

2016 Annual Report



**Steven R. Bird, Judge
Williams County Probate/Juvenile Court
Bryan, Ohio**

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Court Personnel



**The Hon. Steven R. Bird
Probate/Juvenile Judge
Serving since 1997**



**Karen K. Gallagher, Magistrate
Serving since May 2016**

Williams County Probate/Juvenile Court & Probation Staff



Jerry Stollings, JD, MA
Juvenile Court Administrator
2 years of service

Holly A. Schlosser, CCM
Probate Court Administrator
19 years of service

Alan L. Dietrich, B.A.
Probation Officer/Bailiff
16 years of service

Holly M. Dye
Family Intervention Court
Coordinator
Hired in 2016

**Deborah L. Willis,
B.S., LSW**
Probation Officer
21 years of service

John Karacson
Probation Officer
School Attendance
Officer
2 years of service

Michael Polley
Probation Officer
School Attendance
Officer
2 years of service

Lori J. Price-Hull,
Diversion Counselor
Hired in 2016

Holly L. Doseck
Deputy Clerk/Bookkeeper
33 years of service

Camilla Miller
Deputy Clerk/Secretary
15 years of service

Karissa Jagers
Assistant Deputy Clerk
2 years of service

Cynthia J. Schultz
Deputy Clerk
6 years of service

Deanne Batterson
Deputy Clerk
3 years of service

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!!

Statement of Judicial Philosophy

The Juvenile Court has the responsibility to carry out its functions with compassion and concern for the well-being of both the juvenile and the communities in which they live. To that end, the administration of justice should be handled in a fair, impartial, and efficient manner.

The Juvenile Court is charged with providing for the care; protection; and mental, emotional, and physical development of children; protecting the public interest through provision of programs for the supervision, care and rehabilitation of youth. This goal is the same whether the youth has been adjudicated unruly, delinquent, abused, neglected, or dependent. All of this must be achieved within the context of the family whenever possible, while at the same time providing for judicial procedures within the system of due process. When necessary these goals may have to be achieved outside the context of the family. The changing nature of the communities and society in which we live has made these goals both more important and more difficult.

In order to adapt to these changing needs, the court must develop a variety of tools for administering justice. These can best be accomplished by working with the community and its schools, parents, and organizations to identify and understand the challenges our youth are facing. Creative and innovative solutions must be sought out to address the changing needs of our youth and communities. To the extent possible, these needs should be met within the context of the communities in which our youth live, attend school, and will eventually work and raise families.

The Juvenile Court must meet the children where it finds them, intervene when necessary, and address the problems with energy and commitment. We cannot afford to merely pass the problems on to the adult system. We cannot allow our frustration with the complexity of the problems to overwhelm the system we have put in place. It is the court's responsibility to confront these problems head-on and seek to find more effective solutions.

Judge Steven R. Bird's 2016 Report

Each year brings unique challenges and opportunities and 2016 was no different. As in the past, it has been a year of saying farewell to the old and welcoming in the new.

Magistrate David P. Rupp retired from his role with the Court in June of 2016 after 9 years of service as Magistrate. David served the court and the people of Williams County with great wisdom, expertise and kindness and he will be missed. Thank you to David for your years of faithful service to the people of Williams County.

Even as David left us we welcome Karen Gallagher as our new Magistrate. Karen comes to us from private practice where she served for many years in a diverse practice of law. Karen has distinguished herself in the area of Domestic Relations Law in addition to being well versed in both Probate and Juvenile practice and procedure.

During her first year, Magistrate Gallagher spearheaded updating and revising the Joint Local Rules for Juvenile Court. She also assisted in the training of the Caseflow Management Team for Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Cases. This effort, kicked off by the Ohio Supreme Court *Summit on Caseflow Management* in the spring culminated in a joint training with Williams County Department of Job and Family Services Children's Services and Williams County Juvenile Court staff in the fall. These efforts have helped to improve understanding of the roles of each of the entities and to improve outcomes for the families we serve. See the Magistrate's Report that follows for additional highlights of Magistrate Gallagher's work.

The Northwest Ohio Reclaiming Futures (NORF) initiative also had a productive year. In the spring of 2016 Williams County and its partner counties, Defiance and Henry, met with our consultant from the Reclaiming Futures National Program Office to develop a Strategic Plan for Implementation. Over three days we developed a strategy for moving NORF from an idea to a reality.

In conjunction with that process, each county sent a team to the annual National Conference on Reclaiming Futures in April and again to the conference for Judicial Fellows and Project Directors in November. These trainings provide expert guidance in implementation of the ideals of Reclaiming Futures as well as opportunities to interact with our counterparts from across the county. We are grateful for the grant funding that makes these and many other innovations possible.

This year also saw the rollout of a new initiative for handling substance abuse and other cases that screen low risk, by using the Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Model. This treatment model recognizes that offenders who are successful with their treatment are far less likely to reoffend. By taking the opportunity to refer to treatment and incentivize success by using SBIRT as a Diversion from the traditional Delinquency track, offenders who are successful in treatment can emerge without a Juvenile Delinquency Record. We are hopeful that this and other aspects of the Reclaiming Futures Model will work to redirect the lives of the youth that come before the Court.

Steven R. Bird, Judge

Magistrate Karen K. Gallagher's 2016 Report

Since my appointment in May 2016, I have had many people ask what is the role of a Magistrate in the legal system? It is a good question to ask considering Williams County has multiple Judges elected by the voters in the county, but only one Magistrate. A Magistrate is an attorney licensed in the State of Ohio and appointed by a Judge, to conduct hearings, trials and to decide those cases. In general, Magistrates are appointed to conduct hearings and preside over cases that include civil, criminal, domestic relations, probate and juvenile issues. By assigning cases to a Magistrate, the Court's case-flow is managed to ensure that the parties have the opportunity to have their cases heard in a timely manner. Magistrates are required to follow the code of ethical standards and other rules set by the Supreme Court of Ohio, that regulate the judiciary.

