

## 2021 Annual Report

### Judge Scott Altenburger



#### **Magistrates:**

Katherine Kemp Severt

Rebecca Hall

J. Andrew Wannemacher (Court Administrator)

#### **Chief Probation Officer:**

Scott Auxier

#### **Chief Deputy Clerk:**

Nicole Rodriguez

#### **Diversion/Truancy Coordinator:**

Brady Schnitzler

#### **Fiscal Officer:**

Hannah Parshall

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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's 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 Juvenile Court Judges, Ohio Association of Probate Court Judges, National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges and past member of the Ohio Magistrates Association and Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Judges.

He has been married for 33 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 former 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, custody, visitation, and child support

The Court also hears cases involving adults who contribute to the unruliness or delinquency of a minor, and those parents who fail to send their children to school as required by law.

The Court protects the interests and rights of our children and the public by holding youth accountable for their actions and providing services aimed at rehabilitating the youth and their families. 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.

The Court becomes involved with youth through various channels, including parents, school officials, law enforcement authorities, neighbors, the Child Protective Services Agency, and the Prosecutor's office.

Under the direction of Judge Scott Altenburger and with the support of two full-time magistrates and one part time magistrate, the Court provides a broad range of preventive services, interventions, and consequences. This report is intended to help you understand the children we serve and give you an overview of the services we provided in 2021.

## 2021 Updates



### Traffic Bureau

In 2021, the Court established a Traffic Bureau. A traffic bureau is a legislatively approved way of allowing the juvenile and parent to waive the court appearance, admit the offense, and pay the fine and court costs. While this is a normal occurrence in the adult traffic court, it was not in juvenile court. Implementation of the traffic bureau was, in part, a response to the Covid-19 pandemic which prompted the Court to reduce the number of persons personally appearing in Court. Additionally, it provides parents and juveniles an effective means of addressing minor traffic offenses in a prompt and convenient manner. Magistrate Hall who handles the traffic docket for the Court stated "The establishment of a Juvenile Traffic Violations Bureau has allowed first-time traffic offenders with minor infractions to accept responsibility and receive consequences without a formal court appearance. Juveniles and their parents appreciate the opportunity to resolve traffic tickets without missing school and work, and this process frees up limited docket time for more serious offenses."

## STAFFING CHANGES

In 2021, the Court like the rest of the country realized a large increase in staffing changes. In probation, the department hired four new probation officers.



Tony Petrovich



Abrina Nimer



Brooke Fields



Andre Hawes

Juvenile Clerk's office has added the following staff:



Christine Price



Kristen Wilson

Let's welcome the new staff as they learn the wonderful world of Juvenile Court.



## **Increase in Truancy Cases**

In 2021, the Court saw a significant increase in the number of truancy cases before the Court. When the Court receives a truancy complaint, the case is sent to diversion. If a child does not successfully complete the diversion requirements, the charge is officially filed and the child and parent must appear in court. In 2020, 43 cases were diverted with a 70% success rate. In 2021, there were 121 cases sent to diversion with a 48% success rate. Magistrate Severt who handles the truancy cases for the Court stated "The Covid-19 pandemic prompted schools to offer educational alternatives. Many parents selected on-line learning platforms which did provide the students with live, interactive, classes. Students and parents struggled with the technology and the requirements."



### **Child Support Contempt Cases**

Miami County Juvenile Court works with the Miami County Child Support Enforcement Agency to help with the enforcement of child support orders. The Miami County Child Support Enforcement Agency files contempts or imposition of sentences against individuals who are behind on their child support. The goal of these hearings is to bring about compliance with the child support order and get money to the parent, supporting the child. The pandemic brought about changes to these hearings. First, the Court started doing them by video, which cut down the number of individuals failing to appear; second, there is a greater number of available jobs, which increased the amount collected by the agency. Magistrate Wannemacher hears these cases and states "the Court uses a variety of different methods to collect as much child support as it can, attempting to work with each obligor to find out what their issue is and work towards resolving it."

## The Youth We Serve

### Juvenile Delinquency

In Ohio, a juvenile delinquent is defined as “.... [a]ny child, except a juvenile traffic offender, who violates any law of this state or the United States, or any ordinance of a political subdivision of the state, that would be an offense if committed by an adult;...” 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 the 2021 charges:

<b>Charges</b>	
Arson	4
Assault Misdemeanor	23
Assault Felony	4
Bike on Sidewalk	1
Breaking & Entering	1
Burglary & Agg Burglary	7
Carry/Concealed Weapon	0
Conspiracy	0
Contempt of Court Order	48
Counterfeiting	1
Convey Drugs	1
Criminal Damaging	9
Criminal Mischief	5
Cruelty to Animals	1
Discharge Fireworks	1
Disorderly Conduct	24
Disseminating Harmful Material	1
Domestic Violence	31
Driving Prohibitions	1
Drug Abuse	7
Drug Paraphernalia	11
Drug Possession	20
Drug Trafficking & Agg. Drug Trafficking	2
Failure to Comply	5
Falsification	0
Inducing/Inciting Panic or Violence	2
Harassment	1
Littering	1
Making False Alarm	2

Menacing & Agg. Menacing	17
Murder	0
Obstructing Official Business/Justice/Failure to disclose	6
Other Weapons Charges	1
Pandering	3
Parole Violations	1
Possession of Alcohol/Underage Consumption	10
Possession of Criminal Tools	1
Probation Violation	45
Public Indecency	1
Rape	1
Receiving Stolen Property	3
Resisting Arrest	2
Sexual Imposition & Gross Sexual Imposition	5
Telecommunication Fraud	2
Tobacco Violation	7
Tampering w/ Evidence/Property	1
Theft/Grand Theft Auto/Misuse of Credit Card/Identity	32
Toy on Sidewalk	1
Toy on Street	1
Trespassing/Criminal Trespassing	4
Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle/Property	8
Unruly	9
Vandalism	3
Voyeurism	1
Weapon on School Grounds	3
<b>Total Delinquency Charges</b>	<b>382</b>
<b>Total Delinquency Cases Filed or Reactivated</b>	<b>303</b>

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

- ◆ Place the child on community control which may include:
  - Probation supervision
  - Community service
  - Curfew
  - Drug/alcohol evaluation and monitoring
  - House arrest
  - Electronic home monitoring
- ◆ Commit the child to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (felony only)
- ◆ Commit the child to a Community Control Facility (felony only)
- ◆ Place the child in foster care or in a residential center
- ◆ Have the child attend a specific community program
- ◆ Require the child 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

## Unruly Child

An unruly child is defined by the Ohio Revised Code § 2151.02 as

- (a) Any child who does not submit to the reasonable control of the child's parents, teachers, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient;
- (b) Any child who is an habitual truant from school;
- (c) Any child who behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger the child's own health or morals or the health or morals of others;

The following is a summary of the 2021 unruly charges:

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### 2021 Unruly Charges Filed

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Truancy	65
Curfew Violations	10
Incorrigible	122
Behavior that injures health or morals	10
Tobacco Law Violations	15
Total Charges	222
Total Unruly Cases	244
<b>Total dispositions entered</b>	<b>244</b>

