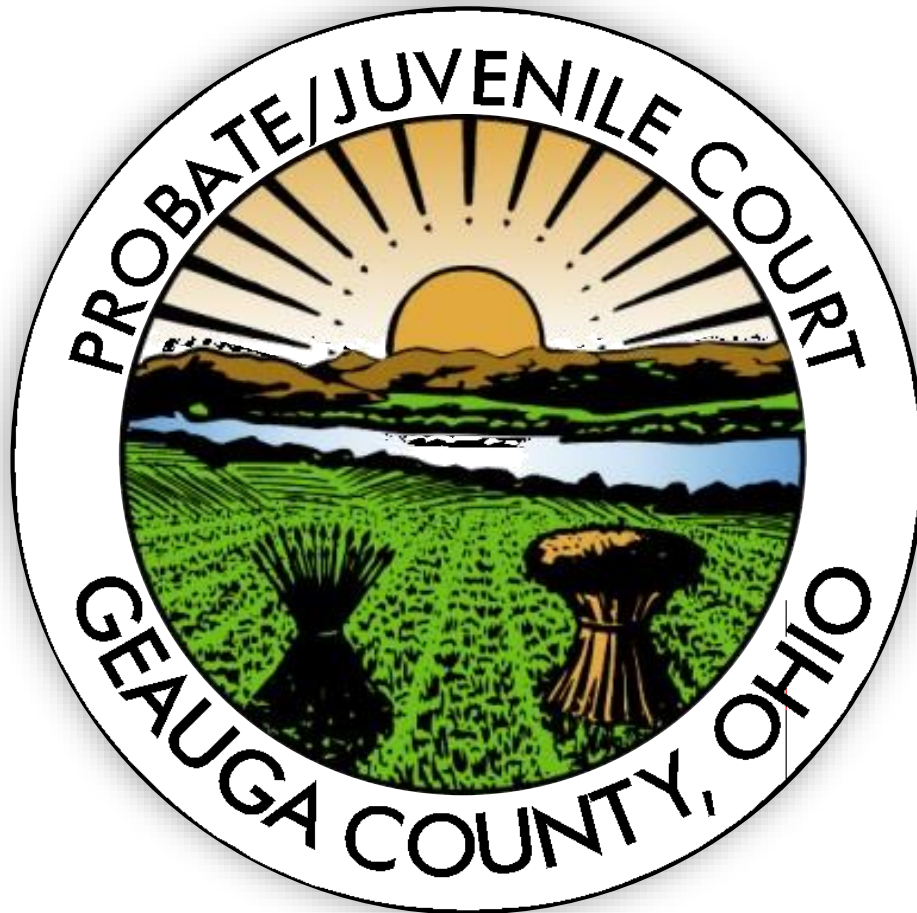


Geauga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Divisions
2019 Annual Report



Timothy J. Grendell, Judge
Abbey L. King, Magistrate
Kimberly Laurie, Court Administrator

LETTER FROM JUDGE TIM GRENDELL

Dear Geauga County Neighbor:

Serving our community by helping to protect the county's most vulnerable children, families, and seniors is truly an honor.

Throughout 2019, the Probate and Juvenile Divisions of the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas continued to provide timely, effective, cost efficient and professional court services to the residents of Geauga County.



Through efficient and effective Court management and innovative programming, the cost of operating both Juvenile and Probate Courts remained much the same in 2019 compared to 2018. Even while maintaining the same level of costs, in 2019 the Court continued to increase access to more effective services for Geauga County residents, increased its community outreach efforts by mailing quarterly newsletters called Geauga Court News to all Geauga County residents, and began laying the foundations for the Court's new Victory Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Resource Center, to be unveiled in 2020. Geauga Court News has proven to be a respected and appreciated method of demystifying the Court process by communicating with residents the many different ways the Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court serves them and our community, and in 2020 the Resource Center will provide youth and families earlier access to services to improve outcomes and earn the ability to avoid the stressors of the more formalized court process, all in an environment with a more informal atmosphere than can be provided at a court.

The Court Administrator, Kimberly Laurie, has been primarily responsible for the Court's efficient and responsible budgeting since 2015, by pursuing increases in non-tax dollar grant revenues and through efficient management of Court resources, while continuing to support innovative programming to ensure that the Court is on the cutting edge of justice and services for the county's residents.

I am pleased to report that the overall volume of juvenile delinquency cases remains moderate. Drug related matters and domestic violence cases, however, continue to have a major presence on the Court's docket. The Court continues to seek innovative ways to address these problems.

The Juvenile Court's CASA Program, which provides guardians ad litem for children in family abuse/neglect/dependency cases, remains strong under the leadership of Program Director Mary Ruth Shumway. In 2019, the Juvenile Court assigned 66 CASA volunteers to advocate for 175 children. Due to the over 7,500 hours contributed by CASA volunteers instead of appointing paid guardians ad litem, the Court's CASA Program saved county taxpayers over \$375,000 in 2019.

The Probate Court, in concert with the Geauga County Recorder and local volunteer attorneys, has continued the Good Deeds Program for the benefit of county property owners. In 2019, more than 1,385 Geauga County residents attended Good Deeds educational programs which provide Probate law overview and volunteer deed review process. It is a county-wide effort to help Geauga residents (1) identify whether the form of their present deed will require transfer through the Probate Court upon death, and (2) to consider less expensive and less time consuming

alternatives to a probate transfer. The Good Deeds Programs has been recognized by the Geauga County Department on Aging for helping Geauga County residents save time and money. The success of the Good Deeds Program is largely attributed to the diligent efforts of the Court's Judicial Assistant, Cheryl Koncler.

Special recognition must once again be given to the court's dedicated staff. The employees of the court provide outstanding judicial juvenile and probate court services to Geauga County residents.

The administration of justice within the Juvenile Court process is predicated on three (3) concepts:

- (1) Geauga County Residents must be protected.
- (2) Juvenile offenders must be held accountable for their misconduct.
- (3) Juvenile offenders must be treated fairly and provided individualized discipline and treatment directed towards preventing juvenile misconduct in the future.

The Probate/Juvenile Court Magistrate Abbey King maintains an active docket of cases, including abuse, neglect dependency, unruly, traffic, and delinquency matters in Juvenile Court, as well as various case types in Probate Court, such as guardianships, estates, mental illness, etc.

I appreciate the cooperation extended to me and the court's staff by the County Commissioners, Sheriff's Department, Public Defender's Office, police departments throughout the county, school officials, mental health professionals, and social services agencies. Each plays an important role in the administration of justice through this court. These public servants deserve special commendation for their efforts.

Enclosed please find attached the 2019 Annual Report for the Geauga County Juvenile Court in compliance with O.R.C. Section 2151.18. I hope that you will find this information enlightening and informative, as well as demonstrative of the collective effort of a quality court staff dedicated to addressing the disciplinary and rehabilitative needs of Geauga County's youth, while protecting the community.

Finally, I would like to extend special appreciation for everyone who supported and assisted the Court in 2019. The Court's continued success in 2019 was the result of the concerted efforts of many dedicated individuals. On a personal note, thank you to everyone who provided prayers, encouragement, and support to me this past year.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Grendell
Judge

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT

“Dear Judge Timothy Grendell, thank you for extending the knowledge of the Good Deeds and the establishment of the Help Center. My husband recently passed away and I have made use of this knowledge.” – D.P., Chesterland, OH

“Please accept our heartfelt Thanks for your donation of goods to our food pantry, July 2018. Your support is greatly appreciated!” – Pilgrim Christian Church

*“Award of Excellence in recognition of your leadership in protecting students and your community”
– Sandy Hook Promise*

“I appreciate your efforts to bring to the forefront the option of adoption in Geauga County as a part of National Adoption Month. It was a most special day for us and I believe everyone in the courtroom felt the love! I left the courtroom with hope that the children yet to be placed in Geauga County will soon find their forever families. It was an inspirational morning in so many ways, and I simply want to express my gratitude and thanks.” – B.K., Mesa, AZ

“Thank you for helping make ‘Senior Day at the Fair’ such a success. We at the Department on Aging love hosting the senior hospitality area at the Great Geauga County Fair... We are grateful to your staff and volunteers who helped serve the seniors with a compassionate heart and a welcoming smile.” – Sandy McLeod, Geauga County Department on Aging

“Thanks for your continued support of the Middlefield First United Methodist Church Food Pantry and the families we serve. Your generous donation of produce from the Community (Service) Garden was used to provide nutritious meals to area families in need. We served 1,320 families (3,516 people) in 2018. Of those, 1,004 were children under 18 years old and 572 were senior citizens. Thanks again for your donation. We remain committed to fight against hunger in our communities, and we are thankful for compassionate partners like you.” – Ann Szasz, First United Methodist Church

“Dear Judge Timothy Grendell... Your commitment to the protection of adults in this community is appreciated.” – Kristina Miller, APS Supervisor, Geauga County Job & Family Services

“In Geauga County, Law Enforcement has a long tradition of collaboration with our Geauga County Juvenile Court for the best interests of the children and families of Russell Township and Geauga County. The Russell Police Department supports the Geauga County Juvenile Court in its desire to create a Community Resource/Assessment Center where work can begin immediately with the children and families when a crisis is occurring, instead of having the children and families wait for formal Court involvement to occur. A Community Resource/Assessment Center where a comprehensive assessment can be done immediately to help the placement of children in a crisis situation, would be an asset to the community and create an efficient system for Law Enforcement and the Court.” – Chief Timothy Carroll, Russell Police Department

