

**2018**  
**Annual Report**



**Jeffrey J. Beigel, Judge**  
**Shelby County Juvenile Court**  
**Sidney, Ohio**

# 2018 Shelby County Juvenile Court Report by Judge Jeffrey J. Beigel



Juvenile Court handles delinquencies, traffic, unruly, paternity, truancy and abuse, neglect and dependency cases. It also handles custody of children of unwed parents, visitation and child support.

In 2018 the Juvenile Court was very busy, handling over 1,064 matters with caseload increases of 68% for abuse, neglect and dependency, 60% for permanent custody, 16% for unruly, 40% for parentage, and 18% for child support matters. The Court continues to see the impact of the opiate crisis and family problems that contribute to these increases, including increased cost for required court appointed counsel for indigent parties. The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) continue to play an integral role in the Court's approach to abuse, neglect and dependency cases, increasing staffing to handle a record caseload of 148 children. Steven J. Geise is also employed to serve as Magistrate to assist the Court.

In 2018, the Court generated \$98,000 in collected revenue to the general fund—a 61% increase over 2017.

The Court's Probation Department hosted a multi-county training program on the implementation of an enhanced evidence-based probation system that is expected to have a significant and positive impact for our youth and community. The Court's implementation of these practices will continue throughout 2019. The Court implemented the Ohio Youth Assessment System to provide enhanced analysis of disposition alternatives for at-risk youth. Dispositions of juvenile offenders can include detention, probation, community service, counseling and various other programs. In 2018 it was necessary to utilize over 2400 total days of detention at the West Central Juvenile Facility for more serious delinquency offenders. The Court has also seen a significant increase in the need for long term residential services for certain juveniles.

Probation was active with youth through the various programs and partnerships, including the Family Resource Center (counseling), the Shelby County Animal Shelter (community service), the Alpha Center (Victory Garden), the Salvation Army (Bridging the Gap) and its Juvenile Justice Work Program (community service) that adopted the City of Sidney's Piper Park as one of its work projects. The Court was awarded a new fence for the garden. The Court continued its efforts to expand local partnerships to assist at risk youth and for community service alternatives.

Based upon the program's success the IMPACT (Imagine Making Positive Accountable Changes Together) program was extended to high school students. With funding from the Shelby County United Way, the Juvenile Court will start its eighth year with this program. This prevention program excels in assisting at risk youth and reduces their future involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The Juvenile Traffic Court continued its second year with its traffic diversion/education program for first time minor traffic violations. The program's success is favorably reflected by the low recidivism rate of 14% .

# Probation Services

The probation department began the year with 48 youth on probation. There were 10 youth placed on probation and 22 youth successfully completed the terms of probation.



2018 was a year to focus on the Juvenile Probation Department's community service program. Replacing the fence surrounding the Victory Garden was selected as a service project for United Way's Day of Action. A permanent fence, donated by Tom's Lawn and Landscape, was installed to replace the existing fence that had been repaired numerous times since 2011. The labor for the project was provided by Lochard, Inc., Tom's Lawn and Landscape

and Juvenile Court staff and youth.



The community service program also adopted Piper Park located across from the Courthouse. Youth maintain the park by picking up trash, weeding flower beds and laying new mulch.

## Programs – Incarceration - Placements

### Programs

**Juvenile Justice Work Program** – Youth perform community service at various work sites throughout the county. The program teaches youth responsibility for negative actions and a basic work ethic. 150 days completed in 2018

**Tutoring** – Youth are matched with tutors to recover credits and/or help with improving grades. 3 youth received tutoring services and completed a total of 30 hours in 2018

**Resource Room** – Youth who are assigned to work in the resource room complete school work while serving out-of-school suspensions or meet with a tutor. 18 youth worked in the Resource Room in 2018

**Home Checks** – The Probation Officers make unannounced home visits to the youth in the program during the hours of 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. 346 home checks were conducted in 2018

**Community Service** – Youth perform community service for charitable organizations, school and churches. 522 hours completed in 2018