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

- ◆ Place child on community control which may include
  - Probation supervision
  - Community Service
- ◆ Suspend operator's license
- ◆ Commit the child to the temporary or permanent custody of the Court
- ◆ Require drug and alcohol evaluation, monitoring or treatment
- ◆ Require the child attend school, participate in an academic program or alternative school
- ◆ Require the child receive appropriate medical or psychological treatment or counseling

## Juvenile Traffic

The Court has jurisdiction over all traffic offenses committed by juveniles. These cases in 2021 included:

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### 2021 Traffic Charges Filed

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Speeding	204
Fail To Control/Reckless Operation	54
Failure to Maintain Distance	39
Seatbelt/Child Restraint	18
Disregarding Traffic Control Device (Sign/Lights)	26
Fail To Yield	27
Improper Backing, Turn or Lane Change	8
No OL/Permit/Allowing Unlicensed Driver to Drive	28
Driving Under Influence & Related	2
Driving Under Suspension	11
Fictitious/Expired/Missing	3
Plate/Registration/insurance	0
Probationary or temporary license restriction	11
No Head or Tail Lights	4
Leaving the Scene	2
Passing a School Bus	11
Drag Racing	1
Squealing Tires/Noise Ordinance	1
Motorcycle Helmet	0
Off Road Vehicle	0
Speed in School Zone	1
Passing Within 100 Feet	0
Distracted Driving/Texting	0
Marked Lanes	12
Unruly	1
Turn Signal Violation	1
Other	7
<b>Total Traffic Bureau Charges</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Total Traffic Charges</b>	<b>472</b>
<b>Total Traffic Cases</b>	<b>434</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.

## **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 Child Protective Services, law enforcement, and other social agencies.

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### **2021 Abuse, Neglect & Dependency Charges Filed**

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Abuse, Neglect and Dependency	134
Motion for Permanent Custody	10
Bridges Program	6
PPLA	5
Case Plan	145
VATC	2

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 Child Protective Services
- ◆ Remove the child from the home on a temporary basis and give custody to Child Protective 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 Child Protective 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.

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

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to determine custody, visitation (parenting time) and child support involving children whose parents were never married. Sometimes, this involves determining who the father of a child is. The Court also hears cases in which people, other than parents are seeking custody of a child.

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

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### **2021 Paternity, Custody, Visitation & Child Support Charges Filed**

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Custody/Visitation	572
Support Enforcement/Modifications	291
Admin cases with no hearings	566
Parentage	59
UIFSA	13

Caretaker Authorization	1
Grandparent Power of Attorney	26
Contempt (Child Support)	35
Contempt (Non-Child Support Imposition)	85
	43

## 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, failure to send a child to school and contempt of court from orders made by the Juvenile Court.

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### 2021 Adult Charges Filed

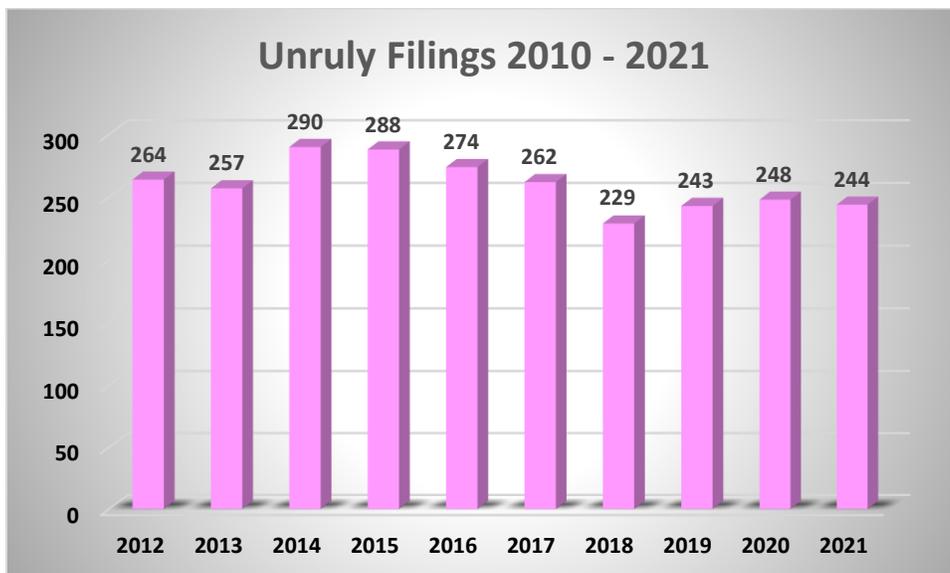
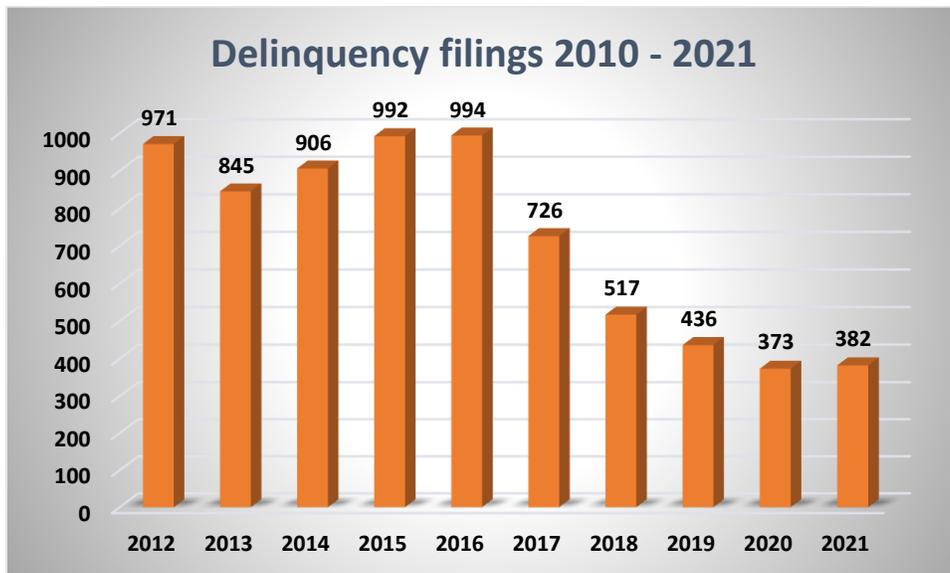
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Child Endangering	0
Contempt of Court	23
Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor	12
Failure to send to school	47
Imposition of sentence	1
<b>Adult charges filed</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Total Adult Criminal Cases Filed or Reactivated</b>	<b>89</b>

## 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, and motion to waive civil filing fees. In 2021, the court handled 10 such filings, including four civil protection cases.

