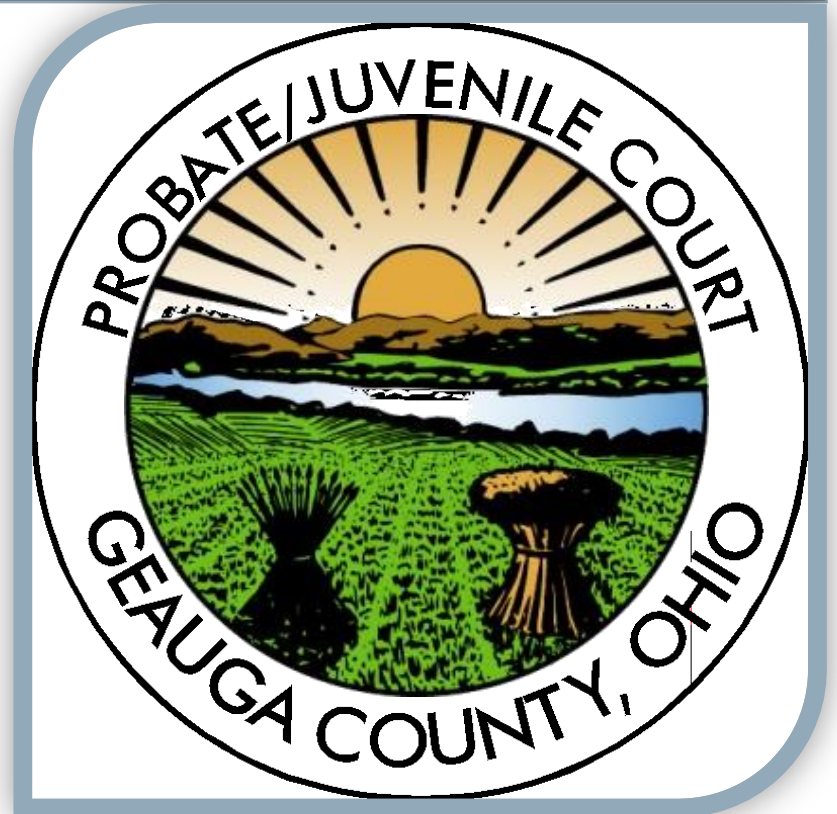


Geauga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Division
2017 Annual Report

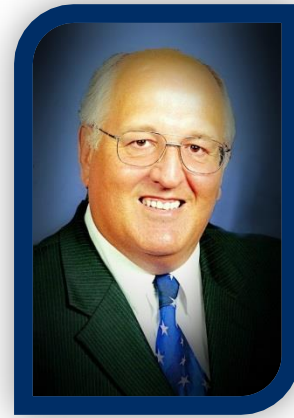


Judge Timothy J. Grendell

LETTER FROM JUDGE TIM GRENDELL

Dear Geauga County Neighbor:

My first seven years as Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court Judge have passed quickly, as I immensely enjoy serving our community by helping to protect the county's most vulnerable children, families, and seniors.



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 in 2017.

Through efficient and effective Court management and innovative programming, the cost of operating both Juvenile and Probate Courts was reduced by another 1% in 2017 compared to 2016. Even though this was its third consecutive budget reduction, the Court continues to increase client access to more effective services. This is in large part to the Court's Budget/Fiscal Director and County Liaison, Kimberly Laurie. Kim was primarily responsible for the Court's successful budget reductions each year since 2015, resulting from significant increases in non-tax dollar grant revenues, as well as being the Court's representative to local elected officials and members of the media. In December, 2017, Kim was promoted to Court Administrator. As such, she will continue to manage the above responsibilities while also supervising Court Staff and implementing innovative programming to ensure that the Court is on the cutting edge of justice and services for the county's most vulnerable.

While the overall volume of juvenile delinquency cases continues to decline, heroin related cases remain a major part of the Court's docket; particularly addicted parents of young children. The Court continues to seek innovative ways to address the heroin problem within its jurisdiction.

The Probate Court, in concert with the Geauga County Recorder and local volunteer attorneys, has continued the "Good Deeds" Program for the benefit of county property owners. In 2017, approximately 450 Geauga County residents participated in the Good Deeds Program. The

program provides a Probate law overview 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 Geauga County residents save 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 (3) concepts:

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

The Court mourns the loss of a valuable member of its team, Victor (Vic) Matthews, the original Director of the Family Life Improvement Program (FLIP), who passed away in December of 2017. During Vic’s tenure as Director of the Family Life Improvement Program, many children were reunited with their families and enjoy an improved quality of life, due to his selfless efforts. In commemoration of his dedicated service to the Geauga County Juvenile Court and the families whose lives he touched, the Family Life Improvement Program was renamed as the Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Program.

The Juvenile Court added Case Management Director, Ann Walden, and Deputy Case Management Director, Scott Wayt, to its court services staff. Ann and Scott assist the Court’s mission to protect Geauga County’s most vulnerable children by overseeing the Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Program, and by managing the abuse, neglect and dependency cases that come before the Court.

The Probate/Juvenile Court appointed former Geauga County Assistant Prosecutor Abbey King as Magistrate, where she will be hearing a full docket of cases, including abuse, neglect dependency, unrulies, traffic, and delinquencies in Juvenile Court, as well as all case types in


Probate Court, such as guardianships, estates, mental illness, etc. The Court is impressed with Abbey's legal aptitude and anticipates that she will be hearing a full schedule in short order.

I appreciate the cooperation extended to me and the court's staff by the County Commissioners, Sheriff's Department, Department of Jobs 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. These public servants deserve special commendation for their efforts.

Enclosed please find attached the 2017 Annual Report for the Geauga County Juvenile Court in compliance with O.R.C. Section 2151.18. I hope that you will find this information enlightening and informative, as well as demonstrative of the collective effort of a quality court staff dedicated to addressing the disciplinary and rehabilitative needs of Geauga County's youth, while protecting the community.

Finally, I would like to extend special appreciation for everyone who supported and assisted the Court in 2017. The Court's continued success in 2017 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, 2017, the Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court had 28 permanent staff members. The two Magistrates, Court Administrator, Constable, Judicial Assistant, Bookkeeper/HR Officer, Staff Attorney and Bailiffs served both Probate and Juvenile Divisions.

The Juvenile Division was also served by three Juvenile Court Clerks, the Case Management Director and Deputy Case Management Director, the Intake/Diversion Officer, the Director of Probation and two Probation Officers, the CASA Program Director, CASA Program Administrator, and two CASA Volunteer Supervisors.

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

SUMMARY OF CASES FILED

In 2017, the court processed 678 new cases, which was a decrease of 10% from 2016. Of the total cases the court processed in 2016, 31 cases (or 4.5%) were diverted; a process in which various informal sanctions are imposed or no formal action is taken.

In 2017, 647 new cases were formally filed in the court, a decrease of 8.0% 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 2017, the Court had 217 delinquency complaints filed, a decrease of 5.0% from 2016.

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 2017, the Court had 12 unruly complaints filed, a decrease of 37.0% from 2016. Of the unruly complaints, 1 was for a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.87, the underage smoking law, or a similar village and city ordinance, which the court counts as an unruly case for Supreme Court of Ohio reporting purposes.

