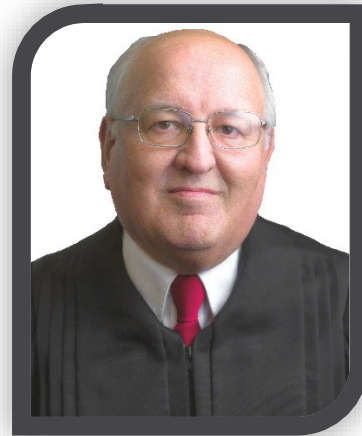


Geauga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Divisions
2025 Annual Report



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 2025, under the capable leadership of Court Administrator Kimberly Laurie, 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.

Near the end of 2024, the Court was finally successful in spearheading the years-long effort to relieve Geauga County of its responsibility to share the financial burden of operating the Portage Geauga Detention Center (PGDC), and to instead, contract on a pay-per-use basis with the Lake County Juvenile Detention Center. 2025 was the first full year utilizing the pay-per-use option, which resulted in a **savings for Geauga County taxpayers of over \$385,000** when compared to the last full contracted year with PGDC (see table below). Similar tax dollar savings are expected year after year, for years to come.

	2022	2023	2024 (transition year)	2025
Portage Geauga Detention Center	\$ 307,314.96	\$ 467,189.39	\$ 292,649.76	
Lake County Detention Center			\$ 9,450.00	\$ 81,675.00
	\$ 307,314.96	\$ 467,189.39	\$ 302,099.76	\$ 81,675.00

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 2025, 66 CASA volunteers were available to advocate for 142 children. CASA Volunteers saved county taxpayers over \$488,325 in 2025, due to the 6,511 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 2025, through 4 in-person programs, serving 56 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 Mueller 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.

Special thanks to Visiting Judge Robert W. Berger for his effective judicial service.

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 2025 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 2025. The Court's continued success in 2025 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, 2025, the Geauga County Probate/Juvenile Court had 27 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, two Probation Officers, Case Manager, 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 127 pending juvenile cases were carried over into 2025. During the year, 508 cases were opened (including those transferred in, reactivated, or redesignated), 533 cases were closed, and 102 cases carried forward into 2026.

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 2025, the Court had 100 delinquency complaints filed, an increase of 8% 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 2025, the Court had 16 unruly complaints filed, a 45% decrease from the prior year. Of the unruly complaints, 11 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

2025, 163 juvenile traffic cases were filed in the Court, which is a 13% decrease from the prior year.

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE CASES: In 2025, 20 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 31% from the prior year.

ADULT CASES: Any person, who aids, abets, induces, causes, encourages, or contributes to a child becoming an unruly child or a delinquent child, or who acts in a way tending to cause a child to become an unruly child or a delinquent child, is guilty of contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child. In 2025, 3 adult 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 2025, 17 custody/visitation cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 41% 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 2025, 4 paternity cases were filed in the court, a decrease of 20% 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 2025, 22 support cases were filed in the court, an increase of 5% 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 2025, 4 UIFSA actions were filed in the court, an increase of 66% 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 2025, 1 other case was filed in the court.

