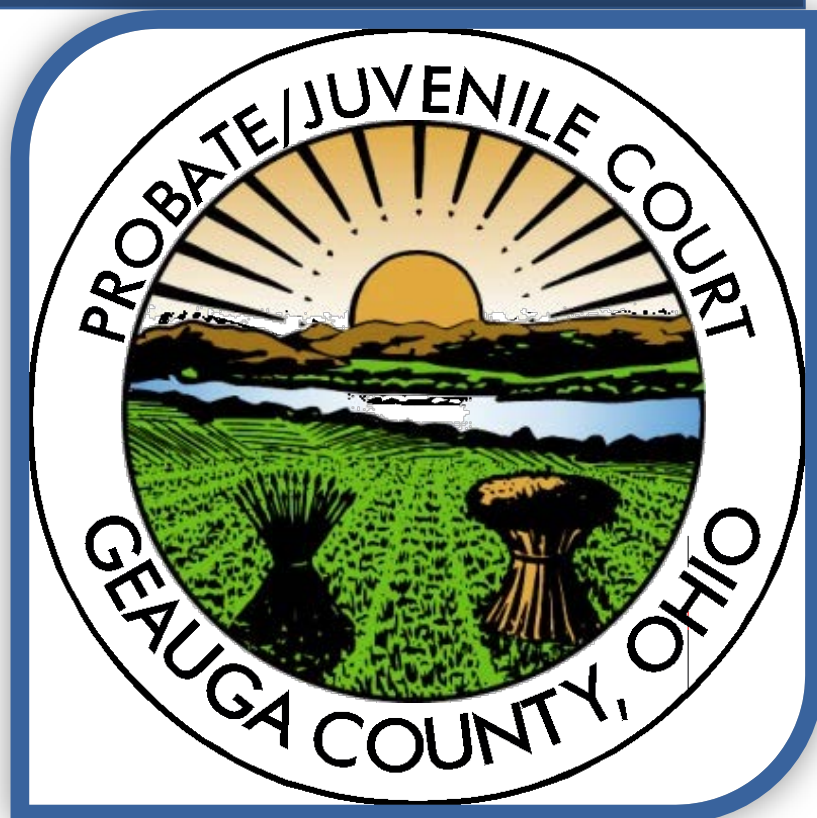


Geauga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Division
2015 Annual Report



Judge Timothy J. Grendell

LETTER FROM JUDGE TIM GRENDELL

Dear Geauga County Neighbor:

The Probate and Juvenile Divisions of the Geauga County Common Pleas Court continued to provide timely, effective, cost efficient and professional court services to the residents of Geauga County in 2015.

While the overall volume of juvenile delinquency cases went down, the serious nature of juvenile misconduct unfortunately increased in 2015. A total of 9 juveniles were placed in Department of Youth Services (DYS) facilities because of felony-level misconduct. By contrast only 3 juveniles were placed in DYS in 2014. The ongoing heroin situation, particularly addicted parents of young children, continues to occupy court services. The court's CASA Program continues to be an effective asset to the court in protecting the best interest of the children in those cases.

The Probate Court, in concert with the Geauga County Recorder and local volunteer attorneys, has continued the Good Deeds Program for the benefit of county property owners. The program is a probate law review and volunteer deed review process for Geauga County property owners. 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 helps save Geauga County residents time and money.

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

The administration of justice within the Juvenile Court process is predicated on three concepts: (1) the recognition that Geauga County Residents must be protected; (2) that juvenile offenders must be held accountable for their acts of misconduct; and (3) that juvenile offenders should be treated fairly and provided individualized discipline and treatment directed towards preventing juvenile misconduct in the future.

I appreciate the cooperation extended to me and the court's staff by the County Commissioners, Sheriff's Department, Prosecutor's Office, Department of Job and Family



Services, Public Defender's Office, police departments throughout the county, school officials, mental health personnel, and social services agencies. Each plays an important role in the administration of justice through this court to the citizens of Geauga County. These public servants deserve special commendation for their efforts.

Enclosed please find attached the 2015 Annual Report for the Geauga County Juvenile Court in compliance with O.R.C. Section 2151.18. I hope that you will find this information enlightening and informative, as well as demonstrative of the collective effort of a quality court staff dedicated to addressing the disciplinary and rehabilitative needs of Geauga County youth, while protecting the community.

A special thank you to Magistrate and Court Administrator David Lubecky, a consummate professional, and to everyone who supported and assisted the court in 2015. The court's success in 2015 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 COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE/JUVENILE DIVISION
COURT STAFF
as of 12/31/2015

The Hon. Timothy J. Grendell
PROBATE/JUVENILE JUDGE

**COURT ADMINISTRATOR/
MAGISTRATE/STAFF ATTORNEY**

David Lubecky

**CONSTABLE/INTENSIVE SUPERVISION MONITOR/
CHIEF BAILIFF**

John Ralph

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Budget/Fiscal Director & County Liaison
Bookkeeper/HR Officer
Judicial Assistant

Kimberly Laurie
Patty Breedlove
Charlie Zimmerman

DEPUTY CLERKS

Chief Deputy Probate/Juvenile Clerk
Deputy Juvenile Clerk
Deputy Juvenile Clerk
Deputy Juvenile Clerk
Deputy Probate Clerk
Deputy Probate Clerk
Deputy Probate Clerk
Guardianship Coordinator

Laura Cooke
Ann Hazen
Libby Denes
Kathleen Madda
Kathleen O'Malley
Wendy Call
Shawna Myers
Cheryl Koncler

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Director of Probation
Intake Officer
Probation Officer
Probation Officer
Community Service Work Crew Supervisor

Beth Williams
Ann Mlinar
Stephanie Voss
Heather Mountsier
Charles Giallanza

Staff Attorney
Law Clerk

Tara Pavlovcak
Anthony Hurst

FLIP Coordinator
Case Management Director

Victor Matthews
Mary Ruth Shumway

CASA PROGRAM

Program Director
CASA Supervisor
CASA Supervisor
CASA Volunteer Liaison

Julie Weese
Susan Ebersbacher
Charlene Wolff
Karolyn Squire

PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT VOLUNTEER BAILIFFS

Barbara Baskey
Richard Kress

GEAUGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT MISSION AND PURPOSE

The Mission and 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.

SUMMARY OF CASES FILED

In 2015, the court processed 734 new cases, which was a decrease of 12.0% from 2014. Of the total cases the court processed in 2015, 41 cases or 5.0% were diverted, a process in which various informal sanctions are imposed or no formal action is taken.

In 2015, 693 new cases were formally filed in the court, a decrease of 10.0% from the prior year.

