

Geauga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Divisions
2024 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:

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

Throughout 2024, under the capable leadership of the Court Administrator, and with the assistance of Magistrates Abbey L. King and Michael L. Hurst, 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 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 2024, the Juvenile Court assigned 59 CASA volunteers to advocate for 164 children. CASA Volunteers saved county taxpayers over \$583,575 in 2024, due to the 7,781 volunteer hours contributed by CASA volunteers, instead of paid guardians ad litem.

Magistrate King and I were pleased to conduct the Good Deeds Program again during 2024, through 4 in-person programs, serving 145 residents. 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 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, civil commitments, 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 2024 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 2024. The Court's continued success in 2024 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, 2024, the Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court had 25 permanent staff members. Throughout the year, the Magistrates, Court Administrator, Constable, Judicial Assistant, 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 Director of Youth Services and two Probation Officers, the CASA Program Director, CASA Program Administrator, and three CASA Volunteer Supervisors.

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.geaugajpcourt.org.

A total of 86 pending juvenile cases were carried over into 2024. During the year, 538 cases were opened (including those transferred in, reactivated, or redesignated), 497 cases were closed, and 127 cases carried forward into 2025.

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 2024, the Court had 92 delinquency complaints filed, an decrease of 3% 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 2024, the Court had 29 unruly complaints filed, a 6% decrease from the prior year. Of the unruly complaints, 25 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 2024, 187 juvenile traffic cases were filed in the Court, which is no significant difference from the prior year.

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES: In 2024, 29 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 3% 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 2024, 0 adult charges were filed in the court (failure to send their child to school), a decrease of 100% 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 2024, 29 custody/visitation cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 40% 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 2024, 5 paternity cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 17% 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 2024, 21 support cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 25% 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 2024, 3 UIFSA actions were filed in the court, an increase of 300% 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 2024, 0 other cases were filed in the court, which is no difference from the prior year.

