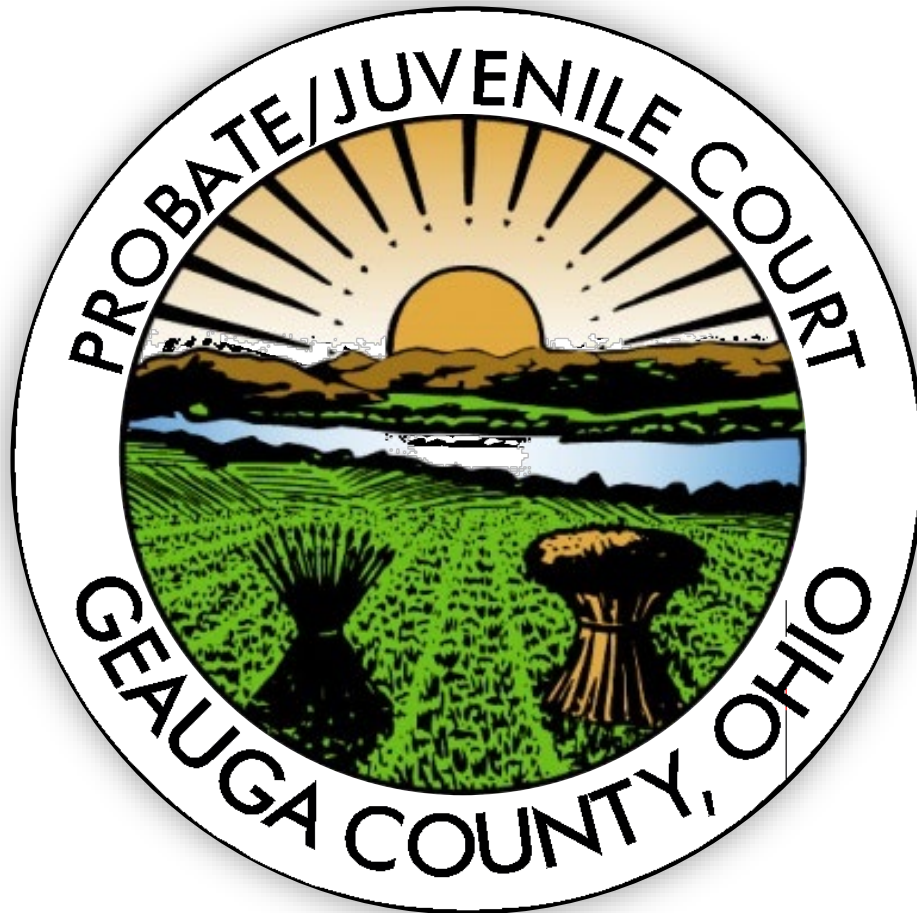


Geauga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Divisions
2023 Annual Report



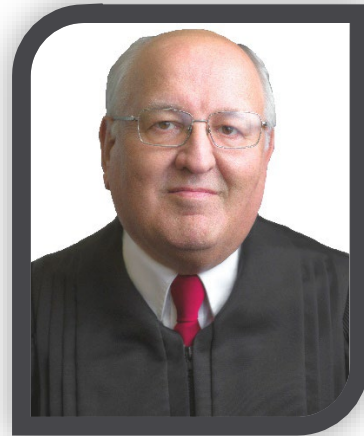
Timothy J. Grendell, Judge
Abbey L. King, Magistrate
Michael L. Hurst, Magistrate
Kimberly Laurie, Court Administrator

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 2023, under the capable leadership of the Court Administrator, 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.



The Court received two technology grants from the Ohio Supreme Court, totaling over \$200,000, which partially funded upgrades to the Court's security system, IT system, and case management system. To maintain the security and confidentiality of Court records, the Court now maintains its own computer server and records, independent of the County ADP department.

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 2023, the Juvenile Court assigned 59 CASA volunteers to advocate for 173 children. CASA Volunteers saved county taxpayers over \$542,775 in 2023, due to the 7,237 volunteer hours contributed by CASA volunteers, instead of paid guardians ad litem.

Magistrate King and I were pleased to conduct the Good Deeds Program in person again during 2023, through 4 in-person programs, serving 113 residents, and mailing out 6 Good Deeds packets to residents who could not attend in person. The Good Deeds educational program provides 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 Program 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's Help Center, managed by David Welty, continues to assist residents who are not represented by an attorney, in navigating the complex probate and juvenile Court system.

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 Magistrates Abbey King and Michael Hurst assist the judicial process by maintaining 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 2023 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 our jurists and 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 2023. The Court's continued success in 2023 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

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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, 2023, the Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court had 27 permanent staff members. Throughout the year, the Magistrate, Court Administrator, Constable, Judicial Assistant, Staff Attorney, Senior Deputy Clerk, Help Center Director, and Bailiffs served both Probate and Juvenile Divisions.

The Juvenile Division was also served by three Juvenile Court Deputy Clerks, the Resource Center Director, the Family Services Program Director, the Director of Youth Services and two Probation Officers, the CASA Program Director, CASA Program Administrator, three CASA Volunteer Supervisors, and the Community Service Work Crew Supervisor.

The Probate Division was also served by the Guardianship Coordinator, Probate Case Manager/Court Investigator, and three 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.geaugapicourt.org.

A total of 89 pending juvenile cases were carried over into 2023. During the year, 525 cases were opened (including those transferred in, reactivated, or redesignated), 527 cases were closed, and 87 cases carried forward into 2024.

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 2023, the Court had 95 delinquency complaints filed, an increase of 7% 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 2023, the Court had 31 unruly complaints filed, a 24% increase from the prior year. Of the unruly complaints, 28 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 2023, 188 juvenile traffic cases were filed in the Court, which is no significant difference from the prior year.

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES: In 2023, 29 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 31% 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 2023, 3 adult charges were filed in the court (failure to send their child to school), a decrease of 40% 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 2023, 48 custody/visitation cases were filed in the court, an increase of 20% 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 2023, 6 paternity cases were filed in the court, an increase of 500% 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 2023, 28 support cases were filed in the court, an increase of 40% 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 2023, 0 UIFSA actions were filed in the court, a decrease of 100% 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 2023, 0 other cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 100% from the prior year.