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| LETTER FROM JUDGE TIM GRENDELL..... | 1 |
| WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT | 3 |
| GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT | 5 |
| MISSION STATEMENT | 5 |
| PURPOSE..... | 5 |
| STAFF | 6 |
| JUVENILE DIVISION - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY..... | 6 |
| SUMMARY OF JUVENILE CASES..... | 8 |
| SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED | 8 |
| DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT | 10 |
| AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE..... | 12 |
| NEW CASES FILED | 12 |
| 10 YEAR HISTORY OF DELINQUENT, UNRULY, AND JUVENILE TRAFFIC ACTIONS FILED | 13 |
| DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CHARGES..... | 14 |
| DELINQUENCY CHARGES | 14 |
| TOP 10 OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT CHILDREN..... | 16 |
| FELONY ADJUDICATIONS..... | 16 |
| UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES | 16 |
| DISPOSITIONS FOR DELINQUENCY & UNRULY CASES | 17 |
| DELINQUENCY & UNRULY CASE DISPOSITIONS..... | 17 |
| TOBACCO-UNDERAGE SMOKER CASES FILED..... | 18 |
| JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES..... | 19 |
| TOP 10 TRAFFIC OFFENSES..... | 20 |
| JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES FILED BY SOURCE OF COMPLAINT..... | 20 |
| PROBATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES..... | 21 |
| JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES | 21 |
| PROBATION ASSIGNMENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT | 21 |
| DIVERSION SERVICES..... | 21 |
| ADDITIONAL COURT SERVICES | 22 |
| COMMUNITY OUTREACH | 24 |
| PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES | 25 |
| PORTAGE-GEAUGA COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER..... | 25 |
| PROBATE DIVISION - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY..... | 30 |
| GOOD DEEDS PROGRAM | 30 |
| SUMMARY OF CASES | 30 |
| PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES 2017-2019 | 32 |

GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT

MISSION STATEMENT

Through prompt, impartial, and just resolution of legal issues, the Probate and Juvenile Divisions of the Geauga County Common Pleas Court uphold the Constitution of the United States, the laws of the State of Ohio, and ensure equal protection for all Geauga County citizens in a manner that inspires trust and confidence. The Juvenile Division seeks to promote public safety by guiding behavioral reform of juveniles through consequences that create a balance between discouraging recidivism and encouraging rehabilitation, with the ultimate goal of reunifying families and helping children become productive members of society. The Probate Division settles estates, appoints qualified members to various boards, and provides help for those who cannot or will not help themselves.

PURPOSE

The Purpose of the Geauga County Juvenile Court is outlined in Ohio Revised Code Sections 2151.01 and 2152.01, and the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

The purpose of the court in abuse, neglect, dependency, and unruly cases is as follows:

- To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children;
- To achieve the above-stated purposes, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for the child's welfare or in the interests of public safety;
- To provide judicial procedures through which the laws are executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

The purpose of the court in delinquency and traffic cases is as follows:

- To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children;
- To protect the public's interest and safety;
- To hold the offender accountable for the offender's actions;
- To restore the victim;
- To rehabilitate the offender.
- These purposes must be achieved by a system of graduated sanctions and services.

STAFF

Probate/Juvenile Court Judge: The Hon. Timothy J. Grendell

As of December 31, 2019, the Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court had 28 permanent staff members. The Magistrate, Court Administrator, Constable, Judicial Assistant, Fiscal Compliance Officer, Bookkeeper/HR Officer, Staff Attorney, Senior Deputy Clerk, Help Center Director, and two Bailiffs served both Probate and Juvenile Divisions.

The Juvenile Division was also served by four Juvenile Court Deputy Clerks, the Case Management Director and Deputy Case Management Director, the Director of Probation and two Probation Officers, Community Service Supervisor, the CASA Program Director, CASA Program Administrator, CASA Program Coordinator, and two CASA Volunteer Supervisors.

The Probate Division was also served by the Guardianship Coordinator and two Probate Court Deputy Clerks.

JUVENILE DIVISION - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

The Juvenile Division has jurisdiction over matters such as issuance of Delinquencies, Unruly cases, Traffic, Custody, Child Support, Paternity, Adult Specials, and Abuse/Neglect/Dependency.

The Juvenile Court's dedicated staff continues to strive to provide efficient quality in the processing of all cases. Geauga County Courts continually updates forms to comply with Ohio Supreme Court rule changes. The updated forms are available to the public through our website: www.geaugacourts.com.

A total of 87 pending juvenile cases were carried over into 2019. During the year 890 new cases were opened and 788 cases were closed, and 102 cases carried forward into 2020.

DELINQUENCY CASES: Any child under age 18 who violates any state or federal law or any local ordinance or regulation, which would be a crime if committed by an adult, or who violates any lawful court order is a delinquent child.

In 2019, the Court had 144 delinquency complaints filed, an increase of 2.9% from 2018.

UNRULY CHILD CASES: Any child who violates a law applicable only to a child; who is habitually truant from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant; who does not subject the child's self to the reasonable control of the child's parents, teachers, guardian or custodian by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient; or engages in other conduct defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.022 is an unruly child.

In 2019, the Court had 52 unruly complaints filed, an increase of 147.6% from 2018. Of the unruly complaints, 24 were for a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.87, the underage smoking law, or a similar village and city ordinance, which the court counts as an unruly case for Supreme Court of Ohio reporting purposes.

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES: Any child who violates any traffic law, traffic ordinance or traffic regulation of the state, United States or local political subdivision is a juvenile traffic offender. In 2019, 238 juvenile traffic cases were filed in the Court, which is a decrease of 5.2% from 2018.

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES: In 2019, 70 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were filed in the court, an increase of 16.7% from 2018.

ADULT CASES: Any person, who aids, abets, induces, causes, encourages, or contributes to a child becoming an unruly child or a delinquent child, or who acts in a way tending to cause a child to become an unruly child or a delinquent child, is guilty of contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child. In 2019, 9 adult contributing charges were filed in the court, an increase of 200% from 2018.

CUSTODY/VISITATION CASES: The court has jurisdiction to hear custody/visitation cases involving children who are not under another Ohio court's jurisdiction. In 2019, 40 custody/visitation cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 9.0% from 2018.

PATERNITY CASES: Paternity cases determine the parentage of children born out of wedlock. The court hears paternity matters that are either not determined administratively by the Child Support Enforcement Agency or when one of the parties disputes the administrative determination of paternity. In 2019, 9 paternity cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 18.2% from 2018.

SUPPORT CASES: The court has jurisdiction to hear and determine an application for an order of support of any child, if the child is not a ward of another court of this state. In 2019, 40 support cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 16.7% from 2018.

UIFSA CASES: Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) cases involve the enforcement of child support orders when one of the parents resides outside of the State of Ohio. In 2019, 2 UIFSA actions were filed in the court, a decrease of 16.7% from 2018.

OTHER CASES: Other cases filed in the court may include actions such as juvenile protection orders, writs of habeas corpus, applications for consent to marry, and complaints to obtain an abortion without notifying parent or guardian. In 2019, 8 other cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 52.9% from 2018.

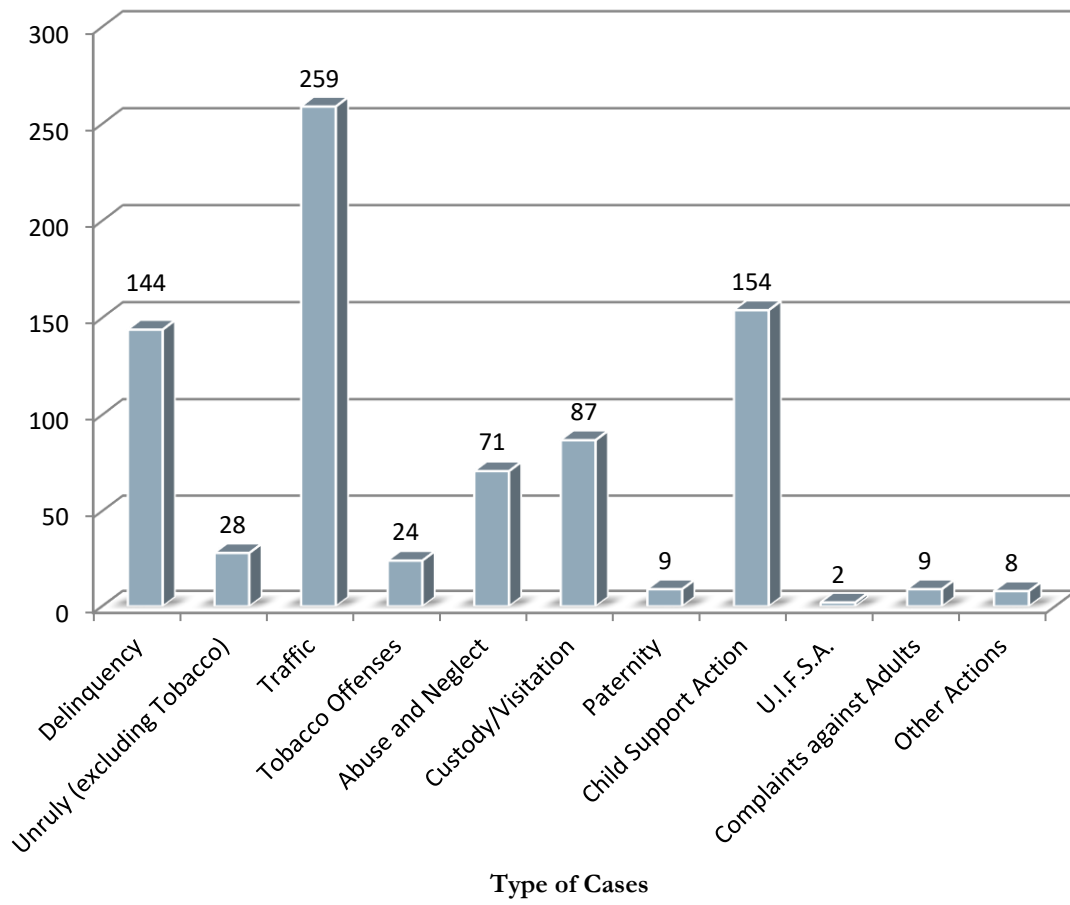
SUMMARY OF JUVENILE CASES

| | PENDING FROM 2018 | OPENED/REOPENED/ TRANSFERRED IN | CLOSED | PENDING TO 2019 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| DELINQUENCY | 14 | 166 | 170 | 10 |
| TRAFFIC | 5 | 240 | 238 | 7 |
| ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY | 5 | 71 | 60 | 15 |
| UNRULY | 4 | 58 | 58 | 4 |
| ADULT SPECIALS | 0 | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| PERMANENT JFS CUSTODY | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| CUSTODY | 22 | 87 | 84 | 26 |
| CHILD SUPPORT | 33 | 154 | 154 | 33 |
| PATERNITY | 3 | 9 | 9 | 3 |
| UIFSA | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| OTHERS | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 87 | 805 | 790 | 102 |

SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED

| TYPE OF CASE | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| DELINQUENCY | 108 | 36 | 144 |
| UNRULY (EXCLUDING TOBACCO) | 17 | 11 | 28 |
| TRAFFIC | 161 | 98 | 259 |
| TOBACCO OFFENSES | 20 | 4 | 24 |
| ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY | N/A | N/A | 71 |
| CUSTODY/VISITATION | N/A | N/A | 87 |
| PATERNITY | N/A | N/A | 9 |
| CHILD SUPPORT | N/A | N/A | 154 |
| U.I.F.S.A. | N/A | N/A | 2 |
| COMPLAINTS AGAINST ADULTS | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| OTHER | N/A | N/A | 8 |

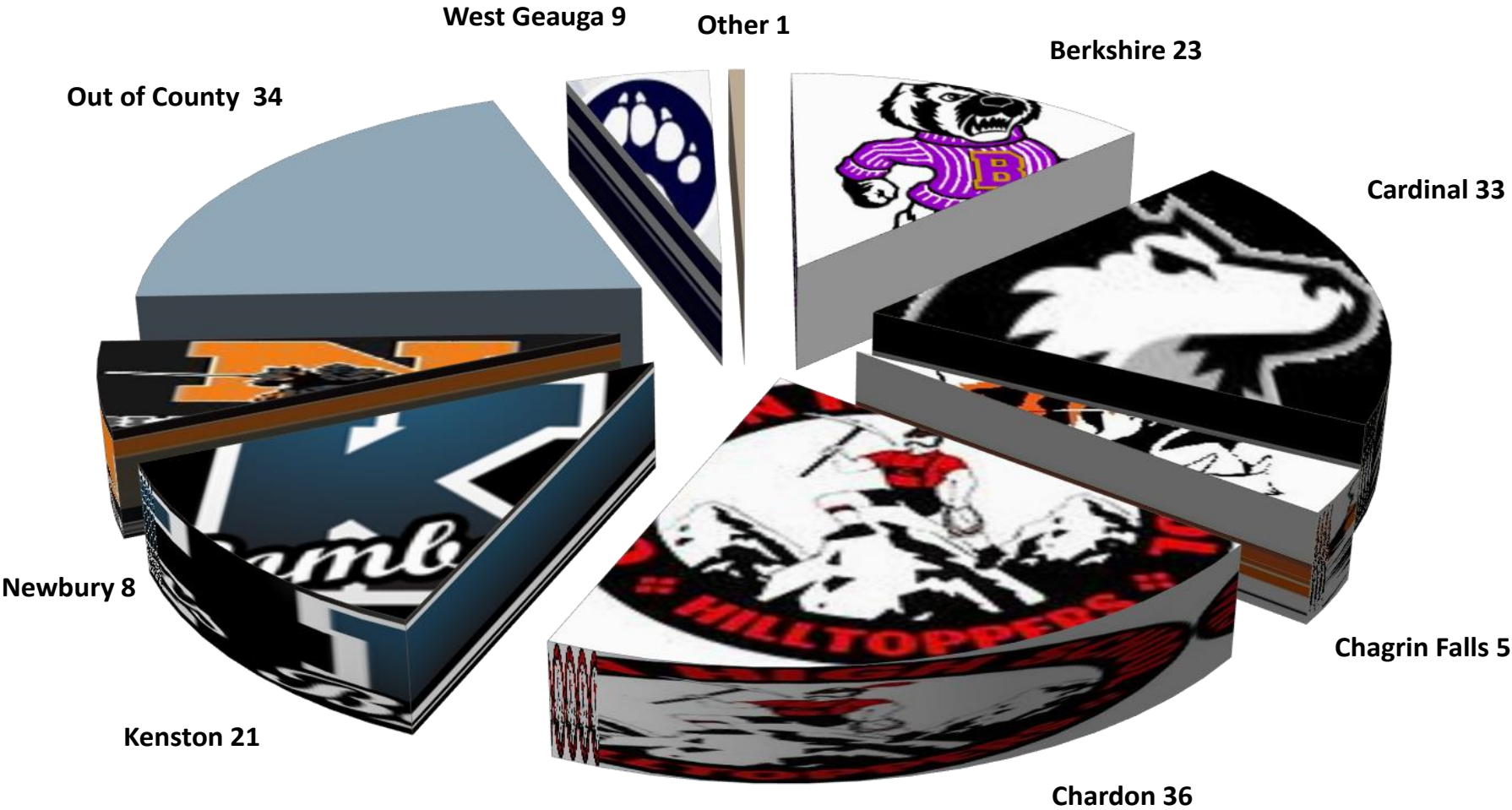
Juvenile Court Actions Filed in 2019



DELIQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

| COMPLAINT BY | MALES | | FEMALES | | TOTAL | TOTAL | TOTAL |
|---------------------|-------|----------|---------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
| | WHITE | MINORITY | WHITE | MINORITY | WHITE | MINORITY | COMBINED |
| SHERIFF'S DEPT. | 37 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 45 | 6 | 51 |
| BAINBRIDGE P.D. | 9 | 4 | 11 | 2 | 20 | 6 | 26 |
| BURTON VILLAGE P.D. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CHARDON P.D. | 15 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 21 | 1 | 22 |
| CHESTER P.D. | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| JUVENILE COURT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MIDDLEFIELD P.D. | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| OHIO STATE PATROL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RUSSELL P.D. | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| S. RUSSELL P.D. | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| INTAKE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PROBATION DEPT. | 11 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| TRANSFERRED IN | 10 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| EDUCATIONAL SVC CTR | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| OTHER | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 108 | 15 | 45 | 4 | 153 | 19 | 172 |

Delinquent & Unruly Cases by School District 2019



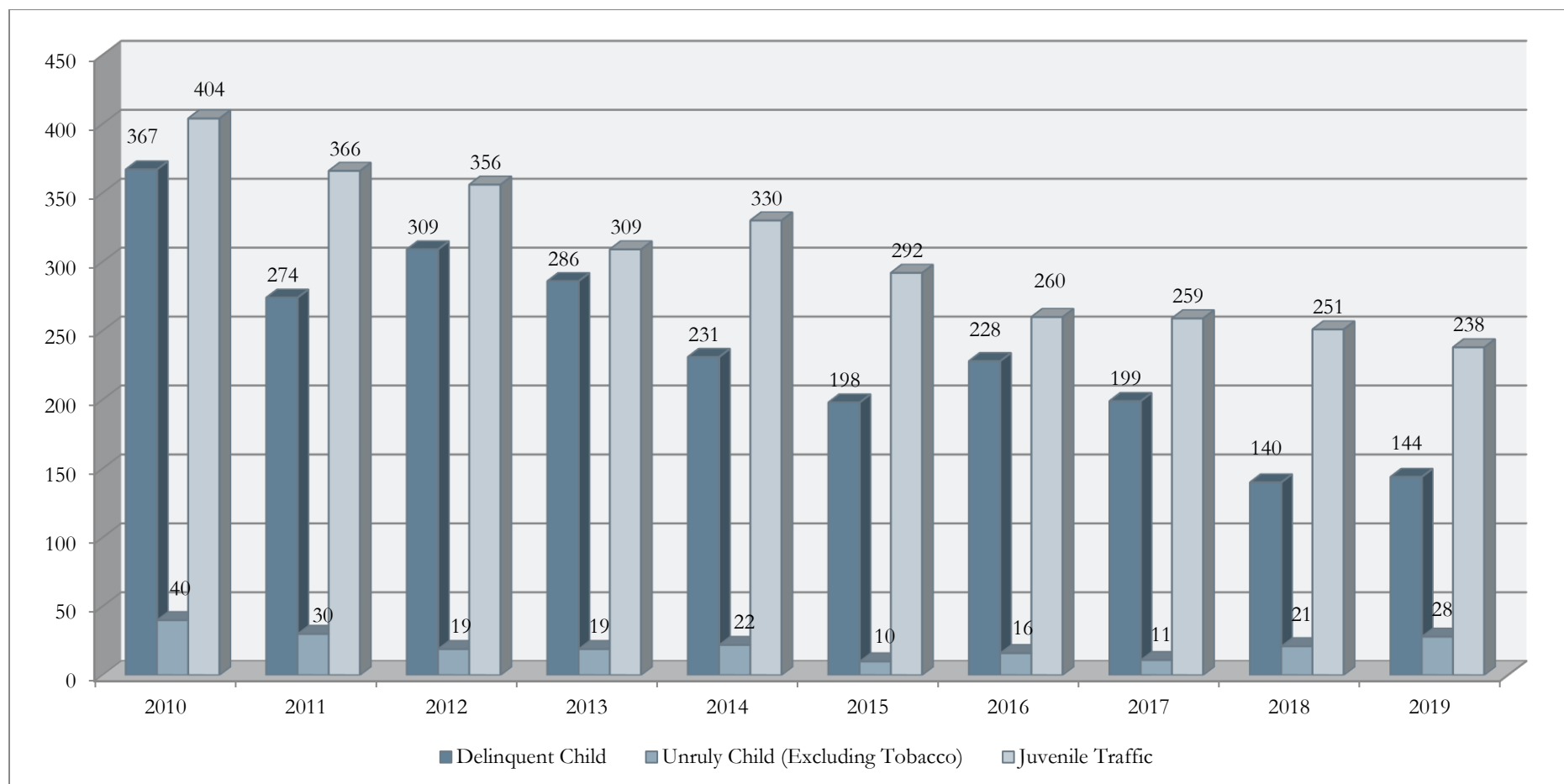
AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE

| AGE | DELINQUENT | | | UNRULY | | | COMBINED TOTAL |
|----------------|------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-------------------|
| | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL | |
| AGE 10 & UNDER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AGE 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AGE 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| AGE 13 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| AGE 14 | 10 | 3 | 13 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 17 |
| AGE 15 | 17 | 4 | 21 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 27 |
| AGE 16 | 31 | 16 | 47 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 54 |
| AGE 17 | 44 | 11 | 55 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 58 |
| TOTAL | 107 | 36 | 143 | 17 | 11 | 28 | 171 |