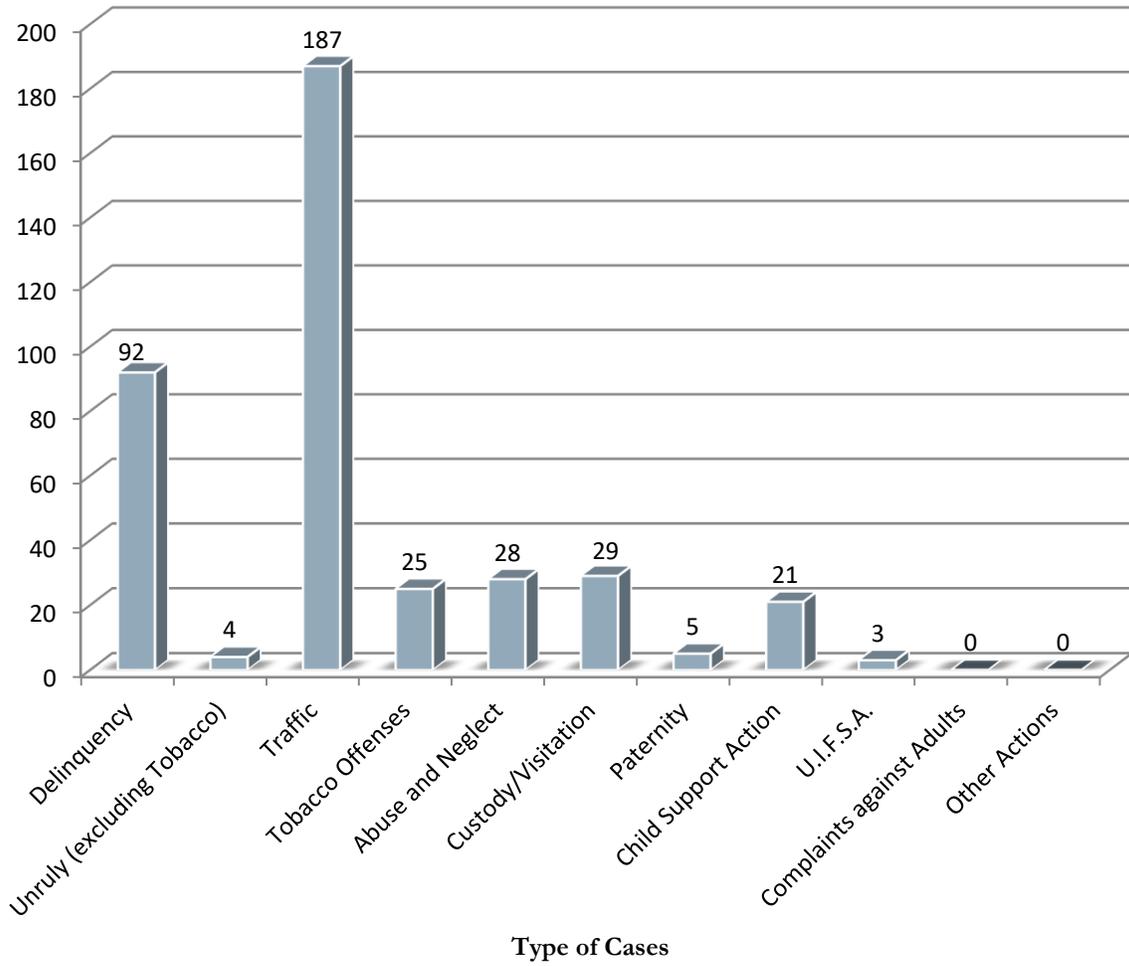
SUMMARY OF JUVENILE CASES

	PENDING FROM 2023	OPENED/REOPENED/ TRANSFERRED IN	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2025
DELINQUENCY	16	99	89	26
TRAFFIC	10	188	185	13
ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY	5	33	26	12
UNRULY	1	29	29	1
ADULT SPECIALS	0	1	1	0
PERMANENT CUSTODY	0	4	1	3
CUSTODY	32	86	79	39
CHILD SUPPORT	19	81	70	30
PATERNITY	3	13	14	2
UIFSA	0	3	2	1
OTHERS		1	1	0
TOTALS	86	538	497	127

SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED

TYPE OF CASE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
DELINQUENCY	68	24	92
UNRULY (EXCLUDING TOBACCO)	2	2	4
TRAFFIC	123	64	187
TOBACCO OFFENSES	16	9	25
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	1	0	1
OTHER	N/A	N/A	0

Juvenile Court Actions Filed in 2024



DELIQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL WHITE	TOTAL MINORITY	TOTAL COMBINED
	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY			
SHERIFF'S DEPT.	12	4	5	2	17	6	23
BAINBRIDGE P.D.	8	9	4	3	12	12	24
BURTON VILLAGE P.D.	3	0	0	0	3	0	3
CHARDON P.D.	9	0	2	0	11	0	11
CHESTER P.D.	2	1	0	1	2	2	4
JUVENILE COURT	4	3	1	0	5	3	8
MIDDLEFIELD P.D.	5	0	6	1	11	1	12
OHIO STATE HWY PATROL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUSSELL P.D.	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
S. RUSSELL P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSFERRED IN	5	0	0	0	5	0	5
OTHER	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE	3	0	0	0	3	0	3
THOMPSON P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	53	17	19	7	72	24	96

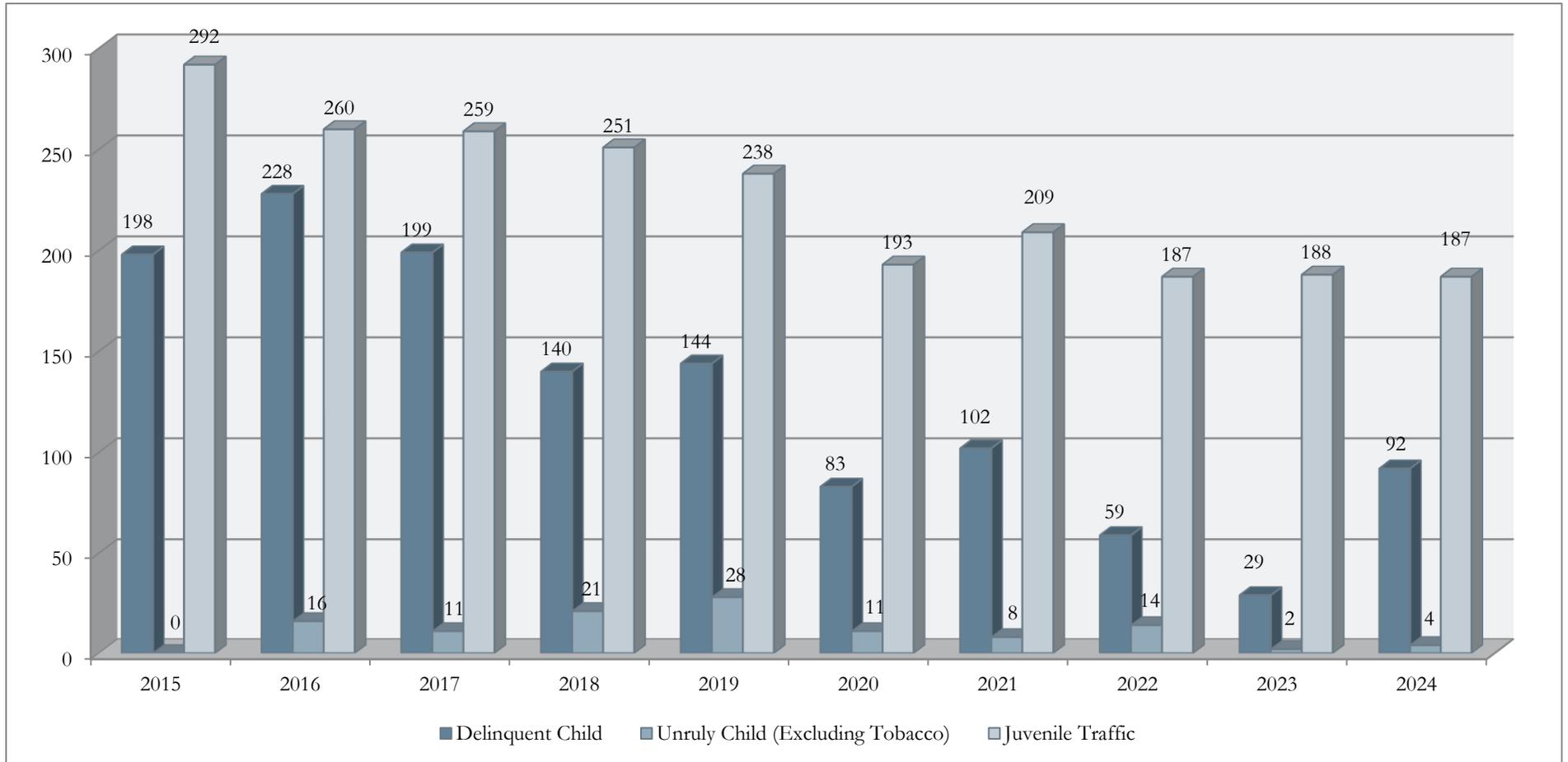
AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE

AGE	DELINQUENT			UNRULY			COMBINED TOTAL
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	
10 & UNDER	2	0	2	1	0	1	3
11	1	1	2	0	1	1	3
12	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
13	5	1	6	0	0	0	6
14	17	9	26	1	1	2	28
15	12	1	13	0	0	0	13
16	17	5	22	0	0	0	22
17	12	5	17	0	0	0	17
18	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	68	24	92	2	2	4	96

NEW CASES FILED

CASE TYPE	2022	2023	2024
DELINQUENCY	59	29	92
UNRULY & TOBACCO	25	31	29
TRAFFIC	187	188	187
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	42	29	28
ADULT CONTRIBUTING	5	3	0
CUSTODY	40	48	29
SUPPORT	20	28	21
PATERNITY	1	6	5
U.I.F.S.A.	3	0	3
OTHER	2	0	0
TOTALS	384	362	394

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



DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CHARGES

DELINQUENCY CHARGES

In 2024, 150 delinquency charges were filed compared to 177 charges in the prior year, a decrease of 15%. 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 2024, 142 charges were for acts of delinquency, 10 charges were for violation of probation, and 3 for violating court orders.

With the total delinquency charges decreasing by 15% in 2024, the more serious felony charges also decreased by 78%. 13, or 9%, 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
ATTEMPTED GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION	1	0	1
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH POLICE OFFICER	1	0	1
FELONIOUS ASSAULT	1	0	1
GRANT THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE	1	0	1
GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION	1	0	1
OBSTRUCTION OFFICIAL BUSINESS	0	1	1
RAPE	2	0	2
STRANGULATION	1	1	2
THEFT	1	0	1
VANDALISM	1	0	1
	11	2	13

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
AGGRAVATED MENACING	1	4	5
ASSAULT	10	3	13
ATTEMPTED THEFT	1	0	1
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT THEFT	1	0	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	9	0	9
CRIMINAL TRESPASSING	7	1	8
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	24	7	31
DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES	3	5	8
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	7	4	11
ILLEGAL CONVEY/POSSESSION OF OBJECT INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM FIREARM	2	0	2
INDUCING PANIC	1	0	1
MAKING FALSE ALARMS	0	1	1
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	2	2	4
PETTY THEFT	5	0	5
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	1	0	1
PROHIBITIONS	2	5	7
RESISTING ARREST	1	0	1
TELECOMMUNICATION HARRASSMENT	4	0	4
THEFT	7	4	11
VIOLATION OF PROBATION	9	1	10
VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER	3	0	3
TOTALS	100	37	137

TOP OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT YOUTH

	Total
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	31
ASSAULT	13
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	11
THEFT	11
VIOLATION OF PROBATION	10
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	9
CRIMINAL TRESPASSING	8
DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES	8
PROHIBITIONS	7
PETTY THEFT	5

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

In 2024, the Court adjudicated 2 counts of felony-level offenses, an 83% decrease from the prior year. 0 youth were committed to ODYS. 0 youth was committed to a community correction facility.

LEVEL OF OFFENSE	ADJUDICATIONS
F5	1
F4	1

RACE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
White	2	0	2
Minority	0	0	0
Total	2	0	2

UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES

In 2024, 4 unruly child charges were filed in the Court, an increase of 33% from the prior year.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO REASONABLE CONTROL	2	2	4

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	20	7	27
ADMONISHED	34	5	39
FINE	1	0	1
COSTS	16	5	21
COSTS WAIVED	41	43	84
LICENSE SUSPENSION	0	0	0
RIGHT TO APPLY FOR O.L. DENIED	2	2	4
FINGERPRINTING	1	1	2
DNA TESTING	1	1	2
COMMUNITY SANCTIONS			
PROBATION	1	1	2
CONTINUED PROBATION	18	2	20
RESTITUTION	4	0	4
COMMUNITY SERVICE	11	2	13
COUNSELING	5	0	5
ELECTRONIC MONITORING/HOUSE ARREST	4	0	4
MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS	3	3	6
DRUG / ALCOHOL ASSESSMENT	0	0	0
PLACEMENTS			
TO D.Y.S.	2	0	2
TO DETENTION	30	6	36
OTHER PLACEMENTS	1	1	2
SUSPENDED PLACEMENTS	27	6	33
TRANSFERS			
BIND OVERS	0	0	0
TO OTHER JUVENILE COURTS	7	1	8
TO OTHER AGENCIES	0	0	0
GENERAL DISPOSITIONS			
ESSAY	0	0	0
APOLOGY LETTERS	2	0	2
OTHER	31	5	36

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 2024, 25 tobacco cases were filed in the Court.