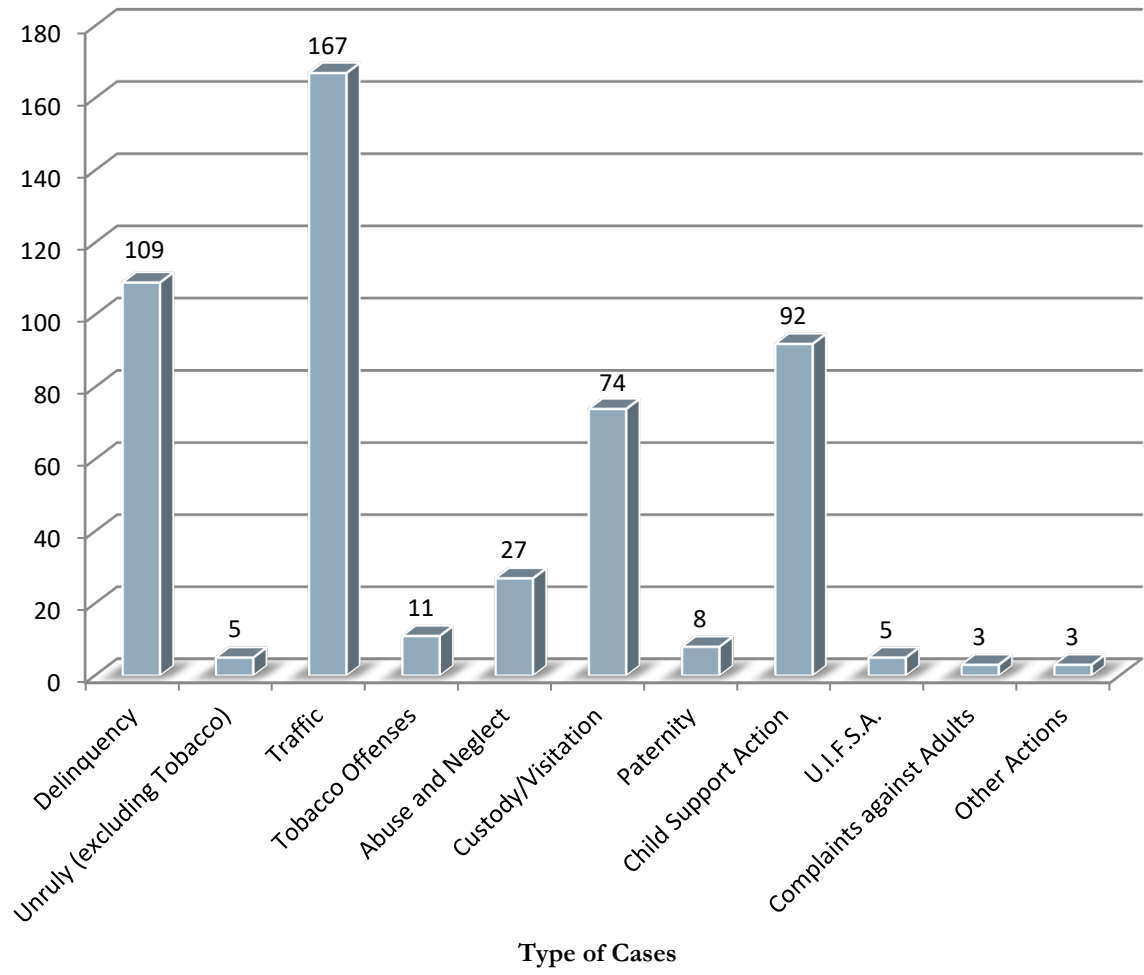
SUMMARY OF JUVENILE CASES

	PENDING FROM 2024	OPENED/REOPENED/ TRANSFERRED IN	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2026
DELINQUENCY	26	109	121	14
TRAFFIC	13	167	169	11
ABUSE/NEGLECT/DEPENDENCY	12	27	31	8
UNRULY	1	17	17	1
ADULT SPECIALS	0	3	2	1
PERMANENT CUSTODY	3	3	6	0
CUSTODY	39	74	75	38
CHILD SUPPORT	30	92	99	23
PATERNITY	2	8	8	2
UIFSA	1	5	4	2
OTHERS	0	3	1	2
TOTALS	127	508	533	102

SUMMARY OF CASES - JUVENILE COURT ACTIONS FILED

TYPE OF CASE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
DELINQUENCY	78	22	100
UNRULY (EXCLUDING TOBACCO)	3	2	5
TRAFFIC	94	69	163
TOBACCO OFFENSES	8	3	11
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	0	3	3
OTHER	N/A	N/A	0

Juvenile Court Actions Filed in 2025



DELIQUENCY AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS – SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	MALES		FEMALES		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY	WHITE	MINORITY	COMBINED
SHERIFF'S DEPT.	12	3	4	1	16	4	20
BAINBRIDGE P.D.	4	16	3	3	7	19	26
BURTON VILLAGE P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARDON P.D.	4	0	2	0	6	0	6
CHESTER P.D.	9	1	2	0	11	1	12
JUVENILE COURT	11	4	4	0	15	4	19
MIDDLEFIELD P.D.	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
OHIO STATE HWY PATROL	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
RUSSELL P.D.	0	0	2	0	2	0	2
S. RUSSELL P.D.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRANSFERRED IN	3	2	1	0	4	2	6
OTHER	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE	4	0	0	0	4	0	4
THOMPSON P.D.	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	54	27	20	4	74	31	105