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 2015, the Court had 198 delinquency complaints filed, a decrease of 14.0% from 2014.

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 2015, the Court had 14 unruly complaints filed, a decrease of 39.0% from 2014. Of the unruly complaints, 4 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 2015, 292 juvenile traffic cases were filed in the Court, a decrease of 12.0% from 2014.

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES: In 2015, 32 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 18.0% from 2014.

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 2015, 10 adult contributing charges were filed in the court.

CUSTODY/VISITATION CASES: The court has jurisdiction to hear custody/visitation cases involving children who are not under another Ohio court's jurisdiction. In 2015, 25 custody/visitation cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 34.0% from 2014.

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 2015, 13 paternity cases were filed in the court.

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 2015, 73 support cases were filed in the court, an increase of 24.0% from 2014.

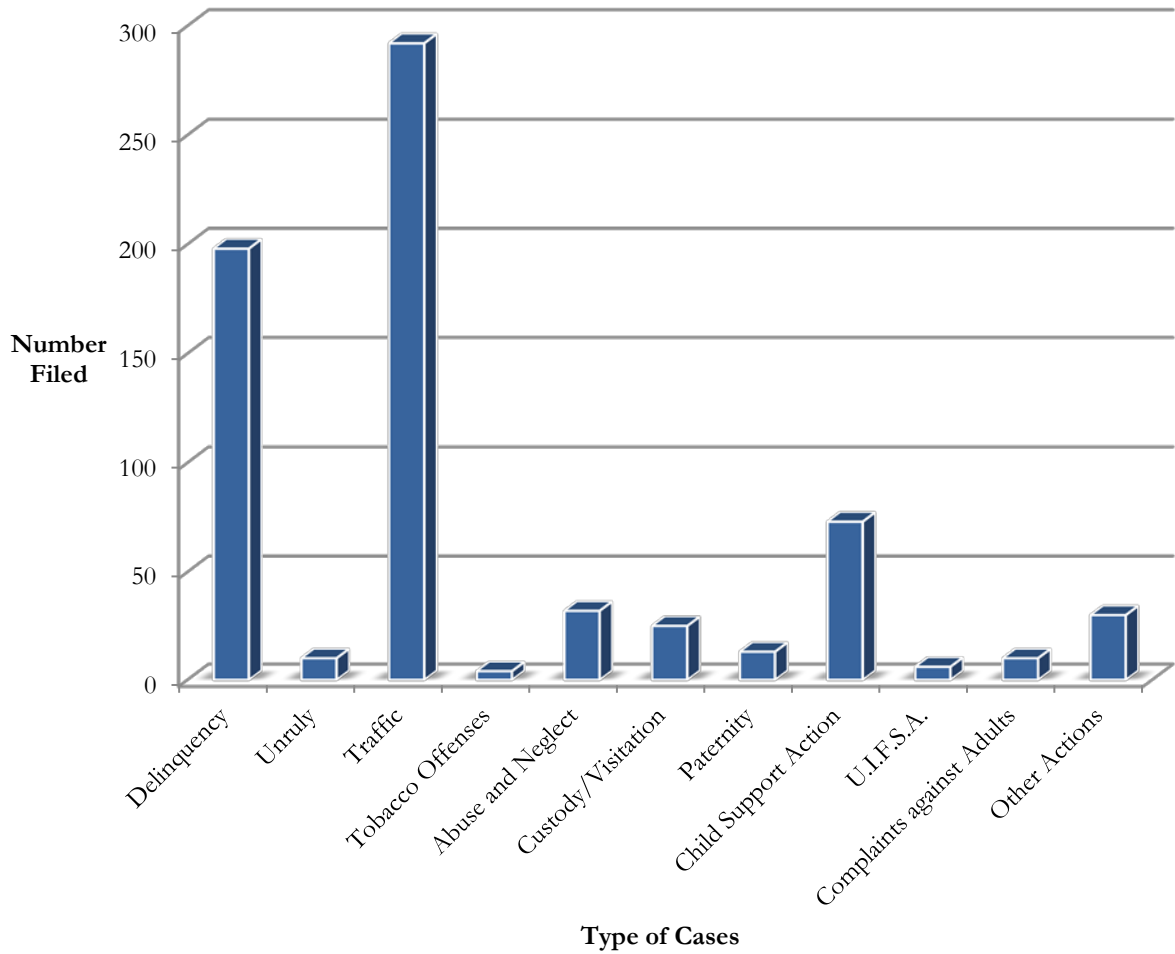
UIFSA CASES: UIFSA cases involve the enforcement of child support orders when one of the parents resides outside of the State of Ohio. In 2015, 6 UIFSA actions were filed in the court.

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 2015, 30 other cases were filed in the court.

SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED

TYPE OF CASE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Delinquency	146	52	198
Unruly	5	5	10
Traffic	187	105	292
Tobacco Offenses	1	3	4
Abuse and Neglect	n/a	n/a	32
Custody/Visitation	n/a	n/a	25
Paternity	n/a	n/a	13
Child Support Action	n/a	n/a	73
U.I.F.S.A.	n/a	n/a	6
Complaints against Adults	n/a	n/a	10
Other Actions	n/a	n/a	30
TOTAL COMPLAINTS FOR 2015			693

