

Fairfield County  
Juvenile & Probate Court  
**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Judge Terre L. Vandervoort*



**FAIRFIELD**  
COUNTY • OHIO

JUVENILE & PROBATE COURT

## **Forward by Judge Terre L. Vandervoort**

During 2023, Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court and Fairfield County Guardianship Service Board completed conversion to new case management systems. This move to Tyler Enterprise Justice and Tyler Enterprise Supervision was an intense two-year process that is resulting in improved efficiencies with data collection and entry, electronic filing, outcomes measurement, quality assurance, and more.

During 2024, my team will continue to work diligently to familiarize themselves with this new technology. Thanks to this conversion, a longtime goal of this Court may be realized in future years: a paperless system. Stay tuned for more.

Major focus was also given in 2023 to creation of the Fairfield County School Threat Assessment and Response Protocol (STAR). The mission of this countywide protocol is risk reduction and violence prevention to promote the safety of students, staff, first responders, and the community at large. This protocol commits Fairfield County to a coordinated community response to threats of targeted school violence.

The Fairfield County STAR was prepared by Fairfield County Juvenile Court and Fairfield County Educational Service Center in collaboration with the offices of the Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney, City of Lancaster Law Director and City Prosecutor, Fairfield County Sheriff, Lancaster Police Department, Pickerington Police Department, Fairfield County ADAMH, our county's school districts, additional law enforcement agencies, and other community partners. The protocol was shared with the Fairfield County Commissioners in January 2024 and is now in effect.

Every year, day in and day out, Fairfield County Juvenile Court is focused on community protection and offender accountability.

If Fairfield County Juvenile Court becomes an unplanned stop on a child's journey through adolescence to adulthood, we owe it to that child and the future of our community to make the detour worthwhile. Guided by the premise that each child is a unique individual, the interventions and services developed by the Court are evidence-based practices that vary in scope and intensity to match the risk level and needs of each juvenile offender.

To reduce the likelihood a youth will reoffend, research indicates that courts should focus resources on individuals most likely to offend. By aligning our programs with nationally recognized models, all levels of intervention are tailored to the specific risk level of each youth. Fairfield County Juvenile Court uses research-based risk assessment tools to determine whether each juvenile offender poses a low, medium, or high risk of reoffending.

Research also indicates that most delinquents outgrow their offending behaviors because they acquire skills; obtain employment; establish close, caring personal relationships; and form attachments and bonds to pro-social groups and institutions.

Using a restorative justice approach, Fairfield County Juvenile Court has developed services to bolster competencies in five major skill areas: pro-social skills to address conflict resolution and anger management; moral-reasoning skills which focus on connecting thoughts and actions; academic skills; workforce development; and independent living skills.

From intake to case closure, Fairfield County Juvenile Court commits its resources, interventions and decisions to achieving these principles: protection of the community, offender accountability, and skill and competency development.



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# Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Fairfield County Juvenile Court continued to take action in 2023 that reflects our standing as a [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative \(JDAI\)](#) court. Supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, JDAI is one of the nation's most successful and widespread juvenile justice system reform initiatives. The focus of JDAI is to reduce reliance on juvenile detention where youth have often been needlessly detained with long-term negative consequences for both public safety and youth development.

JDAI was created to significantly and safely reduce detention populations through appropriate screening, assessment, and placement into detention alternatives. While JDAI's efforts are primarily focused on the detention phase, detention reform is a major catalyst for other changes in juvenile justice which include the following Core Strategies:

- Promoting collaboration between juvenile court officials, probation agencies, prosecutors, defense attorneys, schools, community organizations and advocates;
- Using data collection and analysis to guide decision-making;
- Utilizing objective admissions criteria and risk assessment instruments to reduce subjective decision-making regarding placement in secure detention facilities;
- Implementing alternatives to detention programs in lieu of locked detention;
- Instituting case processing reforms to expedite the flow of cases through the system;
- Reducing the number of youth detained for probation violations or failing to appear in court and the number held in detention awaiting transfer to a residential facility;

- Combatting racial and ethnic disparities by examining data to identify policies and practices that may disadvantage youth based on race or ethnicity.
- Monitoring and improving conditions of confinement in detention facilities.

2023 was the first full year of use of the Court's updated Screening Instrument (DSI) that was revised using a JDAI lens. Utilizing research-based criterion that supports the identification of youth who present a danger to the community or themselves as appropriate for detention, the DSI provides an objective, standardized instrument to determine which youth should be placed in detention and which should be returned home or to community respite.

Engagement and collaboration with community partners in the work of JDAI increased in 2023. Regular meetings of JDAI Executive, Detention Utilization/Assessment Center, School Justice Partnership, and Community Education Sub-Committees began. Identified as two major shared concerns regarding high-risk youth and families in Fairfield County were: school threats and youth experiencing trauma.