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES: Any child who violates any traffic law, traffic ordinance or traffic regulation of the state, United States or local political subdivision is a juvenile traffic offender. In 2017, 259 juvenile traffic cases were filed in the Court, which is no statistical change from 2016.

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES: In 2017, 32 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 6.0% from 2016.

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 2017, 3 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 2017, 43 custody/visitation cases were filed in the court, an increase of 10.0% from 2016.

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 2017, 12 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 2017, 51 support cases were filed in the court, an increase of 34.6% from 2016.

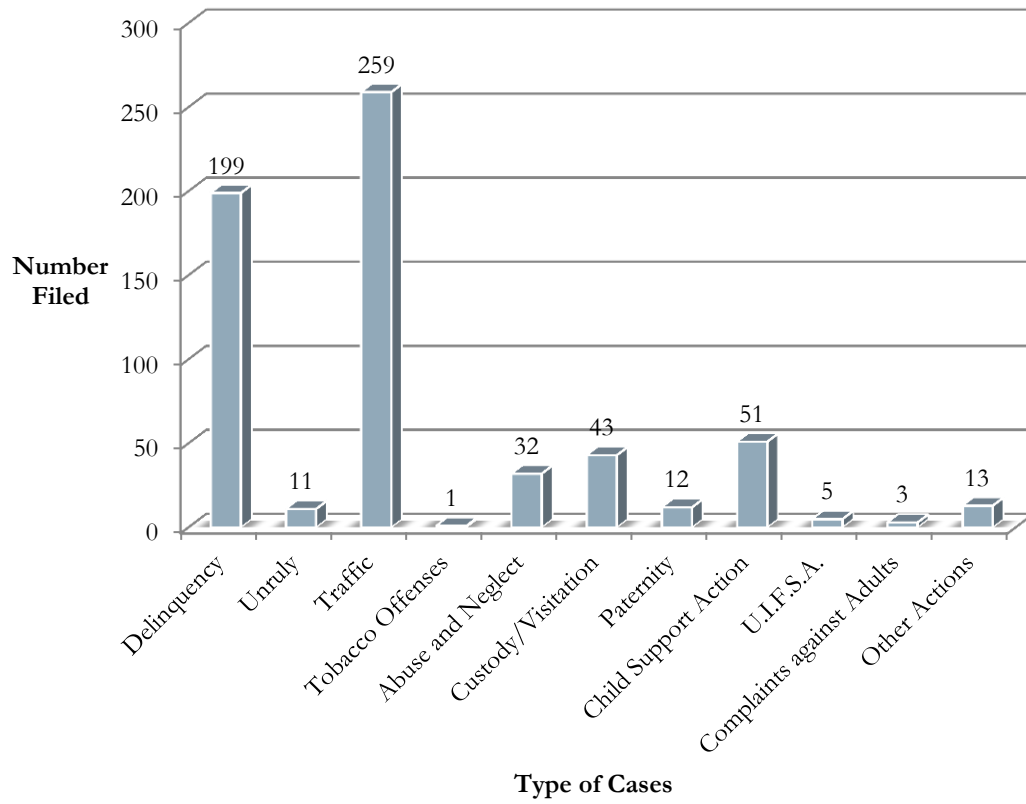
UIFSA CASES: UIFSA cases involve the enforcement of child support orders when one of the parents resides outside of the State of Ohio. In 2017, 5 UIFSA actions were filed in the court.

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 2017, 13 other cases were filed in the court.

SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED

TYPE OF CASE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Delinquency	130	69	199
Unruly	5	6	11
Traffic	162	97	259
Tobacco Offenses	0	1	1
Abuse and Neglect	n/a	n/a	32
Custody/Visitation	n/a	n/a	43
Paternity	n/a	n/a	12
Child Support Action	n/a	n/a	51
U.I.F.S.A.	n/a	n/a	5
Complaints against Adults	n/a	n/a	3
Other Actions	n/a	n/a	13
TOTAL COMPLAINTS FOR 2017			629

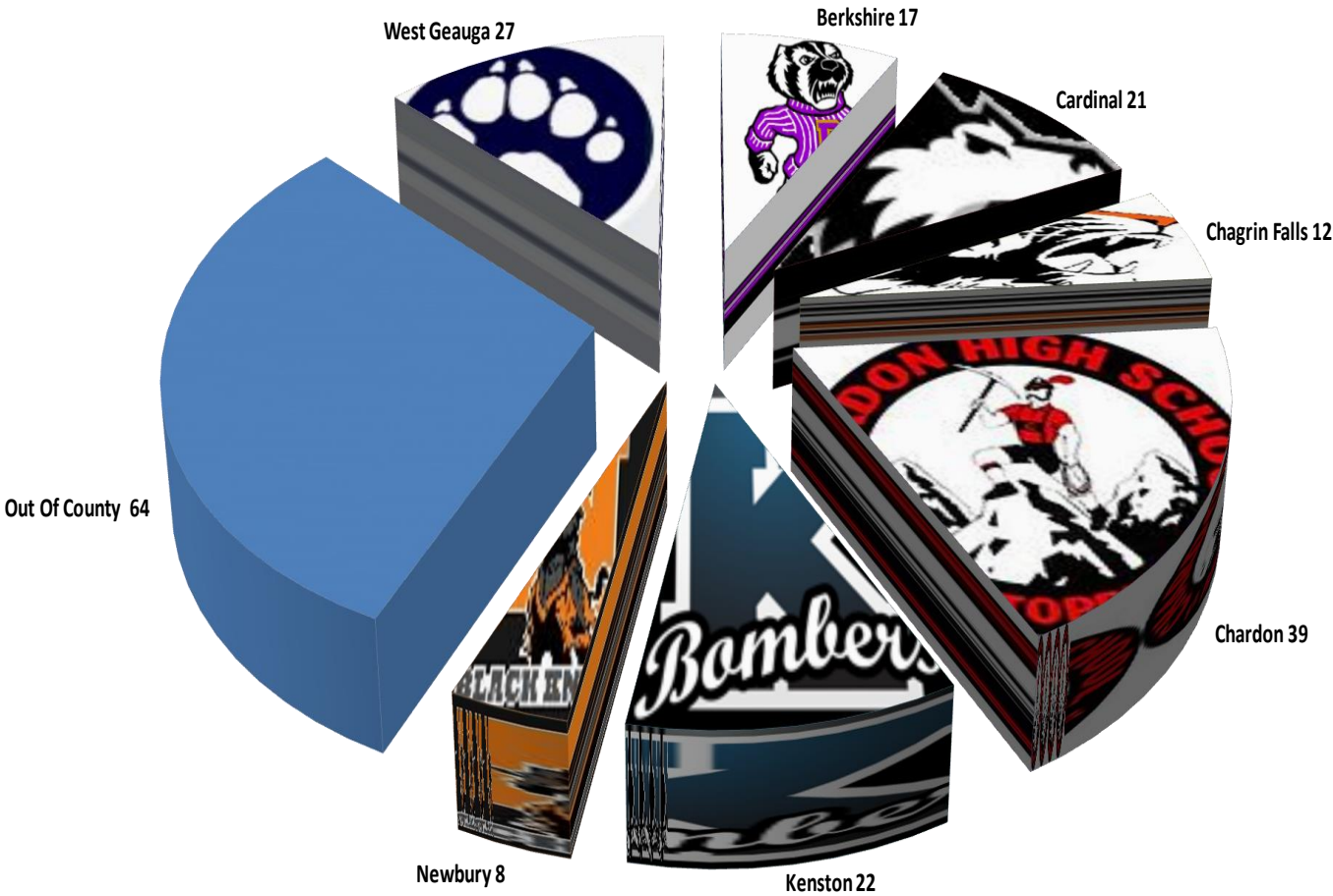
Geauga County Juvenile Court Cases Filed 2017



DELIQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	MALES		FEMALES			TOTAL WHITE	TOTAL MINORITY	TOTAL COMBINED
	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY	UNKNOWN			
SHERIFF'S DEPT.	32	7	21	4	1	53	11	65
BAINBRIDGE P.D.	10	13	14	8	0	24	21	45
BURTON P.D.	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
CHARDON P.D.	19	0	0	0	0	19	0	19
CHESTER P.D.	14	1	3	0	0	17	1	18
GEAUGA PARK DIST	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
MIDDLEFIELD P.D.	6	1	6	0	0	12	1	13
OHIO STATE PATROL	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
RUSSELL P.D.	4	1	3	0	0	7	1	8
S. RUSSELL P.D.	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	3
THOMPSON P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INTAKE	2	0	3	0	0	5	0	5
PROBATION DEPT.	4	1	3	0	0	7	1	8
TRANSFERRED IN	8	2	3	1	0	11	3	14
EDUCATIONAL SVC CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE	3	0	2	0	0	5	0	5
OTHER	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	2
TOTAL	108	27	60	14	1	168	41	210

Delinquent & Unruly Cases by School District 2017



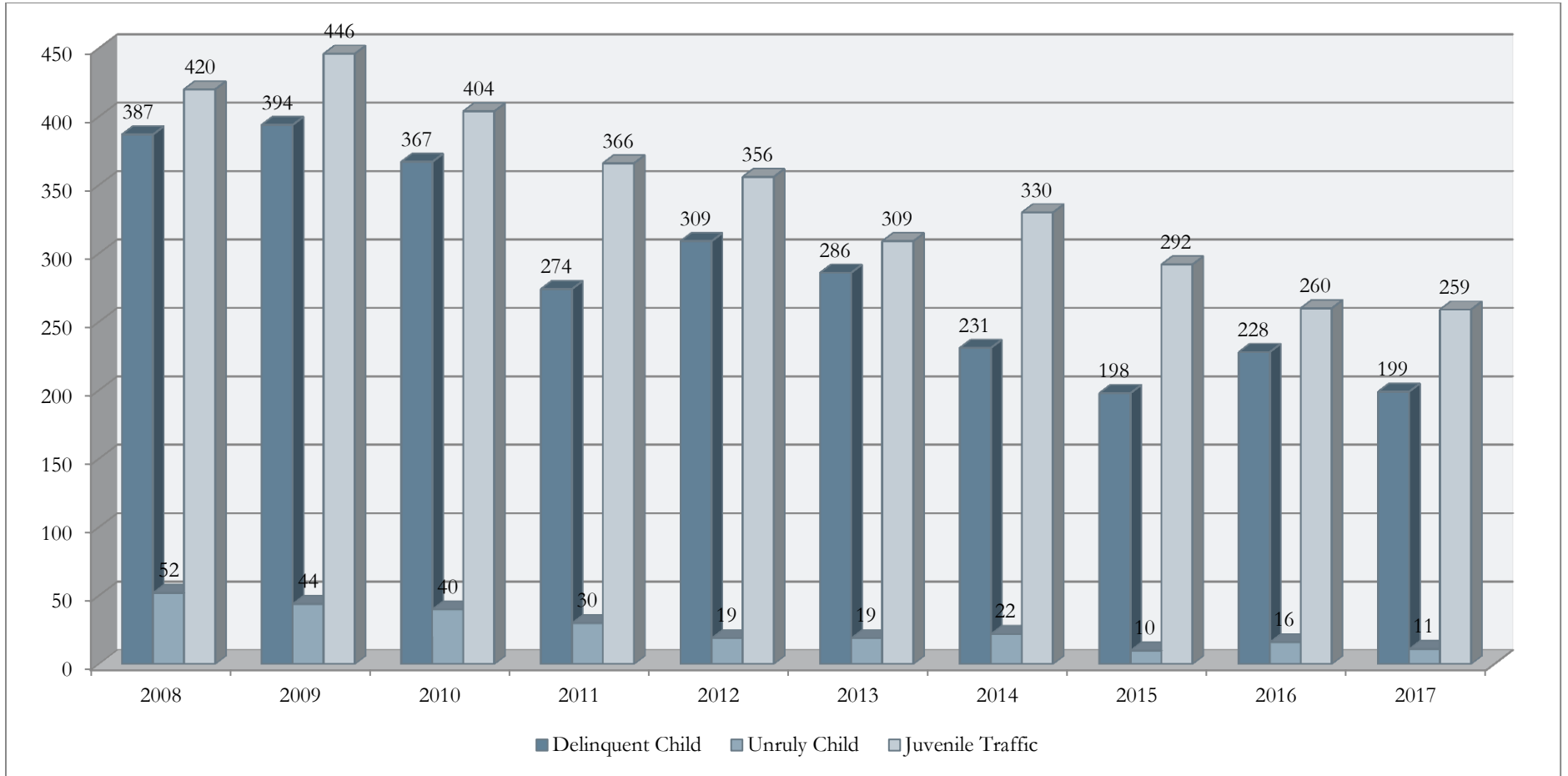
AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE

AGE	DELINQUENT			UNRULY			COMBINED
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	TOTAL
AGE 10 & UNDER	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
AGE 11	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
AGE 12	2	0	2	0	3	3	5
AGE 13	7	2	9	0	0	0	9
AGE 14	11	6	17	0	0	0	17
AGE 15	15	5	20	0	0	0	20
AGE 16	52	30	82	2	1	3	85
AGE 17	42	26	68	2	2	4	72
AGE 18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	130	69	199	5	6	11	210

NEW CASES FILED

TYPE OF CASE	2015	2016	2017
DELINQUENCY	198	228	199
UNRULY & TOBACCO CASES	14	19	11
TRAFFIC	292	260	259
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	32	34	32
CONTRIBUTING	10	12	3
CUSTODY	25	39	43
SUPPORT	73	78	51
PATERNITY	13	10	12
U.I.F.S.A.	6	10	5
OTHER	30	14	13
TOTAL CASES FILED	693	704	628

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



DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CASES

DELINQUENCY CHARGES

In 2017, 323 delinquency charges were filed compared to 376 charges in 2016, a decrease of 14%. 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 2017, 291 charges were for acts of delinquency, 24 charges were for violations of probation, and 8 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 2017 decreased by 11.0% compared to 2016.