**Bridging the Gap** – This program is facilitated by The Salvation Army. The youth participate in various life skill lessons that enable them to better handle issues that young people face today. 9 youth completed in 2018

**STAR (Start Today Accepting Responsibility)** – This program, which is run by the West Central Juvenile Detention Center, shows youth what it is like to be placed in a secure facility for a few hours. 22 youth completed in 2018

**Parent Project** – This program is offered through the Shelby County Educational Service Center and educates parents while reducing juvenile crime and improving school attendance and academic performance. 10 youth and 11 parents completed in 2018

**Mental Health Counseling/Alcohol & Drug Services** – The services of the Shelby County Counseling Center, Catholic Social Services, Victim Services, The Family Resource Center and other counselors are utilized to address youth with mental health, behavioral and/or alcohol and drug problems. 9 youth completed alcohol & drug counseling and 41 youth completed mental health counseling in 2018

**Diversion** – Youth in this program admit to the offense without a formal hearing, and the youth must comply with the contract established with the diversion officer and parent(s). If the youth completes the program successfully, he/she will not have a juvenile record. 15 youth completed in 2018

**Truancy Diversion** – This program serves youth who are determined by the school to be habitually truant and provides alternatives to adjudication. Youth diverted from the juvenile court system must comply with the diversion contract. 3 youth placed in program; 1 youth successfully completed; 2 youth failed to complete and were adjudicated unruly in 2018

**Court/School Liaison** – The Liaison monitors a caseload of students assigned by the Juvenile Court Judge. These youth have come into court on various charges and through a records review it is determined there are concerns with grades, attendance and behavior, or in many cases, a combination of all three. In 2018, the Liaison directly served 39 youth in Shelby County’s public school districts as well as in alternative placements and programs throughout the county. Additional youth were served through consultation with the court and school districts.

**IMPACT Program** –Participants in the IMPACT program benefit from individual and family counseling, case management, school-based services and access to psychiatric services. In 2018, 63 youth in grades K-12 were accepted into the program.

## **Placements**

**Clear Creek Farm** – Children placed with this agency live in a family-styled residence for 8 to 10 kids cared for by house parents 24 hours a day. Children are expected to participate in the family unit by doing chores and sharing responsibilities, helping with meals, doing their own laundry, and grocery shopping. They enjoy spiritual as well as recreational activities together as a family and learn to support one another. 3 youth were placed in 2018.

**Michael’s Home** – The Michaels Group Home serves male juveniles ages 12-17. It uses a cognitive behavioral treatment curriculum to influence negative behaviors and thoughts. 1 youth placed in 2018

**BRIGHT House** – BRIGHT House is a 12-bed non-medical residential substance abuse treatment program for teenage girls between the ages of 15 and 18 where drugs and alcohol is the primary issue/concern. We focus on the development of each client’s mind, body, and spirit while addressing addiction issues. 1 youth placed in 2018

## **Incarceration**

**DYS** – The Department of Youth Services is the juvenile corrections system for the State of Ohio operating three juvenile facilities with five regional parole offices. 0 youth were placed in 2018.

**Rehabilitation** – There are twelve Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) established throughout the State of Ohio to provide a dispositional alternative to Juvenile Judges when committing youth adjudicated of a felony offense to the Department of Youth Services. Youth receive cognitive behavioral therapy with the focus on thinking errors. 3 youth were placed in 2018.

**Detention** – The Shelby County Commissioners have contracted with the West Central Juvenile Detention Center for 6 beds per day. The facility is a locked facility serving male and female youth between the ages of 12 and 18. 49 youth were placed and 2,440 bed days were used in 2018.