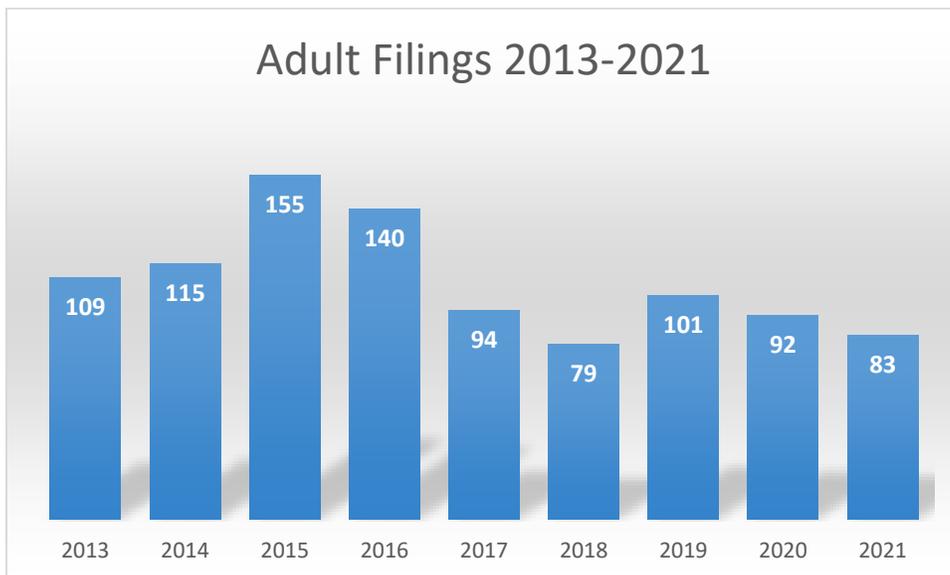
## Filing Trends 2012-2021



### Traffic Filings 2012-2021



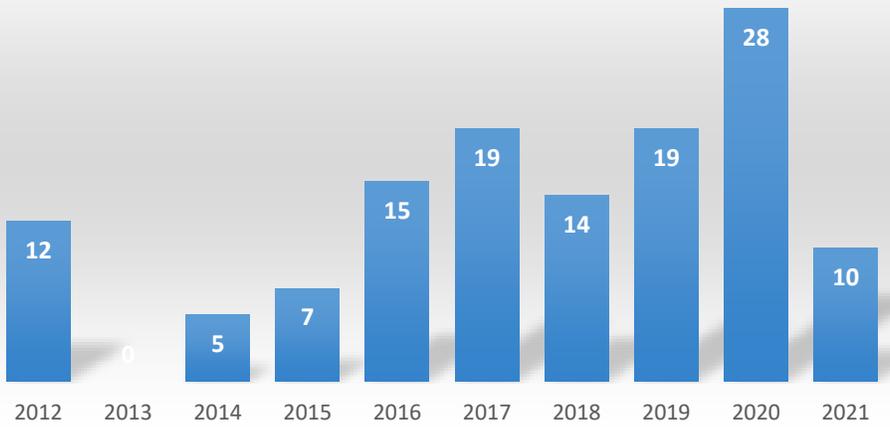
### Adult Filings 2013-2021



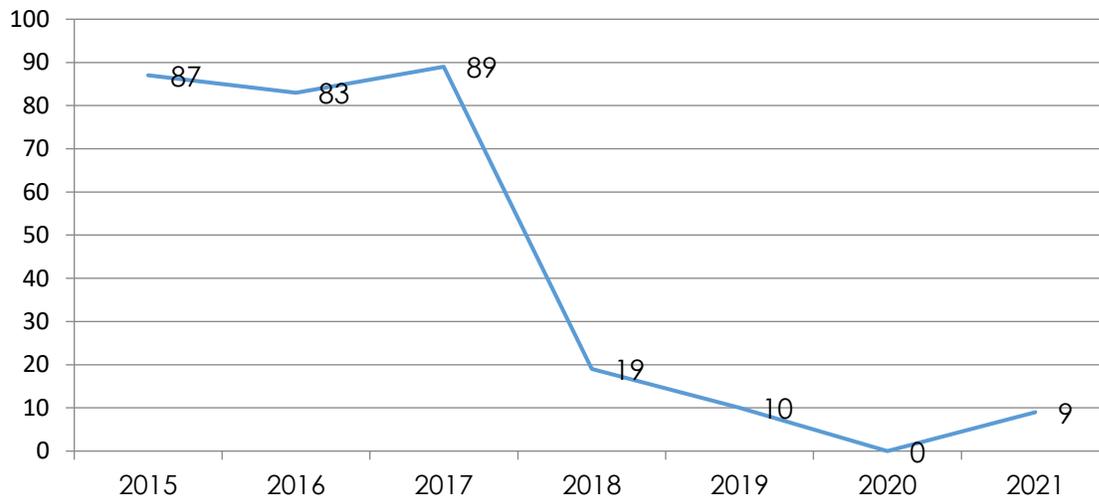
### Abuse/Neglect/Dependency 2012-2021



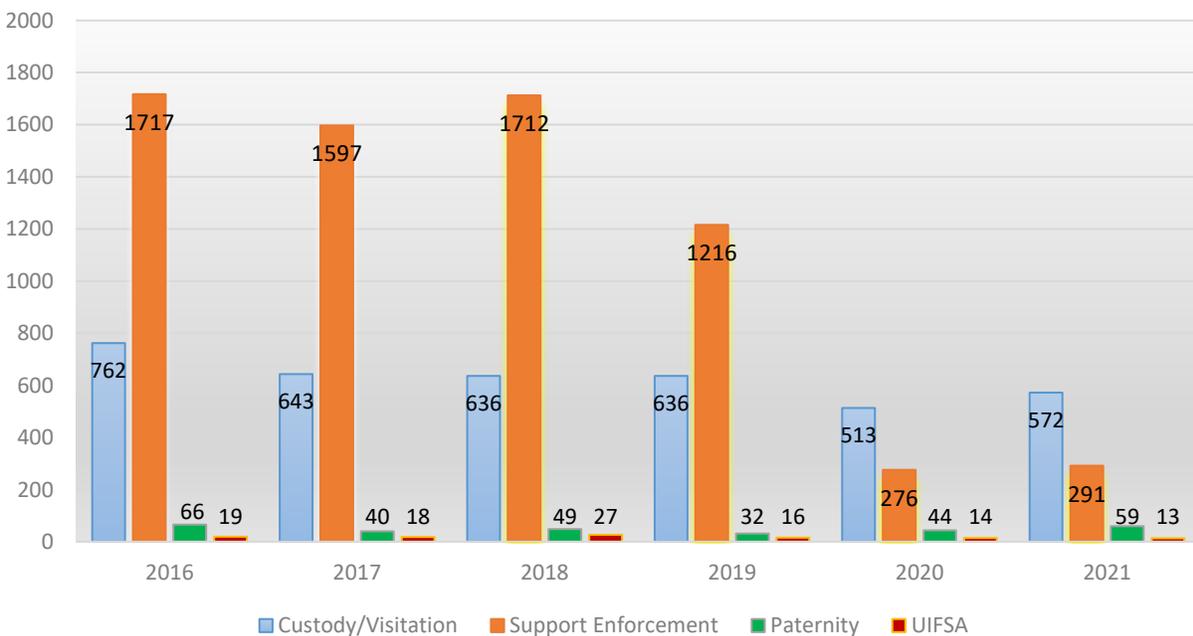
### Permanent Custody 2012-2021



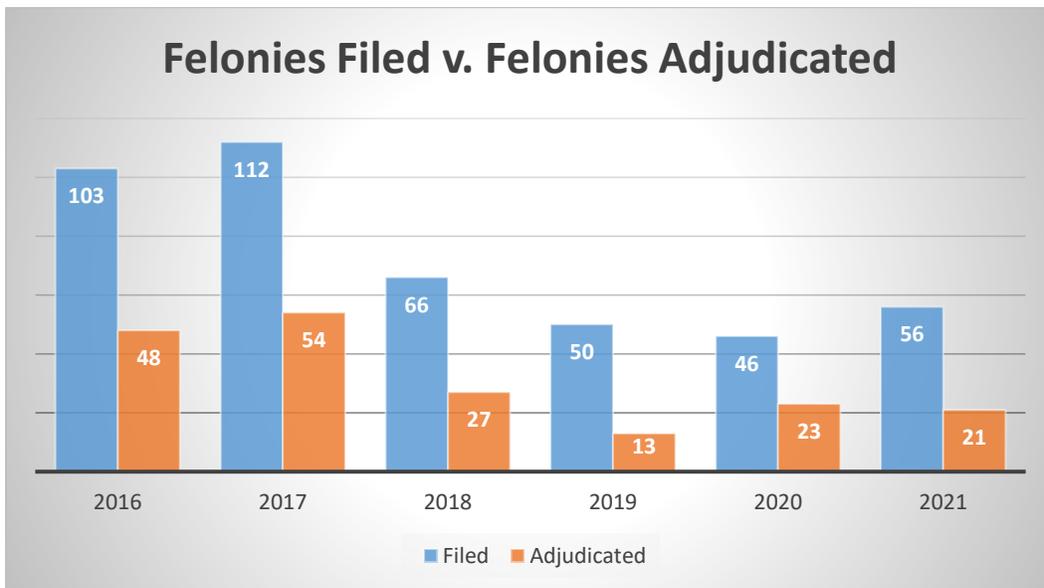
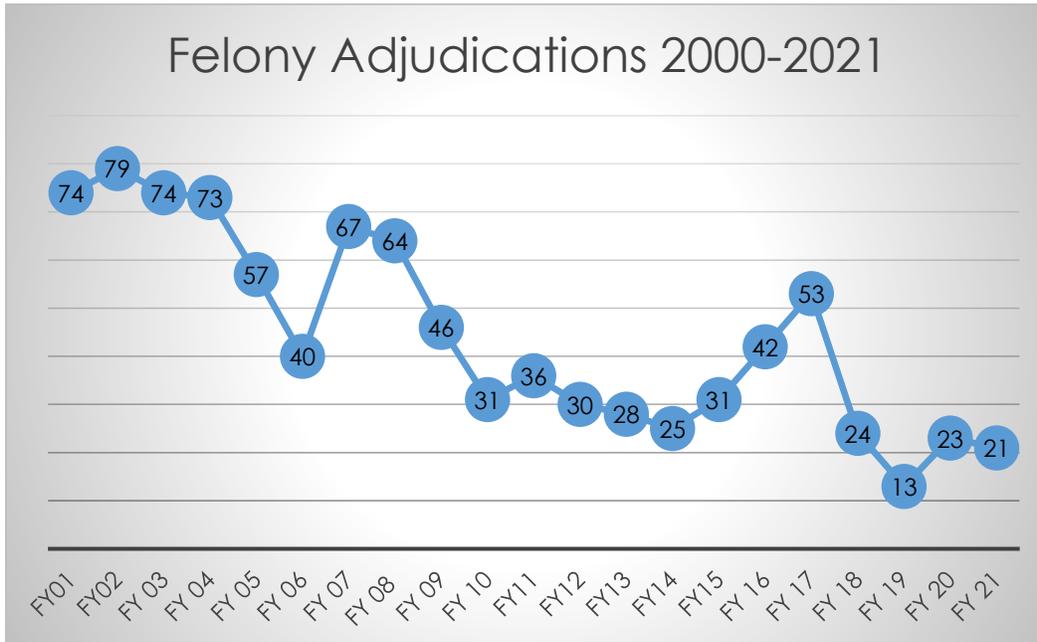
