



2024

HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

Judge Thomas C. Lee



To the citizens of Holmes County, Ohio:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the **2024 Annual Report**. This report is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B) and contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

COURT PERSONNEL

Judge..... Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Magistrate..... Hon. Julie Dreher
Court Administrator..... Megan M. Hoxworth, CCM
Bailiff..... Bradley S. Conn

Chief of Probation..... David Williams, LSW
Probation/Diversion Manager..... Brody Williams
Probation/Diversion Manager
and Therapy Dog Handler..... Rachel Cornell
Therapy Dog..... Marlee
Probation/Diversion Services
Secretary..... Jean Spencer

Deputy Clerk..... Kristi Walton
Deputy Clerk..... Malori Snyder
Deputy Clerk..... Tammy Miller

Connections Mentoring
Program Coordinator Nicole Lepley



Magistrate Julie Dreher

JULIE DREHER has served as Magistrate in Holmes County Juvenile Court and Probate Court since 2022. She also previously served as a Magistrate in the Coshocton County Domestic Relations Court.

While working toward her law degree at Capital University Law School, which she attained in 2007, Magistrate Dreher served as an extern for Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer of the Supreme Court of Ohio and Judge Michael H. Watson of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.



After law school, Magistrate Dreher practiced law for seven years in Columbus, Ohio, as a member of a large law firm's business litigation and product liability litigation practice groups.

After relocating to the area, Magistrate Dreher practiced law in a small law firm in Millersburg, Ohio, and later transitioned to operating her own private law practice for seven years, representing business, municipal, and Court-appointed clients, and acting as a guardian ad litem.

Magistrate Dreher also has prior experience representing Holmes County Children's Services as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Holmes County Prosecutor's Office.

Magistrate Dreher is a graduate of The Ohio State University. She is a board member of the West Holmes Soccer Club, a youth soccer coach, and a member of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Ohio.

Ohio Revised Code Section 2152.01 sets forth the purpose of Juvenile Court dispositions (sentences or court orders) as follows:

2152.01: Purposes; applicability of law

- (A) The overriding purposes for dispositions under this chapter are to provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to this chapter, protect the public interest and safety, hold the offender accountable for the offender's actions, restore the victim, and rehabilitate the offender. These purposes shall be achieved by a system of graduated sanctions and services.
- (B) Dispositions under this chapter shall be reasonably calculated to achieve the overriding purposes set forth in this section, commensurate with and not demeaning to the seriousness of the delinquent child's or the juvenile traffic offender's conduct and its impact on the victim, and consistent with dispositions for similar acts committed by similar delinquent children and juvenile traffic offenders. The court shall not base the disposition on the race, ethnic background, gender, or religion of the delinquent child or juvenile traffic offender.
- (C) To the extent they do not conflict with this chapter, the provisions of Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code apply to the proceedings under this chapter.



PURPOSE OF JUVENILE DISPOSITIONS





JURISDICTION

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23. The types of cases listed below are the most common cases handled in our Court.

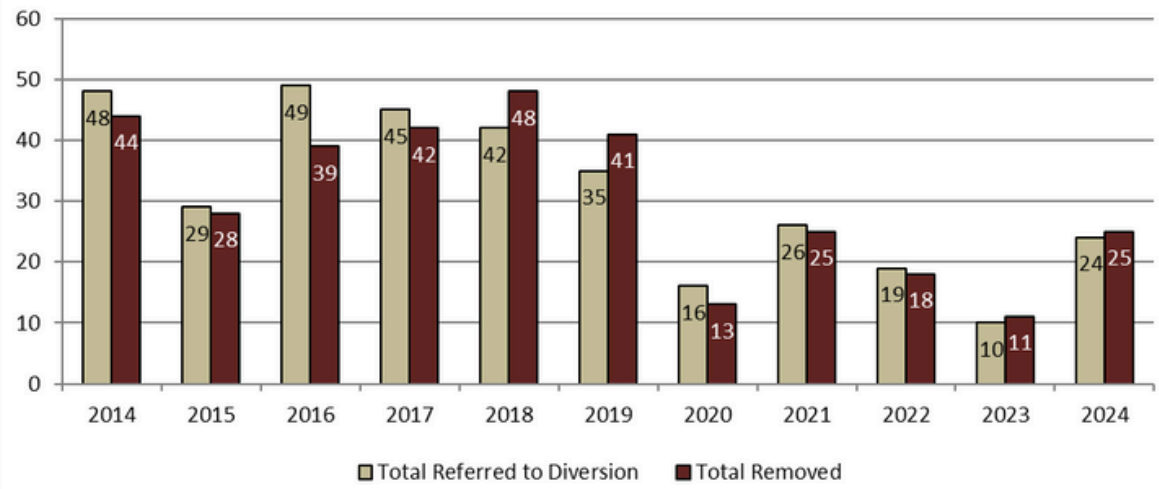
Delinquent Child:	Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18 th birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.
Unruly Child:	Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.
Juvenile Traffic Offender:	Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.
Abused Children:	Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.
Neglected Children:	Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.
Dependent Children:	Those children whose condition or environment requires state (Children's Services) intervention.
Adults:	Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child or have failed to send their children to school.
Paternity:	Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.
Child Support:	Actions to determine child support to be paid by either parent and actions to enforce the obligor's responsibility to pay.
Custody:	Actions to determine the custody of any child.
Protection Orders against a Child:	Actions by any person that include an allegation that the respondent engaged in a violation of felonious assault, aggravated assault, assault, aggravated menacing, menacing by stalking, menacing, aggravated trespassing, or a sexually oriented offense.
Consent to Marry:	Actions for consent to marry if either of the applicants are under the age of 18.
Children taken into Custody:	A child is removed from the home when there are reasonable grounds to believe that the child's removal is necessary to prevent immediate or threatened physical or emotional harm.