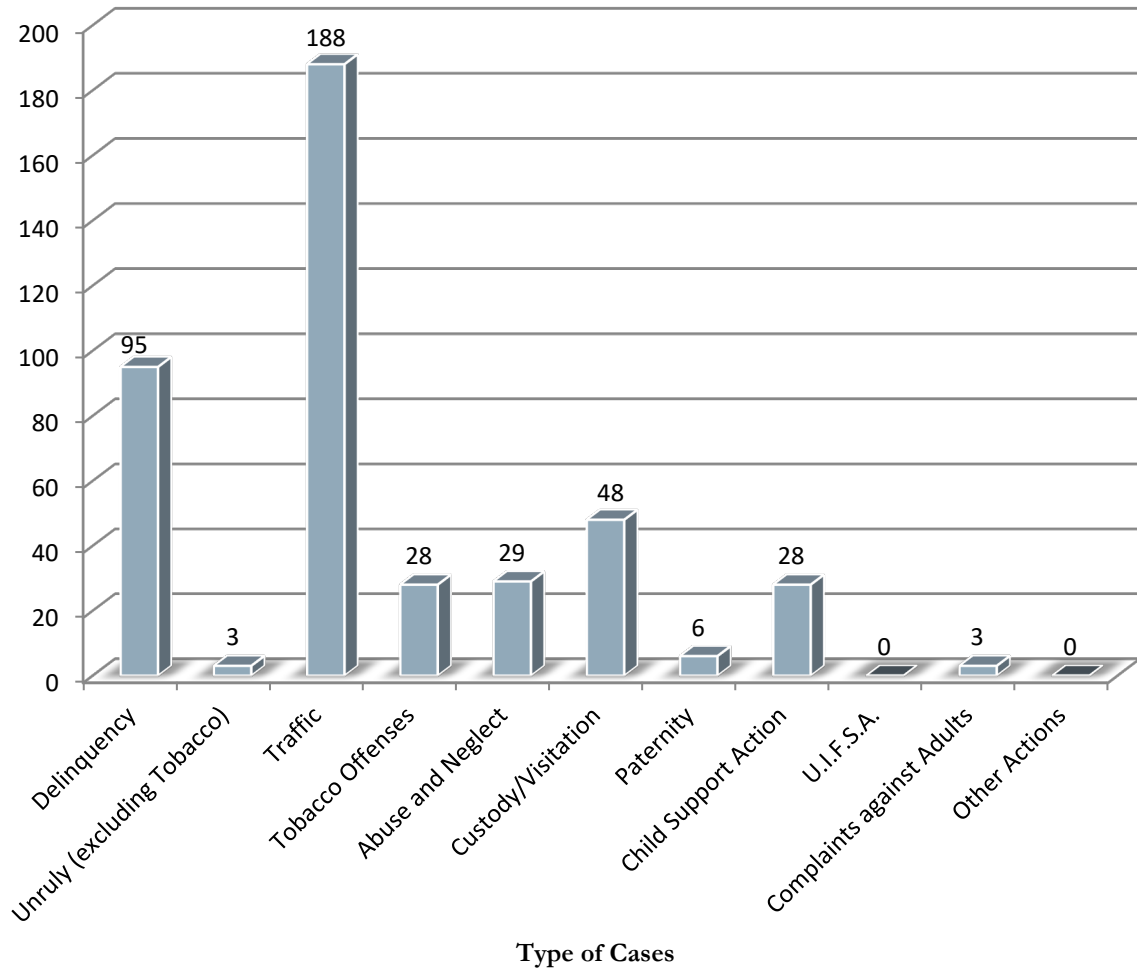
SUMMARY OF JUVENILE CASES

| | PENDING FROM 2022 | OPENED/REOPENED/ TRANSFERRED IN | CLOSED | PENDING TO 2024 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| DELINQUENCY | 12 | 96 | 92 | 16 |
| TRAFFIC | 5 | 188 | 183 | 10 |
| ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY | 16 | 31 | 41 | 6 |
| UNRULY | 3 | 30 | 32 | 1 |
| ADULT SPECIALS | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| PERMANENT CUSTODY | 2 | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| CUSTODY | 33 | 91 | 91 | 33 |
| CHILD SUPPORT | 17 | 75 | 73 | 19 |
| PATERNITY | 0 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| UIFSA | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| OTHERS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 89 | 526 | 527 | 88 |

SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED

| TYPE OF CASE | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| DELINQUENCY | 65 | 30 | 95 |
| UNRULY (EXCLUDING TOBACCO) | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| TRAFFIC | 124 | 64 | 188 |
| TOBACCO OFFENSES | 17 | 12 | 29 |
| ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| CUSTODY/VISITATION | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| PATERNITY | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| CHILD SUPPORT | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| U.I.F.S.A. | N/A | N/A | 0 |
| COMPLAINTS AGAINST ADULTS | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| OTHER | N/A | N/A | 0 |

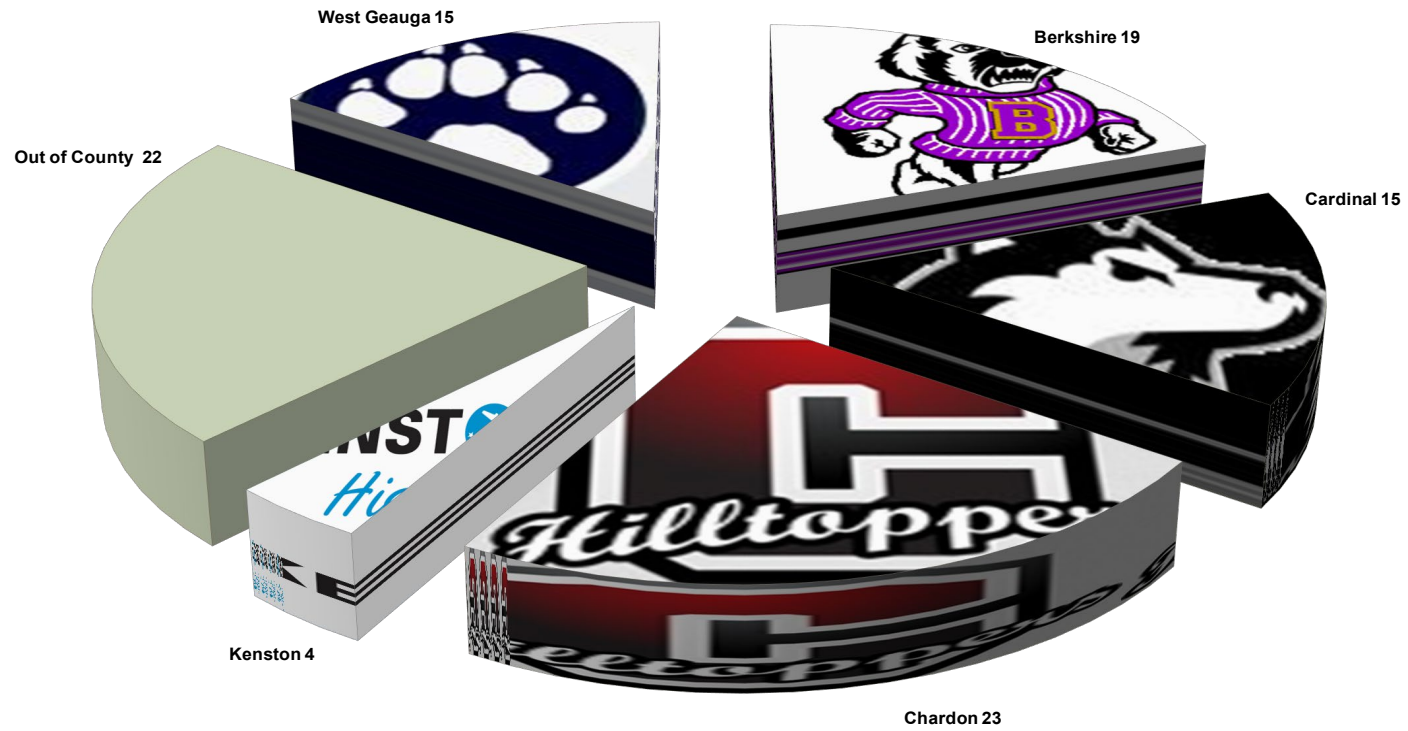
Juvenile Court Actions Filed in 2023



DELIQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

| COMPLAINT BY | MALES | | FEMALES | | TOTAL | TOTAL | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|---------|----------|-------|----------|----------|
| | WHITE | MINORITY | WHITE | MINORITY | WHITE | MINORITY | COMBINED |
| SHERIFF'S DEPT. | 16 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 31 | 2 | 33 |
| BAINBRIDGE P.D. | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| BURTON VILLAGE P.D. | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| CHARDON P.D. | 13 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 17 | 5 | 22 |
| CHESTER P.D. | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| JUVENILE COURT | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| MIDDLEFIELD P.D. | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| OHIO STATE HWY PATROL | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| RUSSELL P.D. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| S. RUSSELL P.D. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| TRANSFERRED IN | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| EDUCATIONAL SVC CTR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| THOMPSON P.D. | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 57 | 10 | 26 | 5 | 83 | 15 | 98 |

