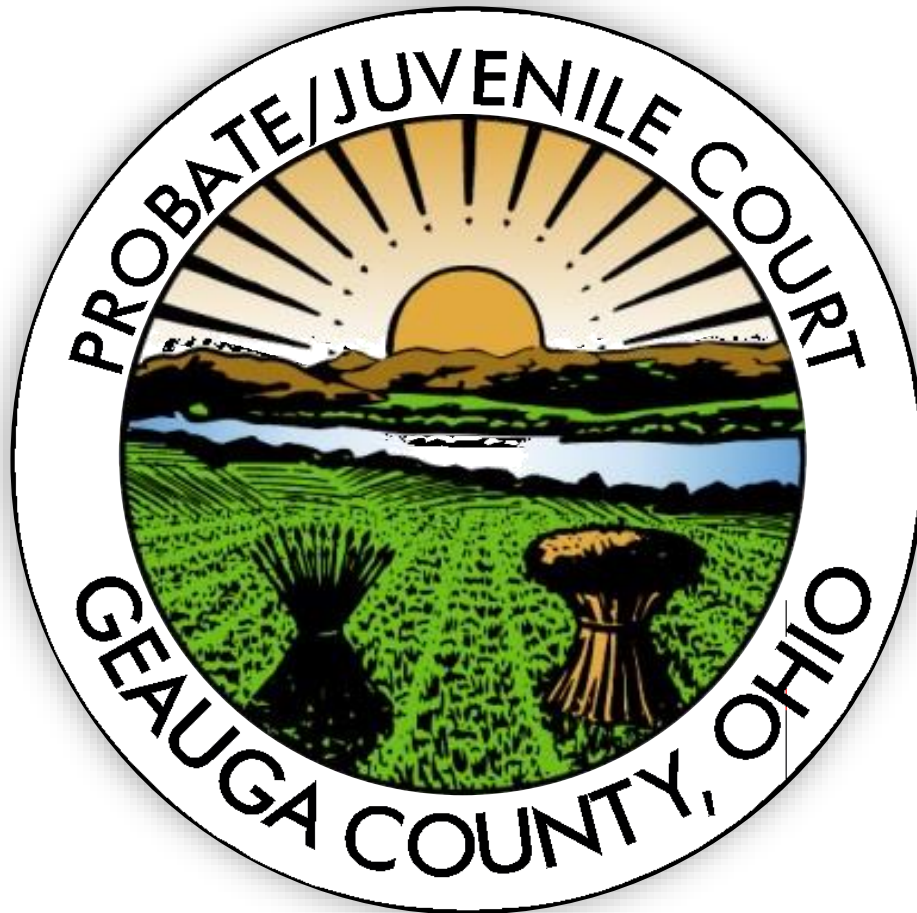


Geauga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Divisions
2020 Annual Report



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.

The Court remained open and continued to provide all required judicial services to Geauga County residents in 2020, despite the challenges of COVID-19. Of course, the Court implemented numerous protective measures to help protect the health and safety of the public and Court staff. In an effort to accommodate the County Commissioners' concerns about the potential impact of COVID-19 on the County's tax revenue, the Court suspended publication of its quarterly newsletter, Geauga Court News, and reduced outreach spending for most of 2020. The Court will resume the Court Newsletter and community outreach programs in 2021.

Throughout 2020, 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.

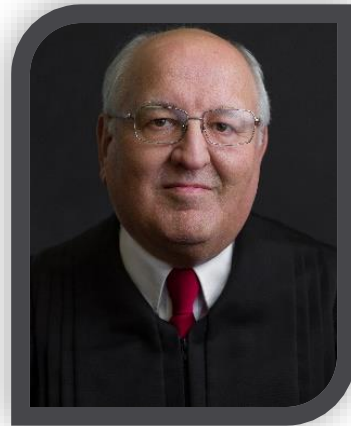
Through efficient and effective Court management and innovative programming, the cost of operating both Juvenile and Probate Courts remained much the same in 2020 compared to the prior year. Even while maintaining the same level of costs, in 2020 the Court continued to increase access to more effective services for Geauga County residents, and implemented the Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Resource Center.

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 decreased in 2020. Drug related matters and domestic violence cases, however, continue to have a major impact on the Court's docket. The Court continues to seek innovative ways to address these problems.

The Juvenile Court's CASA Program, which provides voluntary guardians ad litem for children in family abuse/neglect/dependency cases, remains strong under the leadership of Program Director Mary Ruth Shumway. In 2020, the Juvenile Court assigned 61 CASA volunteers to advocate for 152 children. Due to the over 5,450 hours contributed by CASA volunteers instead of appointing paid guardians ad litem, the Court's CASA Program saved county taxpayers over \$272,500 in 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the Probate Court conducted virtual Good Deeds Program sessions for the benefit of county property owners. Good Deeds educational programs provide a 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. The Court intends to resume in-person Good Deeds educational sessions in 2021.

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 rehabilitative 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 school officials, local mental health professionals, and social services agencies. Each plays an important role in the administration of justice through this court.

Enclosed please find the 2020 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 during the pandemic 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 2020. The Court's continued success in 2020 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

“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

“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

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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, 2020, the Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court had 29 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 three Juvenile Court Deputy Clerks, the Case Management Director and Deputy Case Management Director, the Intake Coordinator, the Family Services Program Director, the Director of Probation and two Probation Officers, Community Service Supervisor, the CASA Program Director, CASA Program Administrator, 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.org.

A total of 102 pending juvenile cases were carried over into 2020. During the year, 572 new cases were opened (including those transferred in, reactivated, or redesignated), 581 cases were closed, and 93 cases carried forward into 2021.

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 2020, the Court had 83 delinquency complaints filed, a decrease of 42% from the prior year.

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 2020, the Court had 12 unruly complaints filed, a decrease of 77% from the prior year. Of the unruly complaints, 1 was 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 2020, 193 juvenile traffic cases were filed in the Court, which is a decrease of 18.9% from the prior year.

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES: In 2020, 49 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 30% from the prior year.

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 2020, 1 adult contributing charges were filed in the court, a decrease of 89% from the prior year.

CUSTODY/VISITATION CASES: The court has jurisdiction to hear custody/visitation cases involving children who are not under another Ohio court's jurisdiction. In 2020, 45 custody/visitation cases were filed in the court, an increase of 12.5% from the prior year.

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 2020, 11 paternity cases were filed in the court, an increase of 22.2% from the prior year.

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 2020, 28 support cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 30% from the prior year.

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 2020, 3 UIFSA actions were filed in the court, an increase of 50% from the prior year.

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 2020, 3 other cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 62.5% from the prior year.