As Magistrate for the Common Pleas Court, I serve the General Division and the Juvenile and Probate Divisions. This presents a wide variety of cases that I am able to preside over. I have found that my thirty years of experience as an attorney in private practice has prepared me well for this position.

In 2016, we have followed Judge Bird's lead in placing an emphasis on assisting families in building a strong and stable foundation. As the number of unmarried individuals having children has increased, we strive not only to have children placed in healthy environments, but also to help the parents by providing resource guides, parenting classes and conflict management. When we assist these individuals we are building stronger families, which in turn enriches our community.

During the last half of the year, we made administrative changes which included revising the Local Juvenile Court Rules, more intensive training of home investigators and changing the Court's mandated parenting class which is attended by the individuals that appear in Court. We established a procedure to identify Veterans that appear in Court and we are working cooperatively with Veterans Services to ensure that the Veterans are aware of all services that they and their family are entitled to receive.

In May 2016 The Ohio Supreme Court provided a \$75,000.00 grant to the Common Pleas Court of Williams County to fund "Parent Coordination and Early Neutral Evaluation: Alternate Paths to Access to Justice". This grant is administered through Williams County for the benefit of our county and five surrounding counties. The use of this process in parentage and custody cases has been successful and a benefit to parents and children.

As we look back on 2016, we saw Magistrate David Rupp retire. David was appointed in July 2007 and served in this position for nine years. He was dedicated and served Williams County well during his tenure. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well.

We are looking forward to 2017 and continuing our goal to have a positive and lasting impact on families.

Karen K. Gallagher, Magistrate

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

(1997)

The Juvenile Probation Department is part of the Williams County Juvenile Court. The fundamental purpose of the department is to implement the orders of the Court.

The goal of the Probation Department is to concentrate on reducing delinquency among juveniles and its effects on the community. This goal is achieved by providing services to adolescents and their families through programming that emphasizes the traditional ideals of family, school, and community as the basis for human development.

To this end, the Juvenile Probation Department is committed to serve the citizens and youth of Williams County.

Probation Department Services

Intake

Complaints and police reports filed with the Court are processed through Intake to determine whether the case should be diverted to the Court's Diversion Counselor or scheduled for an official hearing before the Judge.

There were 259 complaints/police reports logged through Intake in 2016. Of those, 150 were referred for official hearing.

Diversion

The goal of the Diversion Program is to resolve matters with juveniles without formally involving the Court.

The Diversion Counselor worked with 126 cases in 2016 compared to 158 last year. Eighty-six (86) completed the program of which seventy-seven (77) were closed successfully. Nine (9) were referred officially to Court. Fifty-one (51) of the youth were female, eight (8) were Hispanic, and three (3) were African-American. The Court referred seventeen (17) cases to the Diversion Program.

While working with the Diversion Counselor, 93% of the youth did not have new charges filed; a percentage unchanged from last year.

Sixty-one percent of the cases closed within six months.

Unofficial Cases Filed in 2016

Offense	Males	Females	TOTALS
Ungovernable	24	17	41
Curfew	1	0	1
Truancy	27	22	49
Runaway	0	1	1
Tobacco	4	2	6
Theft	5	1	6
Disorderly Conduct	1	3	4
Criminal Trespass	3	4	7
Criminal Mischief	2	2	4
Dom. Violence	1	2	3
Assault	4	1	5
Offenses Involving Minors	0	2	2
Pandering Obscenity	7	4	11
Obstructing Official Business	1	0	1
Illegal Use of Minor in Nudity	1	0	1
Arson	2	0	2
Drug Abuse	1	0	1
Sex Texting	3	2	5
Falsification	0	2	2
Menacing	0	2	2
Disseminating Matter Harmful	0	1	1
Illegal Use/Possession of Marijuana	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Totals:	88	68	156

Official Probation

Williams County Juvenile Court is fortunate to have three probation officers with approximately 30 years of relevant experience. Two male and one female probation officer carry reporting caseloads that are a mix of adjudicated delinquents in terms of age, sex and race; level of offense; geographic location and home school. Support services are provided to the probation department by three deputy clerks with approximately 50 years of combined experience.

Drug and Alcohol Offenders

The Juvenile Court heard 24 cases in the past year that involved alcohol or drug related offenses. The Court heard dozens more cases in which alcohol and/or drugs were a contributing factor. Assessment of each youth guides the disposition of every case. Referral to Recovery Services offers community based intervention.

Several of the cases were eventually referred to Life Without Drugs. The Juvenile Detention Center offers an in-house Life Without Drugs Program (LWD), an intensive institutionally based treatment option the Court utilizes for youth with more severe substance abuse challenges. After completion of LWD, each youth is engaged in a furlough plan monitored by the Probation Department and the Court. The plan follows a protocol with close community-based supervision and regular review hearings with the Judge that provides for accountability, any modification of treatment implementation, and/or celebration.

Drug Screening

Probationers are subject to drug screening conducted by the Probation Officers. Laboratories are utilized if further verification is required. Screens are conducted through urine and saliva samples.

Sex Offender Protocol

To promote public safety, protection of victims, and consistency of accountability and treatment of the sexual offender, the Probation Department follows a Sex Offender Protocol that outlines time frames, safety and accountability measures, and treatment options while working with juvenile sex offenders in the community. The protocol is a derivative from other jurisdictions that addresses the specific needs of the local community, victims and the offenders. This protocol has proven to be an effective tool as sex offenders continue to comprise about 10% of the youth that come before the Court.