## Number of Cases Pending Beyond Supreme Court Time Guidelines



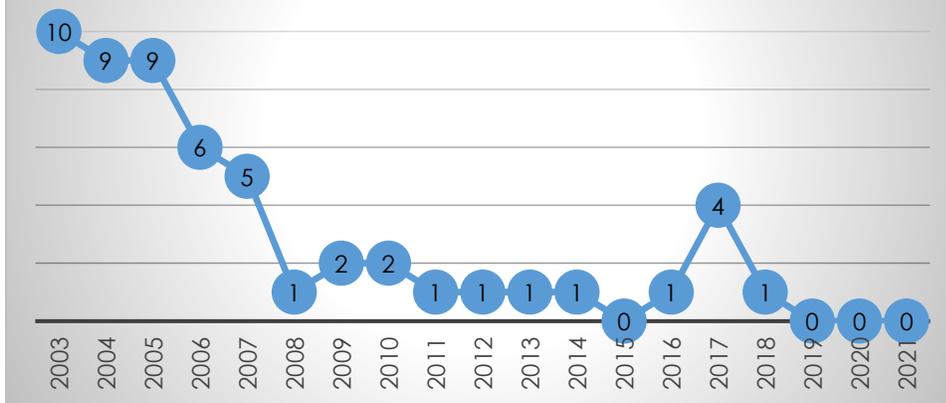
## Custody/Visitation, Child Support & Paternity



## Adjudication Trends

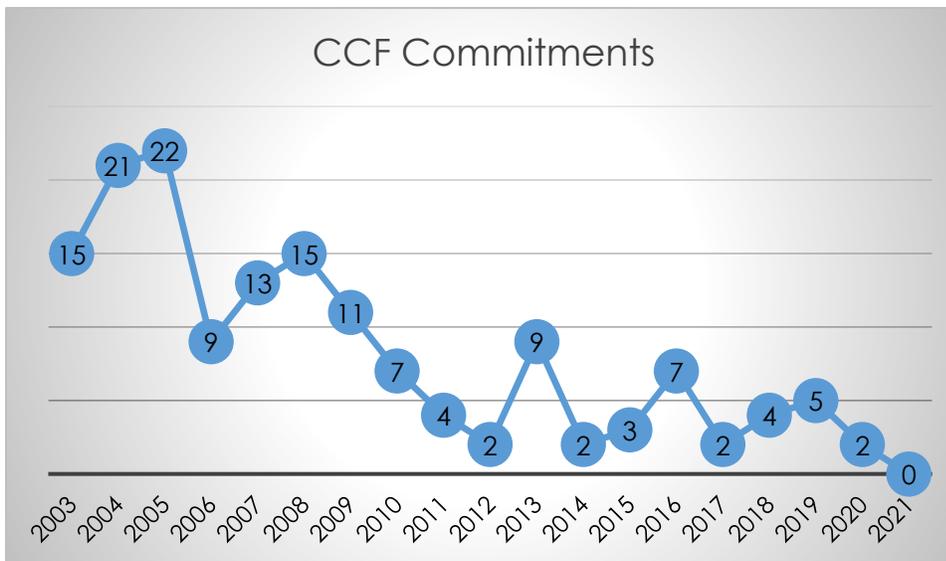


## DYS Commitments



The Ohio Department of Youth Services operates institutions (prisons) for youth that commit serious crime. The Court uses a commitment to DYS only if other dispositional options are not available.