TOBACCO CASES FILED			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
13	0	2	2
14	4	2	6
15	6	2	8
16	6	2	8
17	0	1	1

ISSUING POLICE DEPARTMENTS			
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	0	BURTON VILLAGE	0
CHAGRIN FALLS	0	CHARDON CITY	14
CHESTER TOWNSHIP	1	GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF	10
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 2024, 10 cases were pending at the beginning of the year; 187 cases were filed during the year, 1 case was transferred in from another court, reactivated, or redesignated; 185 cases were disposed; and 13 cases were pending going into the following year.

SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC CASE ACTIVITY			
NEW CASES FILED	187		
CASES DISPOSED	185		
SEX:			
MALE	123		
FEMALE	64		
AGE:			
15 & UNDER	4		
16	65		
17	118		
18	0		
DISPOSITIONS:			
FINE	126	PLED NO CONTEST	4
COURT COSTS	152	CASE DISMISSED	16
LICENSE SUSPENSION	120	COUNTS DISMISSED	5
DENIED RTA	3	TWO COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	7
COSTS WAIVED	11	THREE COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	2
DRUG/ALCOHOL ASSESSMENT	0	FOUR COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	0
DRIVING PRIVILEGES	113	PROBATION	0
SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM	53	DETENTION PLACEMENT	0
JUVENILE DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	11	DETENTION SUSPENDED	0
RESTITUTION	0	DRUG TESTED	0
COMMUNITY SERVICE	51	TRANSFER TO ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT	1
CARTEENS	51	TRANSFER IN FROM ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT	1
TICKET AMENDED/ADJUSTED	11	POINTS	2

TOP 10 TRAFFIC OFFENSES

TYPE OF OFFENSE	TOTAL COMMITTED
SPEEDING	58
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	32
FAILURE TO CONTROL	15
PARKING ON HIGHWAY	11
FAILURE TO YIELD, STOP AND YIELD SIGNS	10
FAILURE TO YIELD TURNING LEFT	7
FAILURE TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY	6
RIGHT-OF-WAY WHEN TURNING LEFT	4
TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE	3
STOP FROM A PRIVATE DRIVEWAY	3

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES FILED BY SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	TOTAL
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP P.D.	27
BURTON VILLAGE P.D.	2
CHARDON CITY P.D.	27
CHESTER TOWNSHIP P.D.	18
GEAUGA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES	0
GEAUGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT	1
GEAUGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE	0
GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF	21
MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE P.D.	9
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL	54
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP P.D.	4
SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE P.D.	4
TRANSFER IN	5
TOTAL	172

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 2024:

	MOVING OFFENSES		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1ST OFFENSE	103	58	161
2ND OFFENSE	14	7	21
3RD OFFENSE	1	0	1
4TH OR MORE OFFENSE	4	0	4
TOTAL	122	65	187

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. 28 youth continued on probation from the previous year
2. 39 youth were placed on probation: 30 males and 9 females
3. 44 youth were terminated from probation: 40 males and 4 females
4. 67 youth were supervised on probation in 2024

PROBATION ASSIGNMENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Residence	Male	Female	Total
Berkshire	6	3	9
Cardinal	3	1	4
Chardon	7	3	10
Kenston	5	1	6
West Geauga	4	1	5
Out of County	4	1	5
TOTAL	29	10	39

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 2024: 27 (20 males, 7 females)
 - a. 14 unruly cases
 - b. 13 delinquency cases
 - c. 0 unruly truancy case
- Filed Formally: 0
- Diverted: 27

H.B. 410 Habitual Truancy

In 2024, 0 unruly child complaints were referred to the court for habitual truancy pursuant to R.C. 2151.022 (B).

FAMILY LIFE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Family Life Improvement Program (FLIP) 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. FLIP 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 and therapeutic visitations, mediation, co-parenting education and support, and parenting education and support.

The Case Management Director works with families who have come to the attention of the court through abuse, neglect and dependency filings as well as private custody filings to connect them with community resource agencies; monitor case parties for compliance through phone calls, office visits, home visits, tracking devices or other methods of compliance monitoring. She administers drug tests ordered through the Court's randomization program for clients who have substance abuse concerns. She refers parties to treatment agencies as need; arranges and coordinates supervised visitation through the Court's Supervised Visitation Program for families and refers cases to mediation as need. She offers support and assistance to the families during the time they are involved with the court. In 2024 the Case Management Director worked with 43 families.

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 Visitation:** Allows for parents and non-parents, an opportunity to continue to see their children in a safe environment while addressing the concerns that resulted in them being removed from the home. The Case Management Director will work with the parties to arrange weekly supervised visitation for a time that is convenient to all parties, with one of the Court's independent contractors who will monitor the visitation or with an agency who can provide therapeutic visitation for those cases that need a little more structure. In 2024 the Court provided 278.55 hours of supervised visitation time to families.
3. **Mediation:** 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 2024, 9 families participated in mediation

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.

104 youth served: 92 new cases, 12 carry over cases from the previous year

- 652.5 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.