With total delinquency charges decreasing by 14% in 2017, the more serious felony charges decreased by 78.5%. 12, or 4.0%, 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
FORGERY	1	0	1
IMPROPERLY HANDLING FIREARMS IN VEHICLE	1	0	1
PANDERING OBSCENITY INVOLVING A MINOR	1	0	1
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	2	0	2
THEFT	4	3	7
TOTAL FELONY CHARGES	9	3	12

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
AGGRAVATED MENACING	2	2	4
ASSAULT	6	6	12
ATTEMPTED THEFT	1	0	1
CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELINQUENCY OF A MINOR	1	0	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGING	6	4	10
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	2	1	3
CRIMINAL TRESSPASSING	3	4	7
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	14	9	23
DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES	13	2	15
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	4	5	9
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHENALIA	30	8	38
INDUCING PANIC	1	0	1
MENACING BY STALKING	0	1	1
MENACING	1	3	4
MISUSE OF CREDIT CARD	3	0	3
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	1	2	3
PETTY THEFT	26	14	40
POSSESSING CRIMINAL TOOLS	5	2	7
POSSESSING FICTITIOUS DRIVER'S LICENSE IDENTIFICATION	2	1	3
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	3	0	3
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	30	7	37
PROHIBITIONS	21	21	42
PUBLIC INDECENCY	3	0	3
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	4	0	4
SEXUAL IMPOSITION	1	0	1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS HARASSMENT	0	1	1
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF M/V	1	0	1
UNAUTHORIZED USE OH PROPERTY	1	0	1
VEHICULAR VANDALISM	1	0	1
VOCO	5	3	8
VOP	18	6	24
TOTALS	209	102	311

TOP 23 OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT CHILDREN

TYPE OF OFFENSE	TOTAL COMMITTED
PROHIBITIONS	42
PETTY THEFT	40
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA DRUG PARAPHENALIA	38
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	37
VOP	24
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	23
DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES	15
ASSAULT	12
CRIMINAL DAMAGING	10
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	9
VOCO	8
THEFT	7
CRIMINAL TRESSPASSING	7
POSSESSING CRIMINAL TOOLS	7
AGGRAVATED MENACING	4
MENACING	4
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	4
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	3
MISUSE OF CREDIT CARD	3
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	3
POSSESSING FICTITIOUS DRIVER'S LICENSE IDENTIFICATION	3
POSSESSION OF DRUGS	3
PUBLIC INDECENCY	3

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

In 2017, the Court adjudicated 12 counts of felony-level offenses involving 12 juvenile offenders, a decrease of 50.0% from 2016. One youth was committed to ODYS, and two youths were committed to a ODYS community corrections facility.

FELONY OFFENSES

Level of Offense	Adjudications
F5	9
F4	3

Race	Male	Female	Total
White	7	1	8
Minority	2	2	4
Total	9	3	12

UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES

In 2017, 11 unruly child charges were filed in the Court, a decrease of 42.0% from 2016.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Failure to submit to reasonable control	5	4	9
Health and morals	0	2	2
TOTAL OFFENSES	5	6	11

DISPOSITIONS FOR 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.

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
<i>JUDICIAL SANCTIONS</i>			
CASE DISMISSED	20	16	36
ADMONISHED	108	45	153
FINE	0	22	22
COSTS	114	56	170
COSTS WAIVED	26	9	35
LICENSE SUSPENSION	20	7	27
RIGHT TO APPLY FOR O.L. DENIED	11	4	15
FINGERPRINTING	21	4	25
<i>COMMUNITY SANCTIONS</i>			
PROBATION	17	8	25
CONTINUED PROBATION	22	4	26
RESTITUTION	12	2	14
COMMUNITY SERVICE	73	28	101
COUNSELING	5	6	11
ELECTRONIC MONITORING	7	0	7
MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS	2	0	2
D & A ASSESSMENT	7	3	10
DRUG TESTING	4	0	4
DNA TESTING	14	1	15
OTHER ASSESSMENTS	1	0	1
EDUCATION/TREATMENT PROGRAMS	33	18	51
<i>PLACEMENTS</i>			
TO D.Y.S.	11	1	12
TO P.G.D.C.	109	40	149
OTHER PLACEMENTS	2	4	6
SUSPENDED PLACEMENTS	85	31	116
<i>TRANSFERS</i>			
BIND OVERS	1	0	1
TO OTHER JUVENILE COURTS	8	10	18
TO OTHER AGENCIES	0	0	0
<i>GENERAL DISPOSITIONS</i>			

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 2017, 1 tobacco case was 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	0	0
15	0	0	0
16	0	0	0
17	0	1	1
18	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	1	1

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

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES

The Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over all juvenile traffic cases. In 2017, the Court processed 291 juvenile traffic cases. 32 cases were pending at the beginning of the year and 259 cases were filed during the year. The number of juvenile traffic cases filed in 2017 statistically did not change from 2016. The Court disposed of 263 juvenile traffic cases and carried over 28 cases into 2018.

CASES FILED	259		
CASES DISPOSED	263		
SEX:			
MALES	162		
FEMALES	101		
AGE:			
15 & UNDER	4		
16	103		
17	156		
DISPOSITIONS (263):			
FINED	256	PLED NO CONTEST	64
COURT COSTS	261	PLED NOT TRUE/FOUND TO BE TRUE	2
LICENSE SUSPENSION	203	ADJUDICATED NOT TRUE	1
DENIED RIGHT TO APPLY	7	CASE DISMISSED	2
TRAFFIC SCHOOL	187	COUNTS DISMISSED	7
JUVENILE DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	24	TWO COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	13
RESTITUTION	1	THREE COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	4
COMMUNITY SERVICE	39	PROBATION	2
SEATBELT CITATIONS	4	PGDC/SUSPENDED	1
TICKET WAIVED	13	SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM/ASSESSMENT	2
OTHER ADMONISHED	236	TRANSFER TO ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT	1
TICKET AMENDED/ADJUSTED	17	TRANSFER IN FROM ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT	7

TOP 10 TRAFFIC OFFENSES

TYPE OF OFFENSE	TOTAL COMMITTED
Speeding	99
Failure to Yield	46
Assured Clear Distance	42
Failure to Control	26
Expired Plates	8
Improper lane usage/Lanes of travel	7
Seat Belt	5
No License	5
Disobeyed Traffic Signal or Device	4
Failed to stop at stop sign	3

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES FILED BY SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	TOTAL
SHERIFF'S DEPT.	44
BAINBRIDGE P.D.	38
BURTON P.D.	7
CHARDON P.D.	22
CHESTER P.D.	31
GEAUGA PARK DIST	1
MIDDLEFIELD P.D.	11
OHIO ST PATROL	87
RUSSELL P.D.	10
S. RUSSELL P.D.	3
THOMPSON P.D.	1
TRANSFERRED IN/OTHER	4
TOTAL	259

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 2017.

MOVING OFFENSES		
	MALES	FEMALES
1st Offense	123	90
2nd Offense	14	5
3rd Offense	10	2
4th or more Offense	2	1
TOTAL	149	98

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. The Probation staff utilizes the Ohio Youth Assessment Survey (OYAS) risk assessment process to assist in determining levels of service intervention and case planning to effectively target criminogenic needs.