Electronic Monitoring

Advances in technology have expanded the options available for electronic monitoring. GPS systems and alcohol monitoring have proven to be useful tools to ensure compliance with court orders and treatment plans. State funding has provided electronic monitoring for appropriately screened “status” offenders to prevent or reduce the time and costs of secure detention.

Eight males and five females experienced electronic monitoring in 2016. Cost for this service is approximately \$14 per day. Alternative to Detention funds from the State of Ohio provided service for two males and two females.

On-Call Officer

A Probation Officer is available to law enforcement 24/7 for consult on juvenile matters. Probation Officers can authorize a youth’s detention or assist in determining an alternative arrangement pending a court hearing. Pre-arranged safety plans for each youth on probation are a resource utilized as an alternative to detention.

Secure Detention and Transport

Williams County had 76 total commitments to the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training, and Rehabilitation Center with 40 males and 9 females total, and 18 of the commitments were reoffenders. The County utilized 2473 bed days in 2015, compared to 1924 bed days in 2014.

The Probation Department transported 87 males and 25 females this past year. The total mileage incurred for these transports was 4887 miles. This was a significant increase from the 3322 detention transport miles in 2014 due to an increase of 27 additional transports (15 males and 12 females) as well as an increase in youth being placed out of the county. Fortunately, these transports were all conducted safely and without incident.

The Williams County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) occasionally conducts transports when Court staff is not available or needs extra assistance. When the Probation Department transports, the WCSO can attend to other duties in the county.

Community Service Program

The Community Service Program (CSP) collaborates with a variety of public service and non-profit organizations representing every municipality in the county. The cooperation from each allows young people the opportunity to "give back" to their community. No additional program funds are expended for this effort. Coordination of the program is conducted by a Probation Officer. Youth served approximately 360 hours in community service. The Court expresses its gratitude to all of the entities that make CSP possible.

Videoconferencing

Utilizing funding provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Services, the Ohio Department of Youth Services purchased and installed videoconferencing equipment in our Court in 2011 to support re-entry planning, training, meetings and hearings.

The technology saves time and reduces costs as it is used for hearings, trainings and for youth interviews with the Juvenile Residential Center in Bowling Green and other Community Correctional Facilities in the state. The videoconferencing is also utilized for family visitation to overcome transportation barriers and promote vital family connections and involvement in the treatment process.

TREATMENT SERVICES

Four County Family Services

Four County Family Services provides individual and family counseling and case management services to youth and their families. Services are designed to meet the individual needs of each case. In 2016, this agency served 26 referrals from the Juvenile Court and the Diversion Program. A majority of the treatment services occur in the home setting; overcoming transportation, child care, and other barriers that may prevent a youth and family from participating in office-based service provision. Treatment modalities include Family Systems Therapy and In-Home Based Intensive Therapy, both of which are Evidenced-Based Practices.

Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio

Youth charged with underage drinking often receive substance abuse assessment and education from Recovery Services. In addition to education, Recovery Services also provides individual and group counseling and aftercare for those on furlough from the Life Without Drugs Program conducted at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training and Rehabilitation Center. In 2016, 33 youth were referred by the Court to Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio.

Recovery Services recently implemented Integrated Health Care at the Bryan office. This provides individuals the opportunity to receive many services under one roof: medical, behavioral, pharmaceutical, integrated dual disorder treatment, case management, psychiatric, education, substance abuse services, etc. The number one priority is helping people stay physically and mentally healthy.

Other Mental Health Services

Williams County is fortunate to have a variety of resources and services available for youth and families. The Juvenile Probation Department often acts as a resource and referral guide for those seeking options or assistance. Specifically, counseling services were provided by Four County Family Center to youth at the detention center. In the community, youth used Maumee Valley Guidance Center, Dr. Diane Peters, Shalom Mediation services and other private practitioners provide services to our community's youth and families.

Tobacco Education

Tobacco citations are processed through the Juvenile Probation Department. First offenders are ordered into an education class facilitated by the Juvenile Probation Department. Successful completion of the class avoids a formal Court appearance. The Court has consistently seen the number of referrals for tobacco dropping and only four youth were referred in 2016.

VICTIM SERVICES

Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP)

The Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) provided through Shalom Ministries encourages healing and reconciliation through mediation, and focuses on accountability, responsibility, and restitution for persons in conflict with others. It exemplifies Restorative Justice at work.

Seventeen offenders and fifteen victim referrals were served by VORP in 2016. The most common types of cases referred included breaking and entering and theft.

Victim Assistance

A victim of a juvenile who has been found delinquent by a judge has particular rights as defined by the Ohio Revised Code. The Williams County Victim Assistance Services Office notifies victims of their rights, including the right to notification, to recover damages, and to submit a victim impact statement.

During the period October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, Williams County Victim Assistance Services provided advocacy and information for 26 cases involving juveniles, down from 28 through the same period in 2014-2015.

Restitution

Restitution is often a part of the repair to the victim who has been harmed as a result of a delinquent act.

Payments totaling \$1,832.00 were paid by six youth to nine victims in 2016. To the extent possible, efforts are made by the Probation Department to assure all victims are reimbursed in a fair and timely manner. Civil remedy may be sought if the victim reparation needs are beyond juvenile court efforts.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS/INVOLVEMENT

Williams County Family and Children First Council

The Williams County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) has a required mandate to provide a formalized venue to facilitate the alignment of systems, policies, resources, and services. The Juvenile Court is a mandated member of council in an advisory capacity. A juvenile court representative participates in the full council which meets four times per year.