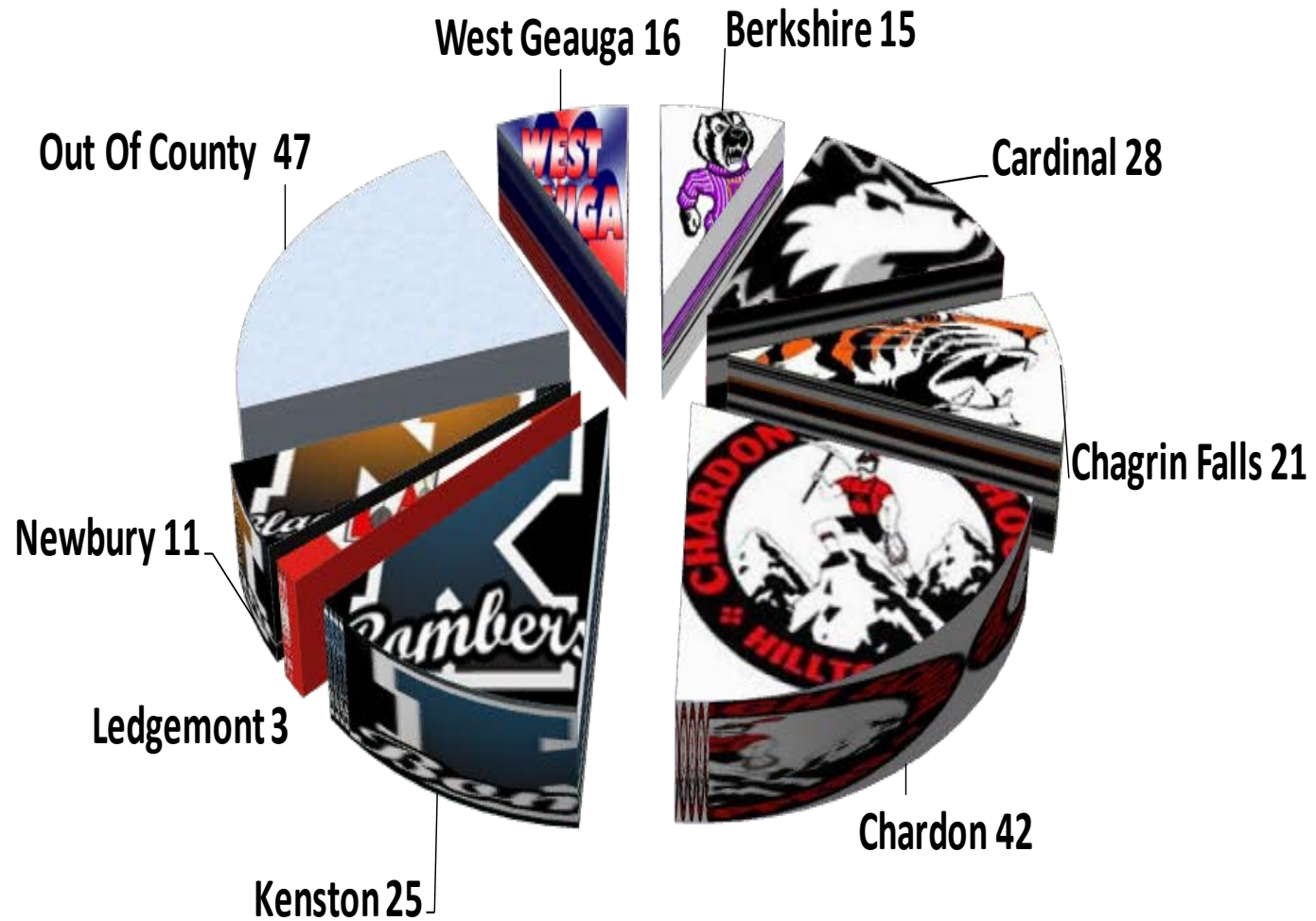
Geauga County Juvenile Court Cases Filed 2015



DELIQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY	COMBINED
SHERIFF'S DEPT.	23	3	5	2	28	5	33
BAINBRIDGE P.D.	24	14	5	3	29	17	46
BURTON P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARDON P.D.	8	0	3	0	11	0	11
CHESTER P.D.	6	3	3	0	9	3	12
GEAUGA PARK DIST	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
MIDDLEFIELD P.D.	1	0	3	0	4	0	4
OHIO STATE PATROL	5	0	2	0	7	0	7
RUSSELL P.D.	3	0	6	1	9	1	10
S. RUSSELL P.D.	10	0	0	0	10	0	10
THOMPSON P.D.	2	0	0	0	2	0	2
INTAKE/STATE	5	0	2	1	7	1	8
PROBATION DEPT.	22	1	10	1	32	2	34
TRANSFERRED IN	15	1	6	1	21	2	23
EDUCATIONAL SVC CTR	3	0	3	0	6	0	6
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	129	22	48	9	177	31	208

Delinquent & Unruly Cases by School District 2015



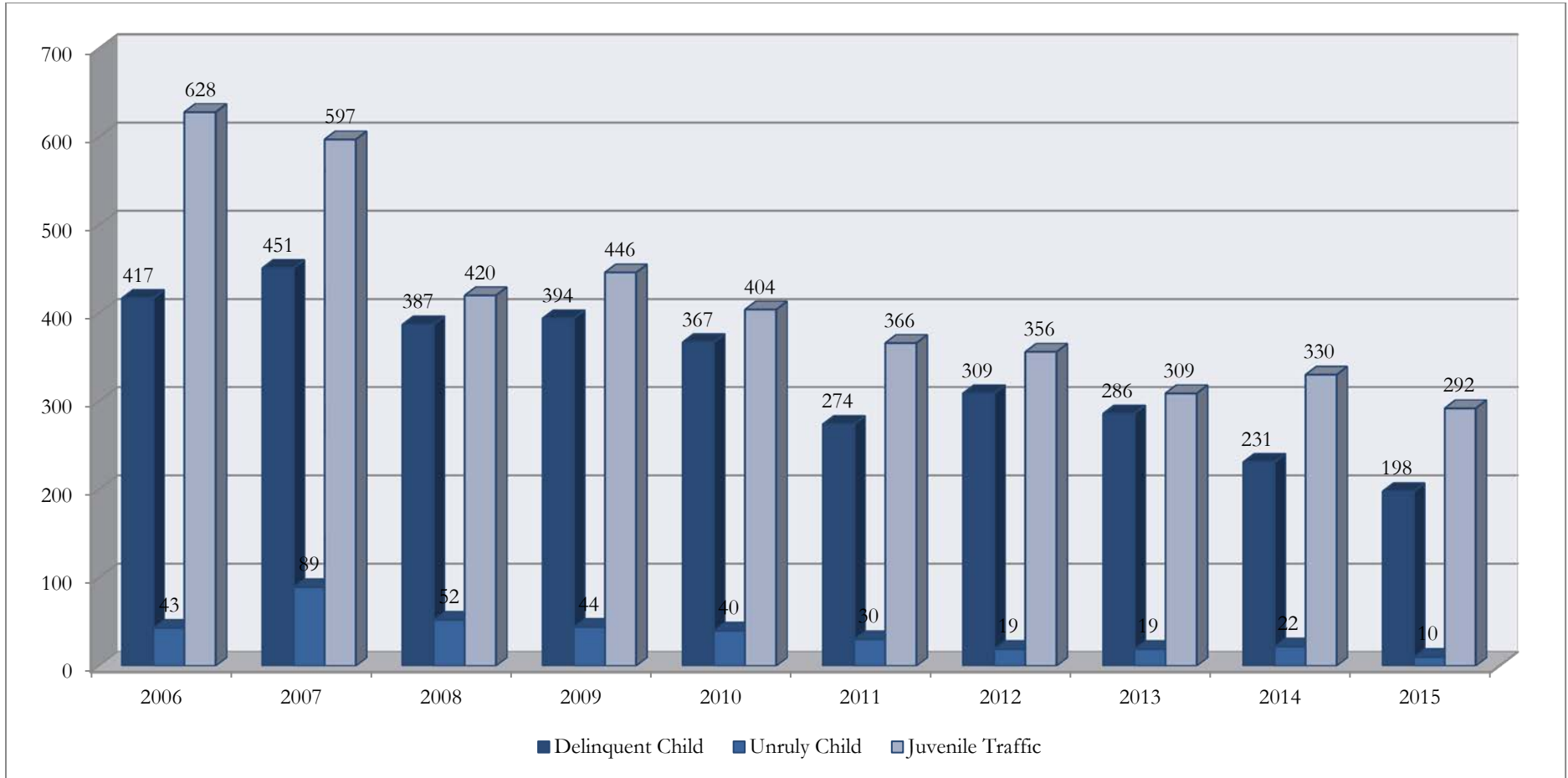
AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE

AGE	DELINQUENT			UNRULY			COMBINED
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	TOTAL
AGE 10 & UNDER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGE 11	1	1	2	0	0	0	2
AGE 12	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
AGE 13	4	0	4	0	2	2	6
AGE 14	20	6	26	1	1	2	28
AGE 15	16	11	27	1	1	2	29
AGE 16	42	10	52	2	1	3	55
AGE 17	60	21	81	1	0	1	82
AGE 18	1	1	2	0	0	0	2
AGE 19	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	146	52	198	5	5	10	208

NEW CASES FILED

TYPE OF CASE	2013	2014	2015
DELINQUENCY	283	231	198
UNRULY & TOBACCO CASES	19	23	14
TRAFFIC	309	330	292
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	30	39	32
CONTRIBUTING	13	9	10
CUSTODY	37	38	25
SUPPORT	46	59	73
PATERNITY	10	16	13
U.I.F.S.A.	9	2	6
OTHER	19	23	30
TOTAL CASES FILED	775	770	693

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



DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CASES

DELINQUENCY CHARGES

In 2015, 385 delinquency charges were filed compared to 520 charges in 2014, a decrease of 26.0%. 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 2015, 318 charges were for acts of delinquency, 50 charges were for violations of probation, and 7 charges were for violations of court orders. The number of delinquency charges for acts other than violations of probation, parole, or court orders filed in 2015 decreased by 29.0% compared to 2014.

With total delinquency charges decreasing by 26.0% in 2015, the more serious felony charges decreased by 12.0%. 88 charges or 28.0% 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
AGGRAVATED ARSON	2	0	2
AGGRAVATED POSSESSION OF DRUGS	1	1	2
ATTEMPTED PANDERING OBSCENITY INVOLVING A MINOR	1	0	1
ATTEMPTED VEHICULAR ASSAULT	1	0	1
BREAKING AND ENTERING	6	1	7
BURGLARY	9	2	11
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT AGGRAVATED ARSON	0	3	3
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT AGGRAVATED ROBBERY	2	0	2
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COURT ORDER OR SIGNAL OF A POLICE OFFICER	1	0	1
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT TRAFFICKING IN MARIJUANA	1	0	1
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT VANDALISM	0	1	1
ENGAGING IN A PATTERN OF CORRUPT ACTIVITY	3	0	3
EXTORTION	1	0	1
FORGERY	1	0	1
GRAND THEFT OF A FIREARM	1	0	1
GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION	2	2	4
IDENTITY FRAUD	1	0	1
KIDNAPPING	1	0	1
MENACING BY STALKING	1	0	1
PANDERING OBSCENITY INVOLVING A MINOR	1	0	1
PANDERING SEXUALLY ORIENTED MATTER INVOLVING A MINOR	1	0	1
POSSESSING CRIMINAL TOOLS	12	0	12
RAPE	3	0	3
TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE	5	2	7

FELONY DELINQUENT CHARGE BY GENDER (CONT)

	Male	Female	Total
THEFT	10	1	11
THEFT OF DRUGS	1	0	1
VANDALISM	6	1	7
Total Felony Charges	74	14	88

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
AGGRAVATED MENACING	0	1	1
ASSAULT	5	1	6
CHRONIC TRUANCY	1	2	3
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT PETTY THEFT	0	1	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGING	3	6	9
CRIMINAL DAMAGING OR ENDANGERING	3	0	3
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	5	0	5
CRIMINAL SIMULATION	1	0	1
CRIMINAL TRESPASSING	9	1	10
DELINQUENCY	2	0	2
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	22	7	29
DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES	1	0	1
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	3	1	4
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ORDER OR SIGNAL OF POLICE	2	0	2
FALSIFICATION	0	1	1
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHENALIA	19	4	23
INDUCING PANIC	1	1	2
INTOXICATED PERSON ON PUBLIC HIGHWAY	1	0	1
LITTERING	2	0	2
MENACING	1	0	1

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	0	2	2
PETTY THEFT	21	6	27
POSSESSING CRIMINAL TOOLS	2	2	4
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	22	5	27
PROHIBITIONS	39	13	52
PUBLIC INDECENCY	1	0	1
RESISTING ARREST	0	2	2
SEXUAL IMPOSITION	1	0	1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS HARASSMENT	2	0	2
THEFT	0	1	1
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MV	1	1	2
UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT	2	0	2
VOCO	11	6	17
VOP	39	11	50
Totals	222	75	297

TOP 20 OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT CHILDREN

TYPE OF OFFENSE	TOTAL COMMITTED
PROHIBITIONS	52
VIOLATION OF PROBATION	50
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	29
PETTY THEFT	27
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	27
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	23
VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER	17
POSSESSION OF CRIMINAL TOOLS	12
BURGLARY	11
THEFT	11
CRIMINAL TRESPASSING	10
CRIMINAL DAMAGING	9
BREAKING AND ENTERING	7
TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE	7
VANDALISM	7
ASSAULT	6
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	5
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	4
GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION	4
POSSESSING CRIMINAL TOOLS	4

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

The Court adjudicated 37 counts of felony-level offenses involving 27 juvenile offenders, an increase of 42.0% from 2014. One youth was bound over to adult court, 5 youths were committed to ODYS, and 4 youths were committed to a ODYS community corrections facility.

FELONY OFFENSES

Level of Offense	Adjudications	Race	Male	Female	Total
F5	20	White	15	5	20
F4	4	Minority	6	1	7
F3	9	Total	21	6	27
F2	3				
F1	1				

UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES

In 2015, 16 unruly child charges were filed in the Court, a decrease of 30.0% from 2014.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Failure to Subject	7	4	11
Habitual Truant	0	0	0
Health & Morals	1	4	5
Curfew	0	0	0
TOTAL OFFENSES	8	8	16

DISPOSITIONS DELINQUENCY & UNRULY CASES

The Court disposes of cases in a way that addresses both the needs of individual youths 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.

