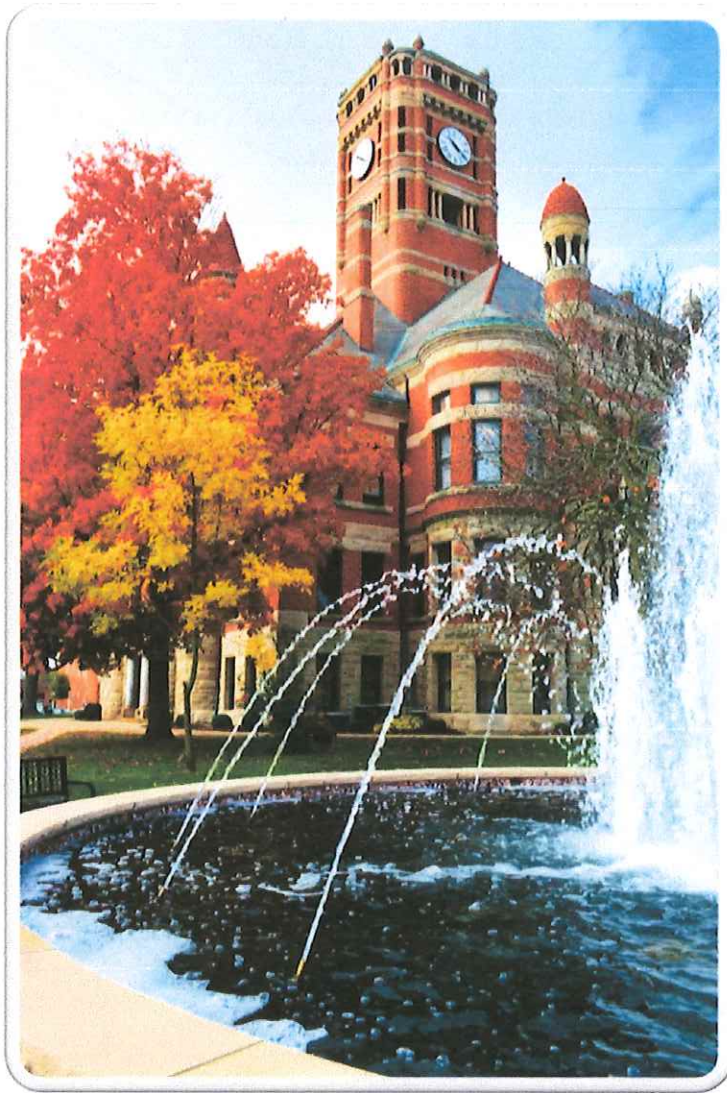


WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT JUVENILE DIVISION



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Karen K. Gallagher, Judge



WILLIAMS COUNTY COURT OF COMMON
PLEAS
PROBATE AND JUVENILE DIVISIONS

TAMARA S. RENOLLET
Magistrate

CRAIG BILLS
Administrator

Karen K. Gallagher
Judge

March 29, 2022

Williams County Commissioners
One Courthouse Square, 4th Floor
Bryan, OH 43506
Via email to Anne Retcher

Supreme Court of Ohio
Case Management Section
65 S. Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In compliance with section 2151.18 of the Ohio Revised Code, I submit the 2021 Annual Report of the Williams County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division. We hope that you will find this report informative as to the work of the Court in assisting youth and families while striving to protect the community.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by the Williams County Prosecutor's Office, the Williams County Department of Job and Family Services, the Williams County Sheriff's Department, all local police departments in Williams County, the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training and Rehabilitation Center, the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Ohio Supreme Court Specialized Docket division, the Superintendent's in the Williams County school districts and the mental health personnel and social service agencies that have provided services and care to Williams County youth this past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen K. Gallagher, Judge

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WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT JUVENILE DIVISION



The Honorable Karen K. Gallagher
Juvenile & Probate Judge

Susan Sheets, Deputy Clerk
Megan Grimm, Deputy Clerk
Camilla Miller, Deputy Clerk
Jessica Cummins, Deputy Clerk
Michael Polley, Probation Officer
John Karacson, Probation Officer
Deborah Hurni-Willis, Deputy Clerk
Annie Zervos, Administrative Assistant
Ronda Muehlfeld, Probate Deputy Clerk
Whitney Renard, FIC and Program Coordinator
Craig Bills, Juvenile & Probate Court Administrator

A Message from Judge Gallagher

What a year it has been! Looking back over our first year, it certainly has been a year of successes and a year of continuing to navigate through the difficulties presented by the pandemic. The COVID crisis continued to affect the operations of the Court, as we tried to keep staff healthy and protected, as well as ensuring the safety of all the families and individuals that came before the Court. We maintained the operations of the Court through the year. Our staff went above and beyond to make sure that each day we were doing the vital work of the Court. I am grateful for their dedicated service.