Delinquent & Unruly Cases by School District 2025



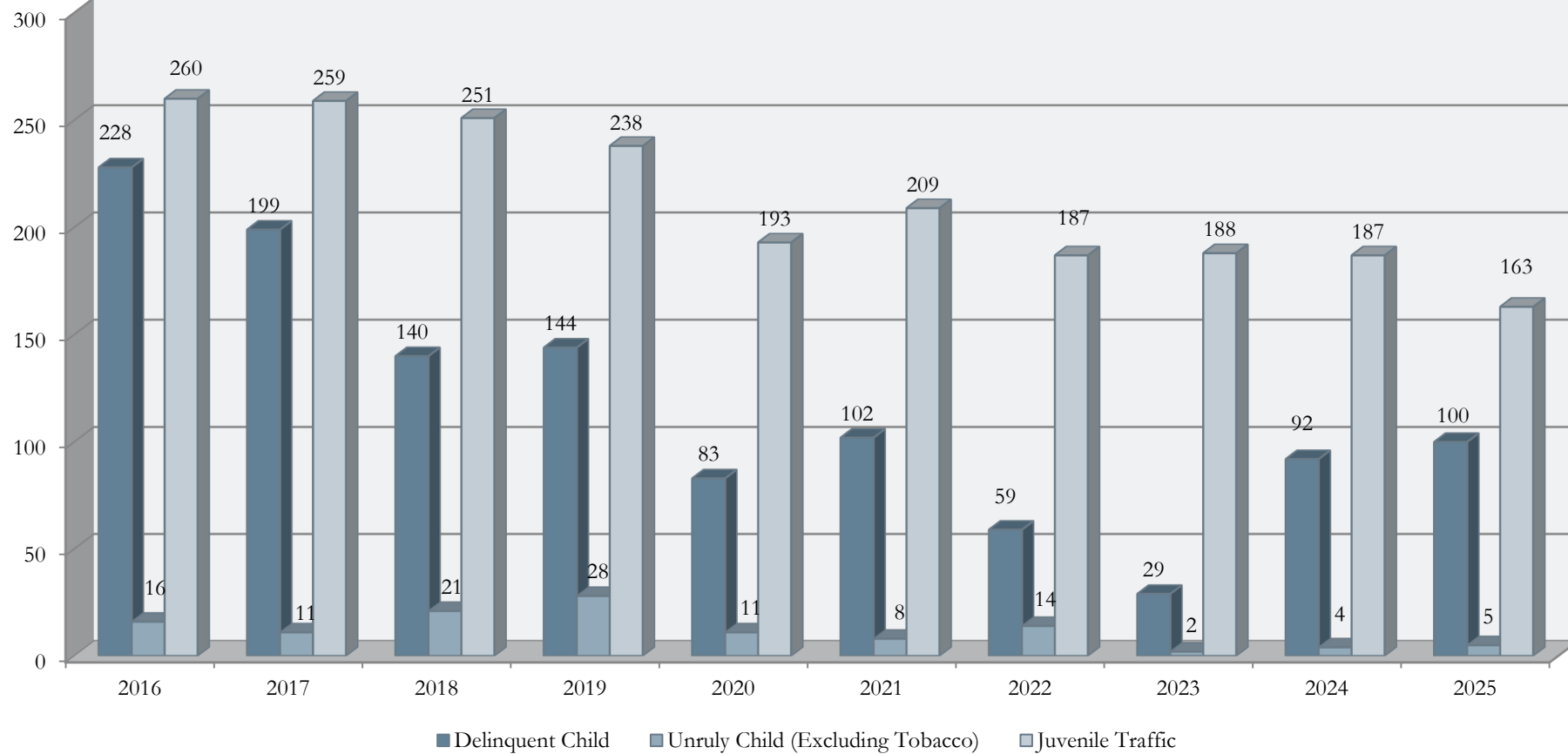
AGE AT TIME OF OFFENSE

AGE	DELINQUENT			UNRULY			COMBINED TOTAL
	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL	
10 & UNDER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	2	1	3	0	0	0	3
12	6	3	9	0	0	0	9
13	3	1	4	0	1	1	5
14	7	4	11	0	0	0	11
15	13	3	16	1	1	2	18
16	25	3	28	1	0	1	29
17	22	6	28	1	0	1	29
18	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	78	22	100	3	2	5	105

NEW CASES FILED

CASE TYPE	2023	2024	2025
DELINQUENCY	29	92	100
UNRULY & TOBACCO	31	29	16
TRAFFIC	188	187	163
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	29	28	20
ADULT CONTRIBUTING	3	0	2
CUSTODY	48	29	17
SUPPORT	28	21	22
PATERNITY	6	5	4
U.I.F.S.A.	0	3	4
OTHER	0	0	1
TOTALS	362	394	349

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



DELINQUENCY AND UNRULY CHARGES

DELINQUENCY CHARGES

In 2025, 165 delinquency charges were filed compared to 150 charges in the prior year, an increase of 10%. 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 2025, 141 charges were for acts of delinquency, 19 charges were for violation of probation, and 5 for violating court orders.

With the total delinquency charges increasing by 10% in 2025, the more serious felony charges also increased by 123%. 29, or 21%, 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
ATTEMPTED GRAND THEFT	2	0	2
ATTEMPTED MISUSE OF A CREDIT CARD	2	0	2
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT THEFT	2	1	3
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH A POLICE OFFICER	1	0	1
FELONIOUS ASSAULT	1	0	1
GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION	1	0	1
IDENTITY FRAUD	2	0	2
ILLEGAL USE OF A MINOR IN A NUDITY ORIENTED PERFORMANCE	4	0	4
PANDERING SEXUAL ORIENTED MATTER INVOLVING A MINOR	6	0	6
RAPE	1	0	1
STRANGULATION	1	0	1
TELECOMMUNICATION FRAUD	2	0	2
THEFT	0	1	1
THEFT OF A VEHICLE	0	1	1
VANDALISM	1	0	1
	26	3	29

MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT CHARGES BY GENDER

	Male	Female	Total
AGGRAVATED MENACING	2	0	2
ARSON	1	0	1
ASSAULT	7	0	7
ATTEMPTED ASSAULT	0	2	2
ATTEMPTED HARASSMENT WITH A BODILY SUBSTANCE	0	1	1
ATTEMPTED TELECOMMUNICATION HARASSMNET	3	0	3
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT THEFT	5	0	5
CONTEMPT OF COURT	1	0	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2	1	3
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	1	0	1
CRIMINAL TRESPASSING	1	1	2
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	26	4	30
DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES	5	0	5
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	11	2	13
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	1	0	1
MAKING FALSE ALARMS	1	1	2
MENACING	3	0	3
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	0	1	1
SEXUAL IMPOSITION	3	0	3
OPEN CONTAINER	1	0	1
PETTY THEFT	2	2	4
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	1	0	1
PROHIBITIONS	2	3	5
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	1	0	1
THEFT	10	3	13
VIOLATION OF PROBATION	16	3	19
VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER	3	2	5
TOTALS	109	26	135

TOP OFFENSES COMMITTED BY DELINQUENT YOUTH

	Total
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	30
VIOLATION OF PROBATION	19
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	13
THEFT	13
ASSAULT	7
PANDERING SEXUAL ORIENTED MATTER INVOLVING A MINOR	6
COMPLICITY TO COMMIT THEFT	5
PROHIBITIONS	5
DISSEMINATING MATTER HARMFUL TO JUVENILES	5
VIOLATION OF A COURT ORDER	5

FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

In 2025, the Court adjudicated 8 counts of felony-level offenses, a 300% increase from the prior year. 0 youth were committed to ODYS. 1 youth was committed to a community correction facility.