Youths who are adjudicated 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	10	28
ADMONISHED	127	47	174
FINE	45	21	66
COSTS	131	50	181
COSTS WAIVED	20	13	33
LICENSE SUSPENSION	25	9	34
RIGHT TO APPLY FOR O.L. DENIED	11	2	13
FINGERPRINTING	20	7	27
COMMUNITY SANCTIONS			
PROBATION	43	13	56
CONTINUED PROBATION	30	4	34
RESTITUTION	14	2	16
COMMUNITY SERVICE	127	49	176
COUNSELING	11	10	21
ELECTRONIC MONITORING	1	0	1
MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS	10	1	11
D & A ASSESSMENT	16	2	18
DRUG TESTING	2	3	5
DNA TESTING	23	5	28
OTHER ASSESSMENTS	6	2	8
EDUCATION/TRATMENT PROGRAMS	36	8	44
			0
PLACEMENTS			
TO D.Y.S.	20	5	25
TO P.G.D.C.	122	41	163
OTHER PLACEMENTS	6	2	8
SUSPENDED PLACEMENTS	82	32	114
			0
TRANSFERS			
BIND OVERS	0	1	1
TO OTHER JUVENILE COURTS	10	0	10
TO OTHER AGENCIES	0	0	0
			0
GENERAL DISPOSITIONS			
ESSAY	54	13	67
OTHER	66	25	91
APOLOGY LETTERS	17	4	21

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 age 18 or legal guardian.

This provision is in addition to existing village or city ordinances with similar prohibitions. In 2015, 4 tobacco cases were filed in the court.

CASES FILED

AGE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
10	0	0	0
11	0	0	0
12	0	0	0
13	0	0	0
14	0	2	2
15	0	0	0
16	1	1	2
17	0	0	0
18	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	3	4

ISSUING POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Bainbridge Township PD	Burton Village PD	1
Chagrin Falls PD	City of Chardon PD	
Chester Township PD	Geauga County Sheriff	
Geauga Park District	Middlefield Village PD	
Newbury Township PD	Ohio State Patrol	
Punderson State Park	Russell Township PD	
South Russell Village PD	Thompson Township PD	
Other	State Patrol	3

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES

The Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over all juvenile traffic cases. In 2015, the Court processed 321 juvenile traffic cases. 29 cases were pending at the beginning of the year and 292 cases were filed during the year. The number of juvenile traffic cases filed in 2015 decreased by 12.0% from 2014. The Court disposed of 303 juvenile traffic cases and carried over 18 cases into 2016.

CASES FILED	292		
CASES DISPOSED	303		
SEX:			
MALES	186		
FEMALES	117		
AGE:			
15 & UNDER	2		
16	113		
17	186		
DISPOSITIONS (303):			
FINED	288	JUVENILE DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	42
COURT COSTS	298	COMMUNITY SERVICE	41
LICENSE SUSPENSION	216	ADJUDICATED TRUE AFTER TRIAL	1
DENIED RIGHT TO APPLY	8	DISMISSED	6
NO BUGGY OPERATION	2	PROBATION	3
TRAFFIC SCHOOL	191	SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM/ASSESSMENT	3

Top 10 Traffic Offenses

TYPE OF OFFENSE	TOTAL COMMITTED
Speeding	119
Assured Clear Distance	49
Failure to Yield	45
Failure to Control	36
No Seat Belt	9
No License	7
Reckless Operation	7
Improper Passing	5
OVI	4
Driving Left of Center	4

Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed Source of Complaint

COMPLAINT BY	TOTAL
SHERIFF'S DEPT.	34
BAINBRIDGE P.D.	32
BURTON P.D.	7
CHARDON P.D.	21
CHESTER P.D.	37
GEAUGA PARK DIST	2
MIDDLEFIELD P.D.	9
OHIO ST PATROL	133
RUSSELL P.D.	6
S. RUSSELL P.D.	5
THOMPSON P.D.	1
TRANSFERRED IN/OTHER	5
TOTAL	292

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 2015.

MOVING OFFENSES		
	MALES	FEMALES
1st Offense	154	91
2nd Offense	25	11
3rd Offense	2	1
4th or more Offense	0	0
TOTAL	181	103

PROBATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Court's services to youthful offenders and their families emphasizes a commitment to meeting the needs of adjudicated delinquent and unruly children and juvenile traffic offenders within the community. With the support of the Youth Services Subsidy Program, the court has been able to develop a variety of programs that enhance the continuum of services for juveniles and their families within Geauga County. Probation staff utilize the Ohio Youth Assessment Survey (OYAS) risk assessment process to assist in determining levels of service intervention and case planning effectively targeting criminogenic needs.

JUVENILE PROBATION SERVICES

The Probation Department is the primary service provider for the Juvenile Court.

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.

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 and, if necessary, formal complaints for probation violations are filed. 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.

- 56 youths were placed on probation, 43 males and 13 females
- 65 youths were terminated from probation, 41 males and 24 females
- 113 youths were supervised on probation in 2015.

Probation Assignments by School District

Residence	Male	Female	Total
Berkshire	1	1	2
Cardinal	11	1	12
Chagrin Falls	4	1	5
Chardon	9	3	12
Kenston	10	3	13
Ledgemont	1	0	1
Newbury	1	1	2
West Geauga	3	3	6
Outside County	3	0	3
TOTAL	43	13	56

DIVERSION SERVICES

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

- Referrals Received: 41
- No Action Taken: 2
- Filed Officially: 0
- Diverted: 39
 - 20 Misdemeanors
 - 19 Unruly Cases

TEEN COURT

Teen Court is a diversion program based on the philosophy of restorative justice. It uses positive peer pressure and non-traditional sentencing to help first-time non-violent offenders take responsibility for their actions, as well as teach them how to make amends for breaking the law. The program gives Geauga County high school students the opportunity to be personally involved in the judicial process by acting as prosecutor, defense attorney and the jury in a sentencing hearing for a juvenile offender. The students impose a non-traditional sentence and use peer pressure in a positive way to help prevent recidivism. During the 2015-2016 school year, two teen hearings were held. 41 students from six different high schools participated in the hearings.