DIVERSION



In 2024, twenty-four (24) juveniles were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court. Of the 24 juveniles, 14 were male and 10 were female.

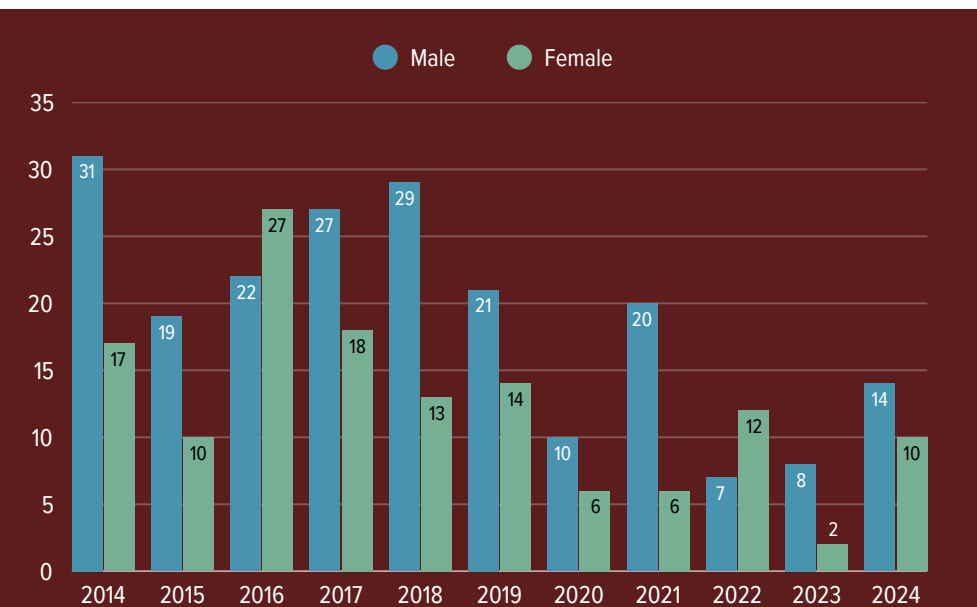
Twenty-five (14 males and 11 females) were removed from Diversion in 2024. Of those removed; 24 were successful completions and 1 was unsuccessful.



The Diversion Program is designed for first-time offenders with allegations of, typically, unruly or misdemeanor offenses. It is a voluntary program in which the juvenile must admit to the allegations in the Complaint. The Diversion Officer creates a contract with the youth and family, provides referrals to resources (counseling, etc.), and gives guidance to help alleviate the problem(s) which led to the youth being charged.

If the juvenile complies with their contract, their case is terminated and sealed (as if it never existed). If the juvenile is non-compliant or has new charges, the case may be filed with the Court and the Judge or Magistrate will determine what orders to impose.

Diversion is a short-term program which is to be completed within 90 days.



Charges that were handled through the Diversion Program in 2024 include:

- Disorderly Conduct
- Domestic Violence
- Trespassing
- Assault/Menacing
- Underage Consumption
- Habitually Disobedient
- Truant from School

JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

Delinquency
20

Traffic
96

Dependency,
Neglect or Abuse
30

Unruly
9

Adult
5

Permanent
Custody
9

Custody or
Visitation
13

Child
Support
36

Parentage
0

*U.I.F.S.A.
0

Other
11

Total New Cases
Filed
in 2024:

229

*U.I.F.S.A.
(Uniform Interstate Family Support Act)

CASES FILED

The following graphs illustrate the number of cases filed by case type for the years 2014 through 2024:

