

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Holmes County  
Juvenile Court

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 2025 Annual Report. This report is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B) and contains information of 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



### MISSION STATEMENT

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous, and professional manner.

# COURT PERSONNEL

JUDGE	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
MAGISTRATE	Hon. Julie Dreher
MAGISTRATE	Hon. Michael S. Bickis
COURT ADMINISTRATOR	Megan M. Hoxworth, CCM
BAILIFF	Bradley S. Conn

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CHIEF OF PROBATION	David Williams, LSW
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PROBATION OFFICER G.R.I.T. ATHLETICS COORDINATOR	Brody Williams
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PROBATION OFFICER ANCHOR MENTORING COORDINATOR THERAPY DOG HANDLER	Rachel Cornell
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PROBATION SECRETARY	Jean Spencer
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DEPUTY CLERK	Kristi Walton
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DEPUTY CLERK	Malori Snyder
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DEPUTY CLERK	Tammy Miller
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COURT INVESTIGATOR YOUTH SUPPORT SPECIALIST	Megan Miller
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# WELCOME

## MAGISTRATE MICHAEL BICKIS

Magistrate Bickis joined the Court in December 2025. He previously served as an Assistant Prosecutor, for five years, in the Holmes County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. He also served as an Assistant Prosecutor, for eighteen years, in Stark County, Ohio.

At the Stark County Prosecutor's Office, he served in a variety of roles, including serving as Stark County's gang crime specialist and a child abuse and child sexual assault specialist.

While he has prosecuted every level of offense from speeding tickets to aggravated murder, he has always had a **passion for fighting for our children.**



When in law school at Valparaiso University he participated in the Juvenile Law Clinic, where he served as a Guardian ad litem, advocating for children.

His first job as an Attorney after passing the bar exam was working for the Summit County Prosecutor's Office handling Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency cases.

Michael and his wife, Julie, have two sons, Brendan (age 25) and Nathan (age 19).

From experience, he understands the joy as well as the frustration, fear, and sleepless nights that come with being a parent.

Throughout his career he has witnessed how children who experience abuse, neglect, and dependency are more likely to return to the Court with allegations of truancy, unruliness and delinquency. Those same kids are more likely to find their way into the adult criminal justice system as criminal defendants.

Michael embraced the opportunity of joining the Court as a Magistrate because *the Juvenile Court has both the opportunity and the responsibility to change lives for the better.*

He wanted to be an integral part of changing kids' lives, strengthening families, and improving the future for not only these children, but our whole community.

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<sup>th</sup> 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 the 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

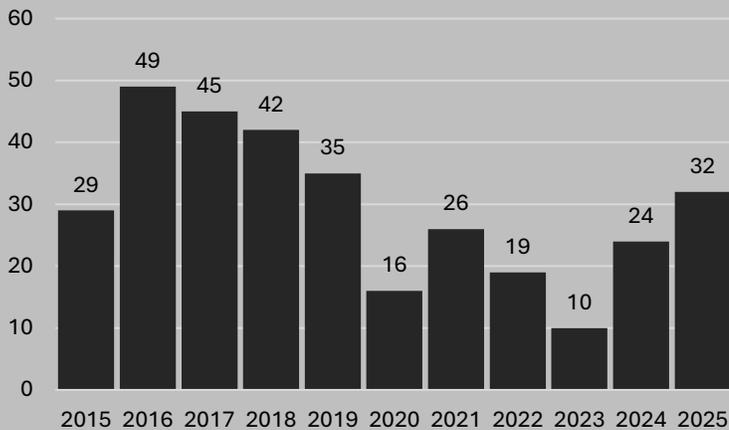
Actions for consent to marry if either of the applicants are under the age of 18.

## 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 PROGRAM

# of Youth Entering Diversion Program



The Diversion Program is a short-term program designed for first-time offenders with allegations of unruly or misdemeanor offenses.

It is a **voluntary program** in which the juvenile must admit to the allegations in the Complaint.

The Probation Officer creates a contract with the youth and family, **provides referrals to resources** and **gives guidance** to help alleviate the problem(s) which led to the youth being charged.

The goal is to complete these terms within 90 days.

In 2025, 32 youth (24 males and 8 females) entered the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases formally before the Court.

## COMPLIANCE (SUCCESSFUL)

If the juvenile complies with their contract, their case is terminated and sealed (as if it never existed).

## NON-COMPLIANCE (UNSUCCESSFUL)

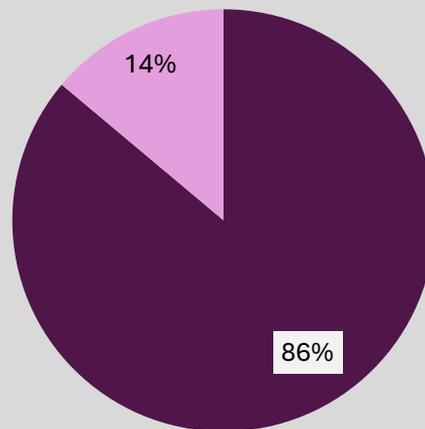
If the juvenile is non-compliant or has new charges, the case may be filed with the Court and the Judge or Magistrate will determine what orders to impose.

## TYPES OF CHARGES

handled through the program in 2025.