ADDITIONAL COURT SERVICES:

- 1) **Drug Testing:** Completed by Hair Analysis
 - 134 Drug Tests administered :
 - 39 Juveniles
 - 95 Adults

- 2) **Community Service:** Juveniles are ordered to “replace the void” their offenses created in society by performing a specifically designated number of hours working at a non-profit or government agency, either located by the clients or as part of the court’s organized community service work crews.
 - 213 youths served, 176 new cases
37 carry over cases
 - New cases, 127 Males
49 Females
 - 1869 hours of work provided to the community by Court work crews

- 3) **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.
 - 16 youths were ordered to pay restitution, 14 males and 2 females
 - \$3,040.90 was collected and paid to victims

- 4) **Substance Abuse Program (Geauga SAP)**
 - Provides drug and alcohol assessments and aftercare services to juveniles discharged from primary substance abuse treatment.
 - 13 juveniles were served by the program

- 5) **Intensive Supervision Program**
 - Provides an additional layer of randomly-imposed supervision to clients identified as a high risk to recidivate.
 - 33 juveniles served, 28 males and 5 females

- 6) **Electronic Monitoring**
 - Juveniles and adults ordered on electronically supervised house arrest wear an ankle bracelet that monitors their whereabouts around the clock.
 - 25 juveniles served, 20 males and 5 females
 - 3 adults served

- 7) **Wrap Around Services**
 - Provides funding for services to intervene with court-involved clients.
 - 5 children served

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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 or participated in the following charitable activities during 2015: Food Drive where non-perishable food items were collected and distributed to Geauga County food pantries; Geauga JFS Help Me Learn school supply collection in August; Thanksgiving dinners assembled and distributed to 2 Geauga County families in November; and in December provided Christmas presents and dinner to a family in need.

Juveniles ordered to perform community service provided work for various projects under the direction of Program Coordinator Heather Mountsier, Work Crew Supervisor Charles Giallanza, and Court Constable John Ralph. During the summer, the court once again established a garden project partnership with David Johnson of Mapledale Landscaping and Kent State Geauga Branch, providing fresh produce to the families at Women Safe, and the residents of the County. Juveniles also help serve at various Pancake Breakfasts and Fish Fries throughout the county; provided holiday parade cleanup for local townships and the Geauga County Fair.

PORTAGE-GAUGA COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

Geauga 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 2015, the total Detention Center population was 358 residents. Geauga County placed 175 residents in the Detention Center, 122 males and 53 females. Geauga County's average daily population was 5.20 residents. The average daily length of stay was 10.54 days. Geauga County residents used 1,896.41 bed days or 32.82% of the total bed days used at the Detention Center. Of the 175 residents Geauga County detained, 134 committed misdemeanors, 35 committed felonies and 6 committed unruly offenses.



CASA for KIDS of Geauga County
 470 Center St. Building 6-C
 Chardon, OH 44024
 Telephone 440.279.1699
 Fax 440.285.2305 e-mail casa@co.geauga.oh.us



www.geaugacasa.org

2015 Year End Report

CASA for KIDS mission is to advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected, dependent, and other children referred by the Juvenile Court.

In January 2015, CASA for KIDS marked the seventeenth year of providing Guardian ad litem services in the Juvenile Court. The program has continued to represent all children involved with the court due to abuse, neglect, dependency, and other cases referred by the Judge. A Guardian ad litem is appointed by the court to represent the “best interest” of a child/sibling group. Reports with factual information and recommendations are submitted to the court regularly. The CASA program has had 283 volunteers who have represented 1,729 children since the program began in 1997.

An average volunteer contributes approximately 120 hours per year. In 2015 the program had eight volunteers contribute between 200 and 755 total hours to their cases over twelve consecutive months. Eleven new volunteers joined the program through application, references, interview and 37 hours of pre-service training. In total, the volunteers contributed 6,876 hours of in kind service hours working on their cases. CASA for KIDS volunteers completed 1282 hours of training in 2015.

CASA Volunteers act in the role of the court appointed Guardian ad litem, but receive no financial compensation. The Geauga County Commissioner’s, rate of pay for a court-appointed attorney’s time is \$50-\$60 per hour. Therefore, the CASA volunteers’ in-kind contribution was \$343,800.

The following is a breakdown of the gender, age, educational level, race/ethnicity and employment status and the years of service to the agency of the volunteer advocates who served the program in 2015:

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Educational Level</u>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Male - 12	25-29 - 0	High School - 2	African-American -0	Full time-11	1 yr or less - 20
Female - 55	30-39 - 2	Some college - 12	Asian – 1	Part time-35	2 years - 11
	40-49 - 8	College Grad - 23	Caucasian -65	Retired-21	3 years - 14
	50-59 - 25	Post Grad - 30	Hispanic/Latino - 1		4 years - 4
	60 + - 32		Multi-Racial/Ethnic - 0		5+ years - 18

CASA for KIDS is in good standing with National and State CASA Standards. In March, the program completed and submitted the 4 year review of over 400 program standards as required by the National CASA. Compliance with the standard measures a program's ability to provide high quality child advocacy and achieve the maximum level of excellence in the program's operations. The program was determined to be in compliance with all required National CASA standards.

In May, the part-time Outreach and Training position was eliminated due to budget reductions and the Program Director assumed the responsibilities of this position. In November, the Program

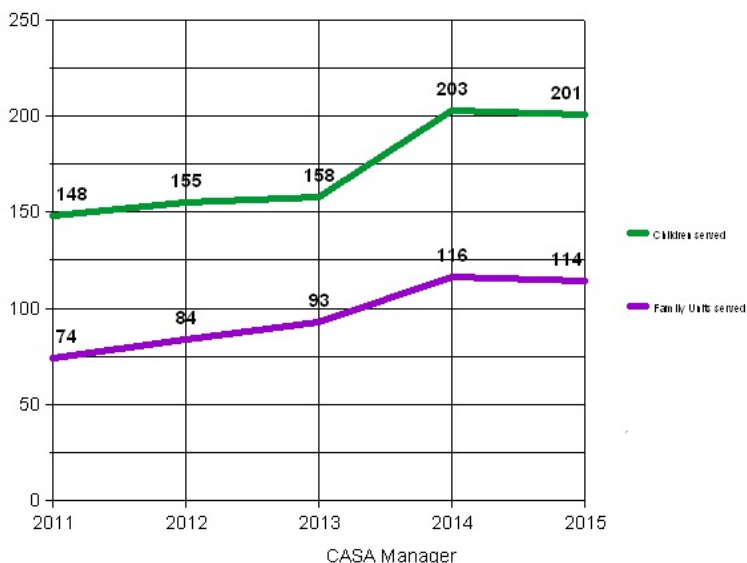
Approximately eighty-six percent of the CASA program funding was provided by The Geauga County Commissioners from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015. The balance was provided by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) grant through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. This funding supported a portion of the personnel costs of the program. Additional funds were received through the VOCA grant to pay a legal consultant who is available for the staff and volunteers in matters related to juvenile law. The program was also awarded additional VOCA grant funding for staff members training and for the purchase of updated training materials. For the grant year October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 the program is funded one-hundred percent by VOCA and SVAA grant funding.

