

There are 88 Juvenile Courts in the state of Ohio, one for every county.

Matters of juvenile court jurisdiction include delinquency, unruliness, traffic violations, child neglect, child abuse, dependent children, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and, in some instances, paternity, child support, child custody, and parenting or companionship time (visitation rights).

Jurisdiction is extended to children ages birth to 18 years of age (disabled youth enjoy extended jurisdiction) who are either legal residents of Geauga County, or have allegedly committed an offense within Geauga County. Although jurisdiction in matters of delinquency can extend until a youth's 21st birthday, the delinquent act **MUST** have been committed prior to the youth's eighteenth birthday.

The Geauga County Juvenile Court consists of **Judge (Timothy J. Grendell)**, **Magistrate (Abbey King)**, the **Court Administrator (Kim Laurie)**, **Constable (John Ralph)**, clerical and administrative staff, Director of Youth Services (Beth Williams), two **Probation Officers (Stephanie Voss and Heather Mountsier)**, Resource Center Director (Allison Wojtonek) and a case manager (Katie Ostrosky).

The Resource Center (the Victor Y, Matthews Family Life Improvement Resource Center) provides various service, including case management, referrals, supervised parenting time, mediation, and parenting education and support.

The Help Center provides non-legal assistance to persons who appear before the court and are not represented by an attorney. The assistance consists of legal information and assistance with the preparation of forms.

The Court Constable assists jurists and court staff as needed, including court security backup, process server, case monitor/enforcer, and community outreach.

The Bailiffs - the Court boasts a dedicated staff of bailiffs, supervised by John Ralph.

Other Related Court Services include:

- Portage Geauga Detention Center - this is a locked, secure facility accessible by jurist order only for youth either adjudicated delinquent or taken into custody by a law enforcement entity with judicial approval - offers psychological testing and related services as ordered.
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) - provides guardians ad litem for children who are abused, neglected, or dependent as well as some unruly and delinquent children.