Our year was full of changes as well as focusing on efficiency, collaboration and positive impact. We worked with each school within the district to establish a partnership to help our youth. The Court hired a county-wide truancy officer and established a system for referrals to truancy mediation as an alternative to the Court process. We re-designed our diversion program to create a better system to help our youth before they become involved in the Court process. We were certified by the Ohio Supreme Court in our two specialized dockets. We continue to believe that when a youth comes before the Court, the entire family is often in need of support and assistance. We make referrals for those vital services for the families.

We work closely with each of the school districts and the staff, many of the clinical services and mental health providers in our community, the Department of Job and Family Services, the Sheriff's department and local law enforcement, the Juvenile Detention, Training and Rehabilitation Center, the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Residential Center and the Department of Youth Services. We thank each of these agencies for their services and collaboration with the Court.

A special thanks to our Specialized Docket Treatment Team for the dedicated service that they provide to the Court and the youth and families of our community. You are appreciated, respected and make a difference each week you come to Court.

We look forward to our next year, continuing our work and making a difference for our youth and their families.

- Karen K. Gallagher

WILLIAMS COUNTY JUVENILE DIVISION

SUMMARY OF CASES FILED IN 2021

Williams County Juvenile Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases concerning children in Williams County. In **2021**, there were **615** complaints and/or new cases filed. This total includes: **203** delinquent child complaints; **4** unruly child complaints; **113** juvenile traffic complaints; **38** abuse, neglect, or dependency cases; **0** permanent custody cases; **32** adult contributing cases; **39** adult failure to send cases; **32** habitually truant cases; and **154** cases involving the allocation of parental rights/parenting time, support, paternity, and legal custody cases.

DELINQUENCY CASES: Any child under the age of 18 who violates any state or federal law or any local ordinance or regulation, which violation would be a crime if committed by an adult, or any child who violates any lawful Court order is a delinquent child. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **203** delinquency complaints filed. Of the **203** complaints filed, **15** were felony charges and **188** were misdemeanors or probation violations.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
9	1	0	1
10	3	0	3
11	7	2	9
12	4	6	10
13	10	6	16
14	16	6	22
15	12	4	16
16	26	12	38
17	21	6	27
20	1	0	1

Residency	Total
Bryan	66
Edgerton	7
Edon	7
Montpelier	29
Pioneer	6
Stryker	0
West Unity	14
Other	14

Charges	Total	Charges	Total
Aggravated Arson	3	Drug Abuse/MJ	4
Aggravated Veh. Assault	1	Gr. Sex. Imposition	3
Aggravated Menacing	1	Habitual truant	32
Arson	1	Menacing	1
Assault	17	Off. Involving Minors	13
Assault Correction Officer	1	Poss. Cont. Subs	1
Assault Police Officer	1	Probation Violation	26
Break & Entering	3	Rec Stolen Property	1
Contributing	1	Theft	12
Criminal Damaging	31	Tobacco Violation	2
Criminal Mischief	14	Unauthorized Use MV	2
Criminal Trespass	17	Underage Consumption	2
Delinquent Child	5	Unruly	4
Disorderly Conduct	27	Vandalism	2
Distributing Drugs	1	Violation Court Order	6
Domestic Violence	4		

UNRULY CASES: Any child who violates a law applicable only to a child; which includes a child who is habitually truant from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant; a child who is not under the reasonable control of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian by reason of being habitually disobedient; or a child who engages in other conduct defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.022 is an unruly child. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **36** unruly complaints filed.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
11	0	1	1
12	1	2	3
13	2	2	4
14	1	3	5
15	2	1	5
16	7	4	12
17	5	1	6

Residency	Total
Bryan	18
Edgerton	1
Edon	1
Montpelier	12
Pioneer	1
Stryker	0
West Unity	1
Other	2

JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES: A child who violates any traffic law, traffic ordinance or traffic regulation of the state or local political subdivision is a juvenile traffic offender. The Williams County Juvenile Court has exclusive jurisdiction over all juvenile traffic cases. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **113** juvenile traffic citations filed.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
15	0	1	1
16	20	16	36
17	45	28	73
18	1	2	3

Residency	Total
Bryan	39
Edgerton	5
Edon	6
Montpelier	14
Pioneer	4
Stryker	8
West Unity	9
Other	28

FAILURE TO SEND: No parent, guardian, or other person having care of a child of compulsory school age shall violate any provision of the Ohio Revised Code regarding school attendance. The Juvenile Court may require a person convicted of violating this provision to give bond in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars, conditioned that the person will cause the child under the person's authority to attend school as provided by the law, and remain as a student in the school during the term prescribed by law. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **39** adult failure to send charges filed.