- 17 youth were ordered to pay restitution, 15 carried over from the previous year, 2 new cases
- \$14,567.36 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 2024, 2 youth were carried over from the previous year, and 14 new juveniles were placed on electronic monitoring (11 males, 3 females)

Drug Testing

- Completed by hair sample or mouth swab analysis
- 223 Drug Tests administered: 26 Juveniles, 197 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.

- 53 juveniles participated in 2024

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 2024: Thanksgiving dinners assembled and distributed to one Geauga County family in November; and sponsorship of a court-involved family for Christmas.

JUVENILE DETENTION

IN 2024, Judge Grendell asked the Geauga County Commissioners to cancel the partnership with Portage County and to contract with the Lake County and Richland County Detention Centers to utilize their detention centers on an as-needed basis. This change eliminated the need for Geauga County taxpayers to continue to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars per year for the operation of the Portage Geauga Detention Center. As a result of this change, Geauga County now pays only for beds used, saving Geauga County taxpayers’ dollars.

Since the implementation of this new agreement, the Geauga County Juvenile Court has admitted 15 youth into juvenile detention, made up of 13 males and 2 females, at a small fraction of the previous cost.

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,

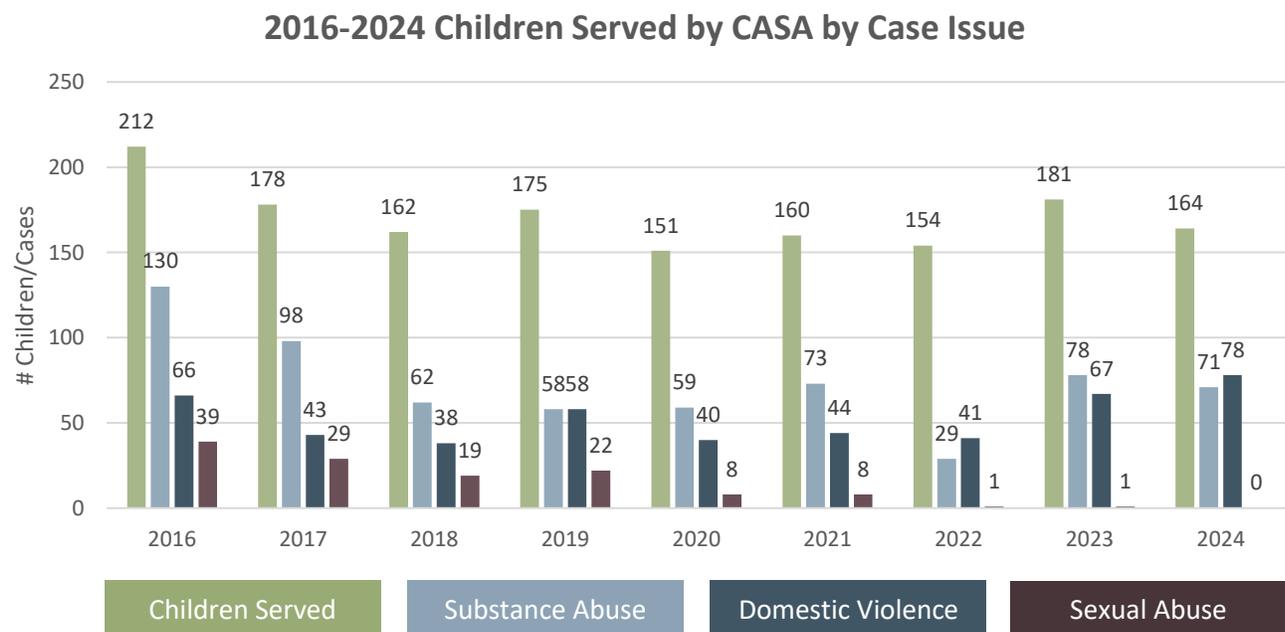
permanent, nurturing home.

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 Rule48 of Superintendence by the Supreme Court of Ohio. The CASA program has trained 435 volunteers who have represented 3,296 children since the program began in 1997.

An average volunteer contributed over 120 hours to the program, and in 2024, volunteers contributed 7,781 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 2024.

One part-time and three full-time CASA Supervisors, and the Program Director, supervised 59 active CASA Volunteers who were appointed to serve 164 children.

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.



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 2024, the Help Center assisted approximately 108 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.