NEW CASES FILED

| TYPE OF CASE | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|
| DELINQUENCY | 199 | 140 | 144 |
| UNRULY & TOBACCO CASES | 11 | 21 | 52 |
| TRAFFIC | 259 | 251 | 238 |
| DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE | 32 | 60 | 70 |
| CONTRIBUTING | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| CUSTODY | 43 | 44 | 40 |
| SUPPORT | 51 | 48 | 40 |
| PATERNITY | 12 | 11 | 9 |
| U.I.F.S.A. | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| OTHER | 13 | 17 | 8 |
| TOTAL CASES FILED | 628 | 601 | 612 |

10 YEAR HISTORY OF DELINQUENT, UNRULY, AND JUVENILE TRAFFIC ACTIONS FILED



DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CHARGES

DELINQUENCY CHARGES

In 2019, 220 delinquency charges were filed compared to 207 charges in 2018, an increase of 6.3%. The number of delinquency charges filed is greater than the number of delinquency cases filed because there can be multiple charges filed on a complaint. Of the total number of delinquency charges filed in 2019, 186 charges were for acts of delinquency, 29 charges were for violations of probation, and 5 charges were for violations of court orders. The number of delinquency charges for acts other than violations of probation, parole, or court orders filed in 2019 increased by 6.3% compared to 2018.

With total delinquency charges decreasing by 6.3% in 2019, the more serious felony charges increased by 170%. 27, or 12.3%, of the total delinquency charges filed in the court, excluding violations of probation, parole, or court orders, were for acts that would be classified as a felony if committed by an adult.

FELONY DELINQUENT CHARGE BY GENDER

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| EXTORTION | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| IMPROPERLY HANDLING FIREARMS IN MOTOR VEHICLE | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| POSSESSION OF COCAINE | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| POSSESSION OF HASHISH | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| RAPE | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| SEXUAL BATTERY | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| TRAFFICING IN HASHISH | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL FELONY CHARGES | 25 | 2 | 27 |

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| AGGRAVATED MENACING | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| ASSAULT | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| ATTEMPTED ASSAULT | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| COMPLICITY TO COMMIT ASSAULT | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OR UNRULINESS OF A CHILD | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CRIMINAL DAMAGING | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| CRIMINAL DAMAGING OR ENDANGERING | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| CRIMINAL MISCHIEF | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CRIMINAL TRESSPASSING | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| DISCHARGE OF FIREARM ON OR NEAR PROHIBITED PREMISES | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| DISORDERLY CONDUCT | 17 | 7 | 24 |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| FAILURE TO REPORT CRIME | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| FALSIFICATION | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHENALIA | 16 | 3 | 19 |
| INDUCING PANIC | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| JUVENILE DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| MAKING FALSE ALARMS | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| MENACING | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| PETTY THEFT | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| POSSESSING CRIMINAL TOOLS | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| POSSESSION OF HASHISH | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA | 18 | 1 | 19 |
| PROHIBITIONS | 21 | 5 | 26 |
| SEXUAL IMPOSITION | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS HARASSMENT | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| UNAUTHORIZED USE OF M/V | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| UNDERAGE CONSUMPTION | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| VIOLATING A COURT ORDER (VOCO) | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| VIOLATION OF PROBATION (VOP) | 20 | 9 | 29 |
| TOTALS | 160 | 44 | 204 |

TOP 10 OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT CHILDREN

| | Total |
|---|-------|
| VIOLATION OF PROBATION (VOP) | 29 |
| PROHIBITIONS | 26 |
| DISORDERLY CONDUCT | 24 |
| POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA | 19 |
| ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHENALIA | 19 |
| PETTY THEFT | 13 |
| RAPE | 12 |
| CRIMINAL TRESSPASSING | 11 |
| CRIMINAL DAMAGE | 10 |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | 9 |

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

In 2019, the Court adjudicated 10 counts of felony-level offenses, a 0% change from 2018. 1 youth was committed to ODYS, and 3 youths were committed to an ODYS community corrections facility.

| LEVEL OF OFFENSE | ADJUDICATIONS |
|------------------|---------------|
| F5 | 1 |
| F4 | 3 |
| F3 | 5 |
| F2 | 1 |

| RACE | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|----------|------|--------|-------|
| White | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Minority | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 9 | 1 | 10 |

UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES

In 2019, 28 unruly child charges were filed in the Court, an increase of 86.7% from 2018.

| TYPE OF OFFENSE | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO REASONABLE CONTROL | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| HABITUAL TRUANCY | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| HEALTH AND MORALS | 6 | 4 | 10 |

DISPOSITIONS FOR DELINQUENCY & UNRULY CASES

The Court's distribution of cases addresses both the needs of individual youth and their families and ensures public safety. The court utilizes a number of dispositional alternatives that combine aspects of supervision and monitoring of behavior that hold each juvenile accountable for his or her actions, while providing treatment services as needed. This may mean relatively simple dispositions: a fine, admonishment, and/or an order to write an essay. It may also include a set of alternatives such as probation, restitution, and community service work. Youths who are found delinquent and who may pose a threat to the community can be placed in secure facilities, such as the Portage-Geauga County Juvenile Detention Center.

A youth who is adjudicated to be a delinquent child for committing an act that would be classified as a felony if committed by an adult may be committed to the legal custody of the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) for institutionalization. Commitments to ODYS are for a minimum of 6 months but may not extend past the child's 21st birthday. Minimum periods of institutionalization vary depending on the offense committed.

DELINQUENCY & UNRULY CASE DISPOSITIONS

| DISPOSITION | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| JUDICIAL SANCTIONS | | | |
| CASE DISMISSED | 23 | 18 | 41 |
| ADMONISHED | 77 | 31 | 108 |
| FINE | 25 | 6 | 31 |
| COSTS | 84 | 34 | 118 |
| COSTS WAIVED | 31 | 15 | 46 |
| LICENSE SUSPENSION | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| RIGHT TO APPLY FOR O.L. DENIED | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| FINGERPRINTING | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| COMMUNITY SANCTIONS | | | |
| PROBATION | 20 | 6 | 26 |
| CONTINUED PROBATION | 21 | 4 | 25 |
| RESTITUTION | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| COMMUNITY SERVICE | 48 | 8 | 56 |
| COUNSELING | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| ELECTRONIC MONITORING | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| D & A ASSESSMENT | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| DRUG TESTING | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| DNA TESTING | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| OTHER ASSESSMENTS | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| EDUCATION/TREATMENT PROGRAMS | 22 | 1 | 23 |
| PLACEMENTS | | | |
| TO D.Y.S. | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| TO P.G.D.C. | 57 | 16 | 73 |
| OTHER PLACEMENTS | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| SUSPENDED PLACEMENTS | 32 | 10 | 42 |
| TRANSFERS | | | |
| BIND OVERS | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TO OTHER JUVENILE COURTS | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| TO OTHER AGENCIES | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GENERAL DISPOSITIONS | | | |
| ESSAY | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| APOLOGY LETTERS | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| OTHER | 46 | 21 | 67 |

TOBACCO-UNDERAGE SMOKER CASES FILED

ORC 2151.87 prohibits persons under age 18 from:

1. Using, consuming, or possessing cigarettes;
2. Purchasing or attempting to purchase cigarettes, other tobacco products, or papers used to roll cigarettes;
3. Order, pay for, or share the cost of the same; and
4. Except in limited circumstances, accept or receive cigarettes, other tobacco products, or papers used to roll cigarettes; unless accompanied by a parent, spouse who is at least 18 years of age, or legal guardian.

This provision is in addition to existing village or city ordinances with similar prohibitions.