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.

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

1. 32 youths were placed on probation, 24 males and 8 females
2. 35 youths were terminated from probation, 26 males and 9 females
3. 69 youths were supervised on probation in 2017

PROBATION ASSIGNMENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Residence	Male	Female	Total
Berkshire	3	1	4
Cardinal	4	2	6
Chagrin Falls	1	1	2
Chardon	5	2	7
Kenston	2	2	4
Newbury	2	0	2
West Geauga	5	1	6
Outside County	1	0	1
TOTAL	23	9	32

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: 35
- No Action Taken: 0
- Filed Officially: 4
- Diverted: 31
 - a. 13 Misdemeanors
 - b. 18 Unruly Cases

H.B. 410 Habitual Truancy

In 2017, 6 unruly child complaints based on the child being a habitual truant were filed in the court. Six children were placed in alternatives to adjudication. One child failed to complete diversion and was adjudicated unruly. Five children were carried to 2018.

ADDITIONAL COURT SERVICES:

Drug Testing: Completed by Hair Analysis

- 162 Drug Tests administered: 42 Juveniles, 120 Adults

Community Service: Juveniles are ordered to “replace the void” their offenses created in society by performing a specifically designated number of hours working at a non-profit or government agency, either located by the juveniles or as part of the court’s organized community service work crews. Juveniles ordered to perform community service engaged in various projects under the direction of Beth Williams, Director of Probation, along with help from the probation staff and Court Constable John Ralph. During the summer, the court once again established a garden project partnership with Tim Shaffer of Chelsea Flower Garden and David Johnson of Mapledale Landscaping to provide fresh

produce to the families at Women Safe, local food pantries, churches, the Department of Aging, senior centers, and residents of the County. Juveniles also helped serve at various pancake breakfasts and fish fries throughout the County and provided holiday parade cleanup for local townships and the Geauga County Fair.

- 206 youths served, 155 new cases, 51 carry over cases
- New cases: 111 Males, 44 Females
- 3795.5 hours of work provided to the community by Court work crews

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.

- 12 youths were ordered to pay restitution, 8 males and 4 females
- \$3,254.90 was collected and paid to victims

Intensive Supervision Program

- Provides an additional layer of randomly-imposed supervision to clients identified as a high risk to recidivate.
- 37 juveniles served

Electronic Monitoring

- Juveniles and adults ordered on electronically supervised house arrest wear an ankle bracelet that monitors their whereabouts around the clock.
- 27 juveniles served

Victor Y. Matthews Family Life Improvement Program (FLIP)

- The purpose of the Geauga County Family Life Improvement Program (FLIP) is to serve the best interests of the children by aiding in family reunification through Parent Mentoring and case management services designed to improve family dynamics, thus reducing the likelihood of unruly and/or delinquent juvenile behavior which can stem from dysfunctional family dynamics.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Circles

Circles is a group of children in any grade from fifth through eighth who learn various leadership skills to help them navigate towards adulthood. These children are selected by the school and based upon their participation will be asked to represent their school at various community events. This group meets at a minimum of twice a month in the school. Court employees facilitate the groups of children. In 2017, 5 children received awards from Judge Timothy Grendell for their significant academic and leadership improvement, not only in school but also in their communities. This group of young men will move on to high school next year and have been noted as leadership by the school community.

Start with Hello

Start With Hello was introduced in Geauga County into every school in February 2016. This is a Sandy Hook Foundation program bringing social isolation awareness to students and how they play a role in the community to include everyone. Sandy Hook Foundation hopes to eliminate all violence in the schools through education. Court employees train high school students to perform a play, and accompany them to each production to further educate and involve elementary students in identifying peers who may need a friend.

Launchpad

Launchpad was incorporated in the Geauga County Juvenile Court in December 2015 through an administrative order from Judge Timothy J. Grendell. This program directly addresses careers and life plans for children aging out of foster care in Geauga County. At the age of 14, children in foster care are identified as Launchpad candidates. This allows for review of the child's academic performance to make adjustments where needed to serve the best interest of the child. At fifteen and a half, a questionnaire is filed in to give the FLIP coordinator an idea of the wants and needs of the particular child. At 17, a Federal Financial Aid Form must be completed and all testing completed with scores given to the court for college or vocational entrance. If a child elects to consider the military, a non-recruiter will present them options. If the child wants to go directly to work, various opportunities are presented to the child to give the child a broader exposure to possibilities. The child at the age of sixteen and one half is asked if they would like a sponsor family for a home to come to for the holidays or maybe just someone to call in times of need after the child ages out of foster care. The CASA Director has families waiting to embrace these young adults as if they are their own college kids. Background checks are provided on all sponsor families and a basket is available for any child aging out of foster care. In 2017, sixteen children participated in the program.

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 and Heather Mountsier. Court staff facilitated and participated in the following charitable activities during 2016: A 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 pairing with Geauga County JFS sponsor a family program in December. The Court provided Christmas presents as well as gift cards for Christmas Dinner to a single mother and her two daughters, ages 2 and 3. In addition, the court arranged for "Santa" and "Mrs. Claus" to visit the girls a few days before Christmas.

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 2017, the total Detention Center population was 357 residents. Geauga County placed 131 residents in the Detention Center, 94 males and 37 females. Geauga County's average daily population was 4.64 residents. The average daily length of stay was 12.09 days. Geauga County residents used 1,693.19 bed days or 25.77% of the total bed days used at the Detention Center. Of the 131 residents Geauga County detained, 102 committed misdemeanors, 85 committed felonies and 16 committed unruly offenses.



CASA for KIDS of Geauga County

470 Center St. Building 5-C
Chardon, OH 44024
Telephone 440.279.1699



2017 Year End Report

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. We screen, train and support quality volunteer representation for children, to advocate for each individual child's unique needs, and for a safe, permanent and nurturing home.

In January **2017**, CASA for KIDS marked the **twentieth** 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 Judge Timothy J. Grendell. A Guardian ad litem is appointed by Judge Grendell 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 the Rules of Superintendence by the Supreme Court of Ohio or as the case situation necessitates. The CASA program has trained **313** volunteers who have represented **2119** children since the program began in 1997.

CASA Volunteers act in the role of the court-appointed Guardian ad litem, but receive no financial compensation. The Geauga County Commissioners', rate of pay for a court-appointed attorney's time is \$50 per hour. Therefore, the CASA volunteers' in-kind contribution was, at least, **\$335,850**.

An average volunteer contributes approximately **100** hours per year to the program. In **2017**, the program had **eleven** volunteers contributing between **200-600** total hours to their cases over twelve consecutive months. **Ten** new volunteers joined the program through application, references, interview and 37 hours of pre-service training. In total, the volunteers contributed **6717** of in-kind 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). CASA for KIDS volunteers completed **1158** hours of training in **2017**, exceeding the requirement by an average of **5** additional hours.

The program welcomes volunteers from all cultures, professions, ethnic and educational backgrounds. **49%** of CASA Volunteers are employed either full or part time, **79%** are women, and **21%** are male. The program maintains an impressive retention rate with more than **74%** of its volunteers serving beyond the 2 year requirement.