## CCF Commitments



Community Control Facilities house youth that have committed felonies for generally a period of six to nine months.

The Ohio Department of Youth Services operates 11 CCFs (Community Correctional Facility) across the state. A CCF is a locked facility for youth that have committed a felony level offense. It is a local dispositional alternative in lieu of a commitment to DYS. Many of the CCFs have specific programming, such as sex offender treatment.

## Court Services - Clerk's Office



Nicole Rodriguez – Chief Deputy Clerk

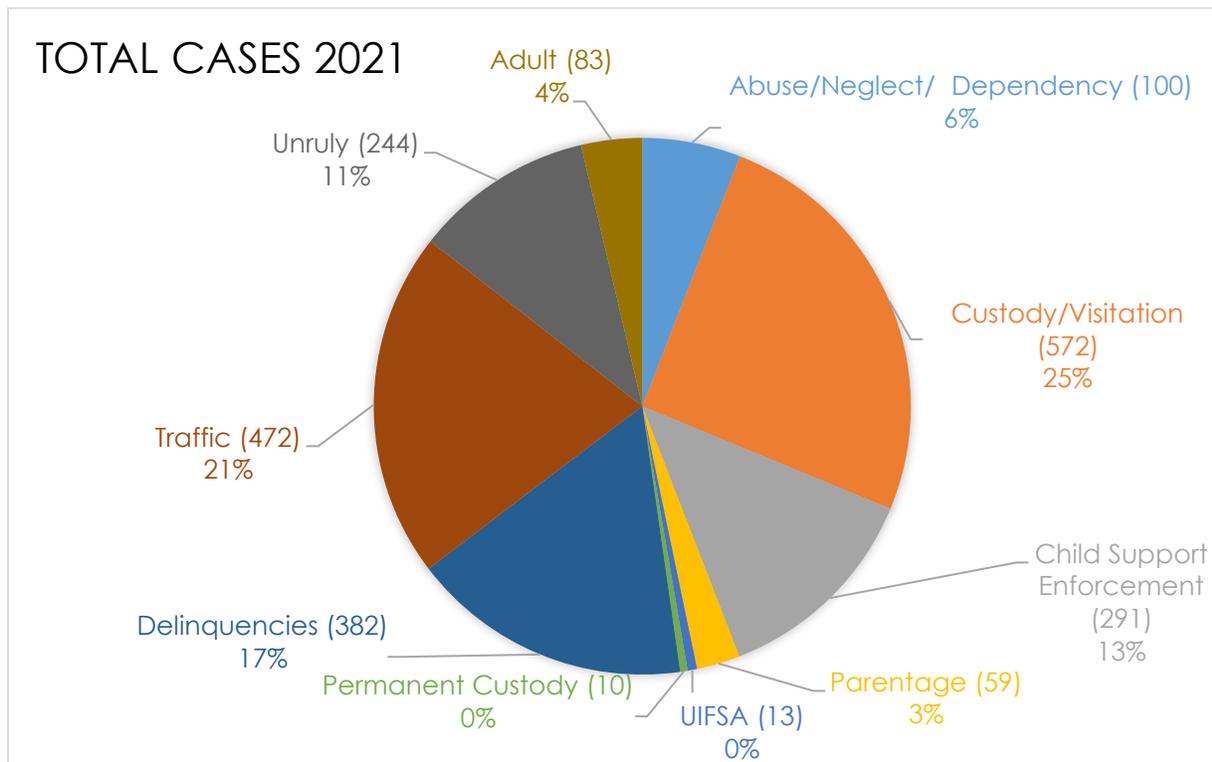
The clerk's office is responsible for handling all the paperwork related to any court case. It accepts the filings, schedules hearings, certifies all orders, processes all the paperwork, acts as court reporters and generally maintains all case records. Under the direction of Chief Deputy Clerk, Nicole Rodriguez and with the help of four full-time and one part-time clerk, the office serves all the clients of the Court. The clerk's office was impacted by the pandemic, in having to take all of the cases off of the docket and then later putting them back on, which required sending notices to all parties. This was quite a feat. Also with the use of video conferencing and teleconferencing, the clerks had to not only keep track of which type of hearing was being held, but also make sure that the correct notice was being given to the parties. The clerk's office continues to adjust to changing trends and does excellent work.

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## 2021 Court Activity

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Total Cases Filed	2166
Total Cases Terminated	2218



## Juvenile Probation



Scott Auxier – Chief Probation Officer

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 commit future violations. Providing probation supervision, enforcement of court orders, and establishing meaningful connections with youth and their families, the probation department's goal is to effectuate change in the youth's behavior and to empower parents to manage behavioral issues without law enforcement intervention.

In 2021, the probation staff consisted of five full-time probation officers, one 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 educational courses to both youth and their parents. These online classes are

available at no cost to court-involved families and allow families to access resources from their home, accommodating families with transportation barriers.

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 benefit the community.
- Utilization of Carey Guides, an evidence-based practice, which provides insight regarding past behaviors and decision making, and educates the youth and families regarding appropriate, respectable future choices and actions.
- Facilitation of groups by probation staff, which serve as beneficial interventions for both youth and parents.

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### **2021 Assessment Statistics**

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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	43
Boys	30
Girls	13

<b>Offense Type</b>	
Misdemeanor	22
Felony	19
Unruly/Truancy (first time)	0
Unruly	2
Traffic	0

<b>Children not placed on probation</b>	
Total Referred to outside services	9
Number recidivated	0

<b>City of Residence</b>	
Piqua	14
Troy	16
Tipp	3
Milton/Laura	4
Bradford	0
Covington	0
Other	6

<b>Disposition</b>	
Probation	33
Other	9
DYS	0
Lived out of county	0
WC Rehab	0
Pending	1

<b>Intakes by Charge</b>			
	Receiving Stolen Property (or att)	1	
Unruly/truancy	3	Theft	5
CCW	0	Obstruction/falsification/Resisting	0
Criminal Trespass	0	Menacing (Including Agg)	1
Criminal Damaging	0	Firearm Offense	1
Tampering with Property	0	Drug Abuse/Possession	1
Unauthorized Use of MV	1	Drug Paraphernalia	2
Assault/Agg Assault	8	Domestic Violence	0
UAC/Possession	0	Robbery	0
Disorderly Conduct	3	Arson related	1
Burglary	0	Weapon on School	1
B & E (or attempted)	4	Inducing Panic	1
Contempt	2	Trafficking (Including Att)	1
Make false alarm	0	Gross Sexual Imposition/Attempt	4
Harm Animal	1	Disseminating Harmful Material	1
Telephone Harassment	0	Pandering	2
Vandalism	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