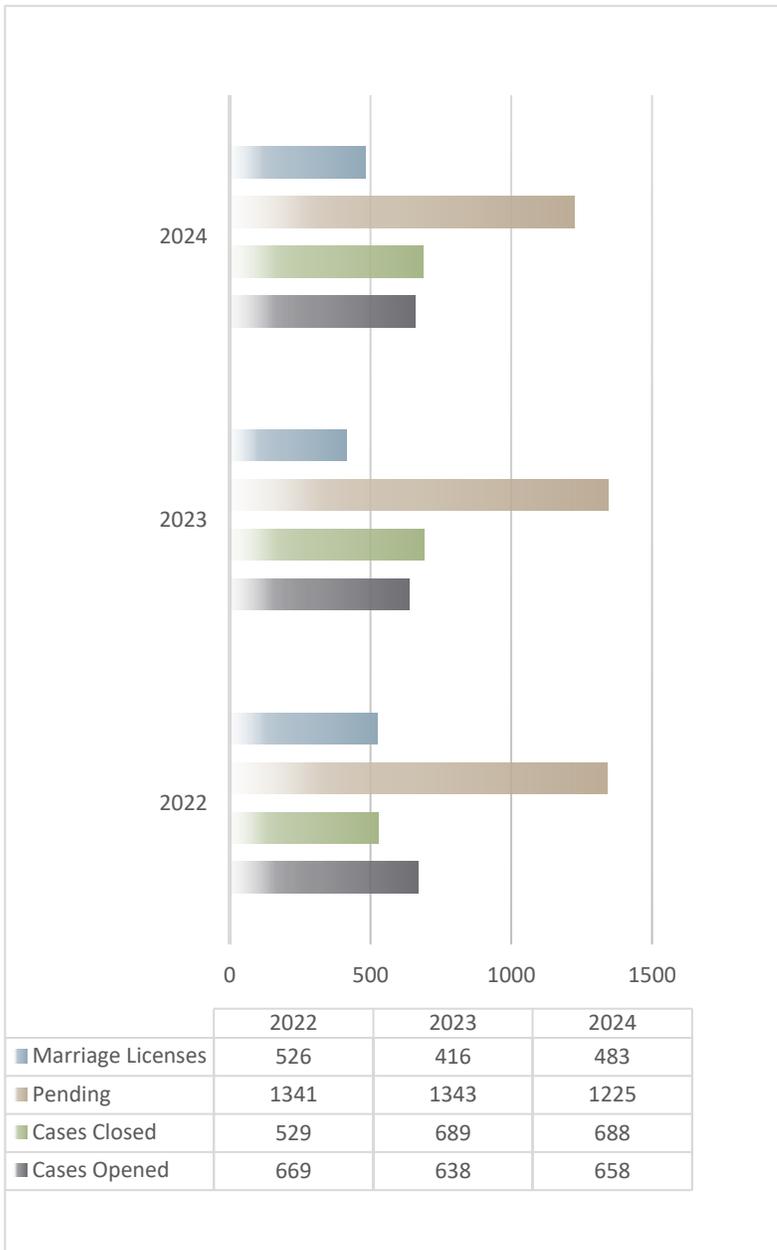
The Probate Court's dedicated staff continues to strive to provide efficient quality in the processing of all cases. Geauga County Courts continually updates forms to comply with Ohio Supreme Court rule changes. The updated forms are available to the public through our website: www.geaugapjcourt.org.

A total of 1,298 pending probate cases were carried over into 2024. During the year, 1,141 new cases were opened, and 1,200 cases were closed. A total of 1,239 cases were carried over into the following year.

SUMMARY OF CASES

	PENDING FROM 2023	OPENED	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2025
ESTATES	576	402	480	498
GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS	63	8	11	60
GUARDIANSHIP OF INCOMPETENTS	482	101	51	532
EMERGENCY GUARDIANSHIPS	32	38	13	57
CONSERVATORSHIP	3	1	1	3
TRUSTS	48	5	7	46
CIVIL ACTIONS	21	19	25	15
ADOPTIONS	7	12	15	4
MENTAL ILLNESS	0	13	13	0
MINOR'S SETTLEMENT	5	8	9	4
REGISTRATION OF BIRTH	4	7	8	3
CHANGE OF NAME	15	43	55	3
WRONGFUL DEATH	0	0	0	0
MARRIAGE LICENSES	42	484	512	14
TOTALS	1298	1141	1200	1239

PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES 2022-2024

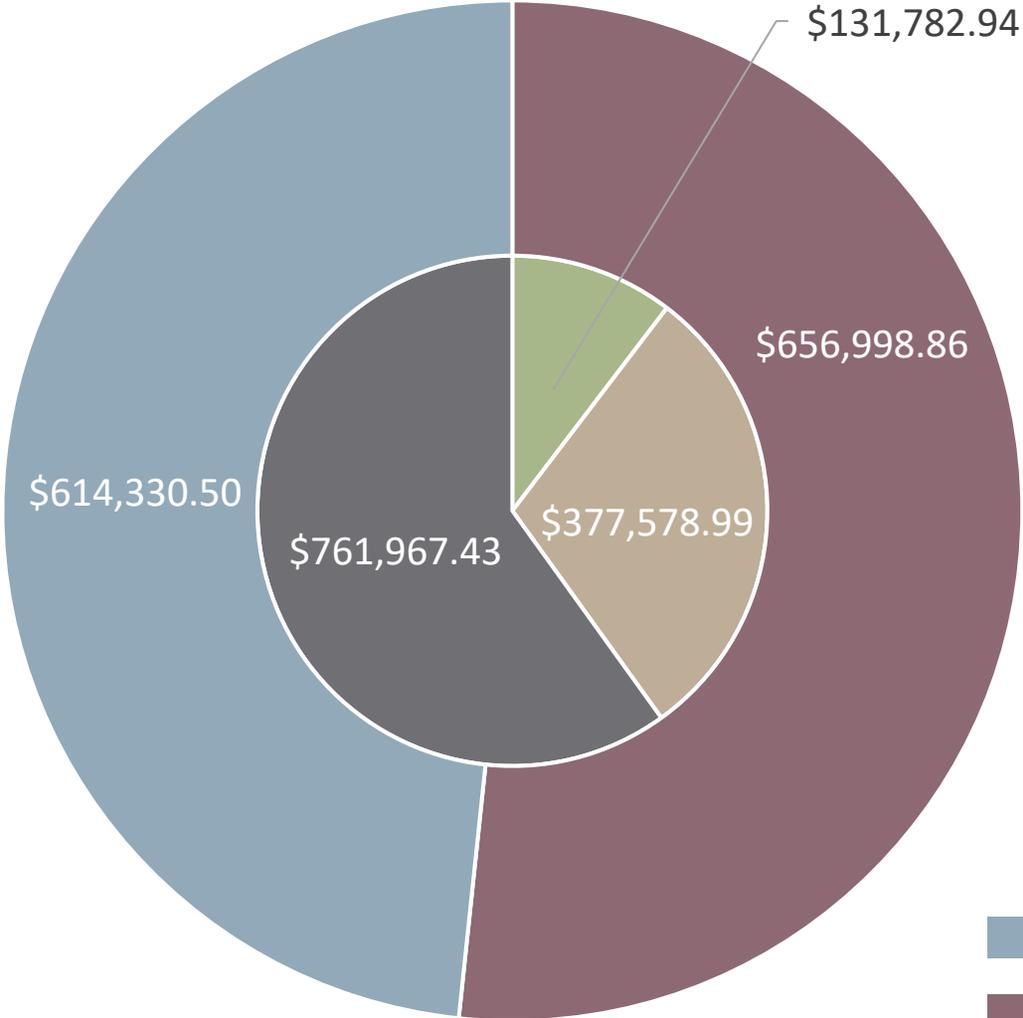


GOOD DEEDS PROGRAM

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 2024, the Geauga County Probate Court offered 4 in-person Good Deeds Programs serving 145 residents.

**GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT
2024 REVENUES: \$1,271,329.36**



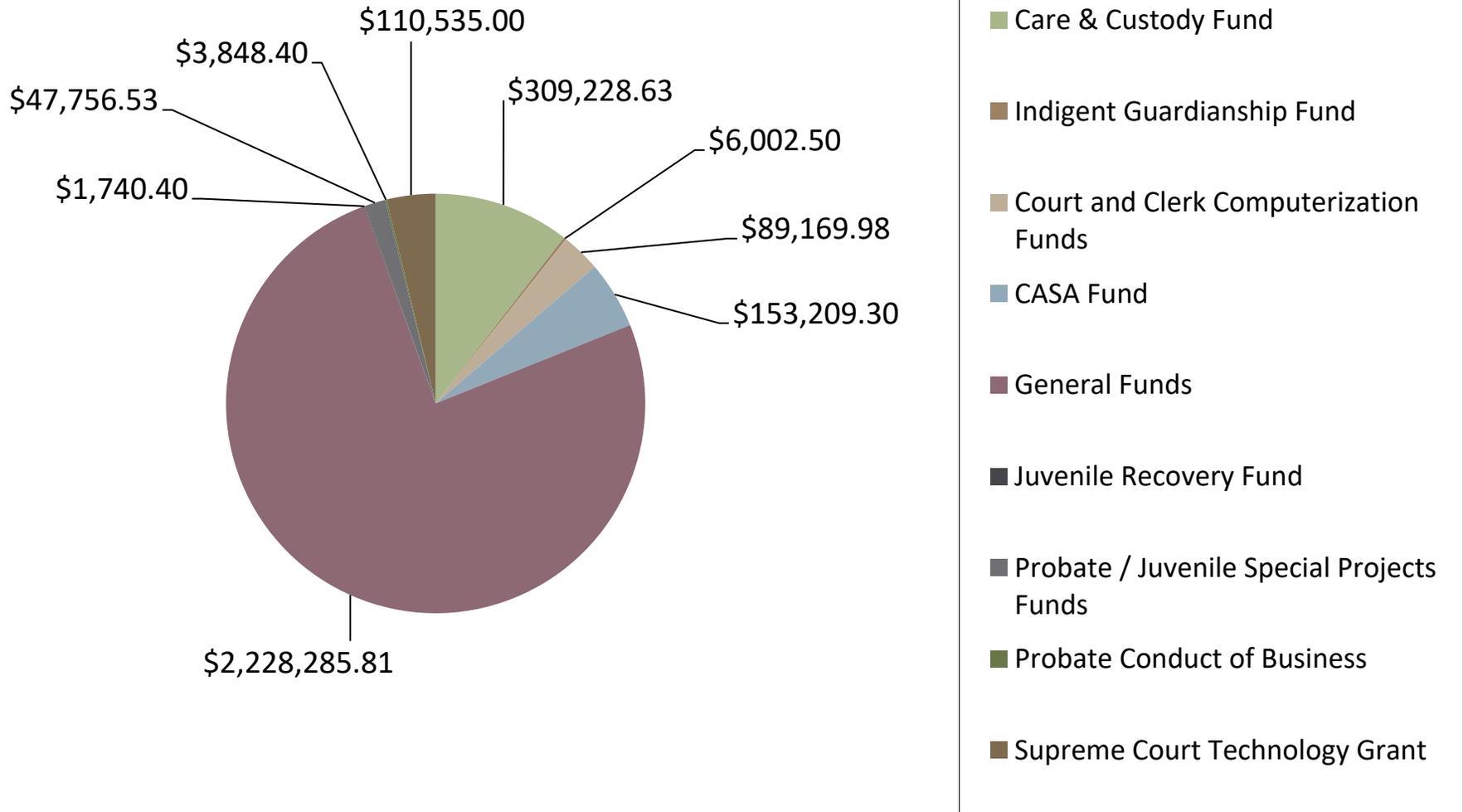
Revenue Sources:

