2022

Annual Report

Jeffrey J. Beigel, Judge

Shelby County Juvenile Court

Sidney, Ohio

2022 Shelby County Juvenile Court Report by Judge Jeffrey J. Beigel

The Juvenile Court comprises one-half of the Shelby County Probate & Juvenile Court's responsibilities and commitments.

The 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 2022 the Court was busy handling over 1138 matters consisting of: 16% delinquencies, 19% traffic, 9% abuse, neglect and dependency, 7% unruly, 2% permanent custody, 47% custody, visitation & child support, 2% parentage, and 1% other matters.

Magistrate Steven Geise now serves as a full-time Magistrate to assist the Court in meeting the demands of a busy caseload. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Capital University Law School. He was a private attorney in Shelby County for over 20 years and, as a prior part-time Juvenile Magistrate, has ably handled the matters that come before him. His full-time commitment is a welcome addition to the Court and staff.

The Court generated $123,414.79 in collected revenue to the general fund, a 1.5% decrease compared to 2021.

The Court continued its successful Community Service Program with opportunities for meaningful projects at a youth's school, village, township, city, and other non-profit organizations.

The Juvenile Traffic Court had an 8% increase in cases. The diversion/education program for minor traffic violations saw a low recidivism rate of 3%.

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.

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 2022 the Court continued its success in reducing the need for detention services consistent with the prior year. 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. The Court Navigator position established in 2020 continues to be an asset to the Court by focusing on early intervention and mental health treatment to meet this goal.

The Court has also established The Link, a separately operated juvenile assessment center. The Link is funded by long term grants from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. It is a voluntary, free service for youth and families to receive screening, guidance and service referrals to community partners. Currently all referrals are being made by the Court. Full operations are expected in early 2023 when referrals to The Link can then be made by the Court, law enforcement, schools, community agencies, parents, custodians, guardians and the youth.

As an officer and 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. I also continue to serve on the OJC's Court Administration Committee and the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Technology.

Probation Services

The probation department began the year with 16 youth on probation. There were 13 youth placed on probation and 7 youth successfully completed the terms of probation.

Probation handled cases referred to its diversion program for qualifying first-time offenders. Overall, the number of eligible diversion cases remained at 51% attributable to the success of the program and its ability to identify and meet this need.

Kory Yohey now serves as Assistant Chief Probation Officer. Sidney Secor is our newest Probation Officer and the Community Service Program Coordinator.

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 Council for Boys.

Programs – Incarceration

Programs

Community Service – Youth perform community service for charitable organizations, school and churches.
514 hours completed in 2022

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. 2 parents completed in 2022

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.
23 youth completed either alcohol and/or drug education or mental health counseling in 2022

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. 25 youth completed in 2022

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. 11 youth placed in program; 8 youth successfully completed; 3 youth failed to complete and was adjudicated unruly in 2022

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 2022, 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. 43 youth in grades Pre-K thru12 were accepted into the program in 2022

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 was placed in 2022

Detention – The Shelby County Commissioners have contracted with the West Central Juvenile Detention Center for 5 beds per day. The facility is a locked facility serving male and female youth between the ages of 12 and 18. 27 youth were placed and 1,445 bed days were used in 2022

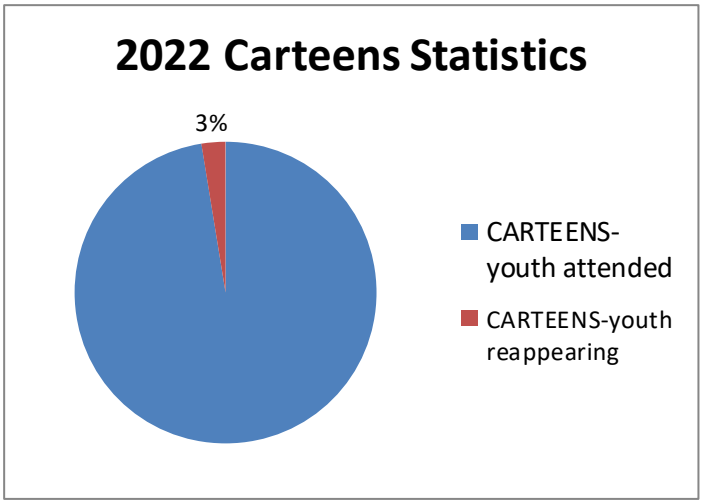
TWO YEAR CASE FILING COMPARISON

CASE TYPE	2021	2022
Delinquent	104	155
Unruly	43	72
Traffic	251	184
Adult	5	15
Other	2	8
Abuse, Neglect & Dependent	85	91
Permanent Custody	7	9

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 2022, of the 184 traffic violations filed with the Court, the bureau processed 4 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.