LEVEL OF OFFENSE	ADJUDICATIONS
F5	5
F4	1
F3	1
F2	1

RACE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
White	5	0	5
Minority	3	0	3
Total	8	0	8

UNRULY CHILD OFFENSES

In 2025, 5 unruly child charges were filed in the Court, an increase of 25% from the prior year.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO REASONABLE CONTROL	3	1	4
HABITUAL TRUANT FROM SCHOOL		1	1

DISPOSITIONS FOR DELINQUENCY & UNRULY CASES

The Court's distribution of cases addresses both the needs of individual youth and their families and ensures public safety. The court utilizes a number of dispositional alternatives that combine aspects of supervision and monitoring of behavior that hold each juvenile accountable for his or her actions, while providing treatment services as needed. This may mean relatively simple dispositions: a fine, admonishment, and/or an order to write an essay. It may also include a set of alternatives such as probation, restitution, and community service work. Youths who are found delinquent and who may pose a threat to the community can be placed in secure facilities, such as the Lake 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	19	5	24
ADMONISHED	42	18	60
FINE	0	0	0
COSTS	25	11	36
COSTS WAIVED	32	7	39
LICENSE SUSPENSION	1	0	1
RIGHT TO APPLY FOR O.L. DENIED	66	24	90
FINGERPRINTING	0	0	0
DNA TESTING	1	0	1
COMMUNITY SANCTIONS			
PROBATION	3	0	3
CONTINUED PROBATION	11	6	17
RESTITUTION	8	2	10
COMMUNITY SERVICE	15	10	25
COUNSELING	10	5	15
ELECTRONIC MONITORING/HOUSE ARREST	0	0	0
MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS	1	0	1
DRUG / ALCOHOL ASSESSMENT	0	2	2
DRUG TESTING	0	2	2
PLACEMENTS			
TO D.Y.S.	4	0	4
TO DETENTION	35	12	47
OTHER PLACEMENTS	1	0	1
SUSPENDED PLACEMENTS	25	11	36
TRANSFERS			
BIND OVERS	0	0	0
TO OTHER JUVENILE COURTS	4	0	4
TO OTHER AGENCIES	2	0	2
GENERAL DISPOSITIONS			
ESSAY	8	2	10
APOLOGY LETTERS	1	0	1
OTHER	53	20	73

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 2025, 11 tobacco cases were filed in the Court.

TOBACCO CASES FILED			
AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
13	0	0	0
14	0	0	0
15	2	0	2
16	2	3	5
17	4	0	4

ISSUING POLICE DEPARTMENTS			
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	0	BURTON VILLAGE	0
CHAGRIN FALLS	0	CHARDON CITY	8
CHESTER TOWNSHIP	0	GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF	3
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 2025, 13 cases were pending at the beginning of the year; 163 cases were filed during the year, 4 cases was transferred in from another court, reactivated, or redesignated; 169 cases were disposed; and 11 cases were pending going into the following year.

SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC CASE ACTIVITY			
NEW CASES FILED	163		
CASES DISPOSED	169		
SEX:			
MALE	94		
FEMALE	69		
AGE:			
15 & UNDER	3		
16	63		
17	97		
18	0		
DISPOSITIONS:			
FINE	76	PLED NO CONTEST	20
COURT COSTS	140	CASE DISMISSED	2
LICENSE SUSPENSION	102	COUNTS DISMISSED	0
DENIED RTA	6	TWO COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	5
COSTS WAIVED	10	THREE COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	0
DRUG/ALCOHOL ASSESSMENT	3	FOUR COUNTS ON ONE TICKET	0
DRIVING PRIVILEGES	99	PROBATION	2
SAFE DRIVING PROGRAM	33	DETENTION PLACEMENT	0
JUVENILE DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	9	DETENTION SUSPENDED	0
RESTITUTION	0	DRUG TESTED	0
COMMUNITY SERVICE	6	TRANSFER TO ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT	0
CARTEENS	57	TRANSFER IN FROM ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT	0
TICKET AMENDED/ADJUSTED	2	POINTS	0
OTHER DISPOSITIONS	5		

TOP 10 TRAFFIC OFFENSES

TYPE OF OFFENSE	TOTAL COMMITTED
SPEEDING	47
ASSURED CLEAR DISTANCE	26
FAILURE TO CONTROL	23
FAILURE TO YIELD RIGHT OF WAY	19
NO DRIVERS LICENSE	5
SEATBELT	3
STOP LIGHT/TRAFFIC LIGHT	3
DRIVING ON SUSPENSION	3
IMPROPER STARTING/TURNING/PASSING/BACKING/FAILED TO SIGNAL	2
STOP FROM PRIVATE DRIVE	2

