

HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

1999 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE

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Glenn R. Menez
Court Administrator

The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 29, 2000

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 1999 Annual Report. This Report contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this Report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Lee".

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 1999 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18.

**COURT PERSONNEL
(As of December 31, 1999)**

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menuetz
Bailiff Mentor Program Coordinator	Bradley S. Conn
Chief Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk	Jennifer Evans Teresa Gallion
Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation/Truancy Officer Probation Office Secretary	Patrick Barnes Janice Shroyer, L.S.W. Robert Porter Peggy Didinger
Project STAY Office Clerk	Annette Lanham

Note: The following changes in staff occurred in 2000:

Leaving the Court were Probation Officer Patrick Barnes, Chief Deputy Clerk Jennifer Evans, and Deputy Clerk Teresa Gallion. Joining our staff are Probation Officer David Beazel, and Deputy Clerks Lisa Gibson and L. Christine Jenkins. In addition, Janice Shroyer was promoted to Chief Probation Officer.

PURPOSE OF THE COURT

Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01 sets forth the purpose of the Juvenile Court as follows:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code;
- (B) To protect the public interest in removing the consequences of criminal behavior and the taint of criminality from children committing delinquent acts and to substitute therefor a program of supervision, care, and rehabilitation;
- (C) To achieve the foregoing purposes, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating the child from its parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interests of public safety;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code is executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous and professional manner.

JURISDICTION

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23 to hear the following types of matters:

Delinquent Child – Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18th birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

Unruly Child – Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.

Juvenile Traffic Offender – Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.

Abused Children – Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.

Neglected Children – Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.

Dependent Children – Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.

Adults – Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.

Paternity – Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.

Custody – Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.

JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 1999:

Delinquency	152
Traffic	301
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	12
Unruly	65
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	3
Custody/Visitation	27
Child Support	63
Paternity	8
U.I.F.S.A.	0
Others (Probation Violations, Cost Contempts)	69
TOTAL:	700

NOTE: Ninety-one (91) juveniles who were first-time offenders and otherwise qualified, were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court.

DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 1999:

Delinquencies

Trial to Judge:	7
Dismissals:	36
Admissions:	69
Transfers to Other Courts:	24
Other:	13

Traffic Cases

Trial to Judge:	0
Dismissals:	8
Admissions:	244
Transfers to Other Courts:	49

Dependency, Neglect & Abuse

Trial to Judge:	2
Dismissals:	1
Admissions:	8

Unrulies

Trial to Judge:	0
Dismissals:	13
Admissions:	34
Transfers to Other Courts:	2
Other:	12

Permanent Custody

Trial to Judge:	1
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Custody/Visitation

Trial to Judge:	15
Dismissals:	7
Admissions:	9

Child Support

Trial to Judge:	31
Dismissals:	15
Admissions:	6
Unavailability of Party for Trial:	1

Paternity

Trial to Judge:	1
Admissions:	3

U.I.F.S.A.

Dismissals:	2
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Others (Probation Violations, Cost Contempts)

Trial to Judge:	7
Dismissals:	28
Admissions:	36
Unavailability of Party for Trial:	6
Other:	1

OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

As stated in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01(C), the Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety. The following out-of-home placements were made in 1999:

Placements with extended family	0
Placements in foster homes	3
Placements in group homes	4
Placements in Detention Facilities	2
Total:	9

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

Janice Shroyer, LSW, became a part of our Probation Department Staff in 1999. She is a graduate of Malone College and has extensive experience with social service agencies.

Also joining the Probation Department was Robert Porter, former Dean of Students at West Holmes High School. Mr. Porter serves as a part-time probation officer and truancy officer.

Peggy Didinger moved from her prior position as Clerk of Probate Court to fill the position of Probation Office Secretary/Deputy Clerk/Juvenile Court Receptionist. That position was vacated by Annette Lanham, who filled the STAY Office Assistant position. Annette will be working at STAY during the school year, and with the Juvenile Court during the summer months.

