

**2019**  
**Annual Report**



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

# 2019 Shelby County Juvenile Court Report by Judge Jeffrey J. Beigel



In 2019 the Juvenile Court was busy, handling over 986 pending matters, consisting of: 18% delinquencies, 29% traffic, 11% abuse, neglect and dependency, 5% unruly, 1% adult related, 1% permanent custody, 15% custody, visitation & child support, 16% parentage, and 4% other miscellaneous matters. Based upon prior year's improvements, the probation department handled more cases referred through its diversion program for many first-time juvenile offenders. Overall, the number and types of cases were generally consistent with 2018. Attorney Steven Geise also serves to assist the Court as a Juvenile Magistrate.

The Juvenile Traffic Court continued its third year with its traffic diversion/education program for first time minor traffic violations. The program's success is favorably reflected by a low re-offending rate of 13%.

In 2019, the Court generated \$90,882.78 in collected revenue to the general fund, a slight 8% decrease from 2018.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), led by Bridget Davis, continues to play an integral role in the Court's approach to abuse, neglect and dependency cases.

Based upon a grant from the State's RECLAIM Ohio program the Court was able to establish two significant staff positions. The first was a Mental Health Counselor who plays a critical role in the Court's early evaluation of a youth's personal or family issues. The second was a Community Service Coordinator who supervises and develops meaningful projects for youths who are assigned community service with a focus on projects at the youth's school, village, township, city, or other community organization.

In 2019, the Court successfully reduced the need for detention services by 32 percent. The Court's focus on early intervention and the availability of the RECLAIM Ohio grant were important in reducing the County's need, and significant costs, for detention and long-term commitment programs for youth offenders. Disposition alternatives for youth offenders can include diversion, counseling, probation, community service, detention and long term-rehabilitation or commitment.

Probation remained 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), Catholic Social Services (counseling), Girls Circle (group counseling), Piper Park Project (community service), United Way Day of Action (community service) and the Court's Community Service Program.

The Court conducted its annual outreach to the schools to ensure a collaborative approach in dealing with at-risk youth. The Court's School Liaison Amy Simindinger continues to work closely with the Court, schools and juveniles to oversee progress, including various requested school presentations on topics such as bullying.

As a member of the Ohio Judicial Conference's Juvenile Law & Procedure Committee the Judge regularly attended meetings to provide input on proposed legislation, trends and issues that may affect our local court. Juvenile clerks also participated in the Ohio Association of Juvenile Clerks Conference.

The Court also saw the retirement of one of its family. Deputy Clerk Julie Stewart retired in December. She will be missed.

# Probation Services

The probation department began the year with 35 youth on probation. There were 24 youth placed on probation and 19 youth successfully completed the terms of probation.

The Community Service Coordinator, Tabitha Bales, was added to the probation department in 2019. With this addition, Juvenile Court was able to improve and expand our community service outreach. The program is designed to provide a meaningful experience for youth who have been assigned community service. The program seeks to instill a sense of ownership, responsibility and accountability for those youth. It also provides an opportunity for more individualized projects tailored to their needs and that of their community, including exposure to valuable job skills. The youth participated in many community activities such as decorating the Christmas trees at the Alpha Center.



Several probation officers participated in trainings conducted by The One Circle Foundation. Aja Dugan has been certified to conduct the support group, The Girls Circle, for girls 9-18 years of age. This curriculum is designed to increase positive connection, strengths, and competence. Three youth graduated in 2019. Kory Yohey and Shawn Harrod participated in a multi-county training that was hosted by the Shelby County Probation Department. The Council for Boys and Young Men is a strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years, and there were 4 youth referred to this program in 2019.



## 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.  
160 days completed in 2019

**Tutoring** – Youth are matched with tutors to recover credits and/or help with improving grades.  
1 youth received tutoring services in 2019

**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. 12 youth worked in the Resource Room in 2019

**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. 276 home checks were conducted in 2019

**Community Service** – Youth perform community service for charitable organizations, school and churches.  
357 hours completed in 2019

**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.

32 youth completed in 2019

**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.

4 youth and 4 parents completed in 2019

**Mental Health Counseling/Alcohol & Drug Services** – The services of 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.