TRUANCY CASES: In **2021** Williams County, in collaboration with the school districts, hired a County Truancy Officer who began serving in this position at the beginning of the **2021** school year. With the assistance of each school within the district, juveniles and their families were provided alternatives to adjudication options including truancy mediation. In the **2020-2021** school year, **63** students/families successfully completed truancy mediation and resolved the truancy issues. Truancy mediation was not successful in **33** cases and students/parents were required to appear in court.

CONTRIBUTING TO UNRULINESS OR DELINQUENCY OF A CHILD: No person, including a parent, guardian, or other custodian of a child, shall violate any provision of the Ohio Revised Code regarding contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **32** adult contributing cases filed.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND DEPENDENCY: Cases of abuse, neglect, and dependency are filed by the Williams County Department of Job and Family Services. The Williams County Juvenile Court appoints a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), or an attorney, as the Guardian Ad Litem for the child(ren) in these cases. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **38** abuse, neglect, and/or dependency complaints filed.

PERMANENT CUSTODY: The Williams County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to determine motions for permanent custody that requires the permanent termination of parental rights and placement of a child in the permanent custody of the Williams County Department of Job and Family Services for adoptive placement of the child. There were **0** motions for permanent custody filed in the Court in **2021**.

ALLOCATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS/PARENTING TIME/PARENTAGE CASES: The Williams County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to hear the allocation of parental rights/custody/visitation cases involving children who are born to unmarried parents and not under another Ohio Court's jurisdiction. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **107** allocation of parental rights/custody/visitation/parentage cases filed.

SUPPORT CASES: The Williams County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction to hear a motion for an order of child support/health insurance coverage of any child, if the child is not a ward of another Court of this state. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court had **47** support cases filed.

TRENDS

	2020	2021
Youth Charged with Delinquency	105	144
Youth Charged with Unruliness	20	4
Juvenile Traffic Violations	99	113
Bed Days Used at NWOJDT&R Center	563	2207
Youth Detained at Juvenile Detention Center	27	71
Abuse, Neglect, or Dependent Cases	62	38
Permanent Custody Cases	1	0
Adult Contributing Cases	2	32
Failure to Send	32	39
Habitual Truant	0	32

2021 PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR WILLIAMS COUNTY

YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT: The Williams County Juvenile Probation Department is the primary service provider for the Juvenile Court. The department strives to hold juvenile offenders accountable for delinquent and unruly activity, while providing referrals to resources that reduce criminal behavior, and increase the ability of youth to live productively and responsibly in the community. It is the duty of the department to carry out the orders of the Court and serve to protect the interest of the community. Probation Officers are responsible for utilizing all suitable methods to aid juveniles on probation in order to bring about improvement to their conduct. The department recognizes the importance the role the family plays in each youth's response to supervision and therefore requires parents and/or guardians to participate in a youth's treatment plan, as well as other programs to which the youth and family are referred.

The Williams County Juvenile Probation Department is staffed by the Court's Administrator, three Probation Officers, a Family Intervention Court and Program Coordinator, and two Probation Clerks. Williams County Juvenile Probation Officers each manage a caseload of juvenile offenders and are responsible for ensuring compliance with Court orders, assessing client needs, initiating referrals to appropriate agencies, and maintaining related documentation.

Every youth who is placed on probation is required to follow the conditions of probation. These conditions establish the parameters of acceptable behavior for the probationer. Probation Officers enforce the conditions of probation, and if necessary, can file complaints with the Court for probation violations. Each probationer is seen by his/her Probation Officer at least once per month either at the probation department, at school, or at home.

In **2021**, there were **52** juveniles (**32** males and **20** females) placed on official probation. In addition there were **21** juveniles carried over from the year **2020**. As of **12/31/2021** there were **22** juveniles released from probation.