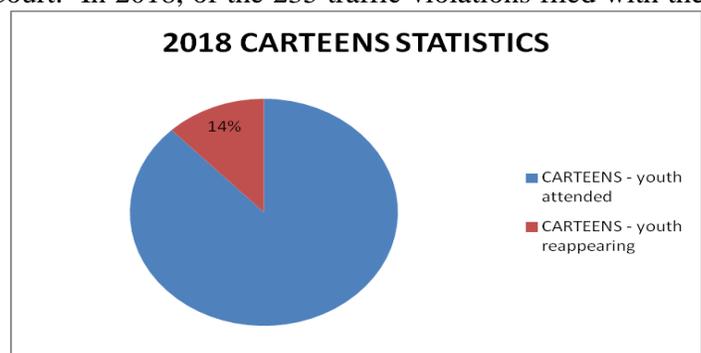
**Walter J. Roush Juvenile Detention Center Treatment Program** – This program provides a comprehensive approach to individualized holistic treatment through a series of evidenced based assessments and interventions which identify and target the criminogenic needs of program participants. Interventions and programming are based on the cognitive-behavior model with a focus on modeling and reinforcing pro-social behaviors & interactions within an interpersonal framework. 1 youth placed in 2018

<b>NEW CASES FILED TWO YEAR COMPARISON</b>		
<b>CASE TYPE</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Delinquent	319	235
Unruly	73	81
Traffic	279	235
Adult	17	9
Other	3	5
Abuse	15	36
Neglect	38	32
Dependency	5	24
Permanent Custody	7	14

## Juvenile Traffic Cases

The Court’s traffic violations bureau allows juveniles to admit to certain violations and pay their Court costs and fines without having to appear in Court. In 2018, of the 235 traffic violations filed with the Court, the bureau processed 15 cases.

The Court’s Juvenile Traffic Diversion Program for first-time minor traffic offenders uses the CARTEENS Program to give greater driver safety awareness to new drivers. The goals of the CARTEENS program are to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, and increase teen awareness of traffic/vehicular safety.



# **Domestic Relations Division**

The jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, Domestic Relations Division, is limited to resolving disputes concerning children of unmarried parents, deceased parents, or children that are not “a ward of another Court.” The Court issues decisions regarding paternity, custody, child support, and visitation. The Domestic Relations Division also enforces orders previously issued through the contempt of Court process. Juvenile Court Magistrate Steven J. Geise handles the majority of the cases filed.

Custody and visitation issues are resolved by applying the legal standard of “best interests of the child.” Child support issues are resolved by applying the Ohio Child Support Guideline Calculation Statute. Modification of custody, child support, and visitation are routinely heard by the Court with the objective of protecting the best interests of the minor children. In 2018, of the 223 total cases filed in the Domestic Relations Division, 95 cases were reactivated and 128 were new cases.

<b>DOMESTIC RELATIONS TWO YEAR CASE FILING COMPARISON</b>		
<b>CASE TYPE</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Custody/Visitation	91	94
UIFSA	2	2
Paternity	17	21
Support	82	106

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Funding Source	Amount Received	Amount Used	Purpose
<b>Shelby County General Fund</b>	740,401	739,878	Court operations, detention, placements
<b>Computer Fees</b>	3,773	1,059	Computer hardware & supplies
<b>Special Projects Fund</b>	27,371	18,122	Travel expenses, computer maintenance agreement, wireless cards, counseling services for female offenders, advertising expenses
<b>Probation Services Fee</b>	207	120	Probation department travel expenses & supplies, probationer activities
<b>Shelby County United Way</b>			
Impact Program	40,500	28,690	Counseling services
Special Projects	0	284*	School fees and employment documentation fees for at-risk youth
<b>State of Ohio Funds</b>			
510 Grant & Reclaim Funds	198,297	185,714	Probation services, GPS monitoring, tutoring, juvenile work program, court/school liaison
<b>Federal Funds</b>			
Title IV-E Funds	0.00	2,093*	Probation administrative costs, fees for youth in placement

**\*When receipts are less than expenditures, accumulated/carry-over funds from previous years are used.**

Revenue collected by Juvenile Court and paid into the General Fund from the collection of costs/fines; reimbursement from the Ohio Public Defender's Office for appointed counsel fees; and reimbursement from the Child Support Enforcement Agency through the Title IV-D Program for costs related to child support cases - \$97,542

This report was produced by the Shelby County Juvenile Court a cost of \$2.10 per copy.