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); Opiate Task Force; Domestic Violence Task Force; CHIP [Community Mental Health]; Start with Hello program in local elementary schools; Restorative Justice Circles Groups in middle schools; Launchpad identifying foster children 14 and up needs to become

independent; CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) Role Play; United Way Poverty Simulation, NAMI Walk-a-Thon; Geauga Learn Day at the Great Geauga County Fair; Geauga County Juvenile Court booth at the Great Geauga County Fair; and, the Geauga County Job and Family Services Child Abuse Prevention Month kickoff. In addition CASA printed 100 yard signs and placed them all over the county for one month.

Two CASA Supervisors and the Program Director supervised **67** active CASA Volunteers who were appointed to **178** children, **81** whom were new children involved with the court. There were **160** total volunteer advocate cases served, **9** monitored and **9** served by staff. All the cases were adjudicated abuse, neglect, and or dependency, with the exception of **11** delinquent children and **29** children in custody cases referred by the court. We served all children requested by the courts.

The following is a breakdown of the gender, age, educational level, race/ethnicity, employment status and the years of service to the agency of the volunteer advocates who served the program in **2017**:

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Age Range</u>	<u>Educational Level</u>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Years of service</u>
(Male): 14	(25-29): 0	High School: 4	African-American: 0	Full time: 8	(1yr or less): 16
(Female): 53	(30-39): 2	Some college: 7	Asian: 1	Part time: 17	(2 years): 7
	(40-49): 8	College Grad: 21	Caucasian: 54	Retired: 16	(3 years): 6
	(50-59): 20	Post Grad: 24	Hispanic/Latino: 1	Not Emp: 10	(4 years): 5
	(60+): 37		Multi-Racial/Ethnic: 0		(5+ years): 21

The 20th Annual Volunteer Appreciation event was held February 22nd, at the Cucina Rustica in Bainbridge. CASA volunteer, Maria Horvath & Judy Zamlan-Spotts, were honored as the *Advocates of the Year*; and CASA volunteers Desseree Dillon & Sandy Smith were recognized as Rising Stars. Geauga County JFS Permanency Planning caseworker Rebecca Calabrese was recognized as Community Advocate of the Year for the collaborative relationship she maintains with the volunteers as well as their commitment to the children the program serves.

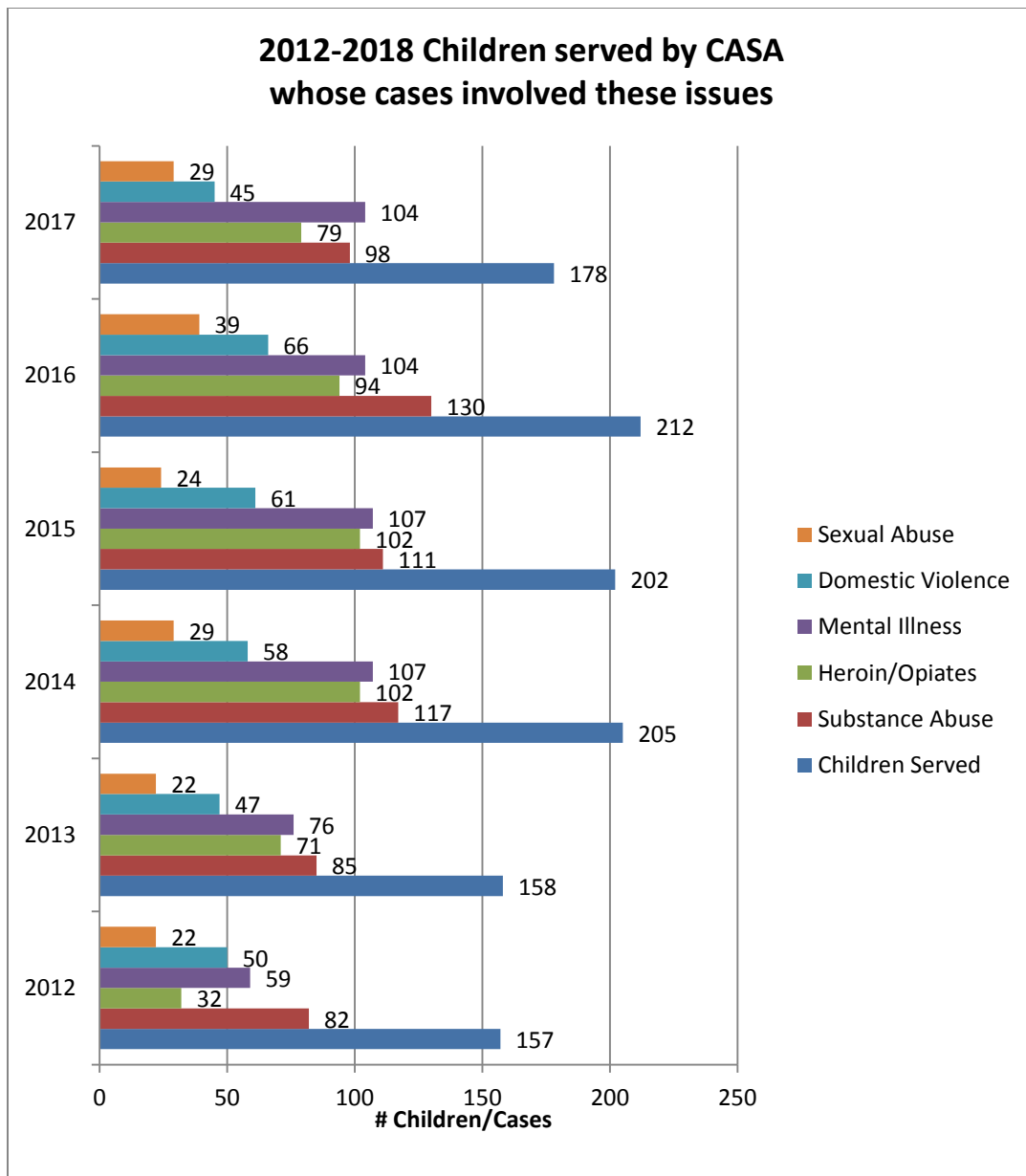
The program is staffed by three full-time positions and one part-time position. The program director oversees and manages the CASA for Kids program. The principal duties of the position include managing the program staff; overseeing recruitment and training of the CASA volunteers as well as provide training opportunities for existing volunteers; establishes relationships with community partners and ensures compliance with program standards; creates data questionnaires to provide needed statistics; builds relationships within the community to support the children's needs. The volunteer liaison/program administrator supports the administrative needs of the CASA volunteers, staff and program; providing program data, grant compliance and serving as a communication intermediary for the CASA volunteers and for other administrative needs. The two CASA supervisors support all assigned CASA volunteers to their cases. The supervisor is a mentor to the CASA volunteer to establish service goals and provide guidance regarding case processing; file court reports; collaborate with other agencies; attend court hearings and meetings with assigned volunteer and continuously monitors and evaluates each volunteer's investigate and advocate work to ensure each child in the program receives

the highest quality service as well as maintaining boundaries as outlined in the program. Two staff members attended the National CASA Conference which was held in Boston, MA, and the director attended the Attorney General’s “2-Days in May” conference as well as the Ohio CASA Conference.