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES FILED BY SOURCE OF COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT BY	TOTAL
BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP P.D.	26
BURTON VILLAGE P.D.	0
CHARDON CITY P.D.	14
CHESTER TOWNSHIP P.D.	9
GEAUGA COUNTY JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES	0
GEAUGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT	0
GEAUGA COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE	0
GEAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF	21
MIDDLEFIELD VILLAGE P.D.	6
OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL	69
RUSSELL TOWNSHIP P.D.	7
SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE P.D.	2
TRANSFER IN	9
TOTAL	163

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 2025:

	MOVING OFFENSES		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1ST OFFENSE	79	61	140
2ND OFFENSE	9	5	14
3RD OFFENSE	3	1	4
4TH OR MORE OFFENSE	2	0	2
TOTAL	93	67	160

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. 23 youth continued on probation from the previous year
2. 25 youth were placed on probation: 18 males and 7 females
3. 22 youth were terminated from probation: 15 males and 7 females
4. 48 youth were supervised on probation in 2025

PROBATION ASSIGNMENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Residence	
Berkshire	4
Cardinal	6
Chardon	8
Kenston	4
West Geauga	1
Out of County	2
TOTAL	25

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 them to 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 2025: 16 (8 males, 8 females)
 - a. 12 unruly cases
 - b. 3 delinquency cases
 - c. 1 traffic
 - d. 0 unruly truancy case
- Filed Formally: 2
- Diverted: 16

H.B. 410 Habitual Truancy

In 2025, 1 unruly child complaint was 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 substances 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 the they are involved with the court. In 2025 the Case Management Director worked with 48 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 2025, 25 clients were referred to services for drug, alcohol and mental health needs, and 12 families were referred for co-parenting, parent education, and therapeutic visitation services.

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 2025 the Court provided 178 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 2025, 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.

87 youth served: 85 new cases, 2 carry over cases from the previous year

- 432 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.

- 8 youth were ordered to pay restitution, 13 carried over from the previous year, 8 new cases
- \$14,626.34 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 2025, 6 youth were carried over from the previous year, and 11 new juveniles were placed on electronic monitoring (8 males, 3 females)

Drug Testing

- Completed by hair sample or mouth swab analysis
- 195 Drug Tests administered: 105 Juveniles, 90 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 the 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.

- 65 juveniles participated in 2025

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 2025: 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 in the Lake County and Richland County Detention Centers, saving Geauga County taxpayers’ dollars.

In 2025, the Geauga County Mental Health Board began providing funding for risk/safety assessments to be conducted on youth placed in the detention pre-court, for those youth who have been alleged to commit an act of violence or felony offense. These assessments are being conducted by Ravenwood Mental Center to assist the jurist in making decisions that are in the best interest of the youth and family, when the youth appear before the court. In 2025, 11 said assessment were conduct on youth.

In 2025, the Geauga County Juvenile Court admitted 71 youth into juvenile detention, made up of 57 males and 14 females.

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.

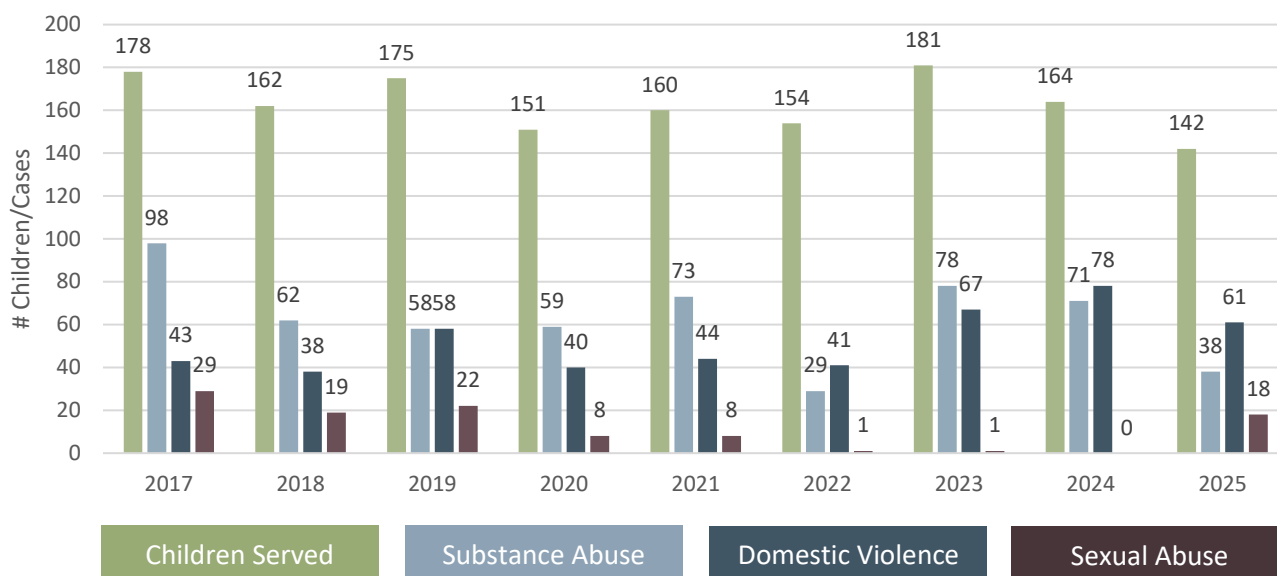
The program has continued to represent all children involved with the court due to abuse, neglect, dependency, and other cases referred by Judge Timothy J. Grendell or Magistrate Abbey King. A Guardian ad Litem is appointed by the Court to represent the “best interest” of a child/sibling group and is 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 440 volunteers who have represented 3,335 children since the program began in 1997.