Delinquent & Unruly Cases by School District 2022



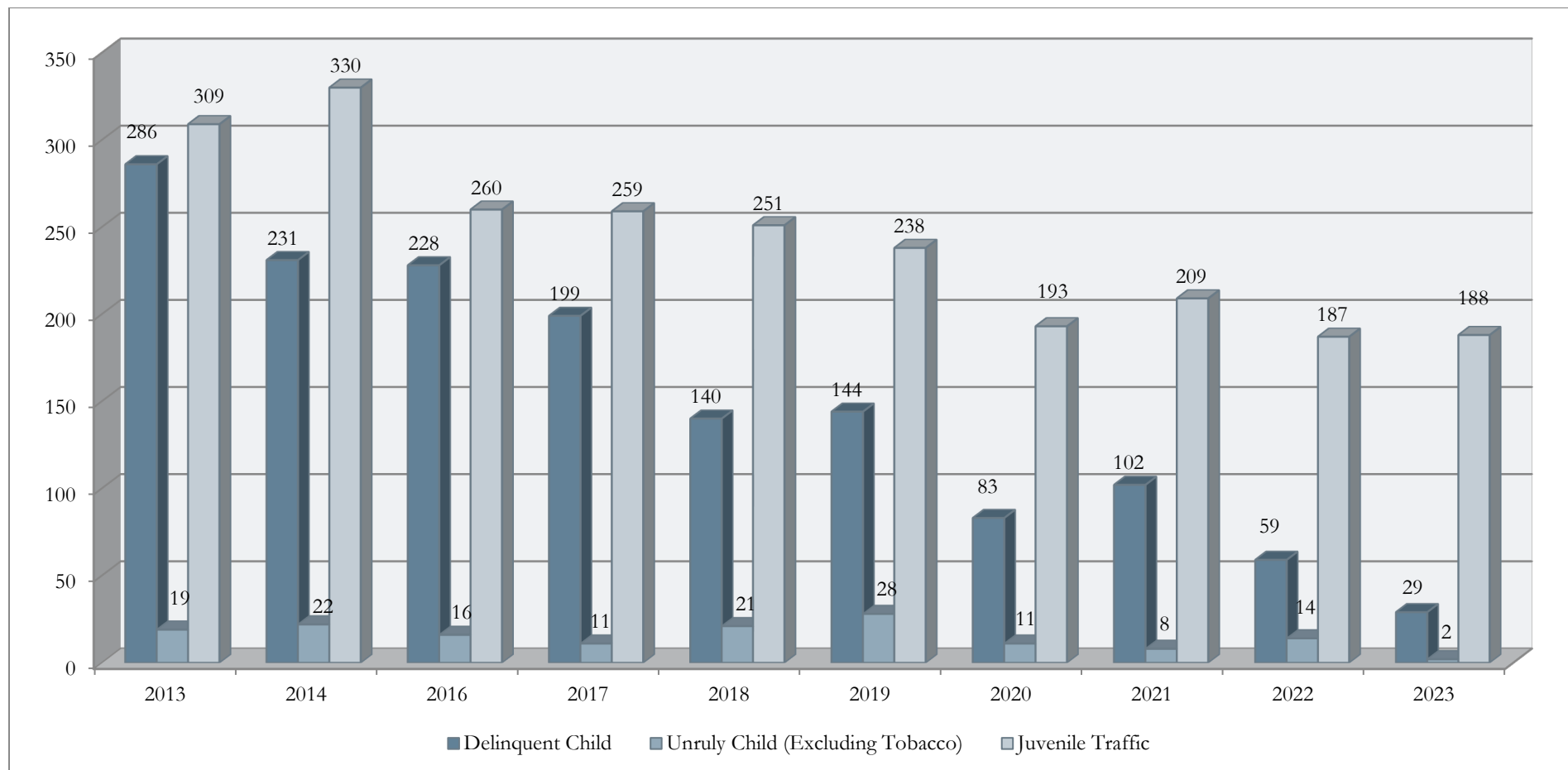
AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE

| AGE | DELINQUENT | | | UNRULY | | | COMBINED TOTAL |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL | MALES | FEMALES | TOTAL | |
| 10 & UNDER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 12 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 13 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 14 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 15 | 15 | 6 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| 16 | 27 | 7 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 35 |
| 17 | 13 | 12 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 65 | 30 | 95 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 98 |

NEW CASES FILED

| CASE TYPE | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| DELINQUENCY | 102 | 59 | 29 |
| UNRULY & TOBACCO | 12 | 25 | 31 |
| TRAFFIC | 209 | 187 | 188 |
| DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE | 29 | 42 | 29 |
| ADULT CONTRIBUTING | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| CUSTODY | 43 | 40 | 48 |
| SUPPORT | 32 | 20 | 28 |
| PATERNITY | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| U.I.F.S.A. | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| OTHER | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 440 | 384 | 362 |

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



DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CHARGES

DELINQUENCY CHARGES

In 2023, 177 delinquency charges were filed compared to 89 charges in the prior year, an increase of 99%. 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 2023, 176 charges were for acts of delinquency, 1 charge was for violation of probation, and 0 for violating court orders. The number of delinquency charges for acts other than violations of probation, parole, or court orders filed in 2023 increased by 126% compared to the prior year.

With the total delinquency charges increasing by 99% in 2023, the more serious felony charges also increased by 427%. 58, or 33%, 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 |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|
| ASSAULT | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| EXTORTION | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| ILLEGAL CONVEYANCE / POSSESSION OF A DEADLY WEAPON | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| AGGRAVATED ASSAULT | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| RAPE | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| GRANT THEFT | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| VANDALISM | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| AGGRAVATED VEHICULAR ASSAULT | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| BREAKING AND ENTERING | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| THEFT | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| BURGLARY | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| COMPELLING PROSTITUTION | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| FELONIOUS ASSAULT | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| ILLEGAL USE OF MINOR IN NUDITY ORIENTED PERFORMANCE | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| VEHICULAR VANDALISM | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| AGGRAVATED ROBBERY | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| KIDNAPPING | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | 52 | 6 | 58 |

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

| | Male | Female | Total |
|---|-----------|-----------|------------|
| AGGRAVATED MENACING | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| ASSAULT | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| CRIMINAL DAMAGING | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| CRIMINAL TRESPASSING | 2 | 9 | 11 |
| CRIMINAL MISCHIEF | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| PUBLIC INDECENCY | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| RESISTING ARREST | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| DISORDERLY CONDUCT | 17 | 4 | 21 |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA / DRUG PARAPHENALIA | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| MAKING FALSE ALARMS | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| PETTY THEFT | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| PROHIBITIONS | 13 | 8 | 21 |
| VIOLATION OF PROBATION | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| FALSIFICATION | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| THEFT | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| COERCION | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSIENSS | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| AGGRAVATED TRESPASS | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| INJURY TO ANIMALS | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| TOTALS | 73 | 46 | 119 |

TOP OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT CHILDREN

| | Total |
|---------------------|-------|
| PROHIBITIONS | 21 |
| DISORDERLY CONDUCT | 21 |
| VEHICULAR VANDALISM | 16 |
| CRIMINAL TRESPASS | 11 |
| PETTY THEFT | 11 |
| THEFT | 9 |
| FELONIOUS ASSAULT | 8 |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE | 8 |

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

In 2023, the Court adjudicated 12 counts of felony-level offenses, a 300% increase from the prior year. 0 youth were committed to ODYS. 1 youth was committed to a community correction facility.

| LEVEL OF OFFENSE | ADJUDICATIONS |
|------------------|---------------|
| F5 | 1 |
| F4 | 2 |
| F3 | 7 |
| F2 | 1 |
| F1 | 1 |

| RACE | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|----------|------|--------|-------|
| White | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Minority | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 8 | 0 | 8 |

UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES

In 2023, 3 unruly child charges were filed in the Court, a decrease of 27% from the prior year.

| TYPE OF OFFENSE | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO REASONABLE CONTROL | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| CURFEW VIOLATION | 1 | 0 | 1 |