The program is funded by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant and State Victims Assistance Act (SVAA) grant through the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. The funding supports personnel costs, legal consultant, background screening, travel and training for program staff, supply costs and other costs related to the program. Additional funds are received from Ohio CASA through a grant from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services when the program completes volunteer pre-service training and in-service training for the volunteers. The funding supports CASA volunteer pre-service training, continuing education for the volunteers and CASA volunteer recognition events. In 2017, CASA for KIDS sponsored volunteers to attend the 2017 Ohio CASA Conference; and the following independent training presentations and/or CASA-sponsored “CASA Café” training workshops: ARCpoint Drug Testing; The Intersection of Poverty and Child Welfare [webinar]; Transitioning Youth [panel discussion]; Breakthrough Treatments in Dual Diagnosis Patients; Development Assets in Children and Secondary Traumatic Stress; 5-yr Focus Group; Legal Advice vs. Legal Information; Report Writing; Equine Assisted Growth; Neuropsychological Evals; “All Kinds of Minds”; Reasoning with Unreasonable People; DBT Skills to Reduce Emotional Dysregulation; Grid Training; and Toxic Stress to the Safe Zone.

The following is a breakdown of the gender, age, race/ethnicity of the children served by the program in 2017:

Gender	Age Range	Race/Ethnicity	
Male - 73	0 – 12: 83	African-American: 5	Not Hispanic/Latino: 133
Female - 68	13 – 17: 47	Asian: 0	Hispanic/Latino: 8
	18+ : 11	Caucasian: 112	
		Native Am/Alaskan: 13	
		Multi-Racial: 10	



CASA for KIDS of Geauga County experienced a change in leadership and has upgraded its data collection software, which will allow the program to enter specific data which was not available before.

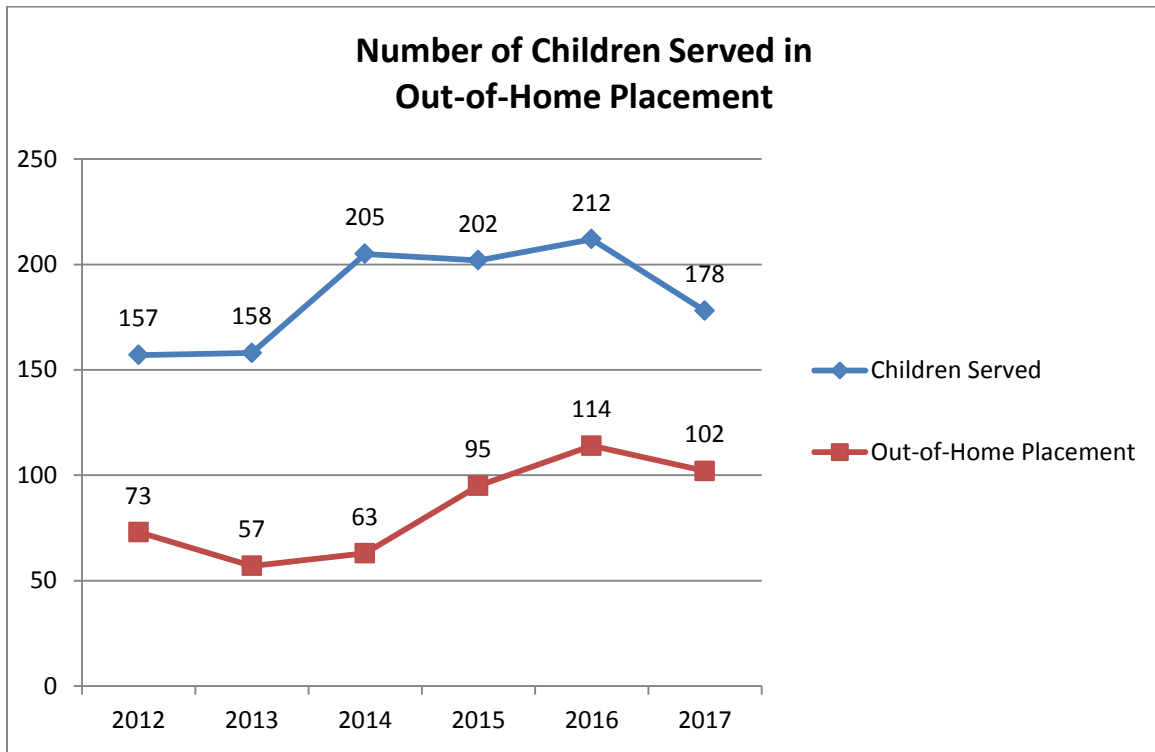
Last year, the program experienced a 10% decrease in the number of children’s cases involving **substance abuse** listed in the initial complaint.

Heroin and opiate use continue to account for the majority of the substance abuse cases (81%). This adds to the complexity of a case and may impact the length of time a case is open with the court, the number of services needed for the child and family increase, overdoses and frequent relapses by parents create complicated issues for the child and contribute to the necessity for out of home placements. Kinship custody placements can create additional financial hardships for families.

Of children’s cases in 2017, 58% of them involved **mental illness**, an increase of 53% since 2012.

Children’s cases involving **domestic violence** reported in the initial complaint decreased by 22% since 2012.

CASA cases involving **sexual abuse** increased 14% since 2012.



Of the **178** children the CASA program served in **2017**, **102** children were in out-of-home placements. The rise in heroin and opiate use by parents and/or guardians has contributed to the increase in the number of children who have been removed from their care either temporarily or permanently.

Program Goals for 2018:

1. Increase public awareness of the CASA for KIDS program, its need in the community and its positive impact on the children and families referred by Judge Timothy J. Grendell.
2. Recruit and train qualified community members as CASA volunteers.
3. Provide training opportunities for the volunteers that enhance their knowledge of new and expanded community and court resources, and address the increasingly complicated case issues to support their overall needs thru “CASA Café” training workshops on Tuesdays & Thursdays in the CASA Office.
4. CASA staff will participate in training to further their industry knowledge which will enhance their ability to manage and meet the needs of the CASA volunteers.

Submitted by,

Mary Ruth Shumway
CASA Director

Kim Brastoff
CASA 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.