During calendar year 1999, the Probation Department supervised 84 youth on probation (63 males, 21 females). During this period, 43 youth were placed on probation and 31 were successfully removed from probation.

The Probation Department referred juveniles to the following Court programs implemented in 1997:

Shoplifters Alternative Course	8
Diversion Program	91
- 54 Successful Completions	

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience. In 1999 a total of 3234 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those 3234 hours represent services valued at \$16,650.00 to the Holmes County community.

Youth Services Grant

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. In Fiscal Year 2000 (covering the period of July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000) the grant provided the Juvenile Court with \$167,297.74 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The allocation from the State is based upon the number of juvenile felony convictions in the County during prior years, and the variable portion of the grant is debited a fixed amount per diem for the care of Holmes County children in Department of Youth Services facilities during the year. Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional programs in coming years.

The following seven (7) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 1999:

1. Program Administration

This program provides part of the salary and a proportionate amount of benefits for the Grant Administrator. The Grant Administrator administers and manages the fiscal and programmatic areas of the Youth

Services Grant and related subsidy programs. The program also provides funds for the Grant Administrator to travel to and attend training sessions and meetings conducted by the Department of Youth Services.

2. Intensive Probation

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for one Probation Officer, as well as a portion of the second Probation Officer's and Probation Office Secretary's salary and benefits. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office. It also provides funds for travel to training programs.

3. Educational Services

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk, and additional funds which are paid directly to Tri-County Educational Service Center for a portion of the expenses related to Project STAY. Project STAY provides services to youth who cannot be placed in a regular school setting. Adjudicated delinquent or unruly youth and at-risk youth are placed in the STAY Program when they fit the criteria of STAY pupils. This would include severe behavioral problems and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) students. The social workers and teachers make referrals for assessments to determine what needs will be met for each youth in the project. The Alternative Learning Center is an integral part of the Project STAY Program. Behavioral and family issues are addressed in an effort to help the student attain a positive self-image and problem solve in a mature manner. Academic classes are also provided with strong emphasis placed on proficiency in the core subject areas.

4. Out of Home Placement

Out of home placements have been described elsewhere in this Report. This Grant Program provides funds for placement of juveniles outside the home when every effort has been exhausted to keep the child in the home.

5. Clinical Assessments

This program provides funds for psychiatric, psychological, or drug and alcohol assessments for delinquent and/or unruly youth to assist the court in developing individual treatment plans.

6. Mentors

Under the direction of the Court and Mentor Coordinator Bradley S. Conn, the Court has developed a mentoring program called "One to One." Volunteer mentors are recruited, screened and trained by Juvenile Court Staff with assistance from other local agencies. The mentor's role is multi-faceted and includes a commitment to spend time with the child at least four hours a month for a minimum of one year. A recreational and friendship focus allows the mentor to enter the realm of the child's life (school, home, church and peers) to provide advocacy, assessment, linkage, values and citizenship role modeling. This program is directed at school-aged youth in Holmes County. It focuses on the following: (1) supporting quality parenting and nurturing, (2) enriching school experiences and the child's attraction to them, (3) establishing and supporting positive peer relationships, (4) monitoring for psychological stressors to implement earlier intervention, and (5) attempting to counter the negative influences of low income and impoverished families. In 1999 this grant program provided funds for the Mentor Coordinator's salary and benefits and funds for training materials and program-related supplies. In 1999 a training for mentors was led by Donita Main, M.ED., L.S.W., of The Counseling Center. The training was titled "Burn-Out and Expectations of a Mentor."

During the year, the Court supervised twenty-one (21) juvenile-mentor matches. Twelve of the juveniles matched were males and nine were females. Of those matches, seven were made in 1999. Three matches were terminated. Two terminations were made at the request of the juvenile to be withdrawn from the program, and one juvenile moved out of the state.

7. Diversion

The Court's Diversion Program has been described previously in this report. The Department of Youth Services Grant in 1999 paid a portion of the Diversion Officer's salary and benefits, as well as a portion of the Diversion Office Secretary's salary and benefits.