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## 2021 Probation Department

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<b>Probation Assignments</b>	
Boys	27
Girls	7
African American	4
Caucasian	30
Other	0
Felony	17
Misdemeanor	15
Unruly	2
Total Youth Ordered	34
Total Youth from Previous Year	48
<b>TOTAL SERVED</b>	<b>82</b>

<b>Probation by City</b>	
Bradford/Covington/PHill	0
Milton/Ludlow/Laura	4
Piqua	10
Troy	17
<b>Depart. Charges filed by</b>	
Miami County Sheriff Office	11
Piqua	6
Troy	14
West Milton Police Depart.	2
Other	1

<b>Probation by Age</b>			
11- Under	0	14 & 15	10
12 & 13	3	16 & Up	21

### Charges Resulting in Probation

Animal Related	0
Arson	0
Assault	5
Breaking Entering/Burglary	4
Contempt	1
Criminal Mischief	1
Criminal Damaging/Misc./Vand./Tres.	0
Disorderly Conduct	3
Disseminating/Pandering	2
Domestic Violence	2
Drug Possession	1
Drug Trafficking	1
Felony Drug Possession	1
Felonious Theft	2
Menacing	1
Receiving Stolen Property	1
Robbery/Agg. Robbery	1
Sex Offenses	3
Telecomm. Fraud	1
Theft Related	1
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	0
Unruly/Truancy/Curfew	2
Weapon Charge	1

**Total Charges 34**

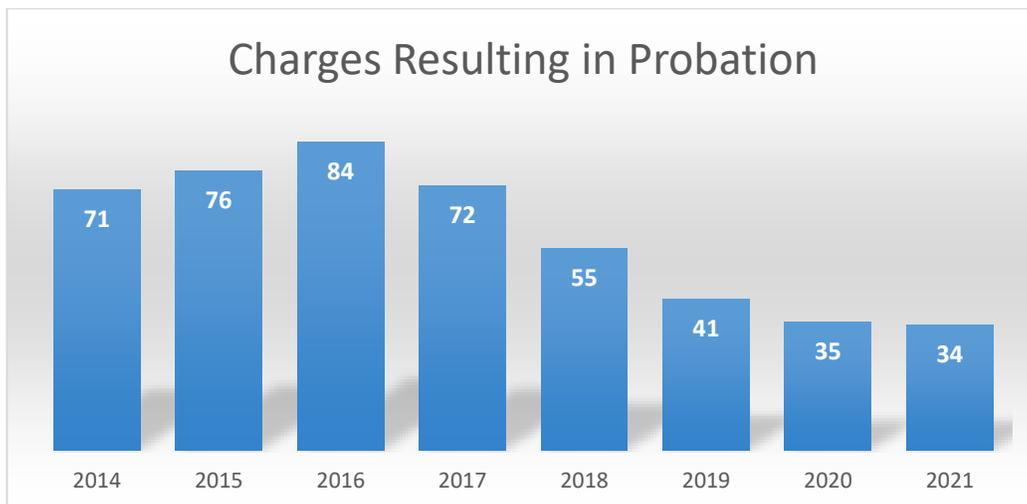
### School Attended

Homeschooled	1
Miami East High	3
Milton Union High	3
Milton Union Middle	1
Piqua High	7
Piqua Jr. High	1
Troy Jr. High	1
Troy High	12
Upper Valley Career	0
Other	5

### Felony Charges

Agg Assault	1
Breaking Entering	4
Drug Offense	1
GSI	4
Pandering	2
Rec Stolen Property	1
Telecomm Fraud	1
Theft	1
Weapons on School	1

**Total Charges 16**



## Out of home placement

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 these 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.

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### 2021 Care & Control Statistics

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<b>Released from custody during year to:</b>				<b>Placed in Care &amp; Control</b>	
Parental Home		2		Boys	2
Relative Placement		0		Girls	0
MCCSB		0		Caucasian	1
Other Custodian		0		African American	1
				Other	0
<b>Age</b>				IV(e) eligible	1
12 & 13	0	16 & Up	2		
14 & 15	2				

## 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 uses ankle bracelets to allow the probation department to know the whereabouts of the child at all times. 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.

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#### 2021 Electronic Home Monitoring

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Boys	58		
Girls	12		
Caucasian	55	Terminated Unsuccessfully	8
African American	12	Terminated Successfully	53
Other	3	Still Active	9
Felony	36	<b>TOTAL YOUTH SERVED</b>	<b>70**</b>
Misdemeanor	34		
<b>Total Youth Ordered</b>	<b>70*</b>		

\*In 2020, total Youth Ordered

40 [increase of 74% in 2021]

\*\*In 2020, Total Youth Served

45 [increase of 56% in 2021]

## House Arrest Monitoring Program

House arrest requires a youth be at home unless in the presence of a parent or at school or work. The goal of house arrest is to curtail unsupervised activity in the community. The probation department does random, unscheduled visits to the home of youth placed under an order of house arrest in order to determine their compliance with the Court's order. 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.

### 2021 House Arrest Monitoring

Boys	91*	Felony	57
Girls	26**	Misdemeanor	57
		Unruly	3
Caucasian	90		
African American	22	Terminated Unsuccessfully	31
Other	5	Terminated Successfully	86
		TOTAL YOUTH ORDERED	117***
Average length of time on HA			47 days

\*In 2020, Total Boys 66 [increase of 39% in 2021]  
 \*\*In 2020, Total Girls 16 [increase of 63% in 2021]  
 \*\*\*In 2020, Total Ordered 82 [increase of 43% in 2021]

## Diversion Services

The Diversion Program is an alternative to formal court proceedings. All charges against first-time offenders are reviewed by Diversion Coordinator, Brady Schnitzler, 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. In 2020, the diversion program expanded to include drug and alcohol complaints.