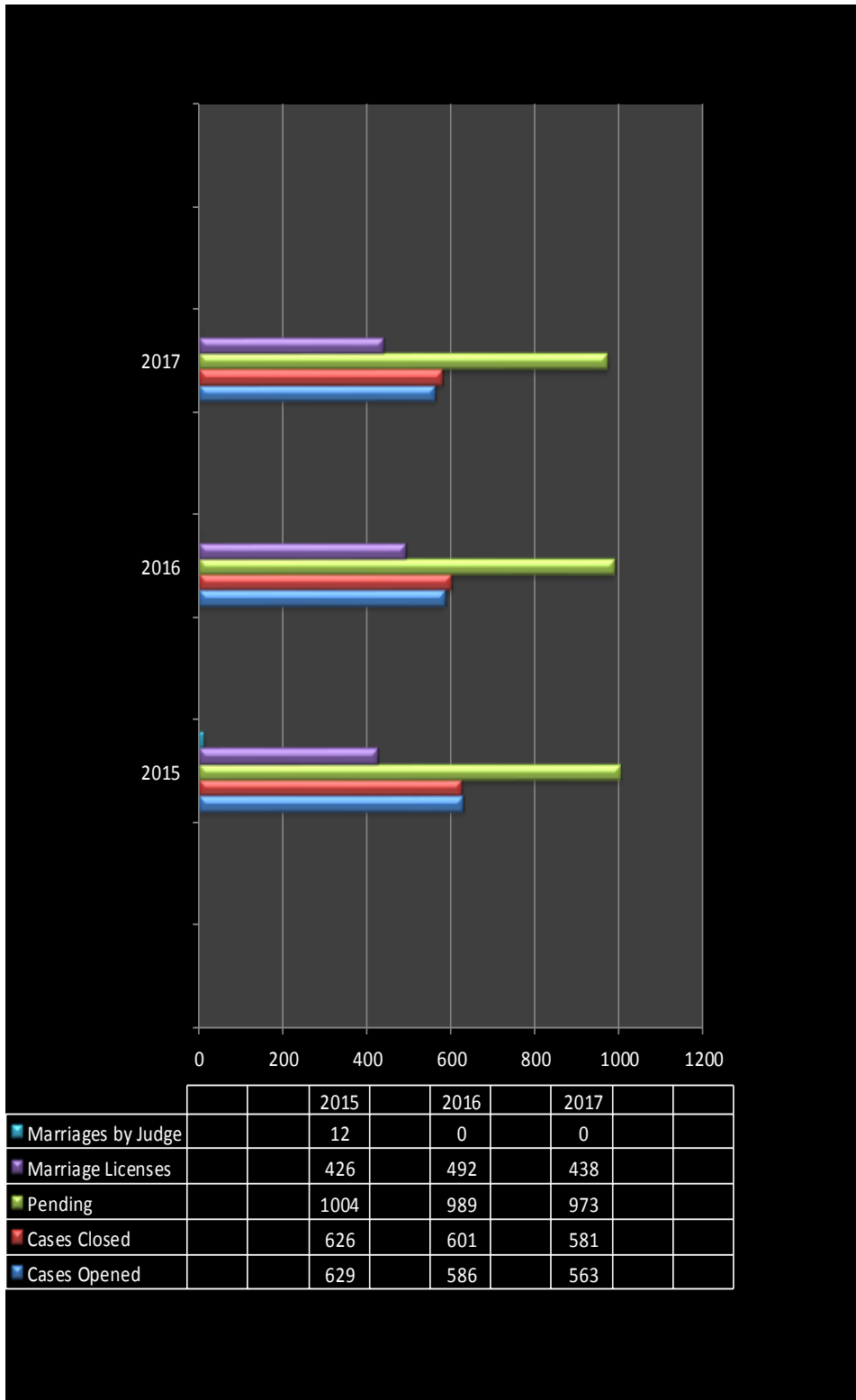
The Probate Court's dedicated staff continues to strive to provide efficient quality in the processing of all cases. Geauga County Courts continually updates forms to comply with Ohio Supreme Court rule changes. The updated forms are available to the public through our website: www.geugacourts.org.

A total of 991 pending probate cases were carried over into 2017. During the year 563 new cases were opened and 581 cases were closed.

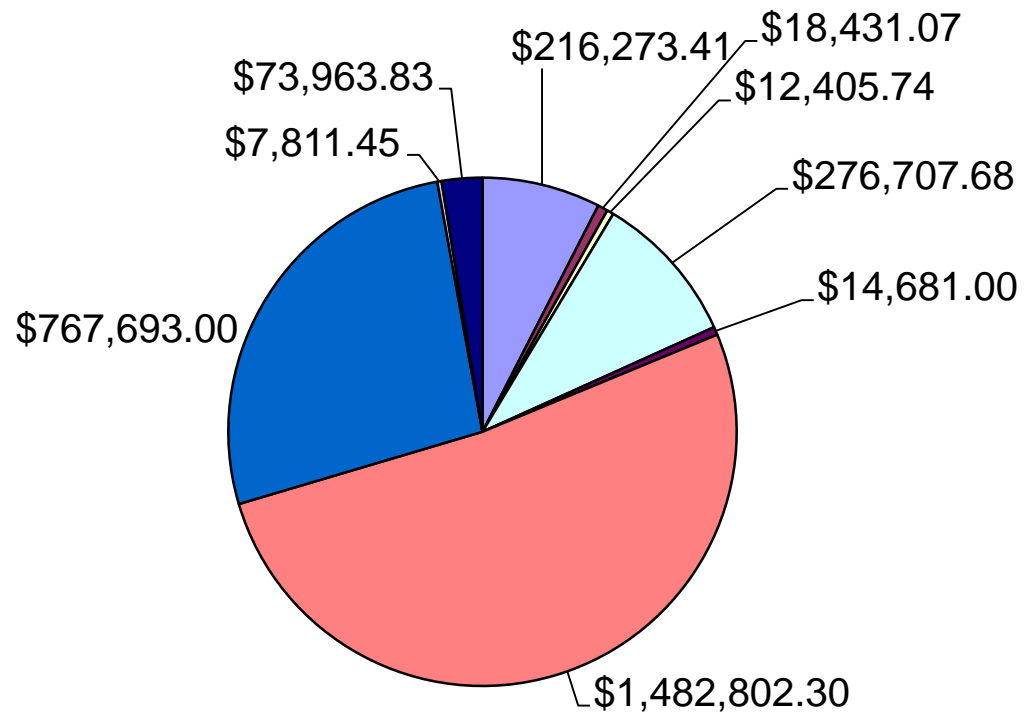
SUMMARY OF CASES OPENED/CLOSED FOR THE YEAR 2017

	PENDING FROM 2016	OPENED	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2017
ESTATES	416	347	382	381
GUARDIANSHIP/MINORS	88	19	26	81
GUARDIANSHIP/INCOMPETENTS	382	64	54	392
GUARDIANSHIP/EMERGENCY	0	9	1	8
CONSERVATORSHIP	3	0	1	2
TRUSTS	52	2	4	50
CIVIL ACTIONS	31	17	25	23
ADOPTIONS	8	27	20	15
MENTAL ILLNESS	2	18	11	9
MINOR'S SETTLEMENT	3	11	9	5
REGISTRATION OF BIRTH	0	9	7	2
NAME CHANGES	6	40	41	5
TOTALS	991	563	581	973
MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED FOR THE YEAR		438		
WEDDINGS PERFORMED BY PROBATE JUDGE		0		

PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES OPENED AND CLOSED 2015-2017



Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court 2017 Expenditures: \$ 2,870,769.48



- Care & Custody Fund
- Indigent Guardianship Fund
- Court Computerization Funds
- CASA Program
- Domestic Violence Assistance
- General Court Operating Expenses
- Detention Center Contribution
- Juvenile Recovery Fund
- Special Projects Funds