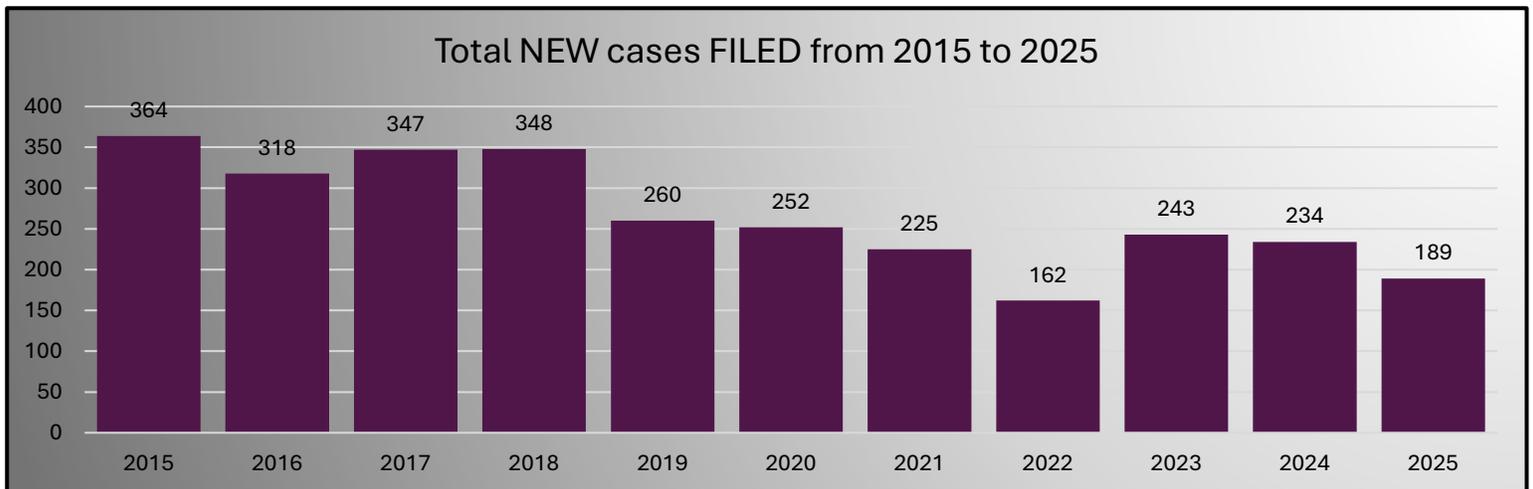
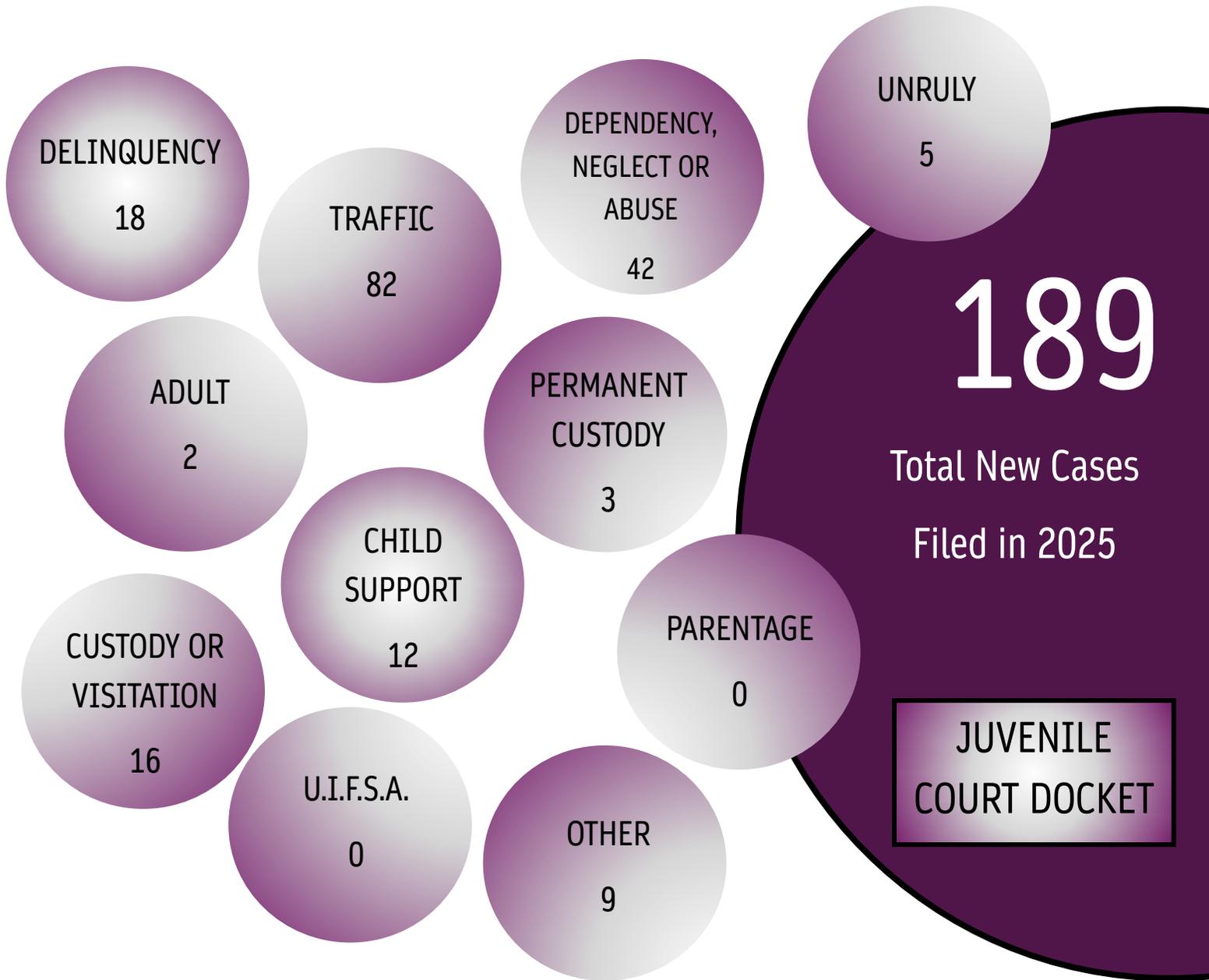
- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Criminal Trespass       | Gross Sexual Imposition     |
| Habitual Disobedience   | Misuse of Credit Card       |
| Possession of Marijuana | "Sexting"                   |
| Aggravated Menacing     | Domestic Violence           |
| Underage Consumption    | Burglary                    |
| Habitual Truancy        | Failure to Comply w/officer |
| Rape                    | Complicity                  |

## Program Terminations



- Successful
- Unsuccessful

36 youth completed the Diversion Program in 2025.



**2025**  
**JUVENILE TRAFFIC REPORT**  
**81** citations filed with the Court

ADJUDICATIONS/  
DISPOSITIONS **66**

**13** TRANSFERRED TO COUNTY OF RESIDENCE

DISMISSED **2**

Juvenile Traffic Court in Holmes County is held one day per month. Each juvenile is asked to enter a plea to the ticket they received from law enforcement. The pleas available under Ohio law for juveniles are “Admission,” “Denial,” or “No Contest.” If a plea of Admission or No Contest is entered, the juvenile will be found to be a Juvenile Traffic Offender (adjudication). Dispositional Orders, such as fines/costs, suspended license, and driver improvement programs may then be put in place.

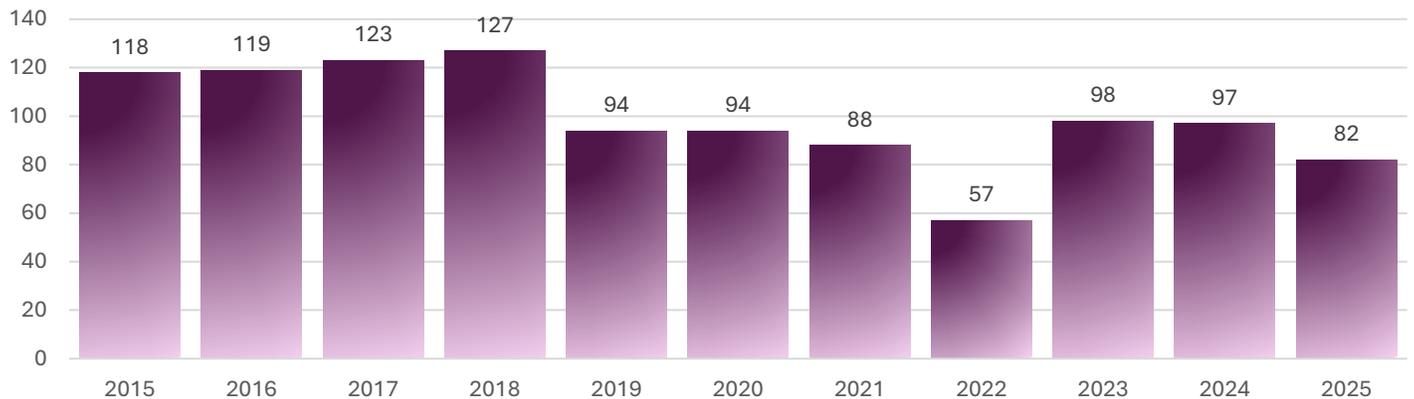


**TYPES OF JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENSES IN 2025**

- Speed (25 charges)
- No Driver’s License (9 charges)
- Assured Clear Distance Ahead (8 charges)
- Failure to Control (8 charges)
- Right of Way / Failure to Yield (8 charges)
- Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices (6 charges)
- Operating a Vehicle Under Influence (5 charges)
- Stopping for Stopped School Bus (3 charges)