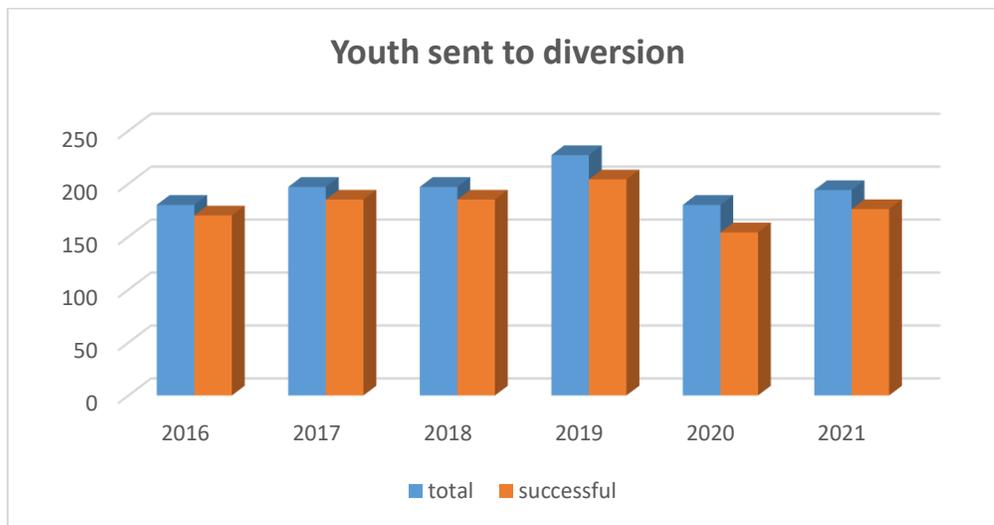
## 2021 Diversion Program

### Diversion

Retained from Previous Year	86
Filed this year	194
Successfully Completed	176
Unsuccessful	64
Total Pending at end of Year	33
<b>TOTAL SERVED</b>	<b>280*</b>

### Truancy Charges

Sent to Diversion	121**
Successful	58
Unsuccessful	56
Dismissed	7
Adjudicated charges	56



\*In 2020, 244 served [increase of 15% in 2021]

\*\*In 2020, 43 Truancy [increase of 152% in 2021]

<b>Offenses Referred to Diversion</b>			
	<b>Successful</b>	<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>Pending</b>
Assault	11	1	0
Criminal Damaging	7	0	0
Criminal Mischief	2	0	1
Criminal Trespassing	10	1	0
Curfew	7	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	5	0	0
Drug Abuse	3	0	0
Drug Paraphernalia	5	0	3
Drug Possession	13	0	1
Illegal Conveyance	1	0	0
Littering	1	0	0
Obstruction	5	0	0
Pandering/Disseminating	12	1	11
Rec. Stolen Property	1	0	0
Tampering	1	0	0
Theft	4	0	1
Tobacco	6	3	2
Truancy	32	9	34
Underage Consumption	6	0	1
Underage Possession	5	0	0
Unruly	31	12	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>62</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 a full-time probation officer. 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 14 sites including local nursing homes, city and county municipal buildings, and football stadiums. In 2021, 90 youth provided 270 hours of service to the community.

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### 2021 Community Service Program

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Program Admissions	
Boys	59
Girls	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90*</b>

\*In 2020, community service was 149 [decrease of 40%]

### 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. These crops are donated to the local food banks. This experience helps the participating juveniles understand the growth cycle of plants and that food doesn’t have to come from the grocery. Beginning in 2019, Miami County Juvenile Court began to collaborate this program with the Lincoln Community Center. Through this partnership, Lincoln Community Center staff and probation staff supervise, motivate and teach the referred youth.



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

## **Court Solutions/Online Services**

In 2020, Miami County Juvenile Probation began a partnership with Court Solutions. Court Solutions provides online education and support for youth and families. There are 16 classes that are offered on a wide variety of topics that include, but are not limited to, drug and alcohol classes, bullying, and parenting support. These courses are predominately offered to our youth that are in our diversion program. However, in 2020 with onset of COVID 19 this is a service that was also used for our youth who had their charges formally processed. Hearing officers found that this was a safe and supportive way for our families to address the issues that bring them before the Court. In total, Miami County Juvenile Probation/Court had youth and families access 191 classes in 2021.

## **Monday Community Service Program**

In October of 2021, Miami County Juvenile Court and the Lincoln Community began a partnership to re-think community service. Youth who had been placed on probation were the targeted population for this program. While at the Lincoln Community Center, youth would complete "traditional" community service duties. After this, they would have an opportunity to hear a guest speaker that was provided by the Lincoln Community Center. Speaker topics include basic computer skills, strength training, law enforcement. Exposing our most at risk youth to programs and ideas will help them make better decisions in the future. In 2021, 15 youth were placed in this program.

## **Incentive Program**

In 2020, the Miami County Probation Department continued to utilize incentives to motivate our youth to make better decisions. In conjunction with the state's new initiative to transform probation, our department has used this program to fall in line with these state-based goals. Funding was provided by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The basic premise behind this initiative is that by rewarding positive behaviors, youth will be less likely to exhibit the negative ones that have led to their court involvement. Incentives ranged from snacks, to books, to gift cards. The number and frequency of these rewards are administered by the probation department.

## 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 Kari Higgins, a licensed sex offender therapist. Youth convicted of a sexual offense receive assessment, outpatient group and individual treatment on a weekly basis. In 2021, five (5) 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 2021, 19 youth were referred to this program. A total of three (3) groups were held.
- ❖ Independent Living is provided by contract with the local Ohio State University Extension Office. The program consists of 8 weekly classes that teach and demonstrate skills that are important to aid in their transition into adulthood. The 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 2021, four (4) groups were held, educating 23 youth.
- ❖ 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. The goal of the group is increasing knowledge of personal use patterns, decreasing or eliminating the use of substances, and decreasing the risk of addiction and future substance abuse related offenses. In 2021, 12 youth were referred to Outreach.
- ❖ Parent Project is a nationally recognized educational and support program for parents and guardians. This program offers guidance and 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 classroom time, facilitated by trained probation staff. In 2021, 11 families were referred to this program.

- ❖ Psychological Services are provided through contracts with licensed psychologists. Psychological evaluations are performed to provide the Court with assessments integral to further court treatment plans. Forensic evaluations are also provided. These are required when the Court must determine whether the child is competent to stand trial and when the Prosecuting Attorney has filed a motion to have a youth bound over to the adult court.
  
- ❖ In 2021, Miami County Juvenile Court began to contract with a licensed therapist. Kari Higgins completes assessments, evaluations as well as individual and family counseling. These appointments occur at our Piqua Probation office, West Central Juvenile Detention Center and virtually. Ms. Higgins completed the following in 2021:
  - Diagnostic assessments - 2
  - Counseling – 6

## 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.



## Shared Placements

Placement services are provided for youth who receive assistance from multiple agencies, such as **Miami County Children Protective 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 Protective 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 2021, Juvenile Court had no shared funding 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), advocate for the best interest of children involved in dependency, neglect, and abuse cases in 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 2021, 55 volunteers served 198 children, slightly up from 2020, when 52 volunteers served 188 children. The Court also may provide an attorney to represent the child.