22 youth completed alcohol & drug counseling and 31 youth completed mental health counseling in 2019

**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. 21 youth completed in 2019

**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. 7 youth placed in program; 6 youth successfully completed; 1 youth failed to complete and were adjudicated unruly in 2019

**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 2019, the Liaison directly served 30 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 2019, 57 youth in grades Pre-K thru12 were accepted into the program.

## **Placements**

**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 2019

**Bassett House** – is acclaimed statewide as a leader in the intensive residential treatment of adolescent addiction. Bassett House treats addiction as a disease from which young men and women, 13 to 18 years of age, can recover with the support of strengths-based, family-focused therapeutic intervention. 4 youth were placed in 2019

## **Incarceration**

**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 2019

**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 1,631 bed days were used in 2019

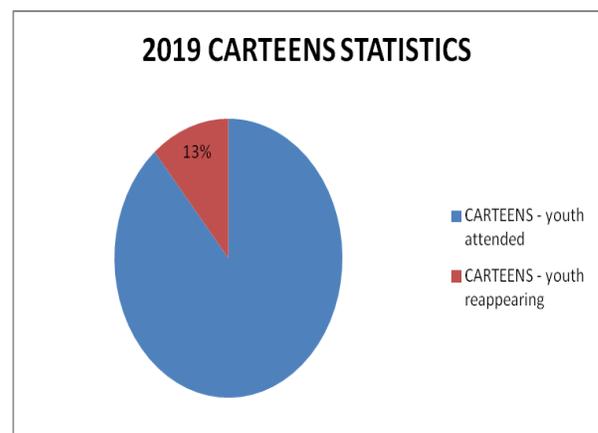
**Walter J. Roush Juvenile Detention Center Treatment Program** – This program provides a comprehensive approach to individualized holistic treatment through a series of evidenced based assessments and interventions which identify and target the criminogenic needs of program participants. Interventions and programming are based on the cognitive-behavior model with a focus on modeling and reinforcing pro-social behaviors & interactions within an interpersonal framework. 2 youth placed in 2019

| <b>TWO YEAR CASE FILING COMPARISON</b> |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>CASE TYPE</b>                       | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
| Delinquent                             | 235         | 156         |
| Unruly                                 | 81          | 45          |
| Traffic                                | 235         | 263         |
| Adult                                  | 9           | 5           |
| Other                                  | 5           | 6           |
| Abuse, Neglect & Dependent             | 101         | 94          |
| Permanent Custody                      | 14          | 11          |

## 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 2019, of the 263 traffic violations filed with the Court, the bureau processed 27 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 2019, of the 286 total cases filed in the Domestic Relations Division, 176 cases were reactivated and 110 were new cases.

| <b>DOMESTIC RELATIONS<br/>TWO YEAR CASE FILING COMPARISON</b> |             |             |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>CASE TYPE</b>  | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> |
| Custody/Visitation  | 94          | 123         |
| UIFSA   | 2           | 0           |
| Paternity   | 21          | 27          |
| Support   | 106         | 136         |

# JUVENILE COURT FUNDING

| FUNDING SOURCE                                     | PROVIDES FOR   | 2018      | 2019      |
|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| County General Fund                                | Court Operations; Detention; Placements; Salaries/fringes                                | \$740,401 | \$756,278 |
| Department of Youth Services<br>RECLAIM Ohio Grant | Salaries/fringes; GPS Monitoring; Juvenile work program; Court/school liaison            | \$198,297 | \$326,582 |
| Computer Funds                                     | Equipment; Maintenance agreements  | \$3,773   | \$4,062   |
| Special Projects Fund                              | Travel expenses; Computer maintenance contract; Counseling services for female offenders | \$27,371  | \$26,424  |
| Probation Services Fund                            | Probationer Activities; Equipment & supplies   | \$207     | \$350     |
| Shelby County United Way<br>IMPACT Program         | Counseling services  | \$27,500  | \$27,500  |

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