An average volunteer contributed over 130 hours to the program, and in 2025, volunteers contributed 6,511 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 860 hours of training in 2025.

One part-time and three full-time CASA Supervisors, and the Program Director, supervised 66 active CASA Volunteers who were appointed to serve 142 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.

2017-2025 Children Served by CASA by Case Issue



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, guardianships, adoptions, 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 2025, the Help Center assisted approximately 158 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.

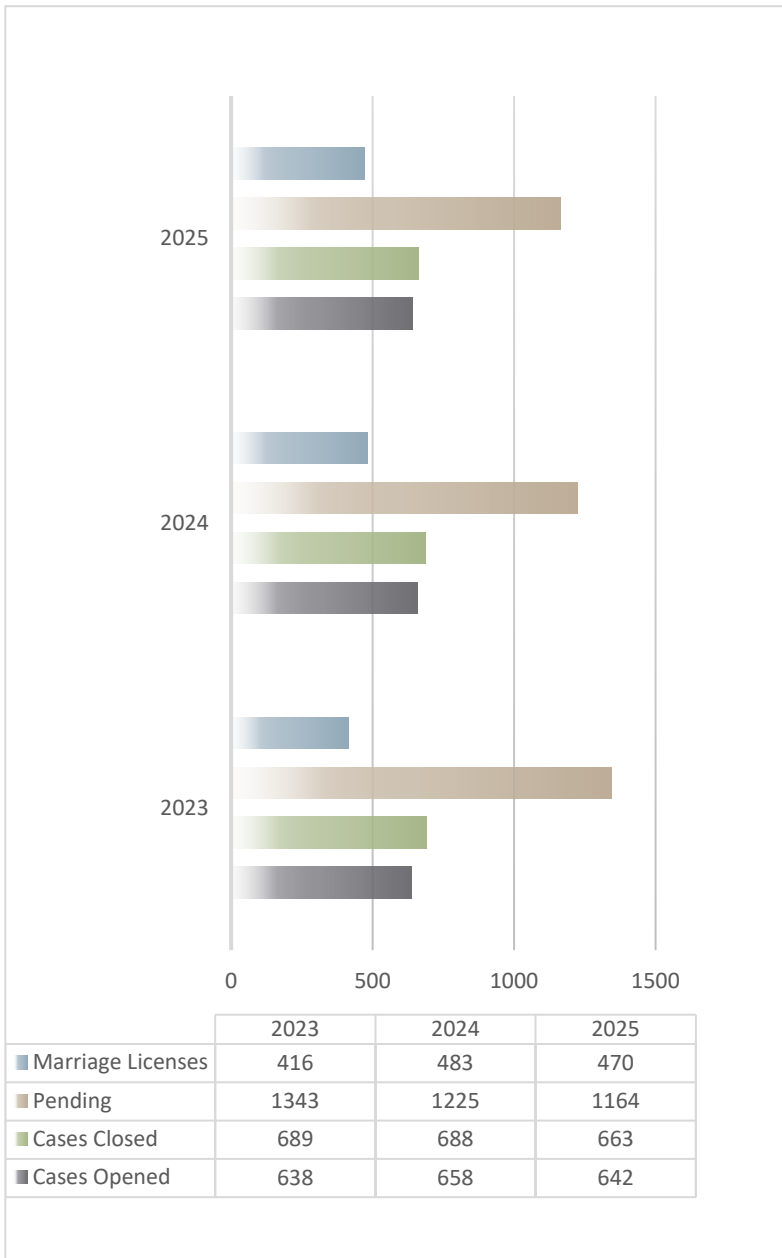
The Probate Court's dedicated staff continues to strive to provide efficient quality in the processing of all cases. Geauga County Courts continually updates forms to comply with Ohio Supreme Court rule changes. The updated forms are available to the public through our website: www.geaugapjcourt.org.

A total of 1,182 pending probate cases were carried over into 2025. During the year, 1,112 new cases were opened, and 1,130 cases were closed. A total of 1,164 cases were carried over into the following year. There were 27 emergency guardians appointed in 2025.

SUMMARY OF CASES

	PENDING FROM 2024	OPENED	CLOSED	PENDING TO 2026
ESTATES	498	429	471	456
GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS	60	11	9	62
GUARDIANSHIP OF INCOMPETENTS	532	72	63	541
CONSERVATORSHIP	3	0	0	3
TRUSTS	46	3	9	40
CIVIL ACTIONS	15	17	16	16
ADOPTIONS	4	18	14	8
MENTAL ILLNESS	0	23	15	8
MINOR'S SETTLEMENT	4	11	10	5
REGISTRATION OF BIRTH	3	2	1	4
CHANGE OF NAME	3	56	55	4
WRONGFUL DEATH	0	0	0	0
MARRIAGE LICENSES	14	470	467	17
TOTALS	1182	1112	1130	1164