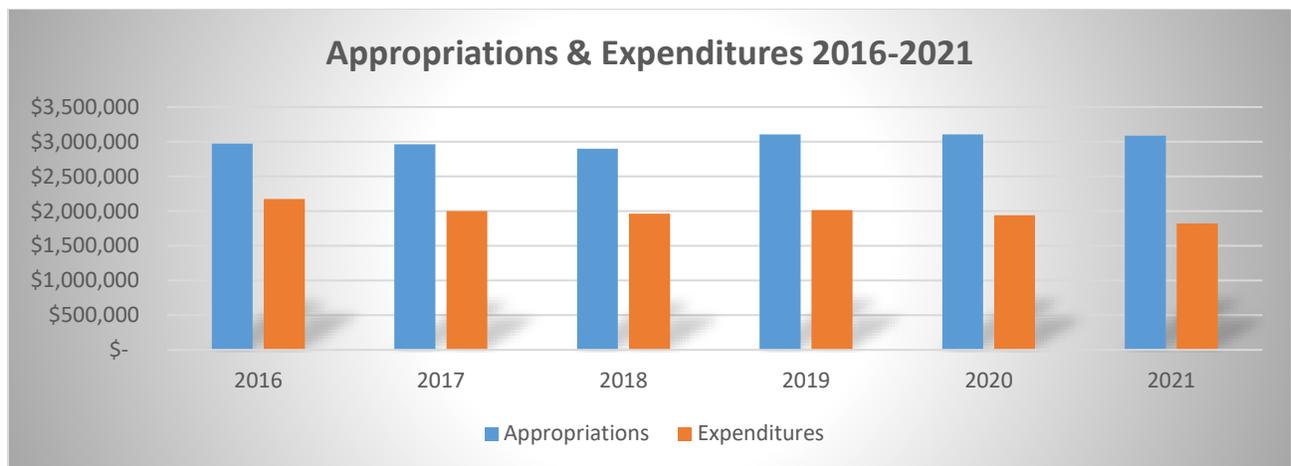
## Financial Report



Hannah Parshall – Fiscal Officer

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	\$1,310,241.43	\$1,077,509.48
General Fund - Juvenile Probation	\$ 531,727.50	\$ 347,179.83
General Fund - Juvenile Probation (Special Int. Prg.)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Felony Delinquent Care and Custody	\$ 551,017.89	\$ 227,317.48
Juv. Probation Title IV-E Administration	\$ 448,446.58	\$ 134,119.69
Juv. Probation Title IV-E Maintenance	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 21,432.32
Juv. Court Child Support Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 154.10
Juv. Computerization	\$ 11,010.00	\$ 5,289.39
Special Projects - General	\$ 10,628.78	\$ 3,212.94
Legal Research	\$ 2,317.98	\$ 1,247.41
Indigent Driver Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Youthful Driver Safety	\$ 20,000.00	\$4,500.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,088,390.16</b>	<b>\$1,821,962.64</b>



## 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.

## 2021 FINES & COURT COSTS COLLECTED

COURT COSTS	50,990.35
COMPUTER FEES	13,132.70
LEGAL RESEARCH	2,700.00
SHERIFF FEES	1,093.00
LAW LIBRARY	1,250.00
COUNTY FINES	6,881.90
MOTOR VEHICLE FINES	2,328.10
COUNTY DRUG FINES	25.00
SHERIFF DRUG FINES	0.00
COPY SERVICE	47.80
WITNESS FEES	12.40
SPECIAL PROJECT - GEN	26,410.00
DRUG TESTING	548.00
P.D. APPLICATION FEE	737.00
P.D. RECOUP FEES	0.00
TOBACCO FEES	0.00
IDAT	442.50
STATE OF OHIO	19,105.40
BOARD OF PHARMACY	0.00
ARRESTING AGENCY	0.00
SUNDRIES	1,676.00
BONDS RECEIVED	150.00
DEPOSIT RECEIVED	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>127,530.15*</b>

\*In 2020, \$95,434.90 was collected [increase of 33%]



## **West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center**

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

The Center was closed June 30, 2021 as a result of losing Ohio Department of Youth Services funding.

Located on 25A in Troy, the West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center served 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 took boys from other counties in the state if there was space available. Gary Link was the Director of the Center.

Youth are now placed in other rehabilitation centers, with the desired placement being as close to Miami County as possible.

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**2021 WCJRC Statistics**

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**Admissions: 0**

**Releases: 15**

Successful: 10      Unsuccessful: 1      Cannot complete by closing of facility: 4

<b>County</b>	<b># boys</b>	<b>County</b>	<b># boys</b>
Auglaize	0	Miami	0
Champaign	0	Pike	0
Clark	0	Preble	0
Clinton	0	Sandusky	0
Highland	0	Shelby	0
Licking	0	Warren	0
Marion	0	Wayne	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Committing Offense</b>	
Assault	0
Arson	0
Burglary/Agg Burglary	0
Breaking and Entering	0
CCW	0
Domestic Violence	0
GSI	0
Theft	0
Rape	0

<b>Age at Admission</b>	
12 years	0
13 years	0
14 years	0
15 years	0
16 years	0
17 years	0
18 years	0
19 years	0

<b>Average Length of Stay</b>	
Sex Offender Program	240 days
General Offender Program	239 days

<b>Felony Level</b>	
F-5	0
F-4	0
F-3	0
F-2	0
F-1	0

<b>Race</b>	
Caucasian	0
Minority	0



## **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 males and females 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. In 2020, the center had revenue of \$1,929,886 and operational expenses were \$1,648,507. All revenue comes from the counties utilizing 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.

## West Central Juvenile Detention Center 2021

Intakes	804
Female	162
Male	631
Non Conf	11
Ave Daily Pop	19.73

BEDS	Total beds used	Average used monthly	Average used daily
Auglaize	966	81	2.7
Clinton	565	47	1.6
Darke	855	71	2.4
Mercer	808	67	2.2
Miami	1579	132	4.4
Preble	596	50	1.7
Shelby	1630	136	4.5
Van Wert	837	70	2.3
Misc	97		
<b>Total</b>	<b>7933</b>		

## 2021 Annual Report Statistical Summary

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### Cases Filed in 2021

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<b>Cases Filed/Transferred In</b>	
Delinquent	303
Traffic	434
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	96
Unruly	244
Adult	89
Permanent Custody	15
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	601
Support Enforcement/Modifications	309
Parentage	51
UIFSA	16
Other	8
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>2166</b>

### Cases Terminated in 2021

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<b>Cases terminated by Case Type</b>	
Delinquent	340
Traffic	430
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	94
Unruly	244
Adult	126
Permanent Custody	18
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	555
Support Enforcement/Modification	334
Parentage	56
UIFSA	13
Other	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2218</b>

**Cases Terminated by Type of Termination**

Trial by Judge	12
Trial by Magistrate	127
Dismissal	433
Admission by Judge	70
Admission by Magistrate	1419
Certification/Waiver Granted	4
Unavailability of Party for Trial	53
Transfers to another Court	40
Interlocutory Appeal	0
Other Terminations	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>2218</b>

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**Types of Dispositions for Youth in 2021**

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**Types of Dispositions**

Bind over to adult court	0
Commitment to DYS	0
Detention	117
West Central Rehabilitation Center	1
Other CCF	0
Suspended commitment to DYS	26
Community Service	104
Probation	44
Electronic Home Monitoring	62
House Arrest	123
Temporary Custody CSB	55
Protective Supervision CSB	86
Permanent Custody CSB	15
Jail Sentence (Adult)	26
Restitution	10
Cases with Fines Assessed	381
Cases with costs Assessed	471
Waiver due to Indigence	399
Fines and Court costs	\$127,866.20

## 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

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 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)