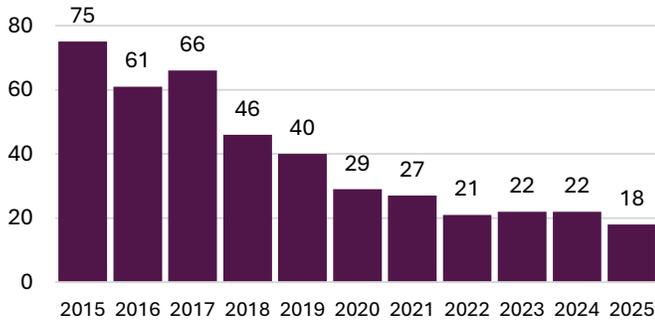
- Traffic Control Devices (2 charges)
- Display of License Plates (2 charges)
- Failure to Stop (1 charge)
- Failure to Register: tags/registration (1 charge)
- Operating w/ Previous Owner Plates (1 charge)
- Failure to Wear Safety Belt (1 charge)
- Street Racing (1 charge)
- Left of Center (1 charge)
- Probationary License Restriction Violation (1 charge)

**Juvenile Traffic Cases FILED from 2015 to 2025**



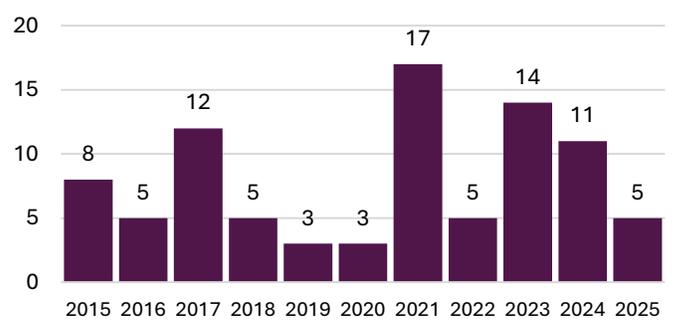
# DELINQUENCY

Delinquency Cases FILED from 2015 to 2025



# UNRULY

Unruly Cases FILED from 2015 to 2025



When a complaint is brought before the Court, the juvenile and parent are to appear at an initial hearing. The next step would be a pretrial hearing and then a trial could be held. At any time during this process, the juvenile may admit to the charge or may be found to be a Delinquent or Unruly child at the trial.

In 2025, the Juvenile Court had 9 Delinquent Child adjudications.

In 2025, the Juvenile Court had 1 Unruly Child adjudication.

## FELONY ADJUDICATIONS

The Court handled 4 felony level adjudications in 2025.

- Failure to comply w/ order of a police officer (F-3)
- Carrying a concealed weapon (F-4)
- Assault (F-4)
- Rape (F-1)

Of the 4 delinquent child adjudications, 3 were male youth and 1 was a female youth.

## HABITUAL DISOBEDIENCE

Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.022(A): Any child who does not submit to the reasonable control of the child's parents, teachers, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient.

3 Habitual Disobedience complaints or referrals were received in 2025.

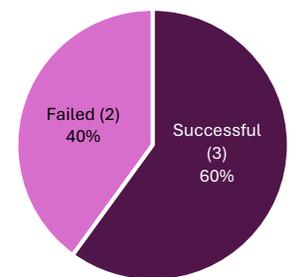
## HABITUAL TRUANCY

Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.022(B): Any child who is a habitual truant from school.

7 Habitual Truancy complaints or referrals were received in 2025.

Of those received, 6 were referred to the Diversion Program (an alternative to adjudication).

Truancy Diversion Results



1 truancy diversion case was still pending completion the end of 2025.  
No failed truancy diversion cases were adjudicated in 2025.

## MISDEMEANOR ADJUDICATIONS

The Court handled 5 delinquency misdemeanor level adjudications in 2025.

Charges include:

- Disorderly Conduct (2)
- Domestic Violence (1)
- Underage Alcohol Consumption (1)
- Probation Violation (1)

The Court was excited to add a new position to its staff, a dual role of Youth Support Specialist & Court Investigator. Ms. Megan Miller was hired in September 2025.

# YOUTH SUPPORT SPECIALIST



Megan's role as the Youth Support Specialist is to serve as a prevention-focused liaison between the Juvenile Court, school districts within the county, families and community agencies.

The position emphasizes early intervention for at-risk youth exhibiting chronic absenteeism, behavioral and academic concerns. The goal is to address barriers the youth are experiencing prior to formal Court involvement becoming necessary, reduce truancy filings from the schools and improve student stability and engagement in the school environment.

***Through school-based collaboration and family-centered intervention, tools are put in place to enhance accountability of the youth and family and provide necessary resource connections.***

## PROGRAM IMPACT

- **87% of students** *improved attendance* in the Middle School.
- 5 students **moved out of chronic absenteeism** in the Middle School.
- **85% of students** *improved attendance* in the High School.
- 11 students **moved out of chronic absenteeism** in the High School.

## SERVICES

**Direct Youth Interventions:** individual student meetings, goal setting plans, behavior monitoring and diversion planning.

**Family Interventions:** parent conferences and attendance review meetings, home visits, linking families to resources, parenting education and parent accountability planning.

**School Collaboration:** absence team meetings, TBT & PBIS meetings, IEP/504 coordination & support, school attendance hearings, behavior intervention planning, ongoing communication with administrators, guidance counselors and attendance officers.

**Court Coordination:** pre-filing diversion, status offense prevention, probation collaboration, court-ordered compliance monitoring and documentation/case summaries.

**Community Resource Connections:** counseling referrals, housing/food assistance, transportation, substance use services.

Referrals  
(attendance & behavioral)  
received in 2025:

Elementary (1)

Middle School (11)

High School (37)

Online Learning (16)

Most referrals involved students identified as chronically absent under state attendance law with compounding factors such as mental health, family conflict, transportation barriers and unmet basic needs.

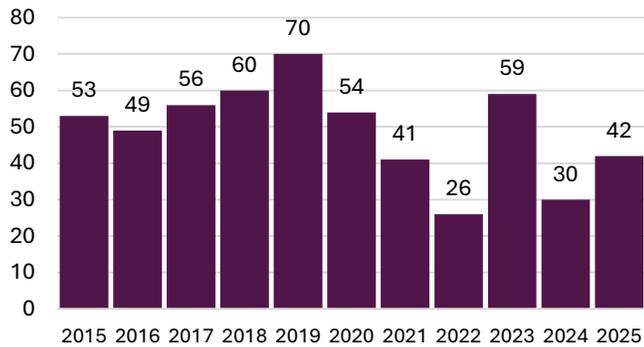
**29 of 31 youth**  
were diverted from having  
their case filed with the  
Juvenile Court.