In 2019, 24 tobacco cases were filed in the Court.

| TOBACCO CASES FILED | | | |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| AGE | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| 13 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 15 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 16 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 17 | 5 | 1 | 6 |

| ISSUING POLICE DEPARTMENTS | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP | BURTON VILLAGE |
| CHAGRIN FALLS | CHARDON CITY 21 |
| CHESTER TOWNSHIP | GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF 3 |
| GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT | MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE |
| NEWBURY TOWNSHIP | STATE HIGHWAY PATROL |
| PUNDERSON STATE PARK | RUSSELL TOWNSHIP |
| SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE | THOMPSON TOWNSHIP |

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES

The Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over all juvenile traffic cases. In 2019, the Court processed 243 juvenile traffic cases. 5 cases were pending at the beginning of the year, and 238 cases were filed during the year. The number of juvenile traffic cases filed in 2019 decreased by 5.2% from 2018. The Court disposed of 238 juvenile traffic cases during 2019, and 7 cases were pending going into 2020.

| SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC CASE ACTIVITY | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---|----|
| CASES FILED | 238 | | |
| CASES DISPOSED | 237 | | |
| SEX: | | | |
| MALE | 153 | | |
| FEMALE | 84 | | |
| AGE: | | | |
| 15 & UNDER | 4 | | |
| 16 | 97 | | |
| 17 | 136 | | |
| DISPOSITIONS: | | | |
| FINE | 205 | OTHER ADMONISHED | 33 |
| COURT COSTS | 224 | TICKET AMENDED/ADJUSTED | 16 |
| LICENSE SUSPENSION | 188 | PLED NO CONTEST | 40 |
| DENIED RIGHT TO APPLY | 17 | CASE DISMISSED | 10 |
| NO BUGGY OPERATION | 1 | COUNTS DISMISSED | 5 |
| TRAFFIC SCHOOL | 5 | TWO COUNTS ON ONE TICKET | 13 |
| JUVENILE DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM | 27 | THREE COUNTS ON ONE TICKET | 5 |
| RESTITUTION | 85 | PROBATION | 1 |
| COMMUNITY SERVICE | 62 | TRANSFER TO ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT | 1 |
| SEATBELT CITATIONS | 2 | TRANSFER IN FROM ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT | 9 |
| TICKET WAIVED | 8 | | |

TOP 10 TRAFFIC OFFENSES

| TYPE OF OFFENSE | TOTAL COMMITTED |
|---|-----------------|
| Speeding | 105 |
| Assured Clear Distance | 57 |
| Failure to Control | 23 |
| Failure to Yield, Right of Way | 21 |
| No valid Operator's license/Expired license | 4 |
| Driving under suspension | 4 |
| Driving under the influence | 4 |
| Improper Starting/Passing/Turning/Backing | 4 |
| Unlicensed vehicle/improper registration/expired pl | 4 |
| Failure to use headlights/One headlight/Lighted light | 4 |

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES FILED BY SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

| COMPLAINT BY | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP P.D. | 38 |
| BURTON VILLAGE P.D. | 4 |
| CHARDON CITY P.D. | 30 |
| CHESTER TOWNSHIP P.D. | 29 |
| GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF | 39 |
| KENT P.D. | 1 |
| MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE P.D. | 11 |
| NEWBURY TOWNSHIP P.D. | 1 |
| OHIO DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | 1 |
| OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL | 77 |
| RUSSELL TOWNSHIP P.D. | 4 |
| SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE P.D. | 2 |
| TRANSFER IN | 1 |
| TOTAL | 238 |

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4510.31, a probationary license revocation for one year results if a juvenile commits three moving violations before the age of 18. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles may impose a ninety-day license suspension, in addition to other requirements, if a juvenile commits two moving violations before the age of 18. The following table shows the number of traffic moving violations the court adjudicated in 2019:

| MOVING OFFENSES | MOVING OFFENSES | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| 1ST OFFENSE | 118 | 75 | 193 |
| 2ND OFFENSE | 18 | 5 | 23 |
| 3RD OFFENSE | 3 | 9 | 12 |
| 4TH OR MORE OFFENSE | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 139 | 89 | 228 |

PROBATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Court's services to youthful offenders and their families emphasizes a commitment to meeting the needs of alleged delinquent and unruly children and juvenile traffic offenders within the community. With the support of the Youth Services Subsidy and RECLAIM grants, the court has been able to develop a variety of programs that enhance the continuum of services provided to juveniles and their families within Geauga County. The Probation staff utilizes the Ohio Youth Assessment Survey (OYAS) risk assessment to assist in determining levels of service intervention and case planning/goal setting to effectively target criminogenic needs of the youth. The Probation staff uses Carey Guides and Brief Intervention Tools (BITS), along with motivational interviewing techniques, to promote behavioral change among the youth participating in the program.

JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES

The probation staff manages a caseload of youthful offenders and is responsible for ensuring compliance with court orders, assessing client needs, initiating referrals to appropriate resource agencies, and maintaining related documentation, while promoting behavioral change.

Each youth who is placed on probation is required to follow the conditions of probation. These conditions establish the parameters of acceptable behavior for the probationer. These conditions are enforced by the probation officer who, if necessary, files formal complaints for probation violations. Probation officers make regular contact with the youths, parents, schools, agencies, and others involved with the youths to assist them in making positive changes in their lives.

1. 39 youth continued on probation from the previous year
2. 43 youth were placed on probation, 33 males and 10 females
3. 45 youth were terminated from probation, 33 males and 12 females
4. 82 youth were supervised on probation in 2019

PROBATION ASSIGNMENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

| Residence | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Berkshire | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Cardinal | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Chagrin Falls | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Chardon | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Kenston | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Newbury | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| West Geauga | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Not enrolled in school | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Outside County | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 33 | 10 | 43 |

DIVERSION SERVICES

The Diversion Program is designed for non-violent misdemeanor offenders and unruly offenders with the exception of runaway episodes that exceed 24 hours in length. When a case is diverted, it is handled outside of the formal courtroom setting. Discretion to divert cases is provided for in the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure. Diversion Services intervene in matters of alleged delinquency and unruliness absent the stigma of establishing an official court record.

- Referrals Received: 42
 - a. 33 Delinquencies
 - b. 9 Unruly Cases
- Filed Officially: 8
- Diverted: 34

H.B. 410 Habitual Truancy

In 2019, 4 unruly child complaints were referred to the court for habitual truancy pursuant to R.C. 2151.022 (B). 2 were initially placed in diversion but subsequently filed formally for not complying with diversion conditions. The other 2 cases were filed formally after being certified from Lake County Juvenile Court after they had failed to comply with their diversion program requirements in Lake County. 3 of the 4 cases were carried forward to 2020.

ADDITIONAL COURT SERVICES

Case Management: The Juvenile Court Case Management Department was created in 2017 to assist the Court's mission to protect Geauga County's most vulnerable children by overseeing the Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Program, and by managing the abuse, neglect and dependency cases that come before the Court. The Court quickly realized the positive impact Case Management was able to have on the families coming before the Court and expanded its responsibilities in 2018 and again in 2019. In 2019 Case Management managed private custody cases as well as abuse, neglect and dependency cases. It oversaw many community outreach initiatives for the Court including working with such organizations as Geauga Youth-Led Prevention, Geauga Educational Service Center, NAMI, and Next Step. Case Management also represented the Court for the Maple Festival, Domestic Violence Awareness Walk and The Great Geauga County Fair.

- 1. Referrals:** Case Managers met with families and utilized screening tools in order to determine families' treatment needs. Once needs were determined, Case Management staff made referrals to community partners who were able to meet the needs of the family. Case Management were also available to connect clients with community partners, if and when families were ready to start their own process. Referrals were made for mental health and substance abuse treatment services. In 2019, over 45 clients were referred to services for drug, alcohol and mental health needs.
- 2. Therapeutic and Supervised Visitation:** Geauga County Juvenile Court is committed to providing opportunities for visitation to ensure that families have the best possible chance of addressing conflict and working toward reunification. It is important that children have the opportunity to have a healthy, safe relationship with both parents when possible.

Case managers managed therapeutic and supervised visitations, facilitating reunification by allowing families in crisis to spend more time together while working through the Court process. The Court partnered with Ohio Guidestone for therapeutic visitation, so parents could receive valuable parenting training from a licensed therapist while spending time with their children.

Case Management's supervised visitation program consists of a trained, qualified professional who monitors visitation for safety issues and compliance with court orders. Supervised visitation gave parents who otherwise would have little or no time with their children the opportunity to safely visit children for extended periods in a variety of public spaces or the parental home. They also worked with CASA on the creation of a private visitation room to allow therapeutic and supervised visits to take place in comfortable, private setting. Through these two visitation programs, Geauga County parents received over 640 hours of additional parenting time in 2019.

- 3. Mediation:** In order to offer families an alternative to the formal court process and provide a vehicle for self-determination, 2019 saw the Juvenile Court introducing a new mediation

program. Mediation was offered at no cost to families with Ohio Supreme Court trained mediators. The mediation program has shown early successes with 88% of families who chose to mediate reaching partial or full agreements.

4. **Co-parenting Class:** Every parent will say that they want to do what is best for their child, but at times, their actions and words do not demonstrate this. This leads to frustration and conflict between parents and stress for the child. Another addition to Case Management in 2019, the Juvenile Court's co-parenting class is a three session program offered at no cost and designed to teach co-parents effective skills to minimize the sometimes stressful impact of co-parenting. Over 30 parents successfully completed this hands-on class in 2019.

Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Program (FLIP)

The purpose of the Geauga County Family Life Improvement Program (FLIP) is to serve the best interests of the children by aiding in family reunification through Parent Mentoring and case management services designed to improve family dynamics, thus reducing the likelihood of unruly and/or delinquent juvenile behavior which can stem from dysfunctional family dynamics. 33 families received Ohio Guidestone services through the Family Life Improvement Program with over 96% of the families successfully completing the program.

Drug Testing: Completed by hair sample or mouth swab analysis

- 374 Drug Tests administered: 85 Juveniles, 286 Adults

Community Service: Juveniles are ordered to "replace the void" their offenses created in society by performing a specifically designated number of hours working at a non-profit or government agency, either located by the juveniles or as part of the court's organized community service work crews. Juveniles ordered to perform community service engaged in various projects under the direction of Beth Williams, Director of Probation, along with help from the probation staff and Court Constable John Ralph. During the summer, the court once again established a garden project partnership with Tim Shaffer of Chelsea Flower Garden and David Johnson of Mapledale Landscaping to provide fresh produce to the families at Women Safe, local food pantries, churches, the Department of Aging, senior centers, and residents of the County. Juveniles also helped serve at various pancake breakfasts and fish fries throughout the County and provided holiday parade cleanup for local townships and the Geauga County Fair.

- 146 youths served, 125 new cases, 21 carry over cases
- New cases: 89 Males, 36 Females
- 2282 hours of work provided to the community

Restitution Services: The restitution program is intended to hold juveniles accountable for their actions by ordering them to pay restitution to the victims of delinquent acts when damages were incurred. The court monitors court-ordered payments.