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

Deposited Into:

-  Court Funds
-  County Funds

**GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT
2024 EXPENDITURES: \$2,949,776.55**



COMPUTERIZATION & CLERK COMPUTERIZATION FUNDS 2024 EXPENDITURES

G/L Date	Journal	Journal Type	Sub Ledger	Description/Project	Source	Reference	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Actual Balance		
G/L Account Number 4004-007-00-601 Contract Services								Balance To Date:	\$0.00		
10/17/2024	2024-00003401	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		14,981.93		14,981.93		
<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>		
MOGEAUGSPJOH01	COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS			5/1/24-12/31/24 Support and Maintenance	10/03/2024	Check	1167786	14,981.93	14,981.93		
							Total	\$14,981.93	\$14,981.93		
							Account	Contract Services Totals	\$14,981.93	\$0.00	\$14,981.93
G/L Account Number 4004-007-00-901 Other								Balance To Date:	\$0.00		
04/02/2024	2024-00001137	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		12,835.85		12,835.85		
<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>		
1201&1202	COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS			Other	03/18/2024	Check	1156097	959.60	959.60		
1202&1203 A	COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS			Other	03/18/2024	Check	1156099	11,876.25	11,876.25		
							Total	\$12,835.85	\$12,835.85		
07/09/2024	2024-00002177	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		20,450.00		33,285.85		
<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>		
11665	VISTA SOLUTIONS GROUP, LPN			OTHER	06/26/2024	Check	1161872	20,450.00	20,450.00		
							Total	\$20,450.00	\$20,450.00		
07/30/2024	2024-00002428	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		1,204.42		34,490.27		
<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>		
1203	COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS			Other	07/23/2024	Check	1163182	1,204.42	1,204.42		
							Total	\$1,204.42	\$1,204.42		
09/10/2024	2024-00002905	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		35,464.00		69,954.27		
<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>		
1201 & 9242	COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS			CV3 Nov-Dec 2023	09/04/2024	Check	1165458	35,464.00	35,464.00		
							Total	\$35,464.00	\$35,464.00		

G/L Date	Journal	Journal Type	Sub Ledger	Description/Project	Source	Reference	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Actual Balance
G/L Account Number	4004-007-00-901	Other						Balance To Date:	\$0.00
10/08/2024	2024-00003290	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		94.60		70,048.87
<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>
1206	COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS			Other	09/23/2024	Check	1167221	94.60	94.60
							Total	\$94.60	\$94.60
					Account	Other Totals	\$70,048.87	\$0.00	\$70,048.87
				Sub Department	Non Departmental Totals		\$85,030.80	\$0.00	
				Department	Juvenile Totals		\$85,030.80	\$0.00	
			Fund	Juv/Prob Clerk Computerization	Totals		\$85,030.80	\$0.00	
G/L Account Number	4005-007-00-901	Other						Balance To Date:	\$0.00
01/30/2024	2024-00000390	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		214.00		214.00
<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>
November 2023	AT & T MOBILITY LLC			OTHER	01/16/2024	Check	1152463	214.00	214.00
							Total	\$214.00	\$214.00
02/22/2024	2024-00000598	JE	GL	4005/1001 Reimburse for Dec. 2023 AT & T Pmt.		1 - Cash Transfers	214.64		428.64
03/12/2024	2024-00000864	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		1,544.50		1,973.14
<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>
1060-1061	SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC			Other	02/28/2024	Check	1154865	899.50	899.50
1052-1053	SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC			Other	02/28/2024	Check	1154865	645.00	645.00
							Total	\$1,544.50	\$1,544.50
03/19/2024	2024-00000958	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		265.00		2,238.14
<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>
1072	SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC			Other	03/12/2024	Check	1155361	265.00	265.00
							Total	\$265.00	\$265.00

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
04/30/2024	2024-00001451	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		74.90		2,313.04
<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>
1066	SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC			Other	04/23/2024	Check	1158046	74.90	74.90
							Total	\$74.90	\$74.90
09/26/2024	2024-00003129	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		298.00		2,611.04
<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>
1131	SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC			Other	09/10/2024	Check	1166506	298.00	298.00
							Total	\$298.00	\$298.00
11/05/2024	2024-00003624	JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		1,528.14		4,139.18
<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>
TGEAUGAOH1204	COURTVIEW JUSTICE SOLUTIONS			Other	10/24/2024	Check	1168757	1,528.14	1,528.14
							Total	\$1,528.14	\$1,528.14
							Account Other Totals	\$4,139.18	\$0.00
							Sub Department Non Departmental Totals	\$4,139.18	\$0.00
							Department Juvenile Totals	\$4,139.18	\$0.00
							Fund Juvenile/Prob Computerization Totals	\$4,139.18	\$0.00
							Grand Totals	\$89,169.98	\$0.00