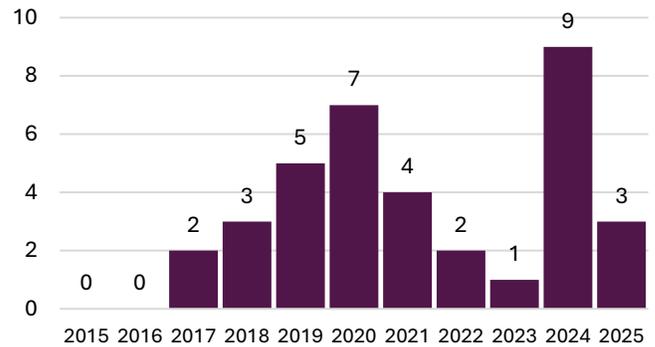
## COURT INVESTIGATOR

More information related to the Court Investigator position on Page 13.

**DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT OR ABUSE**  
cases filed from 2015 to 2025



**PERMANENT CUSTODY**  
motions filed from 2015 to 2025



**DEPENDENT CHILD** Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.04

As used in this chapter, “dependent child” includes any child:

- (A) Who is homeless or destitute or without adequate parental care, through no fault of the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian;
- (B) Who lacks adequate parental care by reason of the mental or physical condition of the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian;
- (C) Whose condition or environment is such as to warrant the state, in the interests of the child, in assuming the child’s guardianship;
- (D) To whom both of the following apply:
  - (1) The child is residing in a household in which a parent, guardian, custodian, or other member of the household committed an act that was the basis for an adjudication that a sibling of the child or any other child who resides in the household is abused, neglected, or dependent child.
  - (2) Because of the circumstances surrounding the abuse, neglect, or dependency of the sibling or other child and the other conditions in the household of the child, the child is in danger of being abused or neglected by that parent, guardian, custodian, or member of the household.

**NEGLECTED CHILD** Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.03

- (A) As used in this chapter, “neglected child” includes any child:
  - (1) Who is abandoned by the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian;
  - (2) Who lacks adequate parental care because of the faults or habits of the child’s parents, guardian, or custodian;
  - (3) Whose parents, guardian, or custodian neglects the child or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, education, medical or surgical care or treatment, or other care necessary for the child’s health, morals, or well being;
  - (4) Whose parents, guardian, or custodian neglects the child or refuses to provide the special care made necessary by the child’s mental condition;

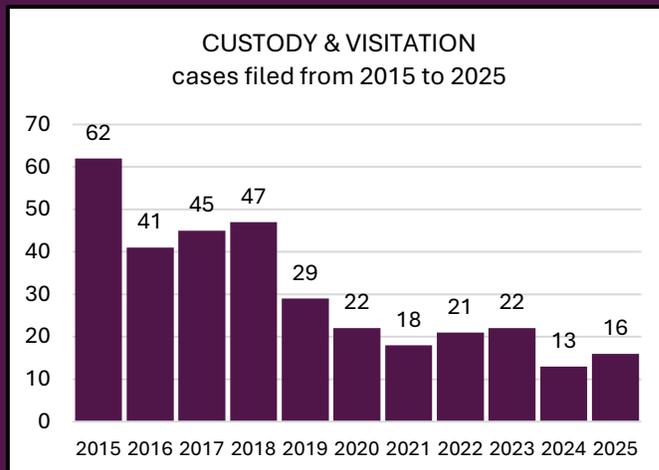
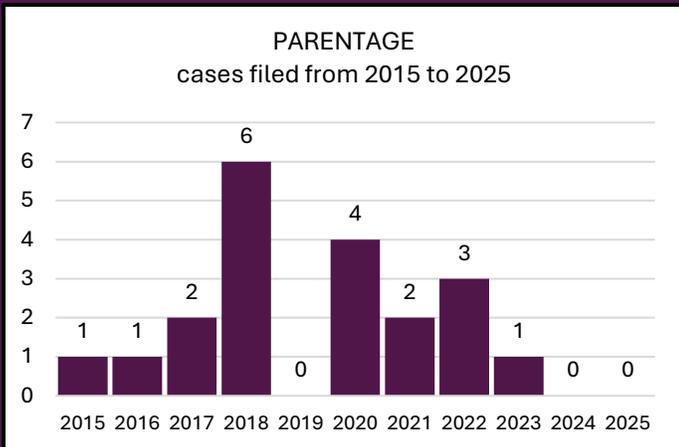
**ABUSED CHILD** Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.031

As used in this chapter, an “abused child” includes any child who:

- (A) Is the victim of “sexual activity” as defined under Chapter 2907 of the ORC...
- (B) Is the victim of disseminating, obtaining, or displaying “materials” or “performances” that are “harmful to juveniles” as defined under Chapter 2907 of the ORC...
- (C) Is endangered as defined in Sec. 2919.22 of the ORC...
- (D) Exhibits evidence of any physical or mental injury or death, inflicted other than by accidental means, or an injury or death which is at variance with the history given of it...
- (E) Because of the acts of the child’s parents, guardian, custodian, or caretaker, suffers physical or mental injury that harms or threatens to harm the child’s health or welfare.
- (F) Is subjected to out-of-home care child abuse.

Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23(A)(2):

“The juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction under the Revised Code... to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another court of this state.”



Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23(B)(2):

“... the juvenile court has original jurisdiction under the Revised Code... to determine the paternity of any child alleged to have been born out of wedlock...”

# CUSTODY, VISITATION, PARENTAGE

The Court Investigator conducts neutral, fact-finding investigations in private custody matters when **appointed by the Court**. The purpose of the investigation is to *provide the Court with objective information regarding the child's living environment, parental functioning, any potential safety concerns and information related to the overall best interests of the child.*

Investigations may include interviews, home visits, collateral contacts, and review of provider records. The investigator does not advocate for either party but provides the Court with an impartial summary of findings to assist the Court in custody determinations.

Custody investigations provide the Court with information that is not otherwise available during testimony alone. The investigative process allows for direct observation of the child's environment and functioning across settings.

The Court investigators report may alleviate the need for additional hearings and helps minimize ongoing parental conflict by **providing clear, child-focused recommendations.**

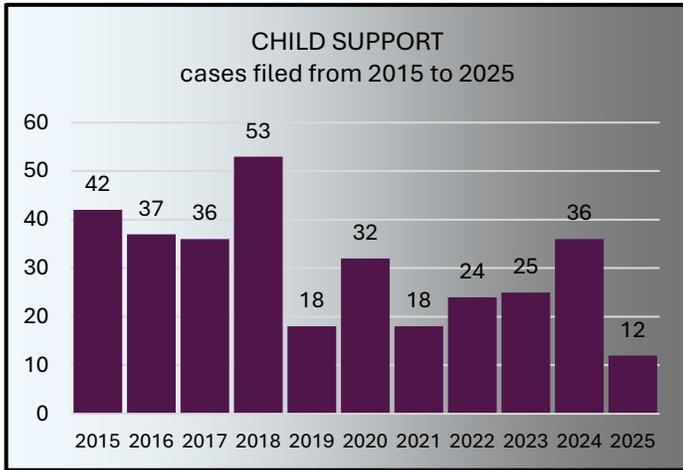
## COURT INVESTIGATOR

*In proceedings pertaining to the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of a child, pursuant to ORC SEC. 3109.04(C) and Juvenile Rule 32(D), the Court Investigator shall investigate the character, health, family relations, past conduct, present living conditions, earning ability, and financial worth of the parties by interviewing appropriate parties, obtaining and reviewing records and other information, and conducting home visits.*