DRUG TESTING: Urinalysis testing is consistently used by the Williams County Juvenile Court to test youths for drug use. All juveniles placed on probation are subject to random drug and alcohol testing as a condition of their probation. Testing helps to keep youth substance-free and guides the Court on appropriate recommendations for treatment. The Probation Department used a twelve panel instant cup during **2021** testing for amphetamine, cocaine, oxycodone, marijuana, phencyclidine (PCP), methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), opiate, benzodiazepine, barbiturate, methadone, methamphetamine, and buprenorphine. In **2021**, the Family Intervention Court implemented a web-based program called Sentry Automated Medical Management, otherwise known as S.A.M.M., to assist in the randomization of drug screens for participants. The participants are required to call the S.A.M.M. line every day and the program will notify them if they are to complete a drug screen.

LIFE WITHOUT DRUGS: The Life Without Drugs program is a 90-day program provided at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training, and Rehabilitation Center to juveniles who are experiencing alcohol or drug related problems. This program is provided by Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio. The Life Without Drugs program educates youth on the disease concept, 12 step support groups, as well as relapse prevention, family origin issues, anger management, coping/decision making skills, and leisure/recreational activities. The on-site counselor conducts in-depth assessments, substance abuse education, group therapy, and individual counseling with the youths placed in the program as well as family engagement sessions. In **2021**, Williams County Juvenile Court referred **14** juveniles. **12** juveniles successfully completed The Life Without Drugs program in **2021** with **2** juveniles continuing the program into **2022**.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING: The Court contracts with the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (CCNO) for electronic monitoring services. Electronic Monitored House Arrest is used as an alternative to placing juveniles in a secure detention facility. The equipment used is designed to track an offender's movement in the community providing juveniles the opportunity to experience a structured setting within their home. In **2021**, there were **12** youth placed on Electronic Monitored House Arrest.

ON-CALL: The Probation Department has a Probation Officer on-call at all times. This allows for a Probation Officer to be available to law enforcement officials when juvenile related matters occur in the county. Probation officers have the authority to detain a juvenile or determine an alternative placement, pending a hearing before the Court on the next business day.

FAMILY INTERVENTION COURT: The Juvenile Court operates two specialized dockets with its Family Intervention Court (FIC). The Court is certified for a Dependency Docket and a Juvenile Treatment Docket. Cases are taken out of the traditional docket and placed in a specialized docket. The purpose is to bring more intense services to cases with mental health issues, substance abuse issues, or family systems issues. Cases may be referred to the Court from either delinquency cases, or abuse, neglect, dependency cases. Each case is reviewed by a treatment team which consists of individuals from organizations and service providers in Williams County. FIC may accept a maximum of **10** cases for each docket. To successfully complete the process, participants must pass through four phases. It is a voluntary program and all members of the household must consent to being involved in the process. In **2021**, the Juvenile Treatment Court served **16** youth/families while the Dependency Treatment Court served **9** families.

DIVERSION: Referrals to the Diversion program for Williams County youth come from a number of entities including the Prosecuting Attorney's office, law enforcement, school administration/staff, Williams County Job and Family Services, Community Agencies, and parents/guardians of juveniles. Diversion uses programming, supervision, and support as ways to redirect youth. The program reduces recidivism rates, reduces Court costs, and provides necessary services and resources to youth and their families. In **2021**, the Williams County Juvenile Court implemented three Diversion Programs. One Program is Providing Accountability Through Honor and Education, or PATHE. The purpose of this program is to provide a one-time visit with the Diversion Officer that is educational and involves the entire family to assist in finding solutions to the presenting issues. Another program is Informal Diversion. The purpose of this program is to provide more in depth and structured assistance. The Diversion Officer completes screens, refers the juvenile/family to treatment, and completes monthly visits. This program can last up to six (6) months. The court also has a Pre-Adjudication Diversion. This program is Court Ordered by the Judge and all recommendations provided by the Diversion Officer must be followed. All filings associated with any case referred to Diversion will be sealed and expunged upon successful completion of the program. In **2021**, **43** juveniles completed the program successfully, **15** juveniles continued into **2022**, and no juveniles were referred back to the prosecutor's office for formal prosecution.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
8	1	0	1
10	3	1	4
11	5	1	6
12	2	0	2
13	3	0	3
14	7	3	10
15	2	1	3
16	5	1	6
17	4	2	6
18	1	1	2

Residency	Total
Bryan	15
Edgerton	6
Edon	4
Montpelier	12
Pioneer	4
Stryker	0
West Unity	2