- 11 youths were ordered to pay restitution, 5 males and 6 females
- \$15,316.69 was collected and paid to victims

Intensive Supervision Program

- Provides an additional layer of supervision to clients identified as a high risk to recidivate
- Can be used as an alternative sanction to filing a formal Violation of Probation
- In 2019, 26 juveniles were served through 20 new cases, and 6 cases carried over from 2018

Electronic Monitoring

- Juveniles and adults ordered on electronically supervised house arrest wear an ankle bracelet that monitors their location via GPS around the clock
- Alternative to detention
- Can be used as an alternative sanction to filing a formal Violation of Probation
- Some juveniles and adults are ordered to participate in Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM)
- In 2019, 27 individuals were monitored via GPS, and 8 individuals were monitored via CAM

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Circles

Circles is a group of children in any grade from fifth through eighth who learn various leadership skills to help them navigate towards adulthood. These children are selected by the school and based upon their participation will be asked to represent their school at various community events. The small groups meet at least twice per month in the school. The large Circles groups meet 6-8 times during the school year to cover a topic selected by the school administration with input from the student population. Court employees facilitate the groups of children. In 2019, 6 children participated in the small group program while entire 9th grade class at West Geauga High School participated in the large group Circles.

Start With Hello

The Juvenile Court initiated the Sandy Hook Foundation Start With Hello program in Geauga County in 2015. Start With Hello encourages students to take small but powerful actions to promote connectedness and inclusion, and to identify and help their peers who are showing signs of social isolation. Social isolation is the overwhelming feeling of being left out, lonely or treated like you are invisible. Young people who feel this way may pull away from society, struggle with learning and social development, or choose to hurt themselves or others. Start With Hello educates students to recognize when a fellow student may be experiencing social isolation, what they can do to help, and how they play a role in the community to include everyone. Sandy Hook Foundation hopes to eliminate all violence in the schools through education. In 2019, 7 West Geauga High School students presented the Start With Hello program theatrical presentation in 7 Geauga County elementary schools.

Launchpad

Launchpad was implemented by Judge Timothy J. Grendell in December 2015 and is run by the Court's CASA program. Launchpad directly addresses careers and life plans for children aging out of foster care in Geauga County. At the age of 14, children in foster care are identified as Launchpad candidates. This allows for review of the child's academic performance to make adjustments where needed to serve the best interest of the child. At fifteen and a half, a questionnaire is completed to give the FLIP coordinator an idea of the wants and needs of the particular child. At 17, a Federal Financial Aid Form must be completed and all testing completed with scores given to the court for college or vocational entrance. If a child elects to consider the military, a non-recruiter will present them options. If the child wants to go directly to work, various opportunities are presented to the child to give the child a broader exposure to possibilities. The child at the age of sixteen and one half is asked if they would like a sponsor family for a home to come to for the holidays or maybe just someone to call in times of need after the child ages out of foster care. The Court's CASA Program Director has families waiting to embrace these young adults as if they are their own college kids. Background checks are provided on all sponsor families and a basket is available for any child aging out of foster care. In 2019, 16 children participated in the program. The CASA Launchpad children have been given baskets of supplies upon graduation from high school, connections to host families, and assistance in securing transportation for jobs and careers. This program allows for the children aging out

of the system to still have a support system they are comfortable approaching even years after a case formally closes.

PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES

Probate and Juvenile Court staff continue a tradition of reinvesting in Geauga County by participating in community outreach activities directly benefitting Geauga County residents under the direction of the Philanthropic Committee, chaired by Beth Williams, Heather Mountsier, and Justine Stowe. Court staff facilitated and participated in the following charitable activities during 2019: A Food Drive where non-perishable food items were collected and distributed to Geauga County food pantries and the Veterans Food Bank; Thanksgiving dinners assembled and distributed to 3 Geauga County families in November; and sponsorship of a court-involved family for Christmas.

“Jolly Judge Tim Grendell and the Probate Court Carolers” brought Holiday Cheer to Seniors throughout Geauga County during the first annual Caroling events. Working with the Department on Aging, Judge Grendell and Court Staff visited nursing homes and senior centers, in full Victorian Caroling garb with props, and invited residents and visitors to join along as they sang popular Christmas and Hanukah tunes. The events were so popular they immediately received invitations to return during the 2020 Holiday Season.

PORTAGE-GEAUGA COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Gauga County shares the use of a juvenile detention facility, which is located at 8000 Infirmary Road, Ravenna, Ohio, with Portage County. The Detention Center is operated and maintained by the Joint Board of County Commissioners from each county and the Board of Trustees. The Detention Center has a maximum capacity of 46 residents and is accredited by the American Correctional Association.

In 2019, the total Detention Center population was 274 residents. Geauga County placed 89 residents in the Detention Center, 70 males and 19 females. 4 residents were carried over from 2018. Geauga County’s average daily population was 2.51 residents. The average daily length of stay was 9.86 days. Geauga County residents used 916.93 bed days or 21.19% of the total bed days used at the Detention Center. Of the 89 residents Geauga County detained, 63 committed misdemeanors, 12 committed felonies, 8 committed unruly offenses, and 6 were undefined.



CASA for KIDS of Geauga County

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Chardon, OH 44024
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email casa@geaugacourts.org



2019 Year End Report

A program of the Geauga County Juvenile Court, CASA for KIDS of Geauga County provides Guardian ad Litem services for the abused, neglected, dependent, and other children under the Court's protection, as referred by the Court. Our goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for each child as requested by Judge Timothy J. Grendell or Magistrate Abbey King. We screen, train, and support quality volunteer representation for children, to advocate for each individual child's unique needs and a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

January **2019**, CASA for KIDS marked the **twenty-second** year of providing Guardian ad litem services in the Geauga County Juvenile Court. A Guardian ad Litem is appointed by the Court to represent the "best interest" of a child/sibling group and is the "voice of the child" in the court. Reports with factual information, concerns, and recommendations are submitted to the court as outlined by Rule 48 of the Rules of Superintendence by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The CASA program has trained **(345)** volunteers who have represented **(2,456)** children since the program began in **1997**.

On average, CASA volunteers contribute approximately **(115)** hours per year to the program. In **2019**, the program had **five** volunteers contributing between **(350-650)** total hours and **nine** volunteers contributing between **(150-350)** total hours to their cases over twelve consecutive months. We also had one volunteer contribute over 1,000 hours to her case. **Fifteen** new volunteers joined the program through application, reference, interview, and **(32)** hours of pre-service training. In total, the volunteers contributed **(7592)** of in-kind service hours working their cases, an **increase** of over **(500)** hours compared to 2018. CASA volunteers are required to complete a total of 12 hours of ongoing training yearly (6 of these must be in the classroom, and 2 hours must be Trauma-related). CASA for KIDS volunteers completed **(7,500)** hours of training in **2019**.

CASA Volunteers act in the role of the court-appointed Guardian ad Litem, but receive no financial compensation. The Geauga County Commissioners', rate-of-pay for a court-appointed attorney's time is \$50 per hour. Therefore, the CASA volunteers' in-kind contribution was over **\$375,000** in **2019**. This was a savings to all Geauga county residents.

The program welcomes volunteers from all cultures, professions, ethnic and educational backgrounds. **(48%)** of CASA Volunteers are employed either full or part-time, **(76%)** are women, and **(24%)** are male.

In an effort to increase collaboration, public awareness and education about the CASA for KIDS program, the staff and volunteers participated or assisted with the following committees and events: Geauga SART (Sexual Assault Response Team); Geauga County LOSS (Local Outreach Supporting Survivors) Team; Domestic Violence Task Force; Start with Hello program in local elementary schools; Restorative Justice Circles Groups in middle schools; Launchpad identifying foster children 14 and up are on their way to becoming independent; NAMI Walk-a-Thon; Geauga Learn Day at the Great Geauga County Fair; Geauga

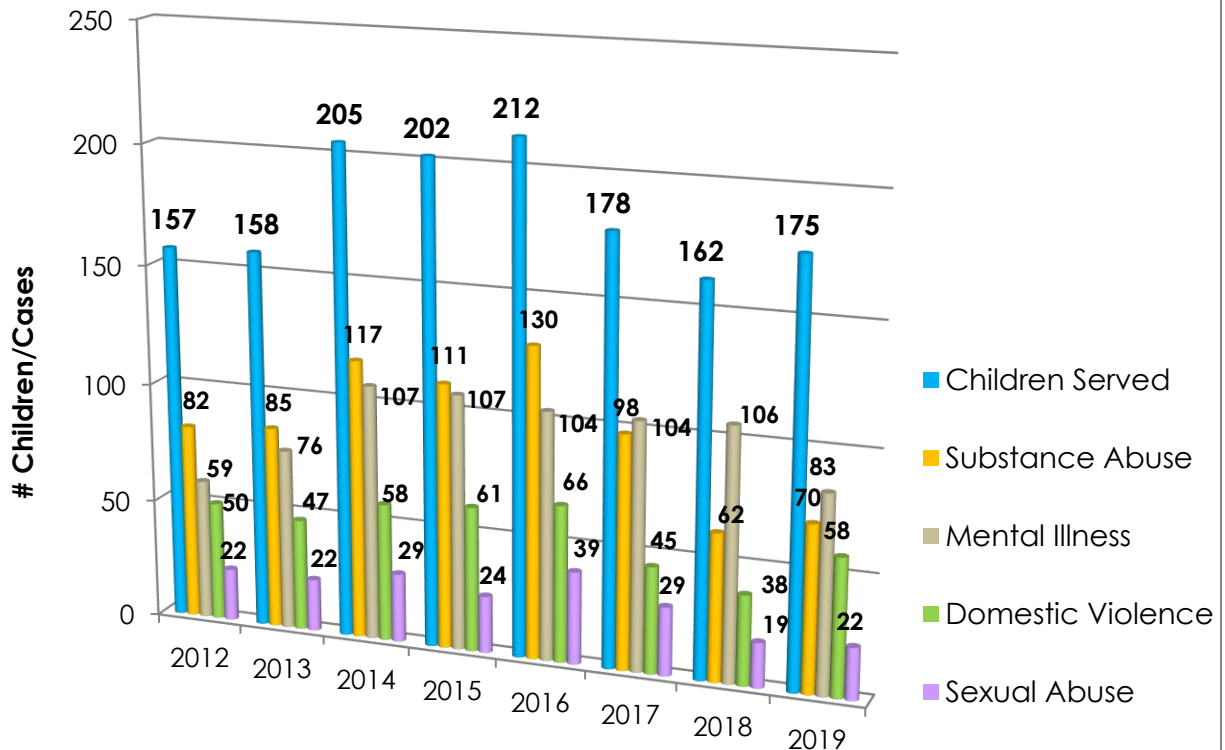
County Juvenile Court booth at the Great Geauga County Fair; Geauga County Library Volunteer Recruitment; and, the Geauga County Job and Family Services Child Abuse Prevention Month kickoff. In addition, CASA printed informational Post Cards, and sent them to target areas throughout the county for public awareness of the CASA for KIDS program and recruitment efforts.