Community Advocates for Healthy Families (CAHF)

Formed in 2005, CAHF's efforts are directed at the causes of high-risk behaviors among youth rather than treating the symptoms. CAHF sponsored its eight annual *Ready, Set Relax!* in October. Participant surveys reveal continued strong support for the event and a growing understanding of the underlying principal: *making family moments count*.

Summit on Children/Summit Breakfast

The Williams County Summit on Children has been convening since 2009. The challenge posed by the Ohio Summit in 2008 was to assess the strengths of local services for children. A series of breakfast meetings have been held to educate key people from the county about the services and programs that are available to assist kids and families.

Programming and resources available for area youth and families are presented at each breakfast. Attendees represent a broad range of participants including school personnel, law enforcement, court staff, mental health professionals, and social service providers. The breakfasts are also a networking opportunity to enhance communication among youth/family service providers and to share ideas and challenges. Thank you to the Bryan Eagles who continue to generously provide meeting space for the quarterly breakfasts.

Student Experiences

One student from Bryan High School and one student from North Central High School worked as intern with the Juvenile Court in the past year. We strive to partner with local schools and organizations in an effort to assist in professional development and training. We value our relationships with area educational institutions and look forward to interacting with their students.

Community Education

We welcome opportunities to present information about the Court's history and mandate, operations and processes, program and treatment options, and current issues and challenges that impact the Court. Probation staff present for classes at Northwest State Community College. The Judge and Court staff participates in the annual high school senior Courthouse tours and also host 3rd graders from Bryan City Schools and St. Patrick's. Members of the court staff and the Judge also accept invitations to speak to various service clubs and groups across the county.

Veterans

In a cooperative effort with the Williams County Veterans Service Office, the Court identifies veterans that come before the Court and provides information, resource guides and links him or her to the county veterans services to ensure they have the opportunity to apply for benefits that are available to them or their family.

Reclaim Ohio

Reclaim Ohio funding made possible through the Ohio Department of Youth Services provides resources for the Diversion Program, part of a probation officer's salary, parent training, administrative support services, clinical assessment, electronic monitoring services, home based services/family support, and residential treatment.

While the amount of this funding has fluctuated over the past years based on felony adjudications, it remains a critical resource for providing community-based services to youth and families with the goal of preventing further penetration of youth into the juvenile justice system, out of home placement, and family disintegration.

Mandatory program reporting, quality assurance monitoring, and fiscal auditing occurs annually for the Reclaim Grant. There was a clean audit for fiscal year 2014 with minor changes required and a Program Monitoring was conducted with no correction plan.

Family Intervention Court

The Juvenile Court was certified as a specialized docket court with its Family Intervention Court. The Family Intervention Court is a court process that takes cases out of the traditional docket and places them in a specialized docket. The purpose of the Family Intervention is to bring more intense services to cases with mental health issues, substance use issues, or family systems issues. Case may be referred to the court from delinquency cases or abuse, neglect, dependency cases. Each case is reviewed by a treatment team consisting of different organizations and service providers in Williams County. The Family Intervention Court may accept a maximum of 10 cases. To successfully complete the process, participants must pass through four phases. It is a voluntary program and all members of the household must consent to being involved in the process.

The Family Intervention Court was certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio initially on June 11, 2015, and obtained final certification on September 15, 2015. In 2016, we accepted six delinquency cases and one abuse, neglect, dependency cases into the Family Intervention Court. Two graduated from the program and one was dismissed as unsuccessfully completed.

Northwest Ohio Reclaiming Futures

The Court obtained a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services that provided for the opportunity for Williams County Juvenile Court, along with Defiance County Juvenile Court and Henry County Family Court, to contract with Reclaiming Futures for technical assistance in applying a particular philosophy under which the courts operate. Together the plan is referred to as the Northwest Ohio Reclaiming Futures Initiative.

Throughout 2016 the Courts will be initiating the changes brought about by the implementation of the Reclaiming Futures methodology. The regional approach to the implementation should invigorate the effort. A primary component of the Reclaiming Futures initiative is community involvement and involvement of the treatment community.

PLACEMENT, JRC/DYS

When community-based treatment is ineffective, insufficient or unsuccessful, the court may order out of home placement to meet the treatment and accountability needs of a youth. Placement may be in the form of foster or group home care, or a private residential facility, keeping in mind the least restrictive alternative, the best interest of the child, and the safety of the community.

After a five year period where out of home placements remained extremely low (only one youth was placed by the Court between 2008 and early 2013), the Court has ordered placement for six youth in 2013. By the end of 2015, only two remained in placement. These youths have been placed and treated in residential care facilities, group and/or foster homes. The two remaining youths were also in the custody of Job and Family Services with JFS and the Court sharing placement expenses and case management responsibilities. Child support is ordered by the Court and paid as appropriate for parents/guardians to contribute also to the care of their child as plans are made for community re-entry or a planned permanent placement arrangement.

Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio

The Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio (JRC) located in Bowling Green is a secure community correctional facility for adjudicated males who commit offenses that would be felonies if committed by an adult. The facility has 42 beds and is an alternative for youth who may otherwise be committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Five Williams County youth were served at JRC in 2016.

Ohio Department of Youth Services

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) is the state correctional system for juvenile offenders aged 10–21 who commit offenses that would be felonies if committed by an adult. ODYS provides security, programming and treatment.

Parole services are provided to the youth upon release to assist in the transition from the institution back into the community. The parole officer is based in Toledo.