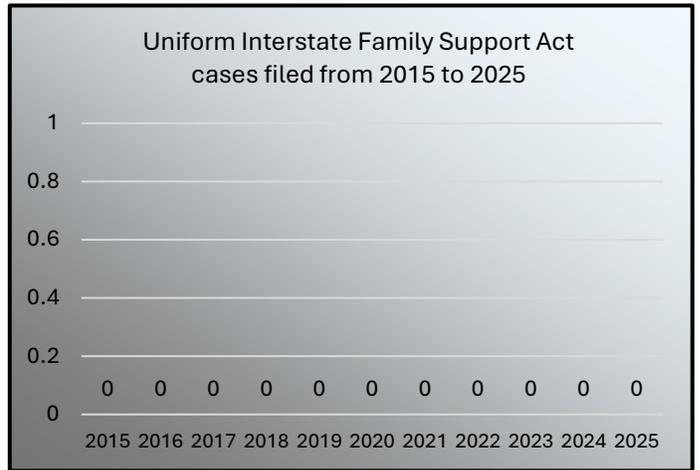
### DUTIES

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Parent Interviews                       | Prepare report of investigation   |
| Child Interviews                        | Testify at Trial regarding report |
| Home Inspections                        | Maintain confidentiality          |
| School/Provider Contacts                | Maintain referral resources       |
| Observation of Parent-Child Interaction | Perform drug testing of parties   |
|   | Attend trainings                  |

# CHILD SUPPORT

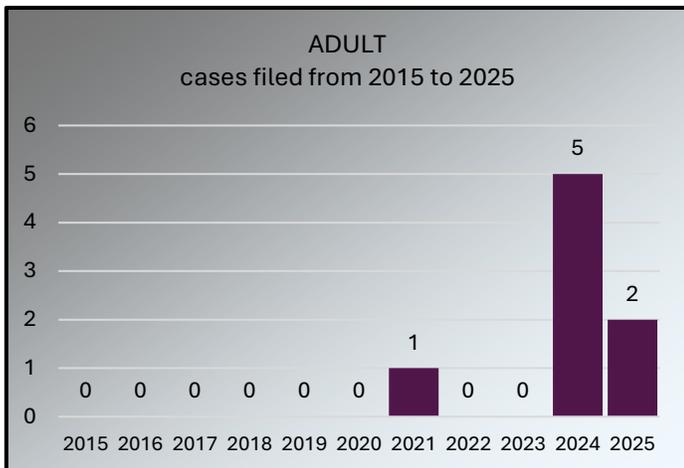


# U.I.F.S.A.

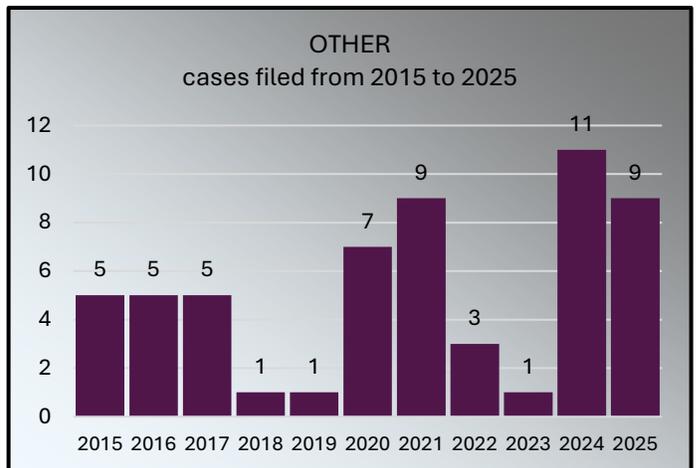


- CHILD SUPPORT cases received are typically filed by the Holmes County Child Support Enforcement Agency (HCCSEA) to be enforced by the Court.
- ADULT cases are filed for those who are 18 years of age or older, which include charges such as Failure to Send Child to School and Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor.
- OTHER cases category encompasses a variety of cases heard in Juvenile Court such as Grandparent Power of Attorney (POA), Tobacco offenses, Department of Youth Services (DYS) Parole Violations, Consent to Marry, Judicial Bypass, Search Warrants, etc.

# ADULT

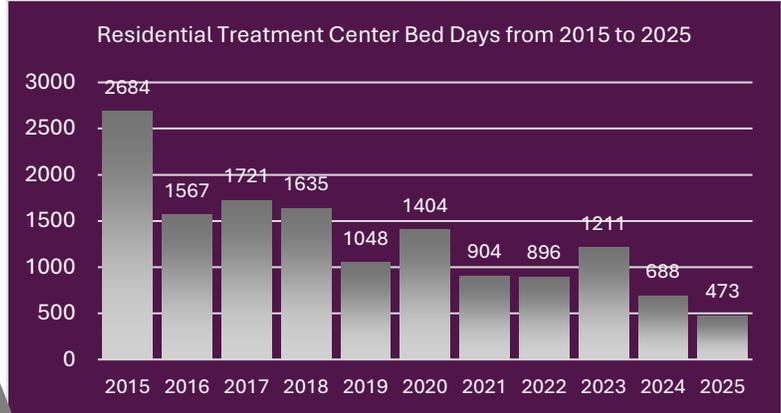


# OTHER



The Court strives to achieve its purpose while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents **only when necessary** for his or her welfare or the interest of public safety.

In 2025, the Court utilized Residential Treatment Centers for a total of 473 bed days for placements.



**Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities (ODYS)** – ODYS is the Juvenile corrections system for the State of Ohio. It is statutorily mandated that only felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated, can be committed to ODYS by one of Ohio’s 88 county Juvenile Courts. Commitment is at the discretion of each Court’s Judge.

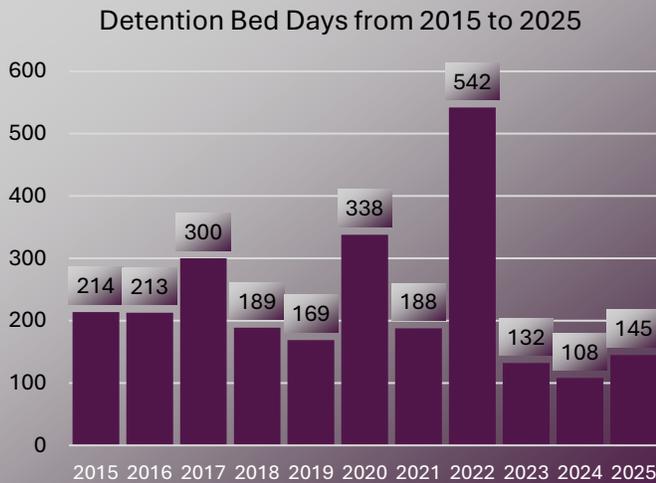
# OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

**RECLAIM (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors)** is an Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) initiative that provides funding for juvenile courts to *develop and implement local alternatives to detention, emphasizing community-based services and family involvement.*

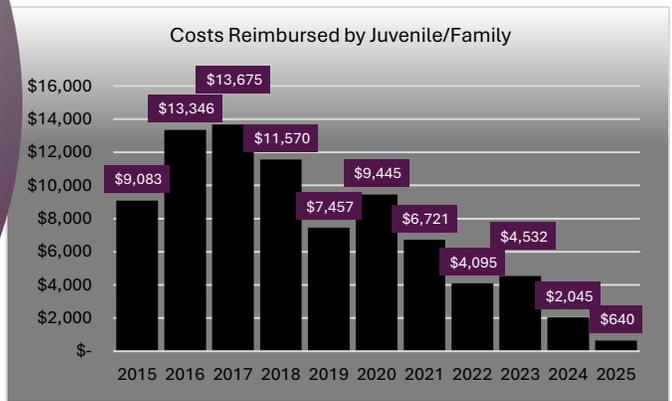
## NO JUVENILES FROM HOLMES COUNTY WERE COMMITTED TO AN ODYS FACILITY IN 2025.