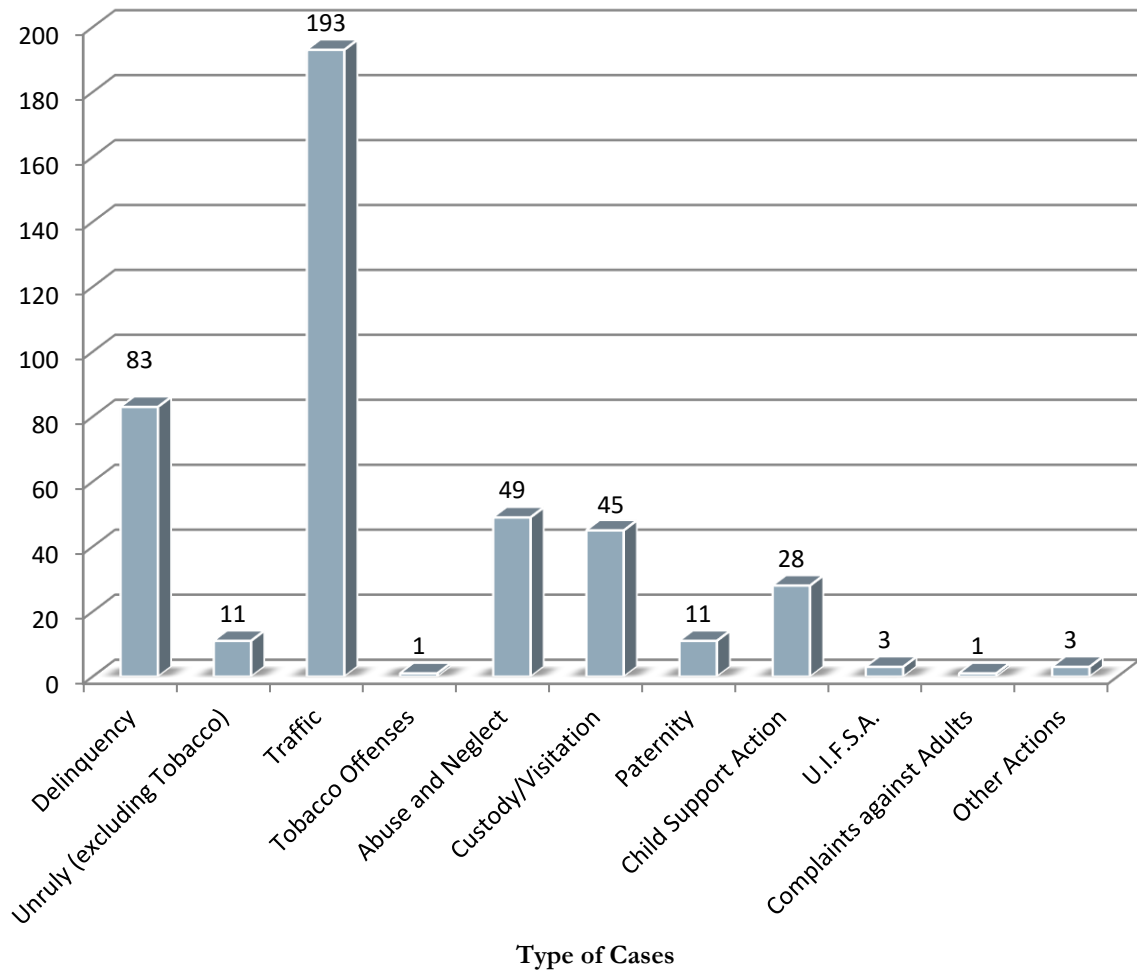
SUMMARY OF JUVENILE CASES

	PENDING FROM 2019	OPENED/REOPENED/T RANSFERRED IN	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2021
DELINQUENCY	10	110	109	11
TRAFFIC	7	197	198	6
ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY	15	50	58	7
UNRULY	4	18	22	0
ADULT SPECIALS	4	1	5	0
PERMANENT JFS CUSTODY	0	5	2	3
CUSTODY	26	102	88	40
CHILD SUPPORT	33	72	85	20
PATERNITY	3	11	9	5
UIFSA	0	3	3	0
OTHERS	0	3	2	1
TOTALS	102	572	581	93

SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED

TYPE OF CASE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
DELINQUENCY	53	30	83
UNRULY (EXCLUDING TOBACCO)	7	4	11
TRAFFIC	122	76	198
TOBACCO OFFENSES	1	0	1
ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY	N/A	N/A	49
CUSTODY/VISITATION	N/A	N/A	45
PATERNITY	N/A	N/A	11
CHILD SUPPORT	N/A	N/A	28
U.I.F.S.A.	N/A	N/A	3
COMPLAINTS AGAINST ADULTS	1	0	1
OTHER	N/A	N/A	3

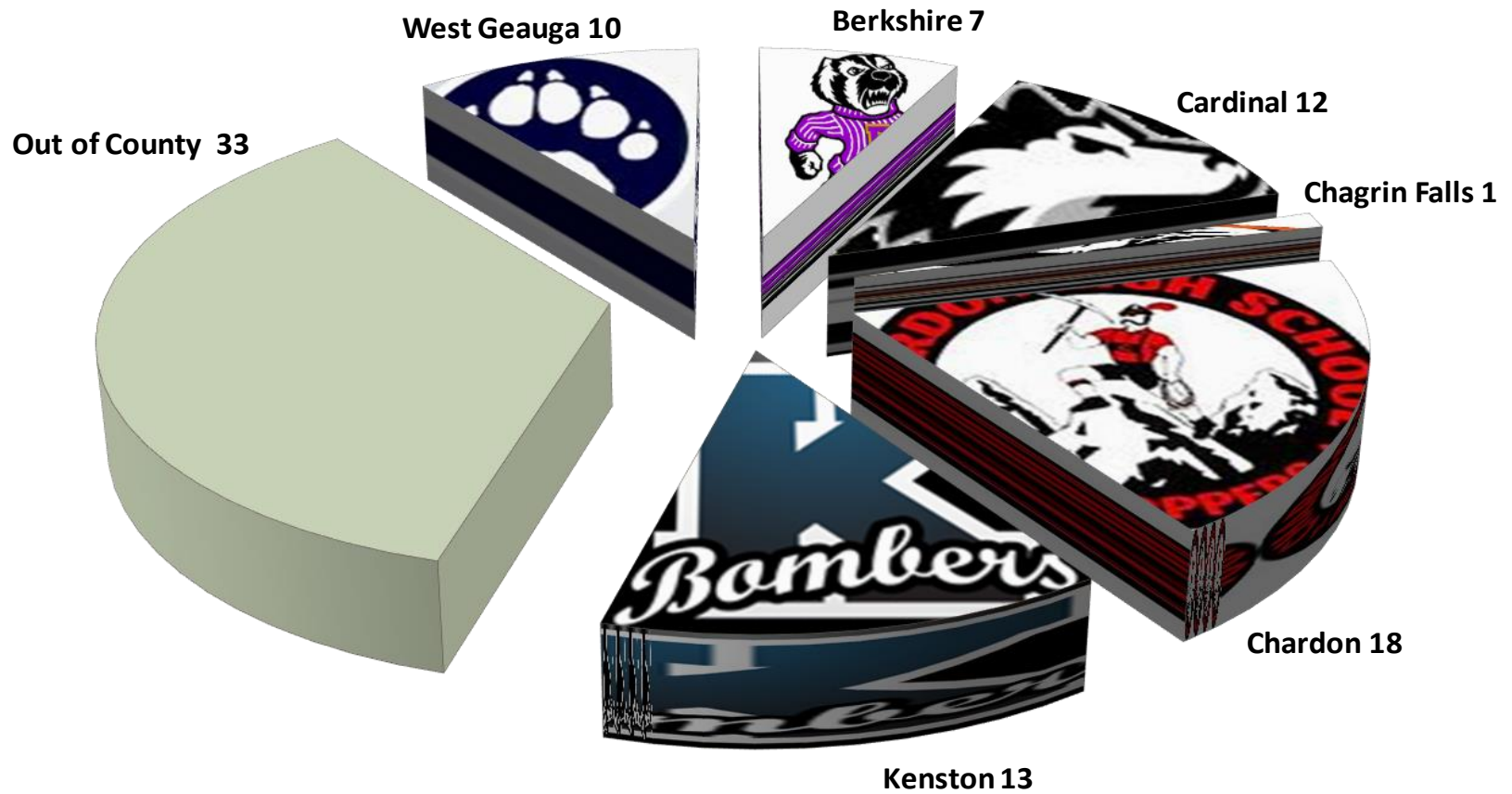
Juvenile Court Actions Filed in 2020



DELIQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY	COMBINED
SHERIFF'S DEPT.	13	2	5	1	18	3	21
BAINBRIDGE P.D.	8	6	4	5	12	11	23
BURTON VILLAGE P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARDON P.D.	6	0	2	1	8	1	9
CHESTER P.D.	6	0	3	0	9	0	9
JUVENILE COURT	11	2	7	0	18	2	20
MIDDLEFIELD P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OHIO STATE PATROL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUSSELL P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S. RUSSELL P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSFERRED IN	3	0	3	0	6	0	6
EDUCATIONAL SVC CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
OTHER	2	0	1	2	3	2	5
TOTAL	50	10	25	9	75	19	94

Delinquent & Unruly Cases by School District 2020



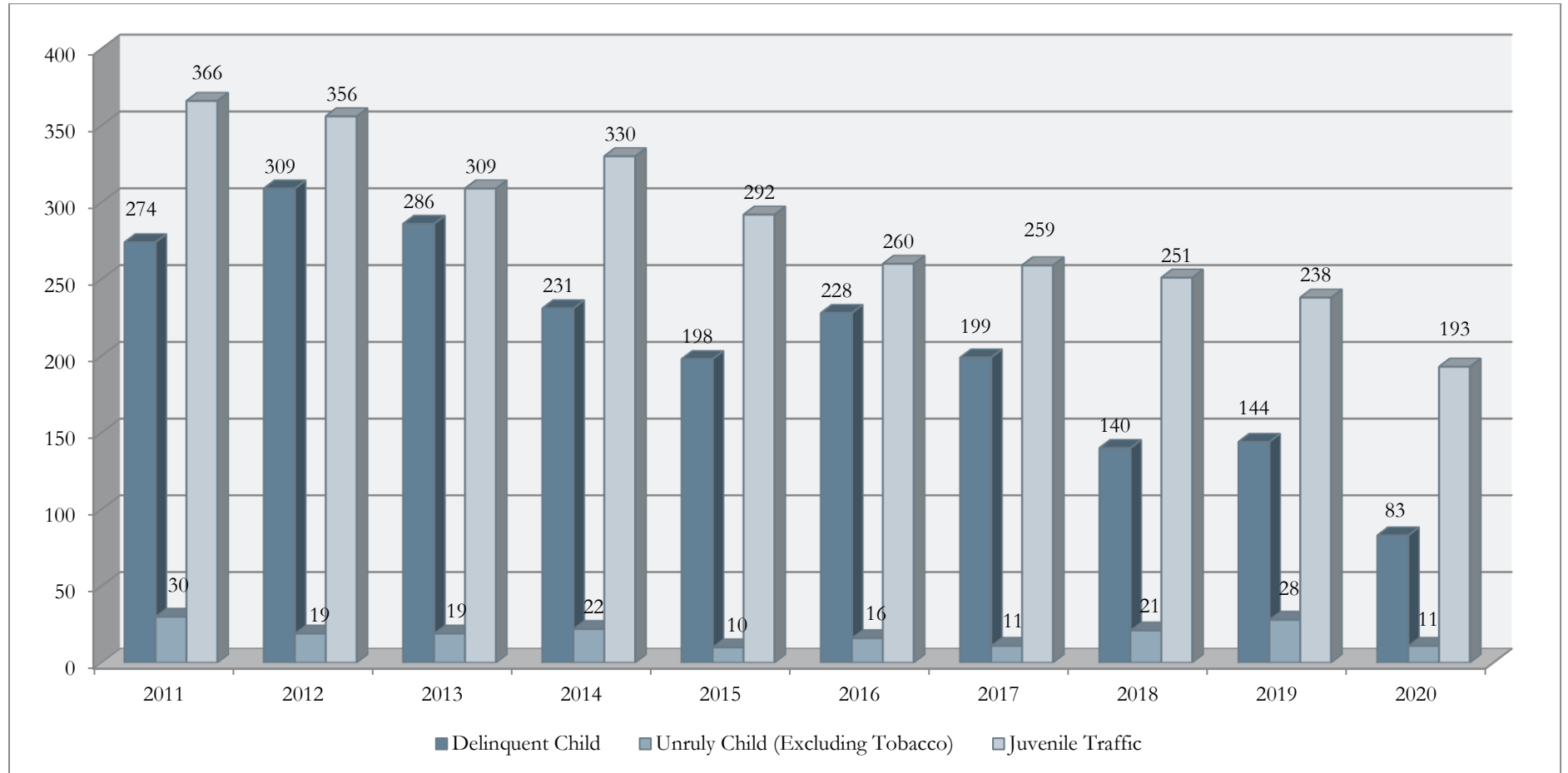
AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE

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	0	0	0	1
AGE 13	4	2	6	1	0	1	7
AGE 14	3	6	9	2	0	2	11
AGE 15	12	6	18	2	1	3	21
AGE 16	8	5	13	1	0	1	14
AGE 17	24	12	36	1	3	4	40
TOTAL	52	31	83	7	4	11	94

NEW CASES FILED

CASE TYPE	2018	2019	2020
DELINQUENCY	140	144	83
UNRULY & TOBACCO	21	52	12
TRAFFIC	251	238	193
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	60	70	49
ADULT CONTRIBUTING	3	9	1
CUSTODY	44	40	45
SUPPORT	48	40	28
PATERNITY	11	9	11
U.I.F.S.A.	6	2	3
OTHER	17	8	3
TOTALS	601	612	428

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



DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CHARGES

DELINQUENCY CHARGES

In 2020, 128 delinquency charges were filed compared to 220 charges in the prior year, a decrease of 42%. 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 2020, 100 charges were for acts of delinquency, 27 charges were for violations of probation, and 1 charge was for violations of court orders. The number of delinquency charges for acts other than violations of probation, parole, or court orders filed in 2020 decreased by 46% compared to the prior year.