One Williams County youth was in an ODYS facility in 2016. Two youth were on parole through the ODYS parole authority.

CASES COURT SERVICES

Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency

The Court processed 50 new cases of abuse, neglect, and dependency in 2016, as opposed to 75 in 2015. Initial investigation and on-going case management is provided by the Williams County Department of Job and Family Services under the mandates and guidelines of the State of Ohio.

Abuse, Neglect & Dependency Cases Filed in 2016

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Dependent	16	9	25
Abused/Dependent	4	3	7
Neglected/Dependent	5	9	14
Neglected/Dependent/Abused	1	2	3
Ex-Parte Custody	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTALS:	26	24	50

Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (V-GAL) Program

The Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program (V-GAL) is designed to serve children and the Court by assigning trained volunteers, rather than attorneys, to “be the voice of the child in Court” in cases involving child neglect and dependency. (Child abuse cases are assigned to an Attorney Guardian ad Litem).

The role of the V-GAL is to advocate for the child’s best interest. The V-GAL visits the child(ren) monthly and is available to attend other meetings on behalf of the child(ren). Periodic case reviews are held where the Court is updated by the V-GAL regarding the current status of each child.

Volunteers are screened and trained before any case assignment. Caseload size is dependent upon the volunteer’s availability. V-GALs participate in a minimum of three training hours each year.

Entering 2016 the Court was down to three volunteers so the Court recruited and trained ten additional volunteers. Attorney Denise M. Stollings provided the lead in recruiting and training the ten new volunteers giving the program new life and provided a sustainability in service.

Parentage Cases/Unmarried Parents

Juvenile Court is responsible to establish parentage and to hear all custody cases for unmarried parents who have children. These cases involve establishment of parentage by genetic testing, allocating parental rights between the parents and establishing child support and medical support orders. The Court retains jurisdiction over these cases until each child reaches the age of 18. Any modifications to the Court orders after they are issued require the parties to return to the Juvenile Court.

There has been an increase in paternity case hearings over the last few years. In 2016 there were 106 new paternity cases filed and 158 cases reopened for modification. These cases are heard before the Magistrate. In 2016 the Magistrate heard 321 cases.

The Court has seen an increase in individuals representing themselves in these cases. In an effort to provide access to the legal system, Williams County continues to offer a Pro Se Clinic. “Pro Se” is a legal term that means “on behalf of themselves”. This Clinic has been offered since 2010 and allows an individual time with a legal aid attorney at no charge. The attorney provides forms for the preparation and review of documents. The attorney does not represent the individual and the Court requires the self-represented individual to follow proper procedures at all hearings. The Clinic has two sessions offered per month. In 2016, seventy (70) individuals registered for the Pro Se Clinic.

Child Support Enforcement

The Magistrate also hears all cases brought to the Court by the Williams County Child Support Enforcement Agency requesting the establishment of child support and medical support, modifying and collecting child support orders and requesting that a person who is not paying their child support obligation be found in contempt of Court. In 2016 the Magistrate heard 112 child support and medical support cases. The Court also hears child support and medical support cases brought by individuals who are represented by attorneys.

The Court also orders parents to pay child support when a juvenile is ordered to detention or other placement outside the parent's home. The child support collected is applied to help defray the costs of these placements. In 2016 \$18,989.57 was collected and deposited into the General Fund.

Parenting Programs

In all cases where the issue of the allocation of parental rights between non-married parents is before the Court, the parents are required to attend a parenting class called Assisting Our Kids (A-OK). The children of the parents who are between the ages of five (5) and seventeen (17), are required to participate in the "What About Me" class.

We have found these classes provide an educational benefit to both the parents and the children as they work through the issues that are before the Court.

Home Investigations

Any party to a case involving the allocation of parental rights, or the Court on its own, may request a home investigation be conducted. The home investigation involves an examination of character, family relations, past conduct, the home environment of any party, the social history of any party or the child, the school history, a psychosocial and medical history of the parties and children, financial conditions of the parties and criminal histories if any. The Court has two trained investigators who serve in this role.

The investigation is a useful tool for the Court and can be offered as evidence in the trial to determine what is in the best interests of the children. In 2016 twelve (12) home investigations were ordered by the Court.

Parent Project

Parent Project is an evidence based program designed to help parents learn to deal with behavioral issues with their children. The program is offered two times per year and is a 12 week intensive program that requires a great deal of commitment by the parents. This program has been offered for several years and the Court has seen very good results from parents that graduate from the program.

In 2016 we had 10 families go through Parent Project successfully complete the program.

Ohio Supreme Court Innovation Grant

In May 2016 the Ohio Supreme Court provided a \$75,000.00 grant to the Common Pleas Court of Williams County to fund "Parent Coordination and Early Neutral Evaluation: Alternate Paths to Access to Justice". This Grant is being administered by Williams County for the benefit of six counties and their Courts. The six counties are: Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Putnam and Williams. Appointments of a parenting coordinator or a team of early neutral evaluators is being used in parentage and custody cases. Though the Grant is new, the Court has already seen positive benefits to parents and children by using this alternate dispute resolution process.

Juvenile Traffic Court

In 2016, a total of 187 traffic citations were filed with the Williams County Juvenile Court. Court costs and fines are common dispositions in juvenile traffic cases.

Juveniles receiving a traffic citation must appear in front of the Judge with at least one parent or legal guardian. Those receiving a seat belt citation only are allowed to post a fine and court costs with no appearance required.