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 | 18 | 19 | 37 |
| ADMONISHED | 36 | 14 | 50 |
| FINE | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| COSTS | 35 | 13 | 48 |
| COSTS WAIVED | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| LICENSE SUSPENSION | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| RIGHT TO APPLY FOR O.L. DENIED | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FINGERPRINTING | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| COMMUNITY SANCTIONS | | | |
| PROBATION | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| CONTINUED PROBATION | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| RESTITUTION | 13 | 6 | 19 |
| COMMUNITY SERVICE | 14 | 1 | 15 |
| COUNSELING | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| ELECTRONIC MONITORING | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| DRUG & ALCOHOL ASSESSMENT | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| DRUG TESTING | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DNA TESTING | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| OTHER ASSESSMENTS | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| EDUCATION/TREATMENT PROGRAMS | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PLACEMENTS | | | |
| TO D.Y.S. | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| TO P.G.D.C. | 33 | 7 | 40 |
| OTHER PLACEMENTS | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SUSPENDED PLACEMENTS | 18 | 6 | 24 |
| TRANSFERS | | | |
| BIND OVERS | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TO OTHER JUVENILE COURTS | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| TO OTHER AGENCIES | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GENERAL DISPOSITIONS | | | |
| ESSAY | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| APOLOGY LETTERS | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| OTHER | 32 | 14 | 46 |

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 2023, 28 tobacco cases were filed in the Court.

| TOBACCO CASES FILED | | | |
|---------------------|------|--------|-------|
| AGE | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 14 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 15 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 16 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 17 | 5 | 1 | 6 |

| ISSUING POLICE DEPARTMENTS | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|----|
| BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP | 0 | BURTON VILLAGE | 0 |
| CHAGRIN FALLS | 0 | CHARDON CITY | 4 |
| CHESTER TOWNSHIP | 0 | GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF | 24 |
| 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 2023, 5 cases were pending at the beginning of the year; 188 cases were filed during the year, 2 cases transferred in from another court, reactivated, or redesignated; 183 cases were disposed; and 10 cases were pending going into the following year.

| SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC CASE ACTIVITY | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---|----|
| NEW CASES FILED | 188 | | |
| CASES DISPOSED | 183 | | |
| SEX: | | | |
| MALE | 124 | | |
| FEMALE | 64 | | |
| AGE: | | | |
| 15 & UNDER | 16 | | |
| 16 | 81 | | |
| 17 | 91 | | |
| 18 | 0 | | |
| DISPOSITIONS: | | | |
| FINE | 141 | PLED NO CONTEST | 35 |
| COURT COSTS | 171 | CASE DISMISSED | 10 |
| LICENSE SUSPENSION | 65 | COUNTS DISMISSED | 3 |
| COSTS WAIVED | 4 | TWO COUNTS ON ONE TICKET | 8 |
| DRUG/ALCOHOL ASSESSMENT | 3 | THREE COUNTS ON ONE TICKET | 2 |
| DRIVING PRIVILEGES | 59 | FOUR COUNTS ON ONE TICKET | 2 |
| SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM | 33 | PROBATION | 0 |
| JUVENILE DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM | 12 | PGDC PLACEMENT | 1 |
| RESTITUTION | 4 | PGDC / SUSPENDED | 1 |
| COMMUNITY SERVICE | 42 | SUB ABUSE PROGRAM/ASSESSMENT | 0 |
| CARTEENS | 23 | DRUG TEST BY HAIR ANALYSIS | 0 |
| TICKET AMENDED/ADJUSTED | 15 | TRANSFER TO ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT | 1 |
| OTHER DISPOSITIONS | 1 | TRANSFER IN FROM ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT | 2 |

TOP 10 TRAFFIC OFFENSES

| TYPE OF OFFENSE | TOTAL COMMITTED |
|--|-----------------|
| SPEEDING | 75 |
| ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE | 31 |
| FAILURE TO YIELD, RIGHT OF WAY | 26 |
| FAILURE TO CONTROL | 11 |
| DRIVING LEFT OF CENTER | 5 |
| IMPROPER STARTING / TURNING / PASSING / BACKING / FAILED TO SIGNAL | 4 |
| TINTED WINDOWS TOO DARK / NONTRANSPARENT MATERIAL | 4 |
| PROHIBITED USE - HANDHELD ELECTRONIC COMM. | 3 |
| RECKLESS OPERATION ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY | 3 |
| FAILURE TO USE HEADLIGHTS / 1 HEADLIGHT / LIGHTED LIGHTS REQUIRED | 3 |

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES FILED BY SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

| COMPLAINT BY | TOTAL |
|----------------------------|------------|
| AURORA P.D. | 1 |
| BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP P.D. | 26 |
| BURTON VILLAGE P.D. | 4 |
| CHARDON CITY P.D. | 25 |
| CHESTER TOWNSHIP P.D. | 18 |
| GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF | 28 |
| MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE P.D. | 3 |
| OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL | 54 |
| RUSSELL TOWNSHIP P.D. | 13 |
| SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE P.D. | 2 |
| SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF | 1 |
| TRANSFER IN | 2 |
| TOTAL | 177 |

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 2023:

| | MOVING OFFENSES | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| 1ST OFFENSE | 102 | 58 | 160 |
| 2ND OFFENSE | 11 | 4 | 15 |
| 3RD OFFENSE | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 4TH OR MORE OFFENSE | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 117 | 62 | 179 |

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.

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.

The Probation Officers utilize the Ohio Youth Assessment Survey (OYAS) risk assessment as well as the ACE, GAIN-SS and the CRAFT + N assessments to identify risks area associated with the probationer which assist in identifying levels of service intervention and case plan / 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.

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. 19 youth continued on probation from the previous year
2. 41 youth were placed on probation: 14 males and 4 females
3. 32 youth were terminated from probation: 19 males and 4 females
4. 60 youth were supervised on probation in 2023

PROBATION ASSIGNMENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

| Residence | Male | Female | Total |
|---------------|------|--------|-------|
| Berkshire | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Cardinal | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Chardon | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| Kenston | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| West Geauga | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Out of County | 2 | 2 | 4 |

DIVERSION SERVICES

The Diversion Program is an informal court process aimed at holding juveniles accountable for their behavior, and ensuring public safety while addressing the complex needs of the juvenile and their family without the stigma of establishing an official Juvenile Court record. The goal of the Diversion Program is to intervene with the juvenile and family as needed to reduce the risk of repeat exposure to the juvenile justice system, while addressing the underlying behavior that drew the attention of the court. The Diversion Program was established on the basis of Juvenile Rule 9 which states:

“(A) Court action to be avoided: in all appropriate cases formal court action should be avoided and other

community resources utilized to ameliorate situations brought to the attention of the court.

(B) Screening; referral. Information that a child is within the court's jurisdiction may be informally screened prior to the filing of a complaint to determine whether the filing of a complaint is in the best interest of the child and the public"

Cases that involve acts of violence, such as domestic violence or assault, sex offenses or a delinquent felony charge are not eligible for the Diversion Program.

Staff conduct evidence- based screening assessments such as the Ohio Youth Assessment Survey (OYAS) diversion tool, the ACE, GAIN-SS and the CRAFT +N assessments on all youth referred to the Diversion Program. Information collected from these assessments will be used to develop an individualized Diversion Contract that the youth and family are to follow.

- Referrals Received in 2023: 21 (11 males, 10 females)
 - a. 15 unruly cases
 - b. 6 delinquency cases
 - c. 1 unruly truancy case
- Filed Formally: 1
- Diverted: 20

H.B. 410 Habitual Truancy

In 2023, 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, 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 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 2023, 39 clients were referred to services for drug, alcohol and mental health needs.
2. **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 to successfully address conflict and work toward reunification. It is

important that children have the opportunity to have a healthy, safe relationship with both parents when possible. 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 in the parental home when appropriate. Through these visitation programs, Geauga County parents received over 357 hours of additional parenting time in 2023.

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 2023, 13 families participated in mediation.
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 may 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 one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to assist in building healthy relationships, confidently manage challenging behaviors in children while preventing future behavioral and emotional problems. Triple P has a positive effect on a range of outcomes including children's social, emotional, and behavioral measures, parent satisfaction and effectiveness, as well as parent relationships. Triple P aims to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors, thus encouraging children to reach their full potential. Triple P is available for parents of children up to 12 years of age.