CARTEENS: CARTEENS is a traffic safety program that educates teen drivers in an attempt to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decrease the number of teen traffic offenders, and increase teen awareness of traffic/vehicle safety. The "Car" in CARTEENS stands for "Cautions and Responsibility", and the "Teens" refers to the teenagers who help prepare and present the program. In the CARTEENS program, teen leaders teach traffic education safety programs to first-time teen traffic offenders, while also building offenders' self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Program topics include excessive speed, driving under the influence, seat belt safety use, consequences of unsafe decisions, dealing with peer pressure, understanding traffic laws, and recognizing and reacting to traffic signs and signals. This program presented to Williams County youth through a collaborative effort of the Northwest Ohio OSU Extension 4-H Office, the Williams County Juvenile Court, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The Court allows many first time juvenile traffic offenders the opportunity to have their traffic violation dismissed by completing the CARTEENS program. Juvenile traffic offenders that are ordered into the program must successfully complete the program and pay all Court costs prior to their traffic violation being dismissed. In **2021**, **47** juveniles were referred to the CARTEENS program.

MENTORING PROGRAM: Mentors for Williams County is a nonprofit agency, providing mentors for the youth in Williams County. With the goal of inspiring our youth to make positive changes in their life and end the repeating pattern of harmful or otherwise negative behavior. In 2021, the Court referred 10 juveniles to the Mentors for Williams County program.

FAMILY SERVICES: Shalom Counseling and Mediation Services brings family services to those involved in the court system. These services include psychosocial assessments, mental health and behavioral health assessments, diagnosis and recommended treatment plans that include but are not limited to, mental health treatment plans, parenting education, supervised visitation, parent coaching, Parent Project, conflict management skills training, anger management, alcohol and substance use awareness and treatment services and mediation and skills training. The family services allow parties to be given tools and new skills that will enable them to improve communication, strengthen relationships, emotional modulation, parenting skills and strategies to solve problems, offer safety, provide structure, positive discipline, celebrate success and build trust within the family system. In 2021, 22 families were referred to these services.

CLINICAL SERVICES: Services and Agencies utilized by the Williams County Juvenile Court include Maumee Valley Guidance Center, Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio, Williams County Health Department, Shalom Counseling and Mediation Services, Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCMEP), A Renewed Mind, Harbor, Court Diagnostic and Treatment Centers, Dr. Diane Peters, and Dr. Mark Babula with Central Behavioral Healthcare.

VICTIM OFFENDER RECONCILIATION PROGRAM (VORP): VORP began in 1997. This program is operated by Shalom Counseling and Mediation Services and uses specially trained individuals to bring the victim and the offender together to mutually agree on a Plan of Restitution. Due to budget constraints through the VORP Program, the number of referrals has decreased. In 2021, 2 referrals were made to VORP.

CONFINEMENT, REHABILITATION, AND PLACEMENT FOR WILLIAMS COUNTY YOUTH IN 2021

NORTHWEST OHIO JUVENILE DETENTION, TRAINING, AND REHABILITATION CENTER: The Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training, and Rehabilitation Center (JDC), which is located in Williams County, Ohio, became operational in February of 2000 as a regional Juvenile Detention Center. The Detention Center provides secure detention to juveniles within the jurisdictions of Defiance, Henry, Fulton, and Williams Counties. The Center consists of approximately 17,000 square feet and has 32 individual detention cells, a control room, multi-purpose room, two classrooms, intake area, nurse clinic, gymnasium, library, administrative offices, and a secure outdoor recreation area. The Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center is governed by a Board of Trustees where each member has a vote. The Juvenile Court Judges in the four counties are Ex Officio members of the Board. In **2021**, Williams County detained **71** youth at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training and Rehabilitation Center for a total length of stay of **2207** days.

JUVENILE RESIDENTIAL CENTER OF NORTHWEST OHIO: The Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio (JRC) operates a 42 bed facility located in Wood County, Bowling Green, Ohio that houses male felony offenders. The mission of the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio is to assist youth and their families in making positive changes that contribute to an improved functioning in the home environment while protecting the community. In collaboration with Courts, families, and other outside service providers, the facility seeks to individualize each youth's treatment and enhance their pro-social development. JRC is governed by the following counties: Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood. In **2021**, Williams County Juvenile Court placed **1** juvenile with felony adjudications into the Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES: The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is the juvenile correction system for the State of Ohio. DYS is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10-21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county Juvenile Courts. The mission of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is to improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering family and communities. DYS also provides parole services to youth upon release from a DYS facility to assist in the transition from the institution back into the community. In **2021**, Williams County Juvenile Court did not commit any juveniles to the Department of Youth Services.