Ohio State Highway Patrol and 4-H CARTEENS

CARTEENS is a teen facilitated traffic safety program for juvenile traffic offenders. It is presented through the collaboration of the Northwest Ohio OSU Extension 4-H Professionals, volunteer teen leaders, the juvenile courts of Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. It brings together teens and adults representing local agencies and organizations to educate teen drivers and save lives on Ohio roads. CARTEENS' goals include: reduce the number of initial and repeat juvenile traffic offenders and increase teen awareness of traffic and vehicular safety.

Williams County Juvenile Traffic Court began using CARTEENS in April of 2011. First offense moving violations with no accident involving property damage or injuries to third parties are eligible for the program held Northwest State Community College. If a youth successfully completes the program and examination, the case can be vacated with no record.

Fifty-two Williams County youth participated in CARTEENS during 2016. Of those 52 youth, 8 received another citation after their participation in the CARTEENS program.

STATISTICS

2016 Traffic Statistics

<i>Violation Name:</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Speed	57	25	82
Seat Belt/Driver	3	9	12
Seat Belt/Passenger	1	1	2
OVI	3	0	3
No Operator's License	2	1	3
Failure to Control	8	11	19
Failure to Yield	0	2	2
Stop Sign	5	4	9
Turn Signal Violation	1	0	1
Improper Passing	0	1	1
Dr Lic Viol – Curfew	2	1	3
Dr Lic Viol – Excessive Passengers (Juv)	3	1	4
No Lic Dr – Temp Permit	0	1	1
A.C.D.A.	10	5	15
Reckless Operation	3	0	3
Dr. During Restricted Hours	1	0	1
Passing Violation	1	0	1
Temp. Permit Violation	1	1	2
Red Light	4	1	5
Turning at Intersection	0	1	1
Left of Center	2	1	3
Dr Under OVI Suspension	1	0	1
Dr Under Probationary Suspension	1	0	1
App. Safety Vehicle Displaying Emergency Lights	0	1	1
Payment of Toll – Turnpike	1	0	1
ATV Violations	2	0	2
Equipment Violation	1	0	1
Marked Lanes	1	0	1
No Proof of Insurance	0	1	1
No MC Endorsement	1	0	1
Rules for Bikes, Motorcycles, Snowmobiles	1	0	1
Expired Plates/Tags	1	2	3
TOTALS:	117	70	187

2016 Felony Statistics

<i>Offense</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Gross Sexual Imposition	F4	3	0	3
Gross Sexual Imposition	F3	3	0	3
Rape	F1	4	0	4
Theft	F5	0	1	1
Breaking & Entering	F5	6	0	6
Theft of Drugs	F4	1	0	1
Possession of Criminal Tools	F5	1	0	1
Agg. Arson	F1	1	0	1
Arson	F4	1	0	1
Assault of Corrections Officer	F5	1	0	1
Vandalism	F5	4	0	4
Illegal Possession of Deadly Weapon in a School Zone	F5	1	0	1
Illegal Possession of Deadly Weapon in a School Zone	F4	1	0	1
Pandering Obscenities	F5	2		2
TOTALS		29	1	30

2016 Court Initiated Charges/Hearings

<i>Violation Name</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>T</i>
Probation Violations	33	11	44
Violation of Court Order	0	1	1
Placement Review Hearings	2	0	2
D.Y.S. Parole Hearings	1	0	1
J.R.C. Release Hearings	1	0	1
J.R.C. Review Hearings	11	0	11
Life w/o Drugs Furlough Hearings	15	2	17
Life w/o Drugs Review Hearings	58	9	67
Court Order Violation Hearings	2	0	2
Probation Review Hearings	3	0	3
Declassification Hearing	1	0	1
Detention Review Hearing	2	1	3
Detention Release Hearing	1	0	1
Court Costs Review Hearing	1	0	1
Release from Placement Hearing	1	0	1
Early Release Motion Hearing	0	1	1
TOTALS:	132	25	157

2016 Delinquency Charges

<u>Offenses:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Theft	9	4	13
B & E	6	0	6
Criminal Damaging	4	4	8
Criminal Trespass	1	1	2
Criminal Mischief	2	0	2
Assault	4	1	5
Assault on Corrections Officer	1	0	1
Offenses Involving Minors	12	9	21
Under Age Consumption	1	0	1
Possession of Drugs	1	0	1
Possession of Marijuana	1	1	2
Drug Abuse/MJ	7	0	7
Possession Drug Paraphernalia	4	1	5
Illegal Use or Possession of Marijuana Paraphernalia	2	2	4
Theft of Drugs	1	1	2
Rape	4	0	4
Public Indecency	0	1	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	6	2	8
Pandering Obscenity	2	0	2
Curfew Violation	0	3	3
Illegal Possession of Deadly Weapon in School Zone	2	0	2
Telecommunications Harassment	0	1	1
Vehicle Manslaughter	1	0	1
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	1	2	3
Vandalism	4	0	4
Disorderly Conduct	10	9	19
Agg. Menacing	3	0	3
Receiving Stolen Property	1	0	1
Obstructing Official Business	1	0	1
Agg. Arson	1	0	1
Arson	1	0	1
Domestic Violence	0	1	1
Hunting without License	1	0	1
Hunting without Permit	1	0	1
Hunting without Deer Permit	1	0	1
Taking More Than 1 Deer	1	0	1
False Information at Deer Check	1	0	1
Chronic Truant	5	5	10
Possession of Criminal Tools	1	0	1
TOTALS:	104	48	152

2016 Unruly Cases

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ungovernable	0	0	0
Tobacco	0	0	0
Truancy	0	0	0
TOTALS:	0	0	0

2016 Other Cases Filed

Adult Contributing	4
Parentage	4
U.I.F.S.A.	0
Support Cases (establish & contempt)	113
Permanent Custody	6
Custody, Custodianships, Visitation & Contempt	70
Misc. Cases	3
TOTAL:	200