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. Current school programming includes:
- **Art in the Park:** An after-school program that allows students in fifth through eighth grade the opportunity to express themselves through creative and focused art-based activities such as painting, pottery, journaling, and other crafts. The program is taught by the Court's Family Services Program Director with a local artist leading the students through art in support of the topic of the day. Art in the Park was introduced in the fall of 2023, and 20 students participated.
 - **TAACO (Talking Actively About Coping and Overcoming Challenges):** TAACO is a Social Emotional Program offered to students in fifth and sixth grade. The objectives include: "I feel good about myself", "I find good ways to deal with things that are hard", "I deal with disappointment without getting too upset", "I express my feelings in positive ways", and "I resolve conflicts without anyone getting hurt". Long term objectives include improving positive identity, self-esteem, empathy, valuing others' points of view, sense of value to others, sense of purpose, self-regulation, positive outlook on the future, building positive relationships with adults, connection to school / value learning, and adults connect youth to opportunities outside of school. In 2023, 71 students participated in TAACO.
 - **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 meet on a weekly bases. Circles covers topics that build social emotional skills including communication, active listening, relationship building, problem solving, goal setting etc. Circles consists of simple rituals, check ins, short lessons and activities to enhance and extend learning. In 2023, 10 students participated in Circles.
 - **Social Skills Group:** Social Skills Group consists of a group of students who have been identified as needing additional support in building social skills. The group is designed to help students build connections/relationships among group members as well as to learn and practice skills such as making good choices, communication etc. This group consists of group discussions, and individual and group projects. In 2023, 6 students participated in Social Skills Group.
 - **Summer Sidekick:** Summer Sidekick is a summer program offered to students with the focus on math and english enrichment as well as providing integrated student support programming. In 2023, 144 students participated in Summer Sidekick.
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.
8. **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 help a child make adjustments to serve the best interest of the child. At 15 ½ years old, a questionnaire is completed to give the Launchpad 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. This is included in the CASA report to the court. 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. Various vocational opportunities are presented to the children and visits are arranged. 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. 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.

ADDITIONAL COURT SERVICES

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 Probation staff. 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 at the Community Service Garden where youth are taught the importance of hard work as they are tasked with planting, cultivating and harvesting the vegetable plants that were donated by Eagle Creek Growers all summer. Produce harvested is then donated to local food pantries.

71 youth served: 68 new cases, 3 carry over cases

- New cases: 53 Males, 15 Females
- 682 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.

- 23 youths were ordered to pay restitution, 18 males and 5 females
- \$18,902.42 was collected and paid to victims

Intensive Supervision Program / Electronic Monitoring

- 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
- Can be used as an alternative to detention
- Some juveniles and adults are ordered to participate in Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM)
- Juveniles and adults ordered on electronically supervised house arrest wear an ankle bracelet that monitors their location via GPS around the clock
- In 2023, 6 juveniles were served (5 males, 1 female)

Drug Testing

- Completed by hair sample or mouth swab analysis
- 356 Drug Tests administered: 36 Juveniles, 320 Adults

CARTEENS: The “Car” in CARTEENS stands for “Caution And Responsibility”, and “Teens” refers to the teenagers who help prepare and present the program. In CARTEENS programs, 4-H teen leaders teach traffic education safety programs to first-time teen traffic offenders, while also building offenders’ self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Teen traffic offenders attending this program have typically been cited for speeding, stop sign violations, reckless operation, and other, similar moving violations. CARTEENS program topics include excessive speed, driving under the influence, seat belt safety use, consequences of unsafe decisions, dealing with peer pressure, understanding traffic laws, and recognizing and reacting to traffic signs and signals.

- 23 juveniles participated in 2023

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 2023: Thanksgiving dinners assembled and distributed to one Geauga County family in November; and sponsorship of a court-involved family for Christmas. The Court’s Community Service Garden also donated fresh-grown vegetables to Geauga County food banks.

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 2023, the total Detention Center population was 209 residents. Geauga County placed 44 residents in the Detention Center, 36 males and 8 females. 2 Geauga County residents were carried over from the prior year. The average daily length of stay for Geauga County residents was 5.82 days. Geauga County residents used 5.11% 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, Magistrate Abbey King, or Magistrate Michael Hurst. The program screens, trains, and supports quality volunteers to advocate for each individual child’s unique needs and a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

In January 2023, CASA for KIDS marked the twenty-sixth 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 415 volunteers who have represented 3,124 children since the program began in 1997.

An average volunteer contributed over 120 hours to the program, and in 2023, one exceptional volunteer spent over 500 hours serving one case. Four other volunteers contributed just under 400 hours on their cases, seventeen volunteers contributed between 150-300 total hours, and nine volunteers contributed between 100-150 total hours to their cases over twelve consecutive months. Eleven new volunteers joined the program through application, reference, interview, and 32 hours of pre-service training. Among these new volunteers, thirteen were already assigned their first case in the year 2023. In total, the volunteers contributed 7,237 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 a total 1,290 hours of training in 2023.

The program welcomes volunteers from all cultures, professions, ethnic and educational backgrounds. 47% of CASA Volunteers are employed either full or part-time, approximately 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; Launchpad (identifying foster children age 14 and up who are on their way to becoming independent); and speak at any agency who invites the program, including but not limited to Rotary Clubs within Geauga County. The CASA Program Administrator and the Director also attended multiple volunteer outreach information days at the Public Library.

In 2023, two CASA Supervisors and the Program Director supervised 55 active CASA Volunteers who were appointed to serve 181 children, 108 of whom were newly involved with the court. All the cases were adjudicated abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, with the exception of 8 delinquent children and 26 children in custody cases referred by the court.

The program was staffed by five 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 statistics; 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 three 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.

Demographics – Volunteer Advocates:

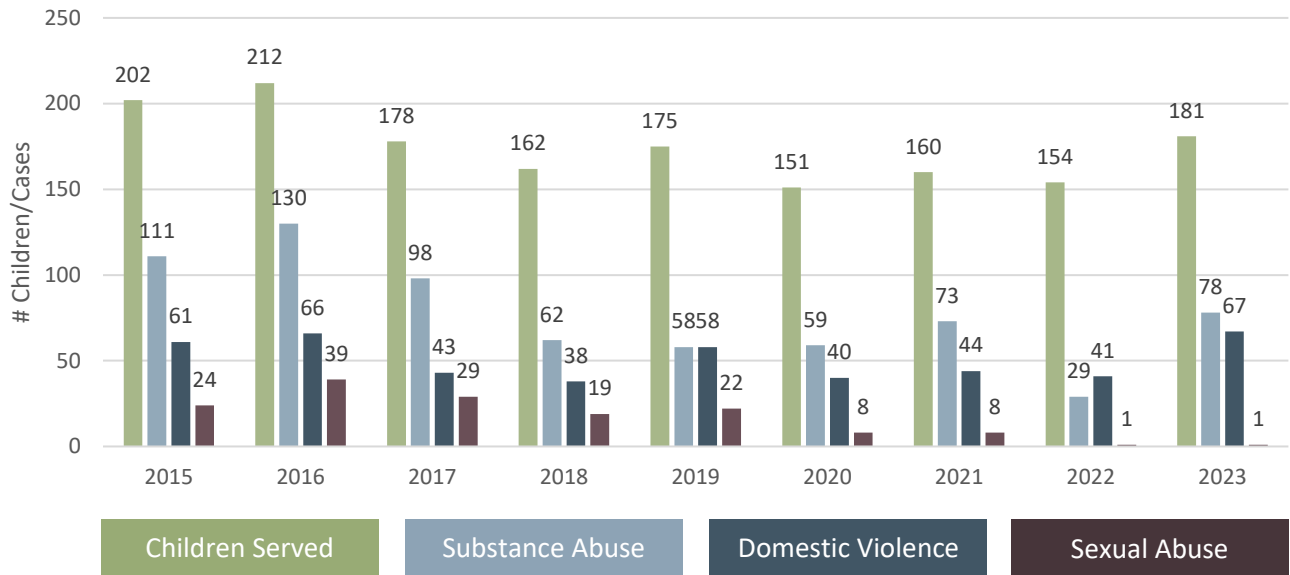
| Gender | Age Range | Educational Level | Race/Ethnicity | Employment | Years of service |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| (Male): 14 | (25-29): 2 | Some College: 14 | African-American: 0 | Full time: 29 | (1yr or less): 20 |
| (Female): 41 | (30-39): 3 | College Grad: 10 | Asian: 0 | Part time: 10 | (2 years): 10 |
| | (40-49): 3 | Post Grad : 32 | Caucasian: 58 | Retired: 20 | (3 years): 8 |
| | (50-59): 15 | | Hispanic/Latino: 1 | Not Emp: 0 | (4 years): 4 |
| | (60+): 36 | | Multi-Racial/Ethnic: 0 | | (5+ years): 17 |

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 recently reduced, the CASA program was remained partially funded by these grants, with the difference funded by 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 independent training presentations and/or CASA sponsored “CASA Café” training workshops which were available to all CASA volunteers, and which fulfilled the Rule 48 requirements for GAL service within Ohio.