With total delinquency charges decreasing by 42% in 2020, the more serious felony charges decreased by 48%. 14, or 14%, 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
ARSON	1	0	1
GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION	1	0	1
IMPROPERLY HANDLING FIREARMS IN MOTOR VEHICLE	1	0	1
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT ARSON	1	0	1
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT VANDALISM	1	0	1
GRAND THEFT	2	0	2
GRAND THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	1	1	2
VANDALISM	1	1	2
AGGRAVATED POSSESSION OF DRUGS	0	1	1
AGGRAVATED TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS	0	1	1
THEFT	1	0	1
TOTALS	10	4	14

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
ASSAULT	1	0	1
ATTEMPTED BREAKING AND ENTERING	2	0	2
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	1	0	1
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT PETTY THEFT	0	1	1
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT CRIMINAL DAMAGING	1	1	2
CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OR UNRULINESS OF A MINOR	1	0	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2	1	3
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	7	2	9
CRIMINAL TRESPASSING	4	3	7
CULTIVATING OF MARIJUANA	1	0	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	9	4	13
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	2	1	3
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHENALIA	7	1	8
INDUCING PANIC	1	0	1
PETTY THEFT	6	7	13
POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS	0	1	1
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	0	1	1
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	4	3	7
PROHIBITIONS	9	2	11
VIOLATION OF PAROLE	3	0	3
VIOLATION OF PROBATION	14	10	24
VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER	1	0	1
TOTALS	76	38	114

TOP 10 OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT CHILDREN

	Total
VIOLATION OF PROBATION (VOP)	24
PETTY THEFT	13
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	13
PROHIBITIONS	11
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	9
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHENALIA	8
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	7
CRIMINAL TRESPASSING	7
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	3
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	3

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

In 2020, the Court adjudicated 8 counts of felony-level offenses, a 20% change from the prior year. No youth were committed to ODYS or a community correction facility.

LEVEL OF OFFENSE	ADJUDICATIONS
F5	5
F4	3
F3	0
F2	0

RACE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
White	4	1	5
Minority	3	0	3
Total	7	1	8

UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES

In 2020, 11 unruly child charges were filed in the Court, a decrease of 61% from the prior year.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO REASONABLE CONTROL	7	4	11

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	39	13	52
ADMONISHED	35	16	51
FINE	13	6	19
COSTS	32	9	41
COSTS WAIVED	23	15	38
LICENSE SUSPENSION	4	0	4
RIGHT TO APPLY FOR O.L. DENIED	2	0	2
FINGERPRINTING	4	0	4
COMMUNITY SANCTIONS			
PROBATION	19	5	24
CONTINUED PROBATION	9	6	15
RESTITUTION	8	3	11
COMMUNITY SERVICE	58	17	75
COUNSELING	0	1	1
ELECTRONIC MONITORING	17	6	23
MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS	1	0	1
D & A ASSESSMENT	1	0	1
DRUG TESTING	0	0	0
DNA TESTING	4	1	5
OTHER ASSESSMENTS	1	0	1
EDUCATION/TREATMENT PROGRAMS	2	1	3
PLACEMENTS			
TO D.Y.S.	0	0	0
TO P.G.D.C.	42	11	53
OTHER PLACEMENTS	3	1	4
SUSPENDED PLACEMENTS	12	6	18
TRANSFERS			
BIND OVERS	0	0	0
TO OTHER JUVENILE COURTS	1	0	1
TO OTHER AGENCIES	0	0	0
GENERAL DISPOSITIONS			
ESSAY	2	5	7
APOLOGY LETTERS	4	1	5
OTHER	28	15	43

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 2020, 1 tobacco cases was filed in the Court.

TOBACCO CASES FILED			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
13	0	0	0
14	0	0	0
15	0	0	0
16	1	0	1
17	0	0	0

ISSUING POLICE DEPARTMENTS			
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	0	BURTON VILLAGE	0
CHAGRIN FALLS	0	CHARDON CITY	1
CHESTER TOWNSHIP	0	GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF	0
GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT	0	MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE	0
NEWBURY TOWNSHIP	0	STATE HIGHWAY PATROL	0
PUNDERSON STATE PARK	0	RUSSELL TOWNSHIP	0
SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE	0	THOMPSON TOWNSHIP	0
OTHER	0		

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES

The Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over all juvenile traffic cases. In 2020, 7 cases were pending at the beginning of the year; 193 cases were filed during the year, 4 cases were transferred in, reactivated, or redesignated; 198 cases were disposed; and 6 cases were pending going into the following year.

SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC CASE ACTIVITY			
NEW CASES FILED	193		
CASES DISPOSED	198		
SEX:			
MALE	122		
FEMALE	76		
AGE:			
15 & UNDER	3		
16	60		
17	135		
DISPOSITIONS:			
FINE	163	TICKET WAIVED	2
COURT COSTS	185	OTHER ADMONISHED	14
LICENSE SUSPENSION	124	TICKET AMENDED/ADJUSTED	10
DENIED RIGHT TO APPLY	4	PLED NO CONTEST	12
NO BUGGY OPERATION	1	CASE DISMISSED	11
FRA SUSPENSION	2	COUNTS DISMISSED	5
TRAFFIC SCHOOL	2	TWO COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	9
JUVENILE DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	11	THREE COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	1
RESTITUTION	65	FOUR COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	1
COMMUNITY SERVICE	45	TRANSFER IN FROM ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT	1

TOP 10 TRAFFIC OFFENSES

TYPE OF OFFENSE	TOTAL COMMITTED
SPEEDING	73
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	39
FAILURE TO CONTROL	28
FAILURE TO YIELD, RIGHT OF WAY	28
IMPROPER LANE USAGE / LANES OF TRAVEL	7
NO VALID OPERATOR'S LICENSE / EXPIRED LICENSE	5
FAILURE TO STOP AT STOP SIGN / RED LIGHT	5
MISSING PLATES / IMPROPER DISPLAY OF VALIDATION STICKER	3
DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED / UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SUBSTANCE	2
PROHIBITED CONCENTRATION / BAC / UAC	2
RECKLESS OPERATION PRIVATE OR PUBLIC / w/o DUE REGARD / WILLFUL OR WANTON	2
IMPROPER STARTING / TURNING / PASSING / BACKING / FAILED OT SIGNAL PASS	2
UNLICENSED VEHICLE / IMPROPER REGISTRATION / EXPIRED PLATES	2
HIT SKIP / LEAVE SCENE OF ACCIDENT	2
DISOBEYED TRAFFIC SIGNAL OR DEVICE	2
DRIVING ON TEMPORARY PERMIT w/o A LICENSED DRIVER	2
FULLTIME ATTENTION	2

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES FILED BY SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	TOTAL
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP P.D.	24
BURTON VILLAGE P.D.	1
CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT	1
CHARDON CITY P.D.	20
CHESTER TOWNSHIP P.D.	24
GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF	36
GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT	1
MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE P.D.	1
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL	68
PERRY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT	1
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP P.D.	7
SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE P.D.	3
TRUMBULL COUNTY SHERIFF	1
EXPUNGED	5
TOTAL	193

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 2020:

MOVING OFFENSES			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1ST OFFENSE	110	64	174
2ND OFFENSE	11	6	17
3RD OFFENSE	5	0	5
4TH OR MORE OFFENSE	0	1	1
TOTAL	126	71	197

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. 37 youth continued on probation from the previous year
2. 24 youth were placed on probation: 19 males and 5 females
3. 30 youth were terminated from probation: 27 males and 3 females
4. 61 youth were supervised on probation in 2020

PROBATION ASSIGNMENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Residence	Male	Female	Total
Berkshire	2	0	2
Cardinal	1	0	1
Chagrin Falls	1	0	1
Chardon	6	1	7
Kenston	3	2	5
West Geauga	4	2	6
Not enrolled in school	1	0	1
Outside County	1	0	1
TOTAL	19	5	24

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 in 2020: 27
 - a. 8 Delinquencies
 - b. 19 Unruly Cases
- Filed Formally: 4
- Diverted: 23

H.B. 410 Habitual Truancy

In 2020, 0 unruly child complaints were referred to the court for habitual truancy pursuant to R.C. 2151.022 (B).