7 Year Comparison of Cases Filed

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Delinquency	219	215	263	247	213	251	177
Unruly	17	11	12	5	11	4	0
Traffic	238	216	209	201	192	225	187
Neglected-Dependent-Abused	65	66	66	38	28	75	50
Adult Contributing	0	1	2	2	0	0	4
Parentage	1	5	2	5	6	6	4
Custody, Visitation	45	57	81	72	72	72	70
Support	127	142	85	116	131	131	113
U.I.F.S.A	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Misc. Cases	3	7	3	1	3	3	3
TOTALS:	715	720	724	687	657	768	608

JUVENILE COURT OPERATING FUNDS

Grants and Other Funding

Year	Title IV-D	Juv. Acct. Blk Gt	Title II	Title IV-E
1997	15,521			
1998	16,961			
1999	17,040	11,673		
2000	11,287	13,714		

Year	Title IV-D	Juv. Acct. Blk Gt	Title II	Title IV-E
2001	15,519			
2002	27,227	6,847		
2003	25,048	6,162	15,000	
2004	17,497			
2005	16,010			
2006	23,613			55,584
2007	18,140			114,498
2008	18,429			10,066
2009	16,117			4,232
2010	26,150			61,796
2011				61,694
2012	22,347			1,480
2013	26,210			8,843
2014	41,360			77,004
2015	35,400			64,040
2016				12,099

Program Funding Through Subsidy Grants

Fund	2010	2011 (FY 2012)	2012 (FY 2013)	2013 (FY 2014)	2014 (FY 2015)	2015 (FY 2016)	2016 (FY 2017)
Diversion	30,489	33,536	34,905	37,738	41,190.71	33,582.41	39,456.40
A.C.E. Program	9,728	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monitoring/Surveillance	1,770	3,270	7,920	7,620	3,780.00	3,800.00	3800.00
Probation	63,582	13,236	16,534	17,484	13,953.08	21,437.17	22,687.94
Family Preservation	54,000	36,000	11,520	10,322	100.00	3,800.00	3,800.00
Out of Home Placement	1,097	15,850	100,959	137,001	73,165.00	150,000.00	150,000.00
Program Administration	32,603	33,732	40,402	42,536	42,036.18	47,440.17	48,955.09
House Bill 153						150,000.00	141,470.55
Recreation (Est FY 2016)	0	0	0	0	0	2,400.00	2,400.00
Parent Support	0	0	5,035	6,450	6,950.00	7,000.00	8,000.00
Clinical Assessment	4,825	4,800	4,800	5,600	1,400.00	2,450.00	2,450.00
Alternatives to Detention		7,992	7,176	5,384	5,020.00	2,864.00	301.50
Det Alt & Enhancement - Category 1							48,422.19
TOTAL:	\$200,104	\$148,416	\$229,251	\$270,136	\$187,594.97	\$424,773.75	\$471,743.67

2016 Juvenile Court Deposits

Department of Youth Services Support Payments	\$351.00
Placement Support Payments	\$749.28
Juvenile Residential Center Support Payments	\$3,705.19
Detention Support Payments	\$8,464.73
Life without Drugs Support Payments	\$5,719.37
Juvenile Court IV-E Money Received	\$12,099.52
Supervision Fees Collected	\$11,034.00
Electronic Monitoring Reimbursement	\$1,288.00
Misc. Deposits	\$0.00
TOTAL:	\$43,411.09

Breakdown of Court Costs and Fines Collected in 2016

County: General Fund/Local Costs	15,724.68
Computerization Fund	4,253.45
Legal Computer Research	1,307.56
Traffic Fines – County Fund	597.94
Traffic Fines A&G Vehicle Fund	367.80
Traffic Fines – Law Library	965.75
Juvenile Fines—County Fund	31.02
Juvenile Fines—A&G Vehicle Fund	30.98
Juvenile Fines—Law Library	270.00
Liquor Violations—County Fund	135.50
Liquor Violations—Law Library	135.50
Drug Fines—County Fund	0
Tobacco Fines—County Fund	0
Adult Contributing—County Fund	0
Adult Contributing—Law Library	150.00
Public Defender Fee (\$25 each)	1,092.00
Special Projects Funds	9,664.85
DI-Alcohol Monitoring, Indigent Traffic Offender	211.50
State: Victims of Crime	2,614.00
State Highway Fines	979.51
Liquor Violations	271.00
Seat Belt Fines	300.00
Legal Aid	1,521.12
Indigent Defense Support Fund	6,069.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	479.50
Justice Program Service Fund	14.00
Other: Supervision Fees	10,196.00
Restitution	4,164.15
Sheriff Fees	837.00
Arresting Agency (Drug)	100.00
Board of Pharmacy (Drug)	0
Sundries	26,176.41
TOTAL	88,660.22

Supervision Fees

Each youth on official probation pays a supervision fee to the Court. These fees cover costs for drug screening materials, training and miscellaneous expenses involved with supervising youth on probation. Total collected in 2016 was \$10,196.00 (see above chart).

Probate Court

The Probate Court is responsible for the handling of Estates, Incompetent Guardianships, Minor Guardianships, Trusts, Birth Registration and Corrections, Marriage Licenses, Adoptions, Name Changes, Adult Protective Services, Mental Commitments and Minor Settlements.