The parents/legal custodians of the juveniles are ordered to pay the costs of detention. The Juvenile Court pursues collection of these costs and reimburses the county the money collected. Detention costs may be waived or reduced after a review of the parent(s)/custodian(s) finances.

Collections of costs for detention reimbursement began in 2011.



As of the end of 2025, the county has been reimbursed a total of \$119,901.56 towards said detention costs.



In 2025, Holmes County used 145 detention bed days.

The detention costs collected in 2025, which amount to \$640.00, represent the reimbursement of approximately 6 detention bed days.

# YOUTH SERVICES GRANT R.E.C.L.A.I.M

Reasoned Equitable Community & Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors

The Youth Services Grant/RECLAIM are State subsidized programs designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders.

The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

In Fiscal Year 2025  
(covering the period of 7/1/24 through 6/30/25)

Holmes County Juvenile Court received

**\$209,758.67**

with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

The amount received from the Department of Youth Services is based on a formula prescribed by **Ohio Revised Code Section 5139**. Factors included in that formula are the *number of felony adjudications* for the County and for the State over the past four-year period.

The amount allocated to the County based on the prescribed formula is then debited by an amount based upon the *number of bed days which the County has used* in Department of Youth Services institutional and community correctional facilities. Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried over for funding of additional or continuing programs in coming years.

## GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS

Juvenile Probation  
Juvenile Diversion Program  
Anchor Mentoring Program  
G.R.I.T. Athletics Program  
Parenting Mentoring Program  
Grant Administration

### USES OF GRANT FUNDS INCLUDE:

- Wages and benefits for 2 Probation Officers and the Probation Secretary
- Cellular phone service and equipment upgrades for Probation Officers
  - Drug Testing
  - Electronic Monitoring
  - Restitution
  - Youth Incentives
  - Background Checks
  - Office Supplies
  - Mileage Reimbursement
  - Case Management
  - Licensing/Support
- New Laptops for Probation Officers
- Contract Coordinator Expense
- Training and Conference Registration Fees
- Lodging, parking, etc. associated with trainings and conferences.

# BUDGET

The Juvenile Court's annual operational budget through the General Fund is approved by the Holmes County Commissioners. **In 2025, the budget for Juvenile Court was \$587,700.00.**

In addition to the General Fund and the RECLAIM grant, the Court has Special Projects Funds and Computerization Funds, collected as part of each case filing fee, with which it can utilize for new technology and projects needed for its daily operations.

## GENERAL FUND

Juvenile & Probate Court General Fund monies provide for the majority of the Court's expenses:

- Employee salaries
- Case Management System annual support & maintenance
- Copier/Printer lease & copy expense
- Postage
- Registration fees for trainings and conferences
- Membership fees for Associations
- Cellular service and equipment upgrades
- Indigent expenses (psychological evaluations, Guardian ad litem fees, Interpreter fees, etc.)
- Foreign Judge expense (mileage & compensation)
- Attorney fees in Mental Illness cases
- Office supplies & equipment
- Microfilm supplies and shipping/handling
- Court pleading paper, stationary & envelopes
- Marriage License Certificates and accompanying documents
- Document destruction (shredding)
- Printed legal materials
- Information Technology Services & Support
- Travel expenses (lodging, parking, tolls, meals & mileage reimbursement) for trainings/conferences
- Pooled funding obligation
- Probation Department equipment
- Vehicle maintenance & fuel
- Purchase of used vehicle from other department
- Robe & Name Placard for new Magistrate

## SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

Special Projects Funds were used for expenses related to the Court's therapy dog program. These expenses include grooming, veterinarian, medication, licensing, registrations and food.

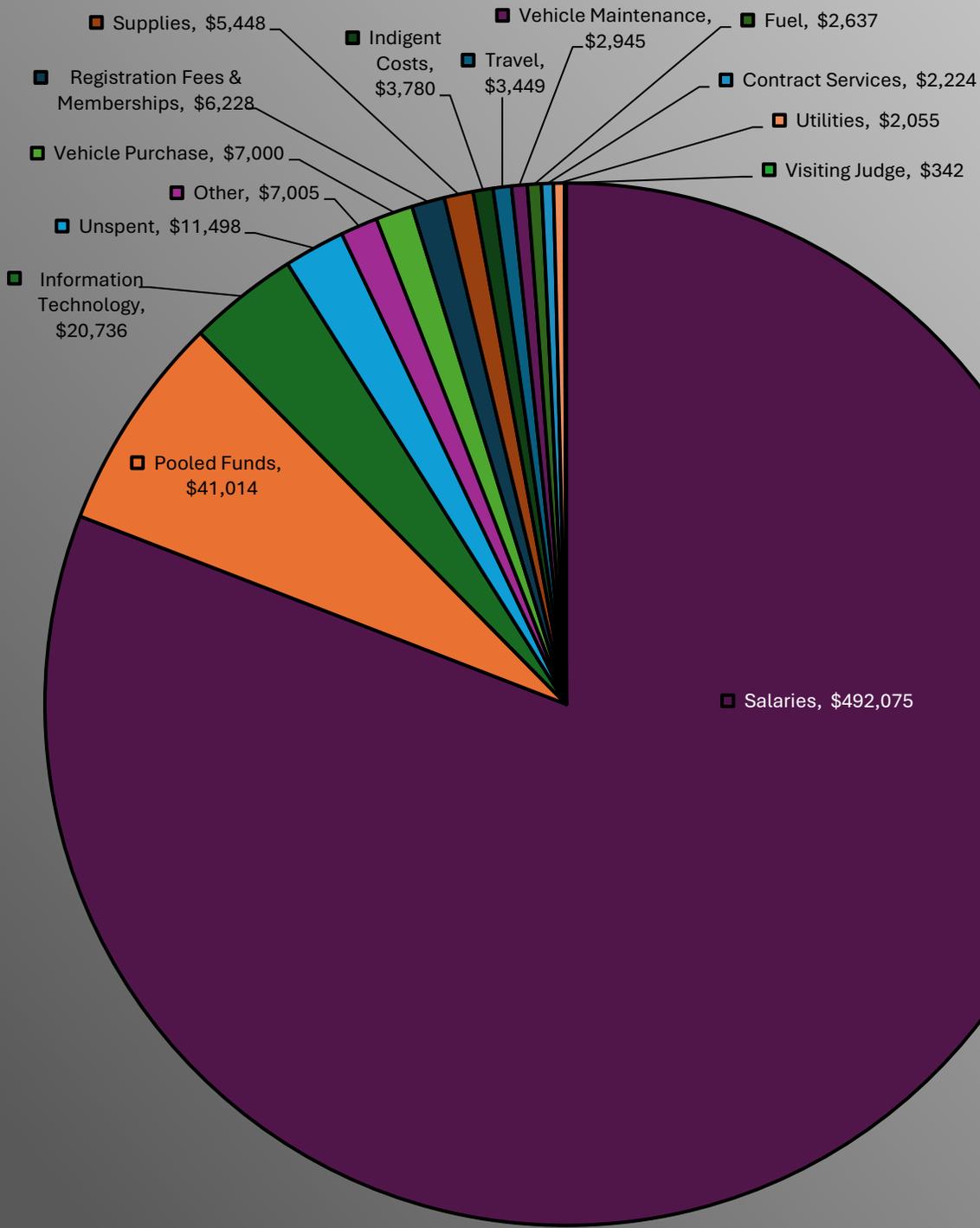
A water cooler rental & water for staff is also purchased using these funds.