VICTOR Y. MATTHEWS FAMILY LIFE IMPROVEMENT RESOURCE CENTER

In 2020, Judge Grendell launched the Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Resource Center, which provides early evaluation and assistance to both court-involved and non-court-involved families with navigating child custody and parenting time issues, and helping connect them with necessary services. The Resource Center creates an environment that encourages family participation and self-determination, with the goal of helping families remain child focused and achieve positive outcomes while navigating the court process. The Resource Center offers a variety of services available to parents and non-parents who would like guidance through the changes in their family's circumstances, such as referrals for mental health and substance abuse assessments and treatment, referrals to the Court's Help Center, therapeutic and supervised parenting time, mediation, co-parenting education and support, parenting education and support, school programming, and the Court's Post Adjudicatory Support System (PASS) Program.

1. **Referrals:** Case Managers screen client parents and other caregivers to determine the family's treatment needs, then make referrals to community partners who are able to meet the needs of the family, which can include mental health and substance abuse treatment, the Court's Help Center, and/or other community partners who can further assist the family. The Resource Center also makes referrals to the Court's Help Center, which provides free legal education and assistance to those who wish to handle certain legal matters without legal representation. In 2020, over 45 clients were referred to services for drug, alcohol and mental health needs.
2. **Therapeutic and Supervised Parenting Time:** Geauga County Juvenile Court is committed to providing opportunities for parenting time (formerly referred to as 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. Through these two visitation programs, Geauga County parents received over 800 hours of additional parenting time in 2020.

Therapeutic Parenting Time: Consists of a trained clinician through Ohio Guidestone monitoring parenting time and coaching parents to learn and practice parenting skills. In 2020, 23 families

including 29 children received Ohio Guidestone services through, with 97% of the families successfully completing the program.

Supervised Parenting Time: The Resource Center works with trained, qualified professionals who monitor parent-child interactions for safety issues and compliance with court orders. Supervised parenting time can be scheduled any day of the week at hours that are convenient for the family and child(ren)'s schedule, and is therefore able to give 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.

- 3. Mediation:** In order to offer families an alternative to the formal court process and provide a vehicle for self-determination, Judge Grendell implemented a new mediation program in 2020. Mediation is a process in which a mediator facilitates communication and negotiation between parties to assist them in reaching a voluntary agreement regarding their dispute. Parents who are able to reach an agreement in mediation have the ability to structure the agreement to meet the needs of their unique family situation. Agreements reached in mediation often provide a long-term benefit to the family because families are more likely to follow the agreement and parents are more likely to have healthy communication. Mediation utilizing Ohio Supreme Court trained mediators is now offered at no cost to families. In 2020, 21 families participated in mediation, 70% of whom reached partial or full agreements.
- 4. Co-parenting Education and Support:** Every parent will say that they want to do what is best for their child(ren), but at times, their actions and words do not demonstrate this. This leads to frustration and conflict between parents and stress for the child. The Resource Center offers Co-Parenting education and support to encourage and empower parents to reach their goals of doing what is best for their child(ren).

Co-parenting education is offered in the form of either a group class or individually with the parent(s). The 5-session group class is based on Isolina Ricci's book The Coparenting Toolkit. Individual education occurs in a private setting to encourage cooperative co-parenting by focusing on appropriate communication, problem solving, and unresolved co-parenting issues between parents.

The Resource Center provides ongoing co-parenting support by monitoring communication between parents and providing feedback and support as needed.

- 5. Parenting Education and Support:** Taught by a certified provider, the Triple P (Positive Parenting Program®) is a parenting and family support system designed to prevent, as well as treat, behavioral and emotional problems in children and teenagers. It aims to prevent problems in the family, school, and community, before they arise, to create family environments that encourage children to reach their potential. Triple P draws on social learning, cognitive behavioral and developmental theory, as well as research into risk factors associated with the development of social and behavioral problems in children. It aims to equip parents with the skills and confidence they need to be self-sufficient and to be able to manage family issues without ongoing support. Triple P is available for parents of children up to 12 years old, and Teen Triple P is available for parents of children 12-16 years old.

The Resource Center offers one-on-one ongoing parenting support, including development of appropriate routines, behavioral management strategies, and answering child development questions.

6. **School Programming:** The Resource Center works with the Geauga County Education Service Center (ESC) to design and implement social emotional curriculum based programming in local schools.
7. **Post Adjudicatory Support System (PASS):** The PASS program supports families involved with the Court due to parental abuse, neglect or dependency cases. When a case closes, families often find that many of the supports that were put in place by the Court and its community partners during the pendency of the case abruptly ends, making it more difficult for them to maintain their newfound stability. PASS is designed to help families maintain this stability after their formal case closes, by providing a well-structured, gradual wind-down of services, through the provision of monitoring, support, and guidance to families by the Resource Center.

ADDITIONAL COURT SERVICES

Drug Testing: Completed by hair sample or mouth swab analysis

- 377 Drug Tests administered: 104 Juveniles, 273 Adults

Community Service: Juveniles are ordered to “replace the void” their offenses created in society by performing a 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 Chuck Giallanza, Work Crew Supervisor. This year, juveniles performed community service hours at various pancake breakfasts and fish fries throughout the County; with the West Geauga Kiwanis Club selling Christmas trees; and with projects at the Geauga County Fairgrounds, Chagrin Falls Park Community Center, the Next Steps Home, Eddy’s Fruit Farm, Rescue Village and at food pantries in the County.

87 youth served: 75 new cases, 12 carry over cases

- New cases: 58 Males, 17 Females
- 1140 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, 8 males and 3 females
- \$4,562.88 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 2020, 27 juveniles were served through 23 new cases, and 4 cases carried over from the prior year

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 2020, 21 individuals were monitored via GPS, and 6 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. In 2020, 114 children participated in the large group program at West Geauga Middle School, and no small groups were offered due to COVID.

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 2020, the Start with Hello program was suspended due to COVID and will resume in 2021.

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 15 ½ years old, 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 16 ½ 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 2020, 2 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. Court staff facilitated and participated in the following charitable activities during 2020: A Food Drive where non-perishable food items were collected and distributed to the Geauga County Department on Aging and the Veterans Food Bank; Thanksgiving dinners assembled and distributed to two Geauga County families in November; and sponsorship of two court-involved family for Christmas.

“Jolly Judge Tim Grendell and the Probate Court Carolers” were unable to perform for Seniors throughout Geauga County due to coronavirus lockdowns in 2020; but, working with the Department on Aging, Judge Grendell and Court Staff plan to visit nursing homes and senior centers, in full Victorian Caroling garb with props, next year.

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 2020, the total Detention Center population was 183 residents. Geauga County placed 53 residents in the Detention Center, 42 males and 11 females. 2 residents were carried over from the prior year. The average daily length of stay was 17 days. Geauga County residents used 12.16% of the total bed days used at the Detention Center.