2016 Probate Cases Filed

Type of Case	2011 Cases Filed	2012 Cases Filed	2013 Cases Filed	2014 Cases Filed	2015 Cases Filed	2016 Cases Filed	Pending
Adoptions	18	17	16	18	14	18	3
Civil Actions	6	6	13	7	9	8	10
Estates	242	249	284	248	247	291	214
Guardianships (Incompetent)	19	17	17	16	15	18	141
Guardianships (Minors)	11	10	6	11	6	8	50
Mental Illness	15	15	16	22	15	17	0
Miscellaneous	1	1	3	1	0	0	0
Misc-Change of Name	8	14	8	11	8	15	4
Misc-Adult Protective Service	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Misc-Minor Settlement	6	2	4	0	1	6	0
Registration or Change of Birth	3	2	3	7	3	1	0
Marriage Licenses	252	263	247	248	275	275	0
Trusts	3	8	7	2	1	2	48
TOTAL:	577	605	625	691	594	659	470

Probate Court Costs Collected

Probate Court Costs Collected	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
County: General Fund	32,326.20	31,119.52	35,459.62	29,607.42	33,541.90
Indigent Guardianship	6,294.00	7,806.00	7,178.06	6,280.00	6,410.00
Conduct of Business-Probate	263.00	259.00	248.00	276.00	274.00
Computerization Fund	5,530.00	5,440.00	5,538.50	5,269.26	5,655.00
Legal Computer Research	870.00	855.00	909.00	748.00	870.00
Domestic Violence	4,471.00	4,403.00	4,216.00	4,692.00	4,658.00
State: Legal Aid	5,798.00	6,084.00	6,656.00	5,643.56	6,126.12
Ohio Putative Father Registry	480.00	450.00	660.00	180.00	720.00
TOTAL:	\$56,032.20	58,429.52	60,865.18	52,696.24	58,255.02

Volunteer Guardianship Program

When a person is no longer capable of managing themselves, their property and assets, or both; under Ohio Law a person can be determined incompetent. A finding of incompetency results in the Probate Court appointing a guardian to assist the “ward”.

The Volunteer Guardianship Program is only for persons who live in long term care facilities. The guardian makes sure the ward’s basic needs are being met, seeks services to help the ward reach the highest possible potential, authorizes treatment, executes documents on the ward’s behalf, and makes end of life decisions for the benefit of the ward.

Usually a family member or close friend is the first choice of the Court to serve as the guardian.

However, for a variety of reasons, there continues to be cases where no suitable person exists or is willing to act as guardian. Local attorneys cannot meet the high demand. The Volunteer Guardianship Program fills the void by providing a pool of screened and trained volunteers to serve those who cannot help themselves.

As a collaborative with the Probate Court, the program is administered by the Department of Aging.

Probate Court Guardianships

In 2014 the court began its *Court Visitor Program* to monitor the status of Guardianships under the supervision of the Court.

Court Visitor Reports provide a less formal, more personal contact with the people who are under legal guardianship. Court Visitors make a face to face visit with each Guardian and their Ward confirming contact information and alerting the Court to any changes, concerns or needs that are not being met.

Working on behalf of the Court, the Visitors completed a total of 63 visits (5 minors and 58 adults) during 2016.

The law now requires that all Ohio guardians of adults are required to participate in an six hour educational course and three hours of continuing education annually to help provide them

with information and tools to help guide them in their duties in a way that is consistent with national standards and Ohio's rules for courts. The Court must now maintain and monitor a roster of guardians with 10 or more wards under their care. Guardians must meet with wards under their care at least quarterly.

Staff Development

Our commitment to staff development and training is second only to the commitment to provide the best possible service to those we serve.

The probation staff engaged in over 300 hours of training and continuing education in 2016.

Throughout the year, the entire staff received Motivational Interviewing training which is helpful in achieving better results for youth. Further, many members of the staff received training on various issues surrounding drug use, abuse, and the illegal manufacturing of drugs.

Licensed social workers in the probation department, the juvenile court administrator, and the judge have annual required continuing education units for their respective professions. Probation officers are now required to receive yearly training. The staff received a great deal of training this year to continue to pursue an effort toward excellence.

The Juvenile Court deputy clerks attended their annual training in the summer and the Probate deputy clerk attended the annual Probate Clerk's Seminar in the fall.

The Court Administrators are both attending Court Management Programs at the Supreme Court of Ohio. These are three-year programs through the National Center for State Courts with certifications in Court Management. Jerry Stollings is in the first year of his certification as a Court Manager and Holly Schlosser is in her third year to be certified as a Court Executive, having completed her Court Manager Program in 2007.

Awards and Recognition

Each April, the Department of Job and Family Services presents a "Cherish the Child" Award as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. We are proud to report that for 2013, Diversion Counselor Nick Woodall was the recipient of this award which was presented at the quarterly Summit Breakfast. Judge Steven Bird was the recipient in 2014. In 2015, Jerry Stollings was invited to serve on the Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Health, and to serve on the subcommittee on Juvenile Justice.

Acknowledgments

We value our partners and colleagues as we strive together to deliver the best services possible to our community. The Court particularly acknowledges:

Williams County Commissioners
Williams County Job & Family Services
Williams County Sheriff's Department
Williams County Prosecutor
Ohio Department of Youth Services
Supreme Court of Ohio
Williams County Family and Children First Council
Family Intervention Court Treatment Team
All Local and Regional Law Enforcement Agencies
Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training and Rehabilitation Center
Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio
Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio
Maumee Valley Guidance Center
Shalom Counseling and Mediation Services
The Center for Child and Family Advocacy
Four County Family Services
Four County ADAMhs Board
Fraternal Order of Eagles, Bryan Aerie #2233
City of Bryan Fire Department
All School Systems in Williams County
Northwest Ohio Educational Services Center
Staff of Independent Education Center
Department of Aging

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