Demographics – Children served:

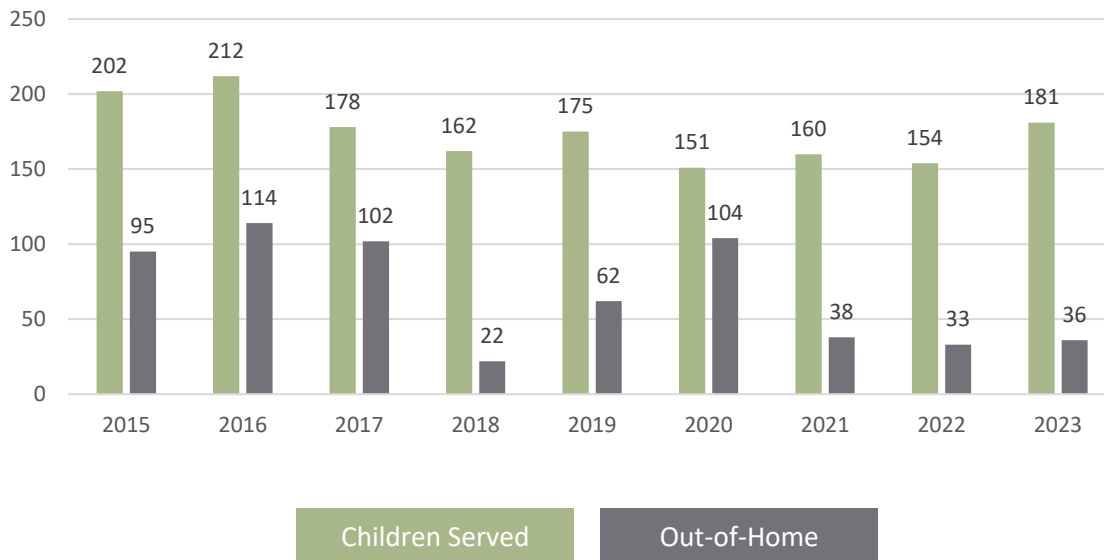
| GENDER | AGE RANGE | RACE/ETHNICITY: | |
|------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Male: 98 | 0-12: 116 | African American : 8 | Multi-Racial: 9 |
| Female: 83 | 13-17: 75 | Asian: 1 | Not Hispanic/Latino: 159 |
| | | Caucasian: 156 | Hispanic/Latino: 1 |
| | | Native Am/Alaskan: 1 | Unknown: 7 |

2015-2023 Children Served by CASA by Case Issue



In 2023, the program served 181 children. 43% of children’s cases involved substance abuse; 37% of cases reported domestic violence in the initial complaint (additionally, unreported incidents of domestic violence were discovered during the course of other cases); and less than 1% of CASA cases involved sexual abuse.

Number of Children Served in Out-of-Home Placement



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. In 2023, the Help Center assisted approximately 136 Geauga County residents navigate the Probate/Juvenile Court process.

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.

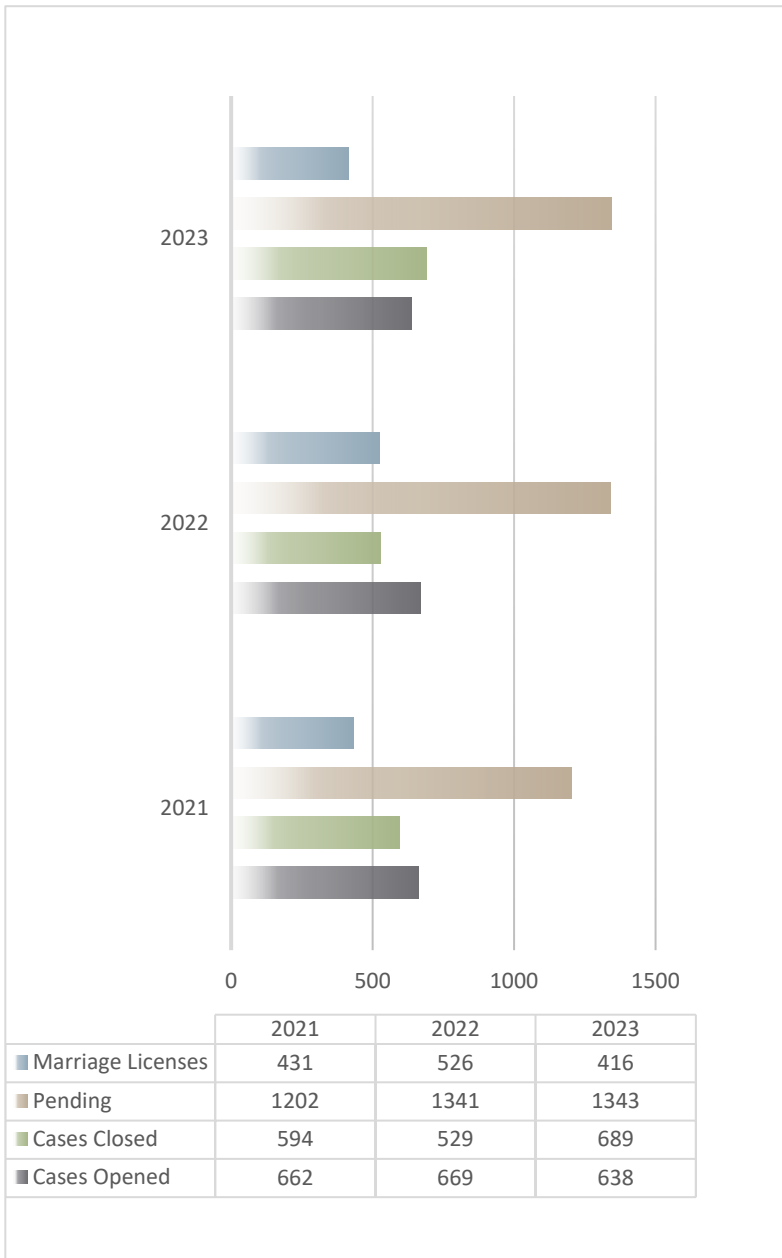
The Probate Court's dedicated staff continues to strive to provide efficient quality in the processing of all cases. Geauga County Courts continually updates forms to comply with Ohio Supreme Court rule changes. The updated forms are available to the public through our website: www.geaugapjcourt.org.

A total of 1,343 pending probate cases were carried over into 2023. During the year, 1,053 new cases were opened, and 1,095 cases were closed. A total of 1,301 cases were carried over into the following year.