CASA

CASA for KIDS of Geauga County provides the Guardian ad Litem services for the Geauga County Juvenile Court. Our mission is to advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected, dependent, and other children referred by the Juvenile Court. Our goal is to provide a CASA volunteer for each child requested by Judge Timothy J. Grendell or Magistrate Abbey King. The program screens, trains, and supports quality volunteers to advocate for each individual child’s unique needs and a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

Despite the adversities experienced in 2020, CASA for Kids of Geauga County and its volunteers have strived through this adversity to continue to excel in the performance of the program’s mission statement, to “advocate for the best interest of a child.”

January 2020, CASA for KIDS marked the twenty-third year of providing Guardian ad Litem services in the Geauga County Juvenile Court. The program has continued to represent all children involved with the court due to abuse, neglect, dependency, and other cases referred by Judge Timothy J. Grendell or Magistrate Abbey King. 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 Superintendence by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The CASA program has trained (360) volunteers who have represented (2,608) children since the program began in 1997.

An average volunteer contributes approximately (99) hours per year to the program. In 2020, the program had eight volunteers contributing between (200-600) total hours and nine volunteers contributing between (100-200) total hours to their cases over twelve consecutive months. Fifteen new volunteers joined the program through application, reference, interview, and (32) hours of pre-service training. Among these new volunteers, twelve of them have already taken their first case in the year 2020. In total, the volunteers contributed (5,453) of service hours working their cases. 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 (1,374) hours of training in 2020, during a historic pandemic.

The program welcomes volunteers from all cultures, professions, ethnic and educational backgrounds. (26%) of CASA Volunteers are employed either full or part-time, (75%) are women, and (25%) are men.

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; Restorative Justice Circles Groups in middle schools; Launchpad; 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 volunteer recruitment efforts.

Two CASA Supervisors and the Program Director supervised (61) active CASA Volunteers who were appointed to (152) children, (71) whom were new children involved with the court. All the cases were adjudicated abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, with the exception of (19) delinquent children and (31) children in custody cases referred by the court.

The following is a breakdown of the gender, age, educational level, race/ethnicity, employment status and the years of service to the agency of the volunteer advocates who served the program in 2020:

Gender	Age Range	Educational Level	Race/Ethnicity	Employment	Years of service
(Male): 15	(25-29): 0	Some College: 14	African-American: 0	Full time: 28	(1yr or less): 26
(Female): 46	(30-39): 2	College Grad: 17	Asian: 0	Part time: 10	(2 years): 8
	(40-49): 4	Post Grad : 28	Caucasian: 61	Retired: 23	(3 years): 6
	(50-59): 15		Hispanic/Latino: 0	Not Emp: 0	(4 years): 4
	(60+): 40		Multi-Racial/Ethnic: 0		(5+ years): 17

The program was staffed by four full-time positions and one temporary intern position. The program Director oversees and manages the CASA for Kids program. The principal duties of the position include managing the program staff; oversee recruitment and training of the CASA volunteers, as well as provide training opportunities for existing volunteers; in addition, the director works with her team to create an atmosphere of appreciation and valued volunteers; establish relationships with community partners and

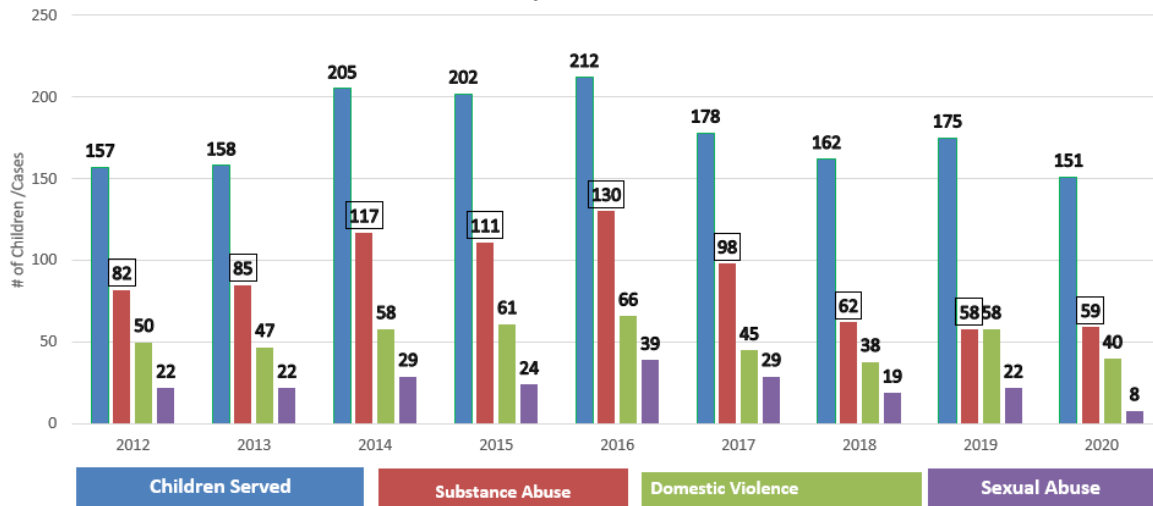
ensure compliance with program standards; create data questionnaires to provide needed statics; build relationships within the community to support the children’s needs. The Program Administrator/ Volunteer Liaison supports the administrative needs of the CASA volunteers, staff and program; provide program data, grant compliance and serve as a communication intermediary for the CASA volunteers. The two CASA Supervisors support all assigned CASA volunteers to their cases. The Supervisor is a mentor to the CASA volunteer 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.

Though available funding by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) grant through the Ohio Attorney General’s Office was reduced, the CASA program was remained primarily funded by these grants, with remaining funding from the Court and, in small part, by Ohio CASA. The funding supports personnel costs, legal consultant, background screening, supply costs and other costs related to the program. The funding received from Ohio CASA supports CASA volunteer pre-service training and continuing education for the volunteers as well as the staff. The program also hosted the following independent training presentations and/or CASA sponsored “CASA Café” training workshops: The Kent Star Academy; Probation; Parenting Classes; Book Club – Evicted; Bridges Program; The Resource Center; Presenting Evidence; QPR: Suicide Prevention and Awareness; Parental Alienation; Children Exposed to Domestic Violence; Little Fires Everywhere; Visitation and Resource Center; Probation Assessments; Diversity Training; Methamphetamine Awareness; The Trials of Gabriel Fernandez; Lethality of Strangulation and Use of Firearms in Partner Violence; Broken to Beautifully Whole by Cathy Studer Presentation; NAMI-PAC Program; Understanding Drug Test Results; Trauma in Childhood; Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. Ohio Supreme Court Rule 48 training was available to all CASA volunteers.