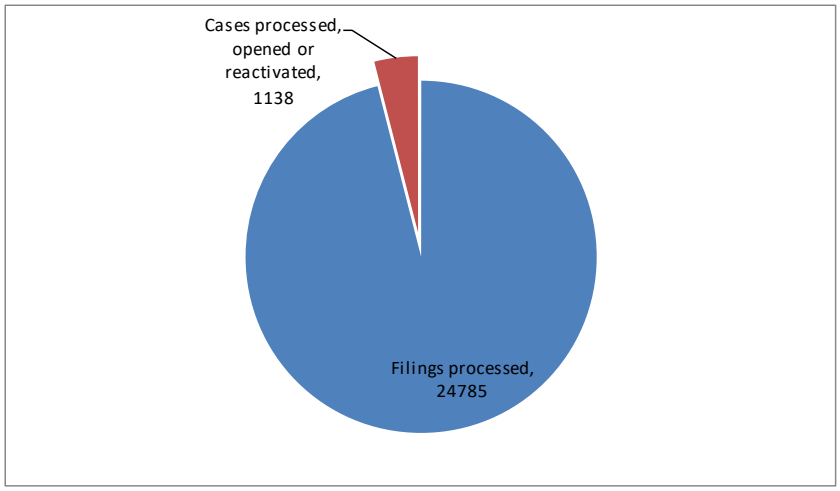
Custody and visitation issues are resolved by applying the legal standard of "best interests of the child." Child support issues are resolved by applying the Ohio Child Support Guideline Calculation Statute. Modification of custody, child support, and visitation are routinely heard by the Court with the objective of protecting the best interests of the minor children. In 2022, of the 385 cases filed in the Domestic Relations Division, 297 cases were reactivated and 88 were new cases.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS
TWO YEAR CASE FILING COMPARISON

CASE TYPE	2021	2022
Custody/Visitation	136	139
UIFSA	0	1
Paternity	19	10
Support	196	235

Juvenile Clerk's Office

The Shelby County Juvenile Clerk's Office includes a Chief Deputy Clerk and two Deputy Clerks. Each clerk is assigned a particular case type for efficient processing of filings; however, all staff are cross trained for office coverage. Areas of assignment include juvenile misdemeanor, felony and traffic cases; abuse, neglect and dependent cases; civil cases (custody, paternity, support, visitation); and juvenile civil protection orders.



Clerk staff are encouraged to and have participated in various opportunities for learning and training conducted by The Supreme Court of Ohio, including yearly attendance at the Juvenile Clerks' Conference.

The functions and duties of the Clerk's Office includes a wide range of record keeping, financial management, filing, docketing, indexing, and preserving all court documents, processing and collecting fees, responding to requests for information and providing assistance to the public.

The Shelby County Juvenile Clerk's Office mission statement entails serving the citizens of Shelby County in a professional, courteous, and respectful manner. It is our mission to provide quality judicial services to the people of Shelby County by the efficient processing of court documents and providing accurate information and guidance to those whose lives are impacted by the juvenile justice system.

In 2022, the clerks

- Handled 2,387 phone calls
- Processed 79 record checks
- Processed 25 warrants
- Issued 839 summons
- Collected an additional $8737 in court costs from cases submitted to collections

JUVENILE COURT FUNDING

FUNDING SOURCE	PROVIDES FOR	2021	2022
County General Fund	Court Operations; Detention; Placements; Salaries/fringes	$765,899	$788,598
Department of Youth Services • **RECLAIM Ohio Grant**	Probation Salaries/fringes; Probation travel/training; GPS Monitoring; Court/School Liaison; Clinical Assessments; Mental Health Navigator	$276,944	$361,470
• **Competitive RECLAIM**	Community Resource Center Salaries/fringes; equipment; supplies	$0	$225,000
Computer Funds	Equipment; Maintenance agreements	$4,489	$4,360
Special Projects Fund	Travel expenses; Computer maintenance contract; Counseling services for female offenders	$28,327	$29,260
Probation Services Fund	Probationer Activities; Equipment & supplies	$225	$225
Shelby County United Way • **IMPACT Program**	Counseling services	$20,000	$32,500
• **Special Projects**	School fees for at-risk youth	$2,500	$0
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant • **Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Grant**	Overtime costs	$2,500	$0

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