PROBATE COURT SUMMARY OF CASES 2023-2025

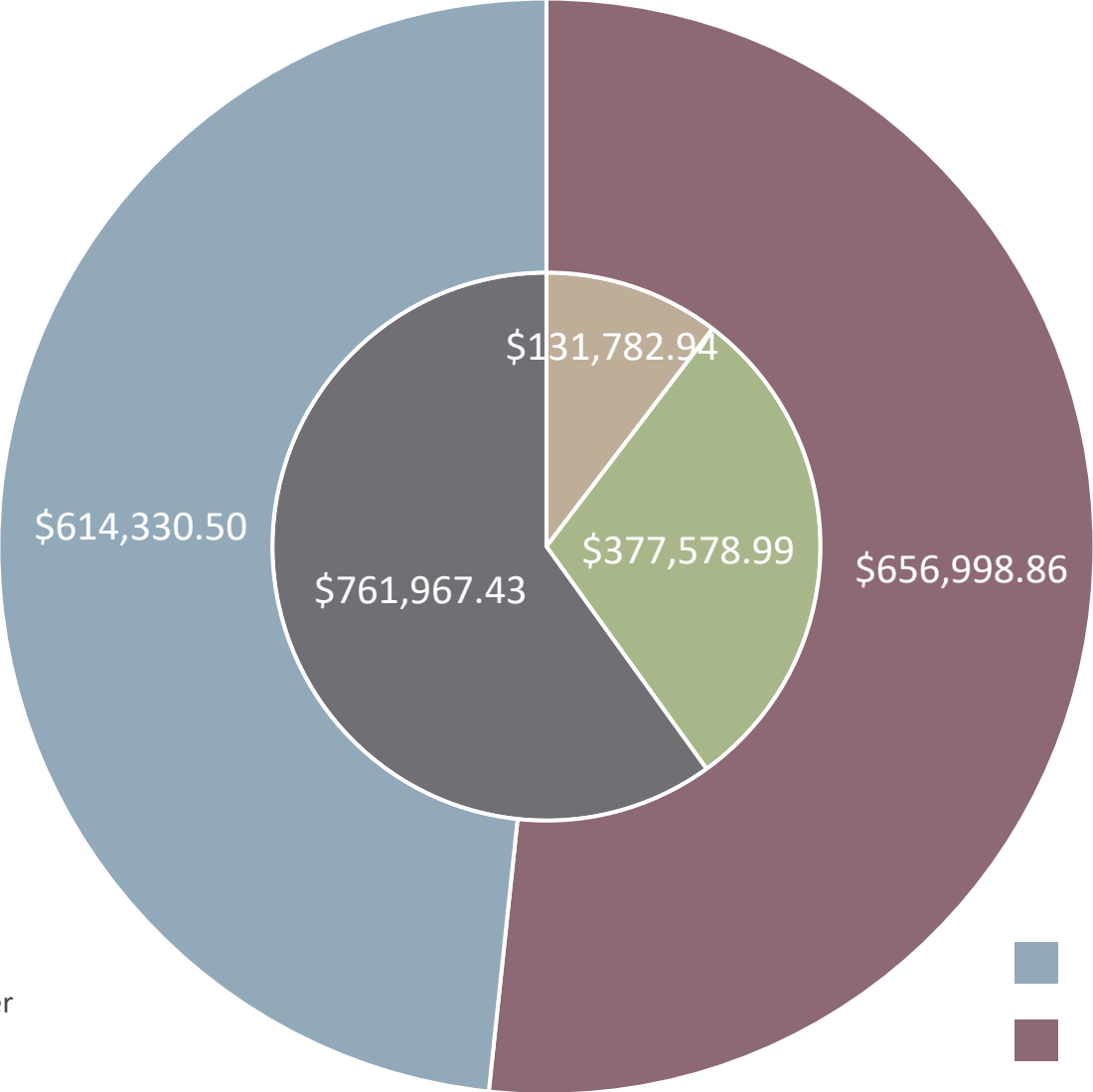


GOOD DEEDS PROGRAM

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 2025, the Geauga County Probate Court offered 4 in-person Good Deeds Programs serving 56 residents.

**GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT
2025 REVENUES: \$1,280,969.12**



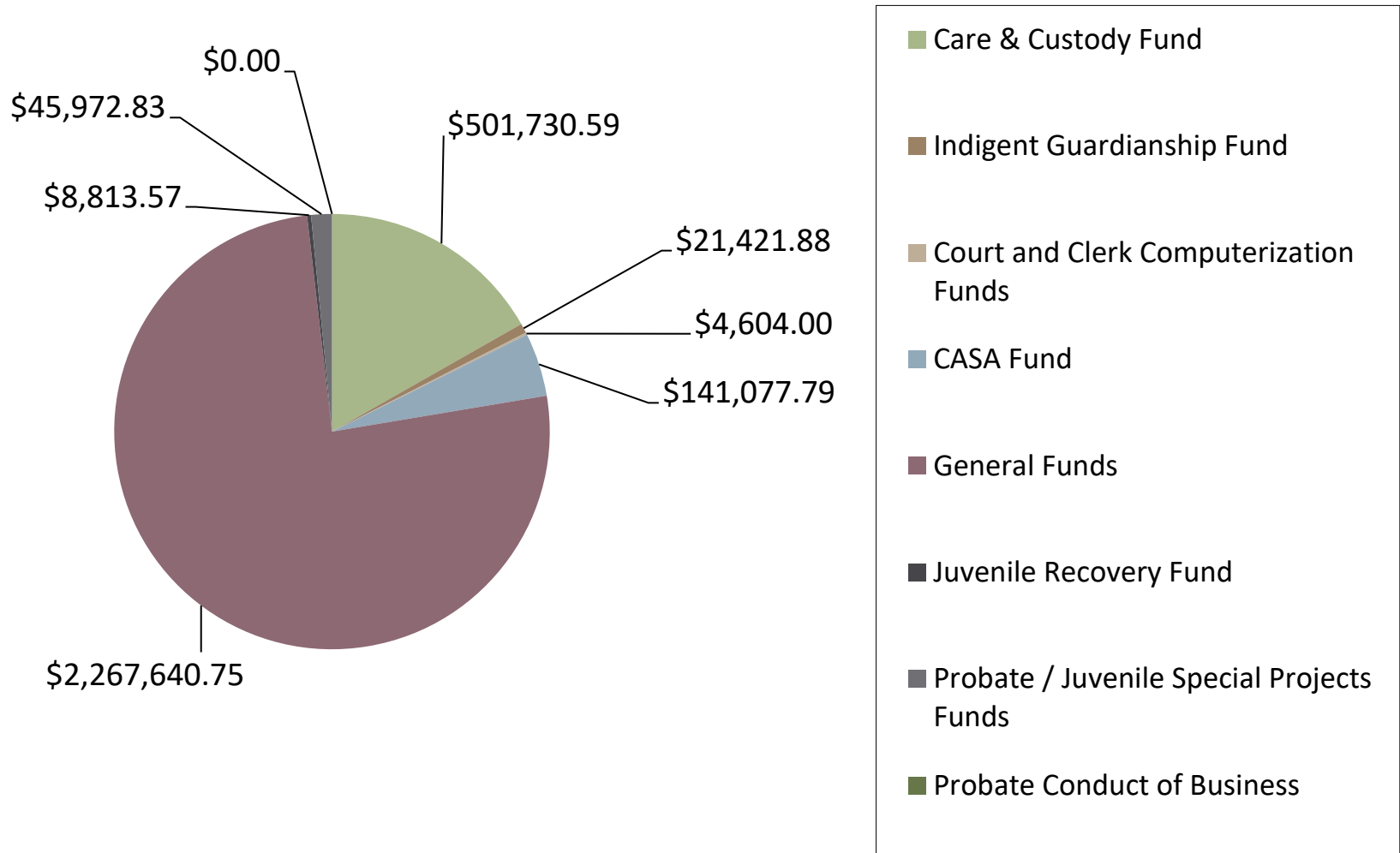
Revenue Sources:

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

Deposited Into:

- Court Funds
- County Funds

**GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT
2025 EXPENDITURES: \$2,991,261.41**



COMPUTERIZATION & CLERK COMPUTERIZATION FUNDS 2025 EXPENDITURES



Detail General Ledger Report

G/L Date Range 01/01/25 - 12/31/25

Include Sub Ledger Detail

Exclude Accounts with No Activity

G/L Date	Journal	Journal Type	Sub Ledger	Description/Project	Source	Reference	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Actual Balance	
							Balance To Date:		\$0.00	
G/L Account Number 04/22/2025	4004-007-00-901 2025-00001361	Other JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		360.00		360.00	
<i>Invoice Number</i> 1168b	<i>Vendor</i> SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC			<i>Description</i> Other	<i>Invoice Date</i> 04/15/2025	<i>Payment Type</i> Check	<i>Payment Number</i> 1178526	<i>Amount</i> 360.00	<i>Distribution Amount</i> 360.00	
							Total	\$360.00	\$360.00	
							Account Other Totals	\$360.00	\$0.00	\$360.00
							Sub Department Non Departmental Totals	\$360.00	\$0.00	
							Department Juvenile Totals	\$360.00	\$0.00	
							Fund Juv/Prob Clerk Computerization Totals	\$360.00	\$0.00	
							Balance To Date:		\$0.00	
G/L Account Number 04/22/2025	4005-007-00-801 2025-00001361	Equipment JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		2,300.00		2,300.00	
<i>Invoice Number</i> 1168c	<i>Vendor</i> SWIFT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING, INC			<i>Description</i> Equipment	<i>Invoice Date</i> 04/15/2025	<i>Payment Type</i> Check	<i>Payment Number</i> 1178526	<i>Amount</i> 2,300.00	<i>Distribution Amount</i> 2,300.00	
							Total	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	
							Account Equipment Totals	\$2,300.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00
							Balance To Date:		\$0.00	
G/L Account Number 12/09/2025	4005-007-00-901 2025-00004233	Other JE	AP	Invoice Payment Batch Post	Accounts Payable		1,944.00		1,944.00	
<i>Invoice Number</i> 58544	<i>Vendor</i> 21ST CENTURY ALARM DATA INC			<i>Description</i> Other	<i>Invoice Date</i> 11/25/2025	<i>Payment Type</i> Check	<i>Payment Number</i> 1192076	<i>Amount</i> 1,944.00	<i>Distribution Amount</i> 1,944.00	
							Total	\$1,944.00	\$1,944.00	
							Account Other Totals	\$1,944.00	\$0.00	\$1,944.00
							Sub Department Non Departmental Totals	\$4,244.00	\$0.00	
							Department Juvenile Totals	\$4,244.00	\$0.00	
							Fund Juvenile/Prob Computerization Totals	\$4,244.00	\$0.00	
							Grand Totals	\$4,604.00	\$0.00	