Two CASA Supervisors and the Program Director supervised 67 CASA Volunteers who were appointed to 201 children, 74 whom were new children involved with the court. There were 114 total cases (family units). All the cases were adjudicated abuse, neglect, and or dependency, with the exception of 23 delinquent children and 20 children in custody cases referred by the court.

The following is a breakdown of the gender, age and race/ethnicity of the children served by the program in 2015:

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>
Male - 105	birth to 5 - 63	African-American - 5
Female - 96	6 to 11 - 53	Asian - 0
	12 to 15 - 44	Caucasian - 183
	16 to 17 - 25	Multi-Racial - 13
	18 and above - 16	Not Hispanic/Latino - 195
		Hispanic/Latino - 6

Children and Family units served



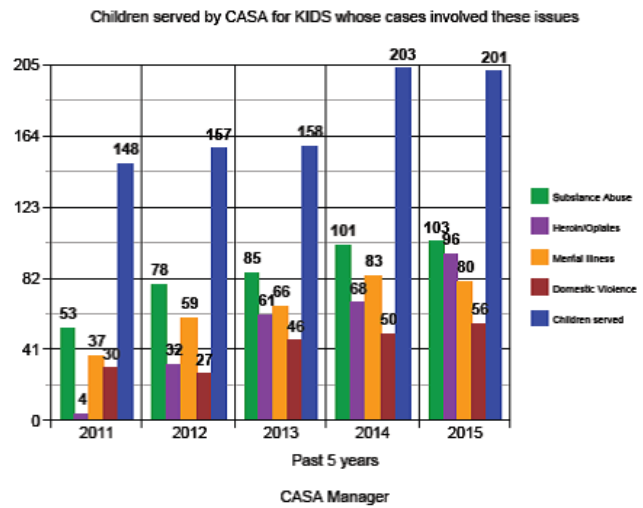
Five Year Program Statistics

- Over the last five years the number of children served by the program has increased by 36%
- Over the last five years the number of cases or family units served by the program has increased by 46%.

Children served by CASA for KIDS whose cases involved these issues

Case Issue Concerns

- Over the past five years the program has seen the following increases in these serious case issues; Substance Abuse 96%, Heroin/Opiates 2,200%, Mental Illness 116%, Domestic Violence 87%



CASA for KIDS was able to fund pre-service and in-service training from a grant through The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (through Ohio CASA). CASA for KIDS sponsored the following trainings / presentations in 2015: *Volunteer Support Forum and Discussion, Navigation through 2015 Drug Trends, Legal Training with Jodi Blankenship, CASA Picnic and Program Updates, Partnered with the Geauga County Bar Association-Guardians ad Litem and their Role in the Court System, CASA Movie Night-This Emotional Life Series.*

In an effort to increase public awareness and education about the CASA for KIDS program, the staff and volunteers participated in the following events: Blossom Time Festival in Chagrin Falls, University Hospital's Health and Safety Day, the National Council of Jewish Women's resource fair and lecture, presentations for Leadership Geauga class of 2015, Geauga County Job and Family Services and for Geauga County high school students.

Friends of CASA for Kids of Geauga County is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that supports advocacy for abused and neglected children in Geauga County. The volunteer board supports enrichment activities for children currently or formally involved with the CASA for KIDS of Geauga County program. Friends of CASA disbursed \$38,037.17 in funding for enrichment activities or tangible items (i.e. summer camps, tutoring, sports fees, YMCA memberships, horseback riding lessons, etc.) for 99 current or former children served. Friends of CASA for KIDS also funds the training and recognition of the program's volunteers. In 2015, the organization expended \$8,642.22 for volunteer training and recognition. On April 30, the organization helped host a breakfast celebration of the juvenile court in recognition of CASA day in Ohio. The 18th Annual Volunteer Appreciation event was held May 14th, at the Welshfield Inn, In Troy Township. CASA volunteers Ilona Daw-Krizman and Rosie Sellars received the *Advocates of the Year* award, CASA volunteer Trent Lamb was recognized as a Champion for Children for always going above and beyond his duties when working with children and families on his cases. Timmons Elementary 1st grade teacher, Cathy Petre and Family Pride Counselor, Erin Hetzel were recognized as Community Advocated of the Year for the collaborative relationship they have with volunteers as well as their commitment to the children the program serves. Judge Timothy Grendell recognized the dedication and important work of CASA volunteers and Friends of CASA members on behalf of the abused / neglected children of Geauga County. In October, Friends of CASA funded registrations and accommodations for 23 volunteers who attended the two-day Ohio CASA Association Conference in Columbus. CASA for KIDS of Geauga County was recognized as consistently having the highest attendance of volunteers at the conference in the state of Ohio.

Program Goals for 2016:

1. Continue our efforts to recruit and train qualified CASA volunteers. Increase public awareness of the CASA for KIDS program, its need in the community and its positive impact on the children referred by the judge.
2. Increase training opportunities for the volunteers that provide awareness of new and expanded community and court resources, address the increasingly complicated issues on their cases and support their overall needs.
3. Provide training for the CASA staff to enhance their ability to manage and meet the needs of the CASA volunteers.