## COMPUTERIZATION FUND

Computerization Funds were used for expenses such as:

- Text message reminders for parties of upcoming hearings.
- Probation Department case management system annual licensing and support.
- Laptop for the Youth Support Specialist & Court Investigator position.
- TeamSnap Subscription for managing the G.R.I.T. Athletics Program scheduling.
- Off-site media storage for microfilm & annual service contract for camera unit.
- Adobe DC Standard license renewal for Court Administrator.
- A new computer monitor for a Probation Officer.
- Zoom Video licensing for virtual court testimony and appearances.
- Support & Maintenance for the courtroom's recording system.
- New computer station for Driving Assessments.
- Desktop scanners for imaging of court documents.

## 2025 General Fund Expenses



Total Budget: \$587,700.00

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Staff are an asset** to the daily operations of the Court. The laws and rules in Ohio are continuously changing. Continuing legal education and training are essential to staying compliant with the most current laws. *Training is crucial for individual growth, skills, performance and overall success.* It provides career advancement opportunities and boosts confidence and overall efficiency of the Court.



WEBINARS are a convenient way that Court staff can attend trainings, roundtables and legislative updates without having the travel expense associated with on-site presentations. Several Juvenile Court staff participated throughout the year in online professional development.

## CONFERENCES & TRAININGS

attended in 2025

### FEBRUARY

- Ohio Chief Probation Officers (OCPOA) Webinar – attended by Chief Probation Officer

### MARCH

- Child Custody (Domestic Relations and Juvenile) Spring Seminar – attended by Judge & Magistrate
- InterCourt Conference – attended by Magistrate, Chief Probation Officer and 2 Probation Officers

### APRIL

- Ohio Chapter of Association of Family & Conciliation Innovations Conference – attended by Magistrate
- Ohio Association of Magistrates (OAM) Spring Conference – attended by Magistrate

### MAY

- Mental Health & Recovery Board (MHRB) Conference – attended by Chief Probation Officer

### JULY

- Ethics Training: Boundary Issues & Multiple Relationships in Real World – attended by Chief Probation Officer
- Juvenile Court Clerks Association Conference – attended by Deputy Clerk and Court Administrator

### AUGUST

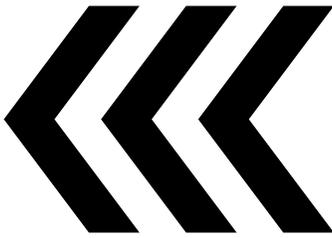
- Council for Boys & Men Facilitator Training – attended by Chief Probation Officer

### SEPTEMBER

- Ohio Magistrate Association (OAM) Fall Conference – attended by Magistrate
- Ohio Judicial Conference Annual Meeting – attended by Judge

### OCTOBER

- Ohio Association of Court Administrators Fall Conference – attended by Court Administrator
- Ohio Bailiffs & Court Officers Association Fall Conference – attended by Bailiff
- Girls Circle Facilitator Training – attended by Probation Officer



The Probation Department of the Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, of Holmes County, consists of a Chief of Probation, 2 Probation Officers and a Probation Secretary. The Chief and 2 Probation Officers each manage their own caseload assigned to them.

# JUVENILE PROBATION

In order to be an effective, knowledgeable operation it is vital to be involved with the schools, law enforcement and the community as much as possible in order to properly supervise those involved with Probation and/or Diversion services.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Monitoring youth involved with the Probation or Diversion programs or those under Court supervision.
- Attending ongoing education and training sessions.
- Writing and filing reports.
- Public speaking.
- Filing violations of law/court orders through the Prosecutor's office.
- Utilizing arrest authority when appropriate
- Testifying in court hearings.

Rehabilitation of the juvenile offender is our objective through accountability, responsibility, treatment, incentivizing and supervision.

However, the public safety and welfare are also considered when deciding the appropriate action to be taken.

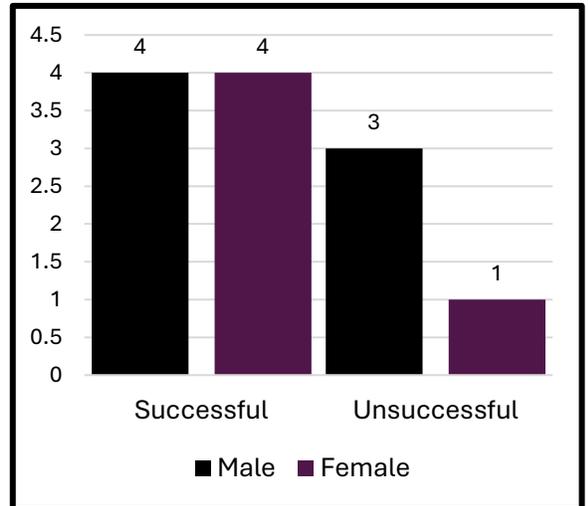
Probation Officers work closely and regularly with the Prosecutor's Office, schools, police, community, and the various support agencies in the county. Attempts are made to have personal "face to face" contact with not only those on Probation or in the Diversion program, but all agencies with which this department has a business relationship.

It is also the utmost importance that the Probation Officers know the environments of those they supervise and the issues the youth face daily. An increase in use of illegal substances, deterioration in parental supervision and lack of positive home environments are the primary reasons more youth become involved in the criminal justice system.

# PROBATION RESULTS

2 new juveniles were placed on Probation in 2025.  
2 male  
0 female

12 juveniles completed Probation in 2025.



All youth are assessed with the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) to measure the risk of recidivism. Youth assessed as "Moderate" or "High" to recidivate are provided with Evidence Based Programs to help reduce their risk.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising community service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a youth to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by their behavior as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience.

In 2025,  
a total of **250.6 hours**  
were completed by **14 juveniles** for their  
community service commitment. At a minimum  
wage rate of \$10.70 per hour, those hours  
represent services **valued at \$2,681.42**  
to the Holmes County Community.



# THERAPY DOG

Marlee is certified as a therapy dog through The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dog Organization, a national certification accepted through American Kennel Club. She has been an integral part of the Court since July 2023.