Two CASA Supervisors and the Program Director supervised **(66)** active CASA Volunteers who were appointed to **(175)** children, **(90)** whom were new children involved with the court. All the cases were adjudicated abuse, neglect, and or dependency, with the exception of **(9)** delinquent children and **(18)** children in custody cases referred by the court. We served ALL children requested by the Geauga County Juvenile Court.

The Juvenile Court's CASA program was staffed by four full-time positions and one part-time position. The program Director oversees and manages the CASA for Kids program. The principal duties of the position include managing the program staff; overseeing recruitment and training of the CASA volunteers, as well as providing training opportunities for existing volunteers. Additionally, the director works with her team to create an atmosphere of appreciation and valued volunteers; establish relationships with community partners and ensure compliance with program standards; create data questionnaires to provide needed statistics; and build relationships within the community to support the children's needs. The Program Administrator/Volunteer Liaison supports the administrative needs of the CASA volunteers, staff and program; provides program data, ensures grant compliance, and serve as a communication intermediary for the CASA volunteers. The two CASA Supervisors support all assigned CASA volunteers to their cases. CASA Supervisors serve as mentors to the CASA volunteers to establish service goals and provide guidance regarding case processing; file court reports; collaborate with other agencies; attend court hearings and meetings with assigned volunteer and continuously monitor and evaluate each volunteer's investigative and advocacy work to ensure each child in the program receives the highest quality outcome, as well as maintaining boundaries as outlined in the program. In addition, they participate in pre-service and in-service training.

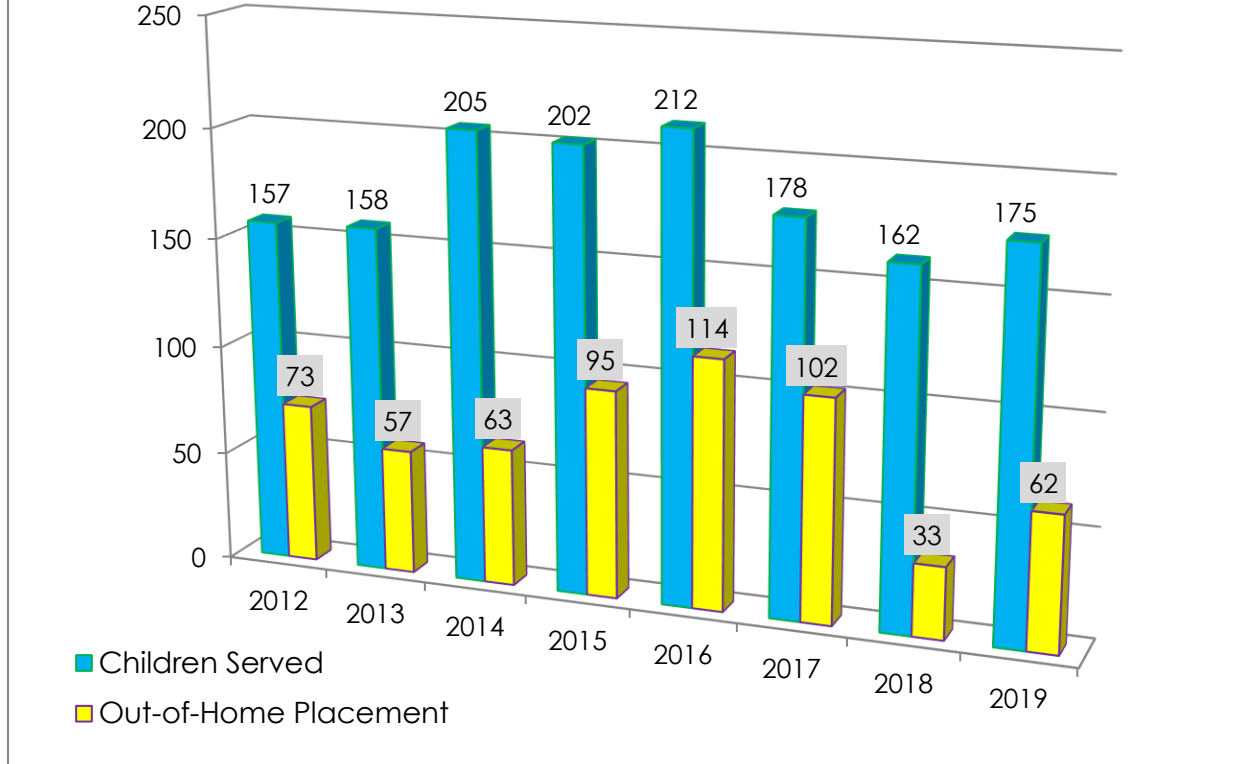
The program is funded in large part by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) grant through the Ohio Attorney General's Office, which supports personnel costs, legal consultant, background screenings for new volunteers, association dues, case management software, supply costs and other costs related to the program. Additional funds are received from Ohio CASA for providing pre-service training and in-service training for the volunteers. The funding received from Ohio CASA supports CASA volunteer pre-service training and continuing education for the volunteers. In 2019, CASA for KIDS of Geauga County was able to sponsor (21) volunteers to attend the Ohio CASA Conference through the support of Judge Timothy J. Grendell and funds from our training. The program also hosted the following independent training presentations and/or CASA sponsored "CASA Café" training workshops: Forensic Nursing; Healthy Teen Relationships; Ethics, Professionalism, and Boundaries; Youth Mental Health First Aid; Family Pride, Premier Health, Geauga County Jobs and Family Service's Role, the Attorney General; Vaping; Communicating and Interviewing with Kids; "Resilience" Movie with discussion; Book Club with discussion; Street Smarts; County Investigator and JFS; Ravenwood Stop Program; Family First Counsel and Metzenbaum; GYC and Safely Home; CASA Relations with the Court; Silver Lining Equine Essential Growth; Teen Vaping Dangers; Safety in the Field; Report Writing; State of the Annual Address; Growing Resilience in the Wounded High School Student; "Bully" Video with Discussion; and Launchpad.

2012-2019 Children served by CASA whose cases involved these issues



- In **2019**, the program served **(175)** children.
- Last year, the program experienced a **(8%) increase** in the number of children's cases involving **substance abuse** listed in the initial complaint compared to 2018.
- Currently, we are seeing an increase in methamphetamines & cocaine on parents' drug tests and a decrease in Heroin and opiate use.
- Of children's cases in **2019**, **(47%)** of them involved **mental illness**, this is a decrease of **(18%)** since 2018.
- Children's cases involving **domestic violence** reported in the initial complaint rose to **(33%)** in 2019. However, this trauma is often not initially reported.
- CASA cases involving **sexual abuse** was **(12%)** in 2019.

Number of Children Served in Out-of-Home Placement



- Of the **(175)** children the CASA program served in **2019**, **(62)** children were placed in out-of-home placements at one point, with a **(75%)** reunification rate overall on all case closings.

Program Goals for 2020:

1. Update electronic and social media (website, Facebook) presence regarding CASA for KIDS to raise awareness of the program’s need in the community, as well as its positive impact on the children and families referred to the program by Judge Timothy J. Grendell and Magistrate Abbey King.
2. Increase recruiting and training of qualified community members as CASA volunteers, and train twelve more volunteers in 2020.
3. Continue “CASA Café Tuesday” training workshops in a relaxed environment which has encouraged attendance by volunteers. We hope to provide volunteers with eighteen Rule 48 trainings to give them ample opportunities fulfil requirements.
4. Support the attendance of at least twenty CASA Volunteers to the Annual Ohio CASA Conference.
5. To account for at least 7,500 volunteer case hours over the next year.

PROBATE DIVISION - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

The Probate Division has jurisdiction over matters such as issuance of marriage licenses; administration of estates and guardianships; adoption proceedings; determination of sanity or mental competence; certain eminent domain proceedings; and other civil matters.

The Probate Court's dedicated staff continues to strive to provide efficient quality in the processing of all cases. Geauga County Courts continually updates forms to comply with Ohio Supreme Court rule changes. The updated forms are available to the public through our website: www.geaugacourts.org.

A total of 1,086 pending probate cases were carried over into 2019. During the year 583 new cases were opened and 609 cases were closed. As of January 1, 2020, a total of 1,076 cases were carried over from 2018.