The following is a breakdown of the gender, age, race/ethnicity of the children served by the program in 2020:

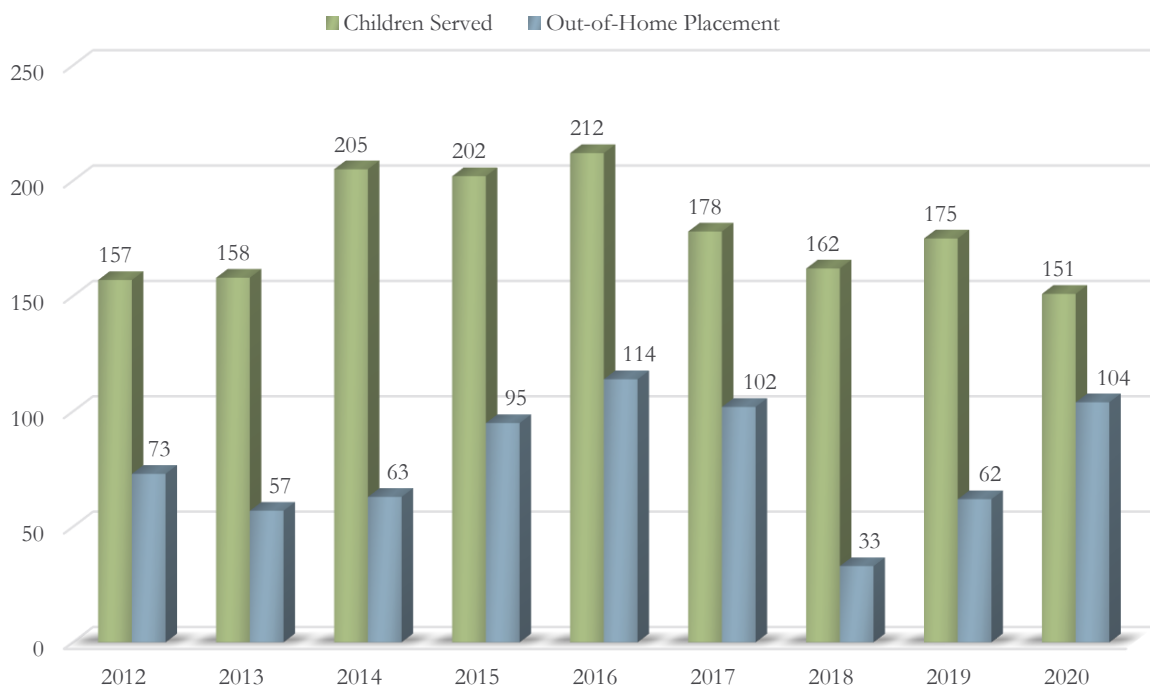
GENDER	AGE RANGE	RACE/ETHNICITY:	
Male: 86	0-12: 99	African American : 4	Multi-Racial: 14
Female: 66	13-17: 53	Asian: 2	Not Hispanic/Latino: 2
		Caucasian: 115	Hispanic/Latino: 8
		Native Am/Alaskan: 0	Unknown: 7

2012-2020 Children served by CASA whose Cases involved these Issues



- In 2020, the program served (152) children.
- 39% of children’s cases involved substance abuse in 2020.
- Currently, we are seeing an increase in methamphetamines & cocaine on parents’ drug tests and a decrease in Heroin and opiate use.
- Children’s cases involving domestic violence reported in the initial complaint was at (26%) in 2020. However, this trauma is often not initially reported.
- CASA cases involving sexual abuse was (1%) in 2020.
- Of the (152) children the CASA program served in 2020, (104) children were placed in out-of-home placements at one point, with a (60%) reunification rate (91 children reunified) overall on all case closings.

Number of Children Served in Out-of-Home Placement



Program Goals for 2020:

- Provide an advocate for every case referred by the court.
- Provide advocates with 20 ongoing training opportunities for Rule 48 compliance.
- Develop a cooperative program within the county between “Shop with a Cop”, and CASA’s new parent support.
- Recruit 10 new volunteers who are each assigned a case this year.
- Develop programming for volunteers to engage with children while visiting remotely.

HELP CENTER

The Help Center provides free legal information and assistance to those who wish to handle certain legal matters without legal representation (pro se). The Help Center can assist Probate or Juvenile Court clients with information about a variety of issues, including child custody, child support, paternity, visitation, administration, release from administration, and summary release from administration. The Help Center is equipped to provide significant legal information to enable clients to make their own decisions, and provides easy access to legal forms and information sheets so that clients can prepare the legal forms they choose to implement their decisions. The Help Center is not a substitute for legal advice, nor can Help Center staff provide legal advice or provide legal representation.

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 1,077 pending probate cases were carried over into 2020. During the year, 973 new cases were opened (including 418 marriage license applications), and 916 cases were closed. A total of 1,134 cases were carried over into the following year.

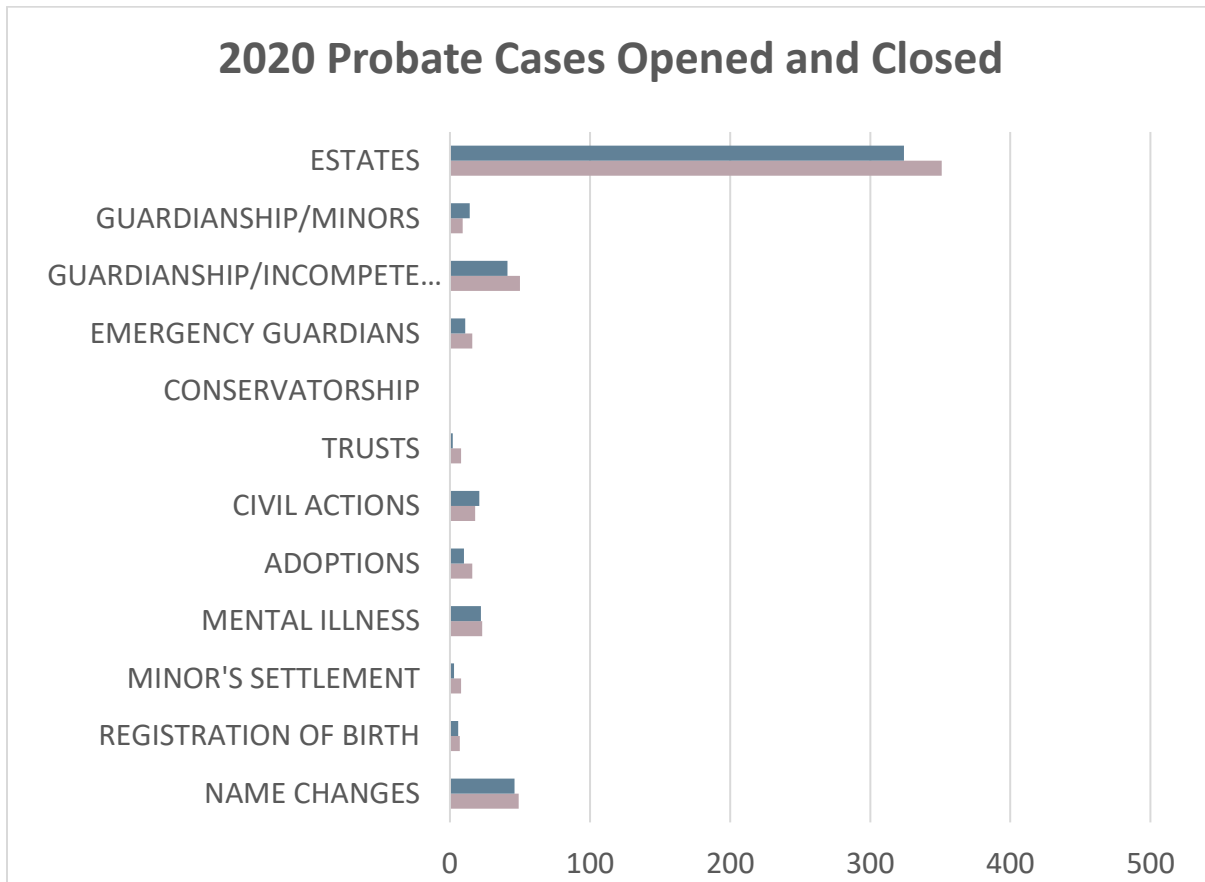
GOOD DEEDS PROGRAM

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 2020, the Geauga County Probate Court offered two in-person Good Deeds Programs, and introduced several virtual Good Deeds Programs due to the coronavirus pandemic lockdowns.

