

2020
Annual Report



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

2020 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 2020 the Court was busy handling over 828 matters consisting of: 15% delinquencies, 26% traffic, 13% abuse, neglect and dependency, 6% unruly, 1% permanent custody, 36% custody, visitation & child support, 3% parentage, and 1% other matters. Probation also handled cases referred to its diversion program for qualifying first-time offenders. Overall, the number of cases was slightly lower but generally consistent with 2019. Attorney Steven Geise also serves as part-time Magistrate.

In 2020, the Court generated \$100,354.41 in collected revenue to the general fund, a 10% increase compared to 2019.

The Court successfully met the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and instituted a wide range of protocols for public and staff safety and to ensure the continuity of Court operations. Based upon grants and other funding the Court established video conferencing and off-site systems for remote access to the court for hearings, and work-from-home stations.

Overall the operational changes to the Court were significant and the staff is commended for meeting the challenges in a professional manner that ensured consistent and timely services to the public.

The Court's new Community Service program met with great success by expanding opportunities for meaningful projects at a youth's school, village, township, city, and other non-profit organizations.

The success of the Juvenile Traffic Court diversion/education program for first time minor traffic violations is favorably reflected by a low rate re-offending of 5%.

CASA continues to play an integral role in abuse, neglect and dependency cases and Victim Services continues to provide essential services for victims in delinquency cases.

Probation remained active with various programs and partnerships to assist youth, including Family Resource Center, Shelby County Animal Shelter, Alpha Center, Catholic Social Services, Girls Circle, Park Projects, United Way and its newly establish Council for Boys.

The Court's School Liaison, Amy Simindinger, continued to work closely with the Court, schools and youths to ensure a collaborative approach in dealing with at-risk youth.

In 2020 the Court continued its success in reducing the need for detention services over historical averages. The Court's focus on early intervention and mental health counseling helped reduce the need and significant costs for detention and long-term commitment programs. A newly established Court Navigator position now assists with numerous referrals to help facilitate these goals.

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

Probation Services

The probation department began the year with 35 youth on probation. There were 14 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 has continued to expand our community service outreach to include one-on-one job readiness skills. 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 each youth's needs and that of their community, including exposure to valuable job skills. Youth have also had the opportunity to participate in mock interviews.

Kory Yohey and Shawn Harrod facilitated the Court's first group of The Council for Boys and Young Men, which is a strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years. They were able to successfully facilitate the program while adhering to the Covid-19 safety guidelines and graduated 5 young men from the program in 2020.

Programs – Incarceration - Placements

Programs

Home Checks – The Probation Officers, with assistance from the Sheriff's Department, make unannounced home visits to the youth in the program during and after court hours. 92 home checks were conducted in 2020

Community Service – Youth perform community service for charitable organizations, school and churches. 265 hours completed in 2020

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. 5 youth completed in 2020

Parenting Program – This program is offered through the Midwest Regional Educational Service Center. It provides parents with information and supports to cultivate a positive child/parent relationship, develop an understanding of mental health and substance abuse issues in children and teens, and be connected with area resources for additional and ongoing support. 8 parents completed in 2020

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. 4 youth completed alcohol & drug counseling and 17 youth completed mental health counseling in 2020

Girls Circle – Through a support group this curriculum is designed to increase positive connection, strengths, and competence for girls age 9-18. 8 youth completed in 2020

The Council for Boys and Young Men – A strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and young men's safe and healthy passage through pre-teen and adolescent years. 5 youth completed in 2020

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. 32 youth completed in 2020

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. 6 youth placed in program; 6 youth successfully completed; 0 youth failed to complete and were adjudicated unruly in 2020

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 2020, the Liaison directly served 24 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. 68 youth in grades Pre-K thru12 were accepted into the program in 2020

Placements

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. 2 youth were placed in 2020

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 2020

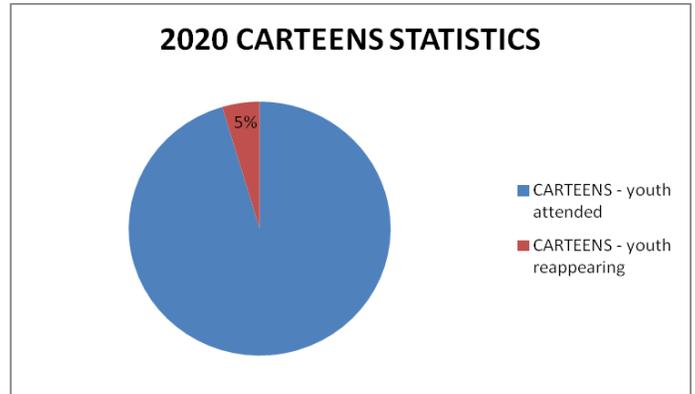
Detention – The Shelby County Commissioners have contracted with the West Central Juvenile Detention Center for 6 beds per day. The facility is a locked facility serving male and female youth between the ages of 12 and 18. 38 youth were placed and 2,021 bed days were used in 2020

TWO YEAR CASE FILING COMPARISON		
CASE TYPE	2019	2020
Delinquent	156	103
Unruly	45	43
Traffic	263	192
Adult	5	0
Other	6	6
Abuse, Neglect & Dependent	94	91
Permanent Custody	11	7

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 2020, of the 192 traffic violations filed with the Court, the bureau processed 11 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 2020, of the 228 total cases filed in the Domestic Relations Division, 139 cases were reactivated and 89 were new cases.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS TWO YEAR CASE FILING COMPARISON		
CASE TYPE	2019	2020
Custody/Visitation	123	107
UIFSA	0	1
Paternity	27	11
Support	136	109

JUVENILE COURT FUNDING

FUNDING SOURCE	PROVIDES FOR	2019	2020
County General Fund	Court Operations; Detention; Placements; Salaries/fringes	\$756,278	\$759,078
Department of Youth Services RECLAIM Ohio Grant	Salaries/fringes; GPS Monitoring; Court/school liaison; Clinical Assessments; Mental Health Navigator	\$326,582	\$303,610
Computer Funds	Equipment; Maintenance agreements	\$4,062	\$3,030
Special Projects Fund	Travel expenses; Computer maintenance contract; Counseling services for female offenders	\$26,424	\$22,406
Probation Services Fund	Probationer Activities; Equipment & supplies	\$350	\$200
Shelby County United Way IMPACT Program	Counseling services	\$27,500	\$125
The Supreme Court of Ohio Technology Grant	Computer hardware	\$0	\$3,006

This report was produced by the Shelby County Juvenile Court a cost of \$2.50 per copy.