GOOD DEEDS PROGRAM

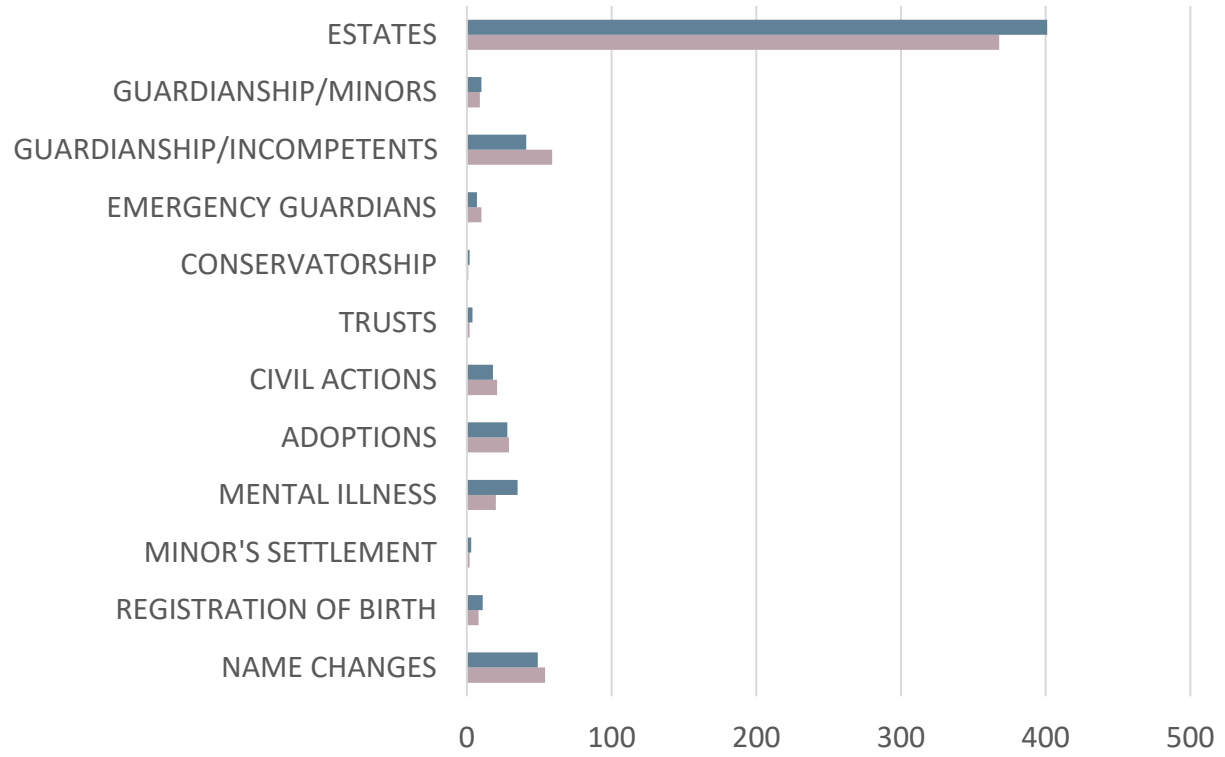
The Award Winning "Good Deeds Program" is a free program presented by Geauga County Probate Court Judge Timothy J. Grendell and the Geauga County Recorder, to help Geauga County residents better understand probate issues regarding property transfers. This program is a countywide effort to educate Geauga residents by: (1) identifying whether the form of their present deed will require transfer through the Probate Court upon death, and (2) to consider less expensive and less time-consuming alternatives to a probate transfer of all types of assets. During the program, local attorneys are available to discuss participants' estate matters for free, and a free asset checklist is provided during the presentation.

In 2019, the Geauga County Probate Court offered 20 Good Deeds presentations, and 1385 Geauga County residents participated.

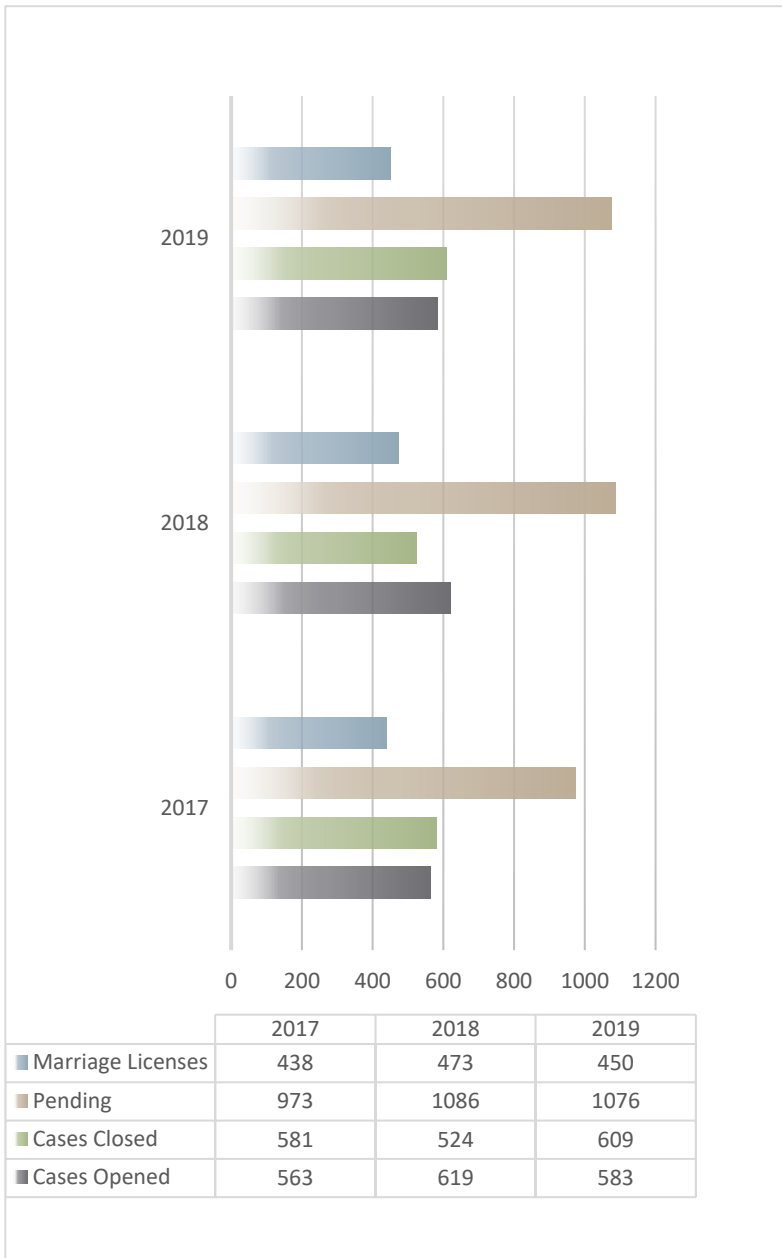
SUMMARY OF CASES

| | PENDING FROM 2018 | OPENED | CLOSED | PENDING TO 2019 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|
| ESTATES | 475 | 366 | 399 | 442 |
| GUARDIANSHIP/MINORS | 72 | 9 | 10 | 71 |
| GUARDIANSHIP/INCOMPETENTS | 396 | 59 | 41 | 414 |
| GUARDIANSHIP/EMERGENCY | 15 | 10 | 7 | 18 |
| CONSERVATORSHIP | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| TRUSTS | 45 | 2 | 4 | 43 |
| CIVIL ACTIONS | 24 | 21 | 18 | 27 |
| ADOPTIONS | 8 | 29 | 28 | 9 |
| MENTAL ILLNESS | 16 | 20 | 35 | 1 |
| MINOR'S SETTLEMENT | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| REGISTRATION OF BIRTH | 3 | 8 | 11 | 0 |
| NAME CHANGES | 9 | 54 | 49 | 14 |
| TOTALS | 1068 | 581 | 607 | 1042 |
| MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED FOR THE YEAR | | 450 | | |

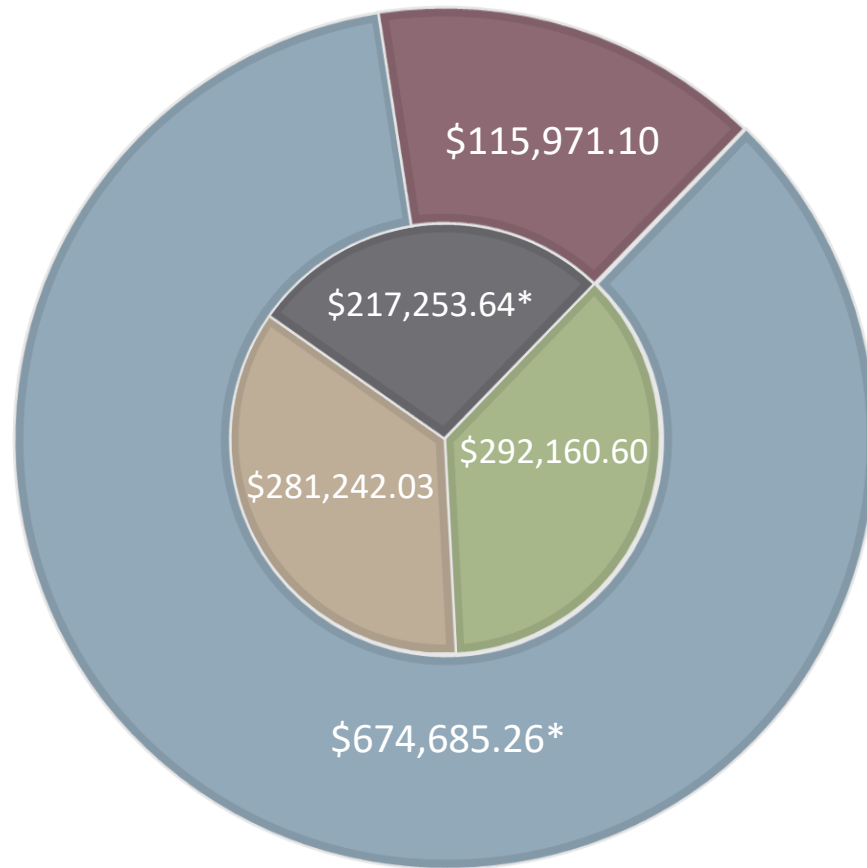
2019 Probate Cases Opened and Closed



PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES 2017-2019



2019 REVENUES: \$747,906.28*



Revenue Sources:

- Court Fees, Costs, Other*
- State Grants
- Federal Grants

Deposited Into:

- Court Funds*
- County Funds

* Does not include \$8,103.00 owed to the Probate Court that Geauga County Auditor Charles Walder has refused to process

Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court 2019 Expenditures: \$1,868,938.24