SUMMARY OF CASES

| | PENDING FROM 2022 | OPENED | CLOSED | PENDING TO 2024 |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| ESTATES | 679 | 399 | 500 | 578 |
| GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS | 62 | 18 | 17 | 63 |
| GUARDIANSHIP OF INCOMPETENTS | 462 | 70 | 50 | 482 |
| EMERGENCY GUARDIANSHIPS | 8 | 30 | 6 | 32 |
| CONSERVATORSHIP | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| TRUSTS | 45 | 5 | 2 | 48 |
| CIVIL ACTIONS | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| ADOPTIONS | 9 | 12 | 14 | 7 |
| MENTAL ILLNESS | 1 | 11 | 12 | 0 |
| MINOR'S SETTLEMENT | 9 | 9 | 13 | 5 |
| REGISTRATION OF BIRTH | 0 | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| CHANGE OF NAME | 9 | 50 | 43 | 16 |
| WRONGFUL DEATH | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MARRIAGE LICENSES | 35 | 416 | 409 | 42 |
| TOTALS | 1343 | 1053 | 1095 | 1301 |

PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES 2021-2023

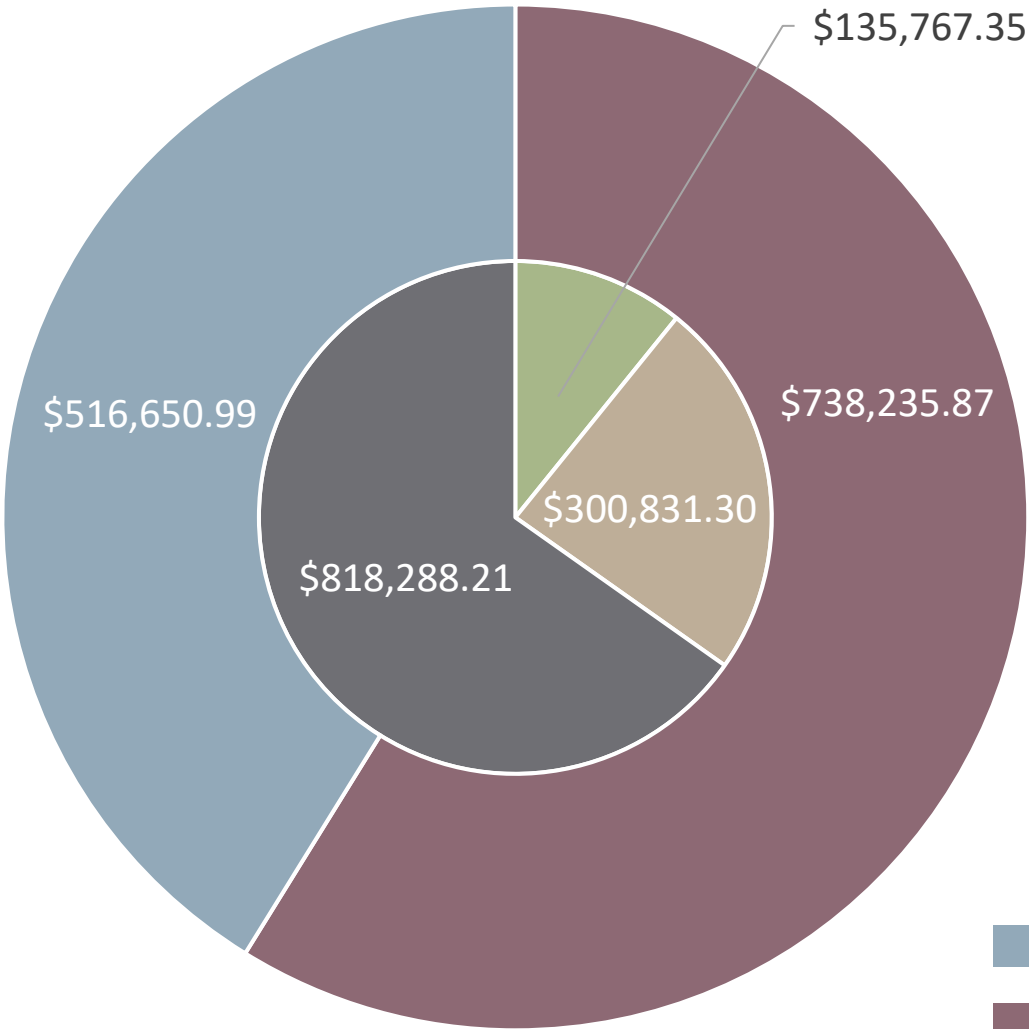


GOOD DEEDS PROGRAM

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 2023, the Geauga County Probate Court offered 4 in-person Good Deeds Programs serving 113 residents, and mailed out Good Deeds Packets to 6 residents who were unable to attend in person.

**GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT
2023 REVENUES: \$1,254,886.86**



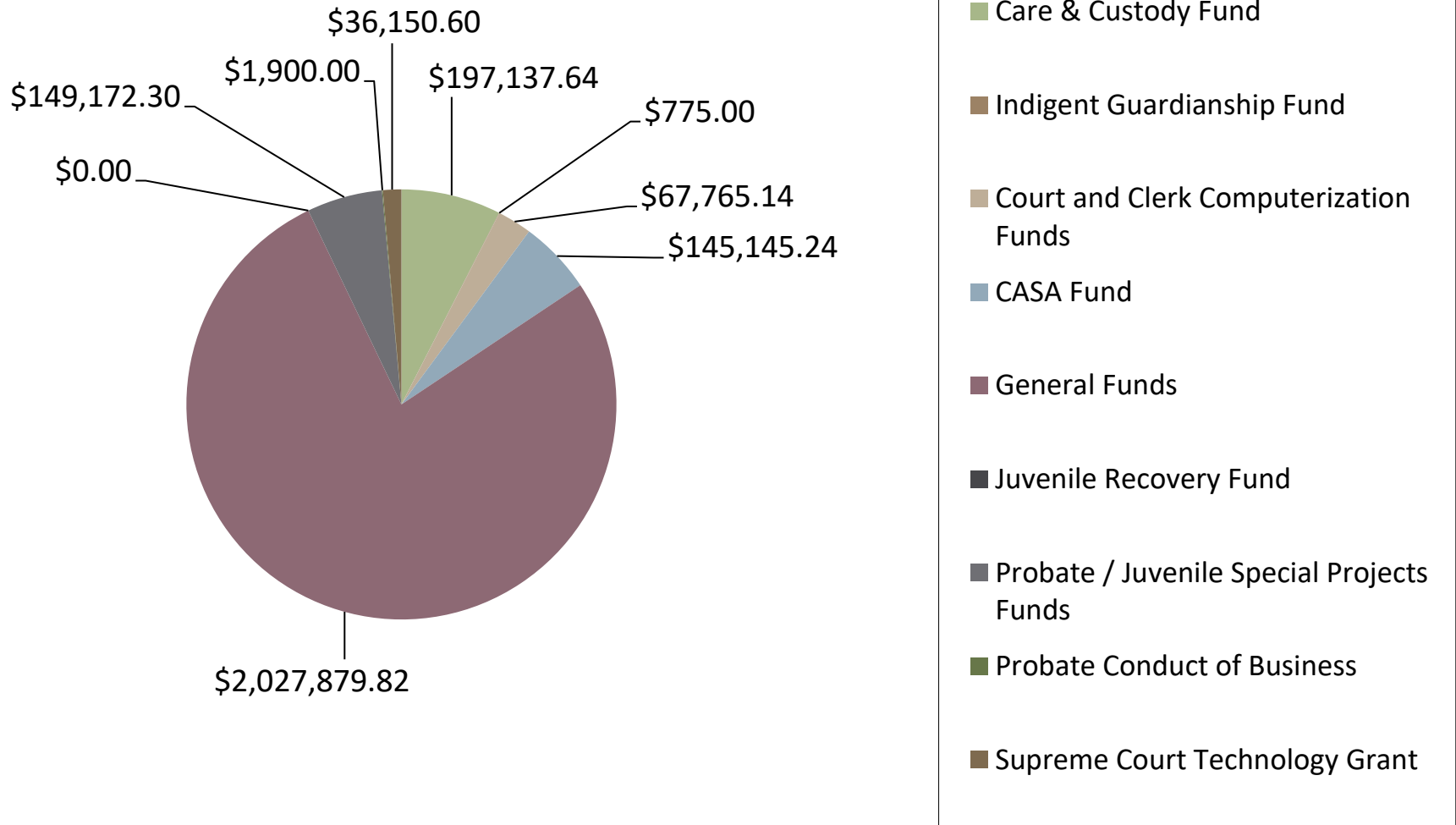
Revenue Sources:

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

Deposited Into:

- Court Funds
- County Funds

**GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT
2023 EXPENDITURES: \$2,625,925.74**



COMPUTERIZATION & CLERK COMPUTERIZATION FUNDS

2023 EXPENDITURES

| G/L Date | Journal | Journal Type | Sub Ledger | Description/Project | Source | Reference | Debit Amount | Credit Amount | Actual Balance | |
|---|--|--------------|------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| G/L Account Number 05/23/2023 | 4004-007-00-901 2023-00001661 | Other JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 19,115.00 | Balance To Date: | \$0.00 19,115.00 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> #LGEAUGAOH1201 | <i>Vendor</i> COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS | | | <i>Description</i> 2023 Maintenance | <i>Invoice Date</i> 05/16/2023 | <i>Payment Type</i> Check | <i>Payment Number</i> 1137431 | <i>Amount</i> 19,115.00 | <i>Distribution Amount</i> 19,115.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$19,115.00 | \$19,115.00 | |
| 07/06/2023 | 2023-00002120 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 19,357.50 | | 38,472.50 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> MAGEAUGAOH26 | <i>Vendor</i> COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS | | | <i>Description</i> 2023 Maintenance | <i>Invoice Date</i> 06/27/2023 | <i>Payment Type</i> Check | <i>Payment Number</i> 1139854 | <i>Amount</i> 19,357.50 | <i>Distribution Amount</i> 19,357.50 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$19,357.50 | \$19,357.50 | |
| 12/05/2023 | 2023-00003936 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 18,576.00 | | 57,048.50 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> GEAUGAOH9241 | <i>Vendor</i> COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS | | | <i>Description</i> Other | <i>Invoice Date</i> 11/22/2023 | <i>Payment Type</i> Check | <i>Payment Number</i> 1149467 | <i>Amount</i> 18,576.00 | <i>Distribution Amount</i> 18,576.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$18,576.00 | \$18,576.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Account Other Totals | \$57,048.50 | \$0.00 | \$57,048.50 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Department Non Departmental Totals | \$57,048.50 | \$0.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Department Juvenile Totals | \$57,048.50 | \$0.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Fund Juv/Prob Clerk Computerization Totals | \$57,048.50 | \$0.00 | |
| G/L Account Number 01/19/2023 | 4005-007-00-901 2023-00000263 | Other JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 197.80 | Balance To Date: | \$0.00 197.80 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> December 2022 | <i>Vendor</i> VERIZON WIRELESS | | | <i>Description</i> Other Expenses | <i>Invoice Date</i> 01/12/2023 | <i>Payment Type</i> Check | <i>Payment Number</i> 1129994 | <i>Amount</i> 197.80 | <i>Distribution Amount</i> 197.80 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$197.80 | \$197.80 | |
| 03/07/2023 | 2023-00000789 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 197.92 | | 395.72 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> January 2023 | <i>Vendor</i> VERIZON WIRELESS | | | <i>Description</i> Other | <i>Invoice Date</i> 02/28/2023 | <i>Payment Type</i> Check | <i>Payment Number</i> 1132550 | <i>Amount</i> 197.92 | <i>Distribution Amount</i> 197.92 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$197.92 | \$197.92 | |
| 03/21/2023 | 2023-00000960 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 197.92 | | 593.64 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> Feb 2023 | <i>Vendor</i> VERIZON WIRELESS | | | <i>Description</i> Other | <i>Invoice Date</i> 03/14/2023 | <i>Payment Type</i> Check | <i>Payment Number</i> 1133635 | <i>Amount</i> 197.92 | <i>Distribution Amount</i> 197.92 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$197.92 | \$197.92 | |

| G/L Date | Journal | Journal Type | Sub Ledger | Description/Project | Source | Reference | Debit Amount | Credit Amount | Actual Balance |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| G/L Account Number | 4005-007-00-901 | Other | | | | | | Balance To Date: | \$0.00 |
| 04/18/2023 | 2023-00001274 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 197.92 | | 791.56 |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendbr</i> | | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> |
| March 2023 | VERIZON WIRELESS | | | Other | 04/11/2023 | Check | 1135252 | 197.92 | 197.92 |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$197.92 | \$197.92 |
| 05/16/2023 | 2023-00001576 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 197.80 | | 989.36 |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendbr</i> | | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> |
| APRIL 2023 | VERIZON WIRELESS | | | Other | 05/09/2023 | Check | 1136903 | 197.80 | 197.80 |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$197.80 | \$197.80 |
| 06/22/2023 | 2023-00001968 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 197.80 | | 1,187.16 |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendbr</i> | | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> |
| May 2023 | VERIZON WIRELESS | | | Other | 06/06/2023 | Check | 1139180 | 197.80 | 197.80 |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$197.80 | \$197.80 |
| 07/06/2023 | 2023-00002120 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 7,271.04 | | 8,458.20 |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendbr</i> | | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> |
| Inv. 8275 & 8200 | COMPANY 119 LTD | | | Other | 06/27/2023 | Check | 1139842 | 3,735.50 | 3,735.50 |
| 2023-2024Support | BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS | | | Other | 06/27/2023 | Check | 1139853 | 3,535.54 | 3,535.54 |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$7,271.04 | \$7,271.04 |
| 08/08/2023 | 2023-00002457 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 1,197.80 | | 9,656.00 |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendbr</i> | | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> |
| June 2023 | VERIZON WIRELESS | | | Other | 07/31/2023 | Check | 1141714 | 197.80 | 197.80 |
| 1033 | SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC | | | Other | 07/31/2023 | Check | 1141711 | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$1,197.80 | \$1,197.80 |
| 08/22/2023 | 2023-00002626 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 197.80 | | 9,853.80 |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendbr</i> | | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> |
| July 2023 | VERIZON WIRELESS | | | Other | 08/11/2023 | Check | 1142810 | 197.80 | 197.80 |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$197.80 | \$197.80 |
| 09/07/2023 | 2023-00002801 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 18.73 | | 9,872.53 |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendbr</i> | | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> |
| AUGUST 2023 | AT & T MOBILITY LLC | | | Other | 08/23/2023 | Check | 1143926 | 18.73 | 18.73 |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$18.73 | \$18.73 |

| G/L Date | Journal | Journal Type | Sub Ledger | Description/Project | Source | Reference | Debit Amount | Credit Amount | Actual Balance | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 09/26/2023 | 4005-007-00-901 2023-00003026 | Other JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 439.64 | Balance To Date: | \$0.00 10,312.17 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendor</i> | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> | |
| August2023 | AT & T MOBILITY LLC | | OTHER | 09/18/2023 | Check | 1145078 | | 439.64 | 439.64 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$439.64 | \$439.64 | |
| 10/31/2023 | 2023-00003479 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 190.47 | | 10,502.64 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendor</i> | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> | |
| September 2023 | AT & T MOBILITY LLC | | OTHER | 10/20/2023 | Check | 1147013 | | 190.47 | 190.47 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$190.47 | \$190.47 | |
| 12/05/2023 | 2023-00003936 | JE | AP | Invoice Payment Batch Post | Accounts Payable | | 214.00 | | 10,716.64 | |
| <i>Invoice Number</i> | <i>Vendor</i> | | <i>Description</i> | <i>Invoice Date</i> | <i>Payment Type</i> | <i>Payment Number</i> | | <i>Amount</i> | <i>Distribution Amount</i> | |
| October 2023 | AT & T MOBILITY LLC | | OTHER | 11/14/2023 | Check | 1149468 | | 214.00 | 214.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$214.00 | \$214.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Account Other Totals | \$10,716.64 | \$0.00 | \$10,716.64 |
| | | | | | | | Sub Department Non Departmental Totals | \$10,716.64 | \$0.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Department Juvenile Totals | \$10,716.64 | \$0.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Fund Juvenile/Prob Computerization Totals | \$10,716.64 | \$0.00 | |
| | | | | | | | Grand Totals | \$67,765.14 | \$0.00 | |