Submitted by,

Julie Weese

Program Director

Karolyn Squire

Program Administrator

PROBATE DIVISION - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY

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

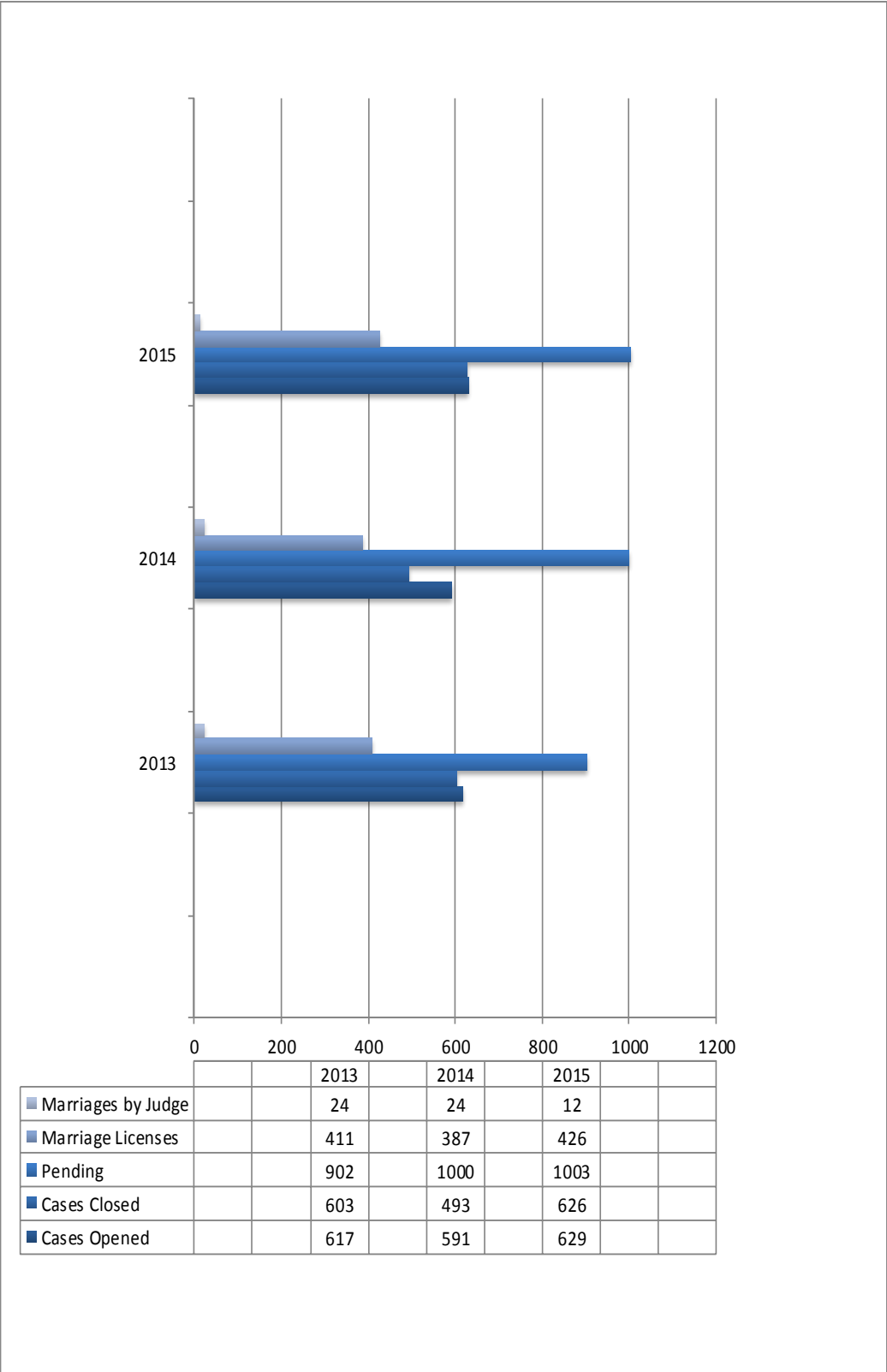
The Probate Court's dedicated staff continues to strive to provide efficient quality in the processing of all cases. Geauga County Courts continually updates forms to comply with Ohio Supreme Court rule changes. The updated forms are available to the public through our website: www.geaugacourts.org.

A total of 1000 pending probate cases were carried over into 2015. During the year 629 new cases were opened and 626 cases were closed. As of January 1, 2016, a total of 1003 cases were carried over from 2015.

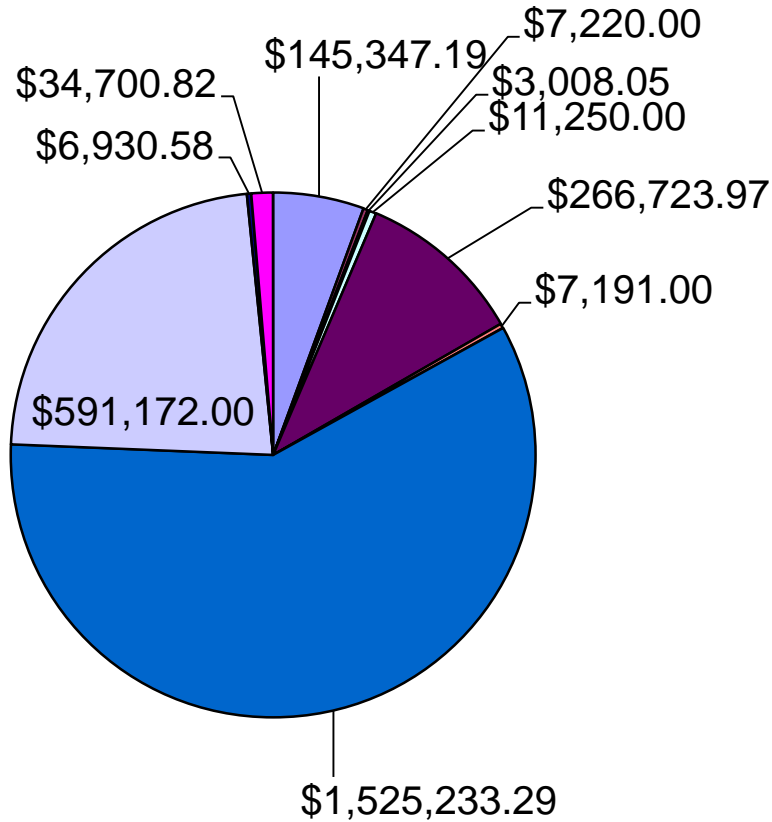
SUMMARY OF CASES OPENED/CLOSED FOR THE YEAR 2015

	PENDING FROM 2014	OPENED	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2016
ESTATES	419	404	389	434
GUARDIANSHIP/MINORS	91	13	12	92
GUARDIANSHIP/EMERGENCY	2	11	9	4
GUARDIANSHIP/INCOMPETENTS	374	45	47	372
CONSERVATORSHIP	2	1	0	3
TRUSTS	53	5	5	53
CIVIL ACTIONS	31	33	38	26
ADOPTIONS	7	26	25	8
MENTAL ILLNESS	3	32	34	1
MINOR'S SETTLEMENT	2	7	5	4
REGISTRATION OF BIRTH	3	12	13	2
NAME CHANGES	13	40	49	4
TOTALS	1000	629	626	1003
MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED FOR THE YEAR		426		
WEDDINGS PERFORMED BY PROBATE JUDGE		12		

PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES OPENED AND CLOSED 2013-2015



Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court 2015 Expenditures: \$ 2,598,776.90



- Care & Custody Fund:
\$145,347.19
- Indigent Guardianship Fund:
\$7,220.00
- Court Computerization Funds:
\$3,008.05
- Volunteer Guardianship Program:
\$11,250.00
- CASA Program:
\$266,723.97
- Domestic Violence Assistance:
\$7,191.00
- General Court Operating Expenses:
\$1,525,233.29
- Detention Center Contribution:
\$591,172.00
- Juvenile Recovery Fund:
\$6,930.58
- Special Projects Funds:
\$34,700.82