**NAMI Wayne and Holmes Counties**  
3d · 📍

🌟 Volunteer Spotlight 🌟

Today we're excited to recognize Rachel Cornell and therapy dog, Marlee for the incredible comfort and calm they bring to MOCA House through NAMI 🤍

Since February 2025, Rachel and Marlee have been volunteering their time to help individuals feel more at ease and supported through the simple, powerful presence of animal therapy. Whether it's a gentle moment of calm or a smile sparked by Marlee's companionship, their visits make a meaningful difference.

👉 "Volunteering with NAMI allows Marlee and I the opportunity to support mental wellness and provide comfort to individuals. It's rewarding to see how Marlee's presence helps brighten someone's day and reminds them they're not alone."

We are so grateful for Rachel's dedication and for Marlee's loving heart. Thank you both for being such a beautiful part of the NAMI community! 🤍🐾

#VolunteerSpotlight #ThankYouVolunteers  
#NAMI #MentalHealthMatters  
#AnimalTherapy #MOCAHouse



In 2025, Marlee spent **70 hours** working alongside youth on Probation or in the Diversion Program.

She provides comfort and support both at the courthouse and throughout the community. She has attended Court hearings, visits schools, residential facilities, assists with transporting juveniles to services and participates in wrap around meetings with agencies dedicated to helping our youth succeed.

Marlee helps bring a sense of calm, fosters connection and offers comfort to youth and families throughout their involvement with the Court.

Marlee and handler, Rachel Cornell, also visit different facilities in Wayne and Holmes counties such as nursing homes and MOCA House w/ National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to provide comfort to community members of all ages.

Marlee spent **10 hours** working within the community.

## COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Megan M. Hoxworth, CCM



Megan has been in her role as the Court Administrator for Probate & Juvenile Court for 4 years. She graduated from the National Court Management Program through the National Center for State Courts & the Supreme Court of Ohio in 2019.

Megan began working for the Juvenile Court in 2012 as a Deputy Clerk and was promoted to Chief Deputy Clerk in 2016.

She is the mother of 3 sons (age 16, 15 and 11), 2 amazing dogs (Pasha & Olive) and 3 cats (Tucker, Lucy & Francine).



## CLERK'S CORNER



Deputy Clerks play a crucial role in supporting the operations of the Court. **They maintain the records of the Court** and process documents as they are received. Clerical tasks include filing, docketing, processing payments, preparing summons/hearing notices and handling customer inquiries.

- **Tammy Miller (L)** has been with the Court for 2 years. She handles the Child Support and Custody/Visitation cases.
- **Kristi Walton (C)** has been with the Court for 7 years. She handles the Delinquent, Unruly & Traffic cases and manages the front desk.
- **Malori Snyder (R)** has been with the Court for 4 years. She handles the Dependency, Neglect, Abuse cases.

# RESOURCES

8

Youth/Families were served through this program in 2025.

## POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM (TRIPLE P)

The goal of Triple P is to empower the caregivers with the skills to manage the youth's current behaviors and any new behaviors that might arise, as well as to be able to apply those skills to other youth in the home.



Referrals are made for a variety of services that are available in the community to the youth and their families through the Probation and Diversion Programs. The Judge or Magistrate may also order a youth to participate in these services as part of their disposition (sentence).

**2025 COMPLETIONS**  
6 youth/families  
4 successful  
1 unsuccessful  
1 neutral

## PARENTING MENTORING PROGRAM

The Holmes County Juvenile Court implements services through Catholic Charities. Participating youth meet some if not all of the following criteria:

- At risk of out-of-home placement or returning from out-of-home placement.
  - Multiple system involvement.
  - Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) willing and committed to participating in the program.
    - Previously failed treatment attempts.
    - Significant history of involvement with the juvenile justice system.



These services occur in the families' natural environment (home, school, community) and *include the families' support system* (relatives, friends, neighbors, etc.). Families have access to Triple P therapist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for crisis situations.

Throughout the duration of participation, the therapist stays in close communication with the youth's Probation Officer and/or other key participants, through regular phone calls and meetings.

Determining when the youth has successfully completed the program is a collaborative decision between Catholic Charities, Probation Officer, youth, parents and other support systems that may be involved. In making the decision, the team determines if the treatment goals (referral behaviors) have been achieved for at least 3-4 weeks, and if *the family is able to effectively manage any future problems with success.*

## INSTRUMENTAL OUTCOMES

- Evidence the primary caregiver has improved the parenting skills necessary for handling subsequent problems;
- Evidence of improved family relations
- Improved network of informal social supports;
- Evidence of success in an educational setting;
- Youth involved with prosocial peers and activities;
- Changes in behavior of the youth and in the systems contributing to the referral behaviors have been sustained for 3-4 weeks.

*Other resources used include the IMPACT Adolescent Sexual Behavior Program, Sexting/Boundaries Program, Ohio MEANS Jobs Youth Employment Program, Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT), Drug & Alcohol Program, Anger Management, and Individual Counseling.*



**GROWTH  
RESILIENCE  
INTEGRITY  
TRANSFORMATION**

The Holmes County Juvenile Court in coordination with 9:24 CrossFit, invites youth to lead an active and healthy lifestyle. Whether new to fitness or already loves to move, the G.R.I.T. Athletics program offers a supportive environment to grow stronger physically, mentally, and socially. This program is geared towards helping youth build confidence and develop a lifelong drive for staying active.

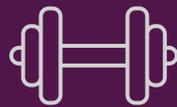
*Our Mission is to help children and students realize their potential and become better versions of themselves.*

**STATS: PROGRAM BEGAN OCTOBER 2025**

21 Youth participated in the program in 2025.  
A total of 179 individual sessions of CrossFit occurred.  
8 youth participated in 10+ more sessions.

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Brody Williams manages incoming referrals of youth in the program, provides transportation and participates in each CrossFit session (2 days per week) with the youth. The owners of 9:24 CrossFit in Holmes County lead, coach and work with the students and have trauma informed training.



**BENEFITS**

- Supports mental health & builds lifelong healthy habits.
- Enhances academic performance.
- Reduces risky behavior.
- Individualized goals & programming.
- Gym equipment provided.
- Gift certificates & plaques for participation.



**2025 STATS**

4 Active Mentor/Mentee Matches  
4 Active Volunteers  
2 Youth Waiting for Match

Anchor Mentoring (formerly “Connections”) is a community-based program designed to **provide guidance, encouragement, and support to youth** ages 6-18 who may be at risk or in need of a positive role model.

**MISSION**

To empower young people to make healthy choices, build confidence, and develop skills that prepare them for a successful future.

The volunteer mentor’s role is multi-faceted, enriching children’s lives and addressing their need for a positive adult contact. It includes a commitment to directly relate with the child for 2-4 hours per month for a period of 12 months.

Through a professionally supported relationship with a caring adult, children will be assisted in reaching their highest potential as they grow into responsible adults.



**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Rachel Cornell presents the program to the community to provide awareness and secure volunteers as mentors. She provides support to mentors and children on a regular basis. Training and advice are provided to ensure the match is satisfying and fulfilling for all involved.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

These youth are served by compassionate residents of Holmes County and are being exposed to learning new life skills, improved self-esteem, and a consistent example of positive family life.