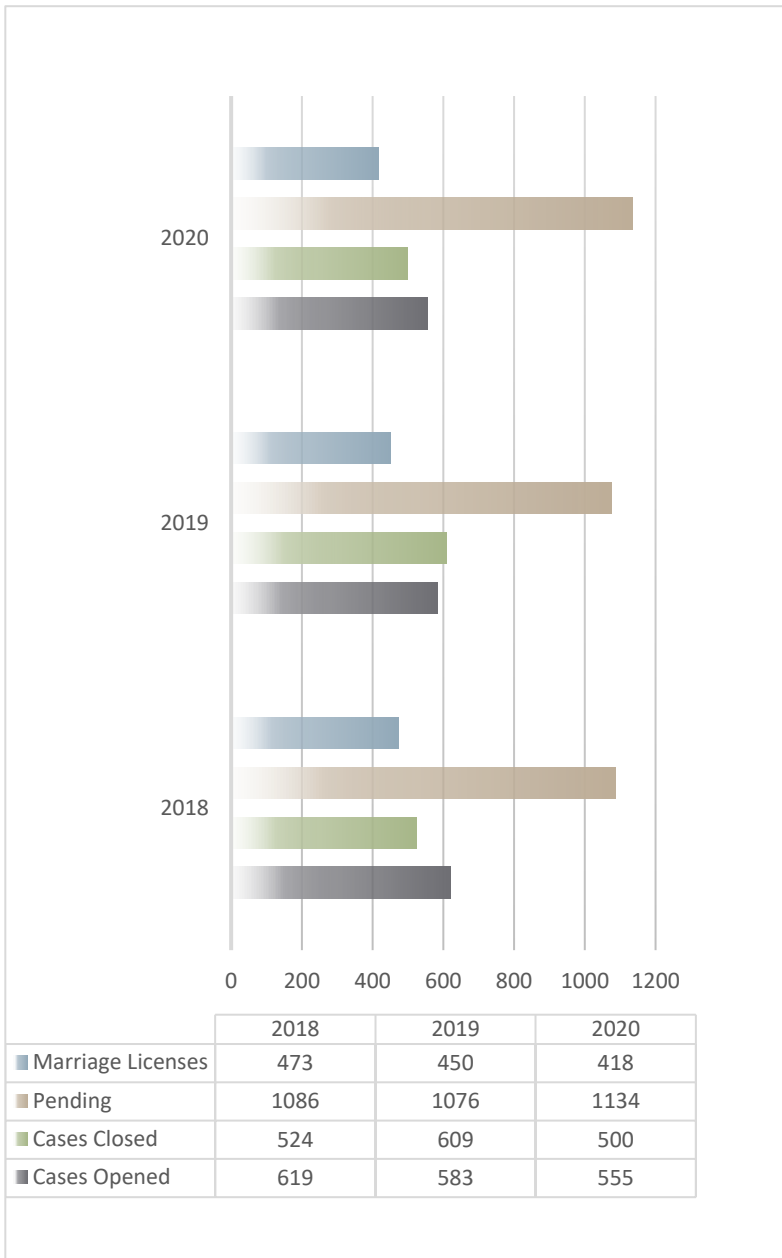
SUMMARY OF CASES

	PENDING FROM 2019	OPENED	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2021
ESTATES	443	351	324	470
GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS	71	9	14	66
GUARDIANSHIP OF INCOMPETENTS	415	50	41	424
EMERGENCY GUARDIANSHIPS	17	16	11	22
CONSERVATORSHIP	2	0	0	2
TRUSTS	43	8	2	49
CIVIL ACTIONS	28	18	21	25
ADOPTIONS	9	16	10	15
MENTAL ILLNESS	1	23	22	2
MINOR'S SETTLEMENT	1	8	3	6
REGISTRATION OF BIRTH	0	7	6	1
CHANGE OF NAME	14	49	46	17
WRONGFUL DEATH	0	0	0	0
MARRIAGE LICENSES	33	418	416	35
TOTALS	1077	973	916	1134

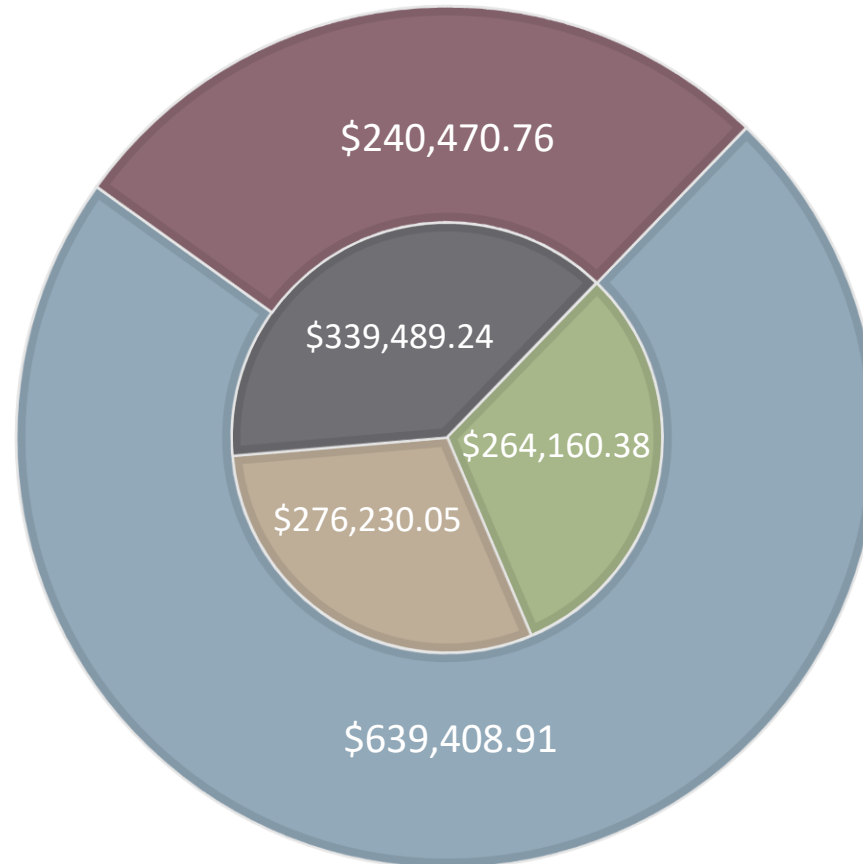


■ Opened
■ Closed

PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES 2018-2020




2020 REVENUES: \$879,879.67



Revenue Sources:

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

Deposited Into:

-  Court Funds
-  County Funds

Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court 2020 Expenditures: \$2,199,242.69