*See page 1 regarding school threats.* In a joint effort to more effectively serve youth experiencing trauma, Juvenile Court led an initiative to fully implement a Handle with Care response in our community, with Lancaster City Schools serving as the pilot site and Lancaster Police Department as the first law enforcement partner. Fairfield County Job and Family Services is overseeing the project. Additional collaborators include Fairfield County ADAMH and Cordata. County-wide expansion is anticipated in 2024. [Click here for more information about Handle with Care.](#)

# Juvenile Court Array of Services

Resource Center Services		Diversion Services		Court Services		
Community Request for Services	Law Enforcement and On-Call	Informal Conference	Diversion	Levels of Supervision	Detention	Department of Youth Services
Resource Center (Assessment Services)  Supports for At-Risk Youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Management and Service Linkage (Voluntary)</li> <li>• Service Coordination and Referral</li> </ul>	Resource Center (On-Call/ Assessment Services)  Supports for At-Risk Youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergencies</li> <li>• After-Hours Calls and Service Coordination</li> <li>• Coordination and Referral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warn and Release</li> <li>• Mediation</li> <li>• Curfew</li> </ul>	<u>3 Categories</u> Expedited General Intensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal Processing</li> <li>• Direct Referral from Prosecutor</li> <li>• Individual Contract</li> <li>• Care Coordination and Referral</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Adjudicated/Disposition Intervention</li> <li>• Court Services Engagement</li> <li>• Probation</li> <li>• Community Intensive Services Program (CISP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placement for up to 90 days per charge or violation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State-run juvenile facilities</li> <li>• Youth placed for minimum of 6 months or 1 year based on offense</li> </ul>
Resource Center				Behavioral Health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting Services</li> <li>• Assessment Services</li> <li>• On-Call</li> <li>• Workforce Development</li> <li>• Mentoring/Community Outreach</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral Health Treatment</li> <li>• Care Consultation</li> <li>• Program Consultation</li> <li>• Community Outreach and Education</li> </ul>		

# **Fairfield County Juvenile Court Guiding Principles**

## **Community Protection**

- Identify Risk.
- Manage Risk.
- Minimize Risk.

## **Offender Accountability**

- Accept Responsibility
- Victim Impact
- Restitution
- Community Service

## **Diversion Services**

- Informal Conferences
- Diversion Accountability
- Safe Harbor
- Positive Youth Development
- Mediation
- Mentoring

## **Behavioral Health Services**

- Counseling/Consulting
- Multidisciplinary Team Coordination
- Family Engagement
- Resiliency Training

## **Resource Center Services**

- Assessment Services
- Reporting Services
- Community Request for Services
- Skill Building
  - Pro-Social Skills
  - Moral Reasoning
  - Academics
  - Workforce Development
  - Independent Living
  - Group Mentoring

## **Court Services**

- Community Control
- Court Services Engagement
- Probation
  - Supervision
  - Case Management
  - Graduated Sanctions
  - Positive Incentives
  - Cognitive Interventions
- Community Intensive Services Program

## **Specialized Dockets and Strategic Initiatives**

- Excel (formerly Family Court)
- Protecting and Advocating for Children Together (PACT)

# Interventions

**Assessment Center**

**Community Control**

**Informal Conferences**

**Court Services**

**Diversion Services**

**Detention**





# Assessment Center

The Assessment Center (AC) is part of the Fairfield County Juvenile Court Resource Center located in Connexion West in Lancaster. The AC provides individualized screening, processing, and referral of at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. Staff respond to immediate crises as well as ongoing needs of youth and their families while increasing law enforcement availability to the community through provision of timely service.

The Assessment Center partners with community-based agencies to provide coordinated best-practice and cost-effective responses, services and resources to youth and their families — including screenings, assessments, and referrals.

The AC has a dual goal:

1. Prevent the progression of behaviors that put the youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement.
2. Prevent the use of secure detention for youth who can be safely served while maintaining family stability.

The AC has two tracks: one for law enforcement agencies and one for community-based referrals. The latter is called Community Request for Services (CRS). Both tracks strive to keep youth safely at home and out of the juvenile justice system—or at minimum reduce their juvenile justice system involvement as appropriate—by connecting families with supportive services to promote safe, healthy, and happy kids. In the CRS track, young people receive early intervention screening and assessment to identify factors contributing to concerning behavior. These informal referrals are accepted from parents and other family members, as well as professionals—including law enforcement, school officials, and agency representatives.

The Law Enforcement Assessment Track process begins with an officer bringing an at-risk youth to the Center. Parents/guardians are contacted to come in as well. As Resource Center staff begin their assessment, the Officer can clear the case and return to duty. The RC provides after-hours Assessment Services to law enforcement via phone through On-Call Services.

There are several possible outcomes of this initial referral, based on the screenings and interview:

1. Youth returns home with parent/caregiver; or
2. Youth stays with relative/other adult overnight; or
3. Youth may be taken to detention by Court staff; or
4. Emergency respite may be provided.

In 2023, the Court received grant funding to make the fourth possible outcome a regularly available option. Through the Low-Risk Youth Respite Program, the Court can provide short-term, safe stabilization for appropriate youth through temporary placement in certified foster homes.

The Assessment Center staff interact with the Fairfield County Prosecutor to determine if a case can be diverted, should be formally filed, or will be handled informally.

Originally funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Assessment Center's Community Track began providing services July 1, 2019. The Law Enforcement Track began formal operations on January 20, 2020. However, the Assessment Center was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective March 23, 2020, youth were no longer brought into the physical facility; a transition to remote interaction with youth and law enforcement began. In-person services resumed in spring 2021.



## Assessment Center Data

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Community Track</b>	59 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	50 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	40 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	48 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	36 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.
<b>Law Enforcement Track</b>	33 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	61 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	19 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	22 Youth Referred Service provided/attempted for all.	Scheduled to open January 2020

## Informal Conferences

When a youth is referred to Fairfield County Juvenile Court as the result of a citation issued by law enforcement, usually for a curfew violation or other minor misdemeanor (such as tobacco possession), a Court case manager meets with the youth and parent(s). Through a brief interview, recommendations can be made for preventive or other services, and the youth is admonished and released. Informal conferences do not become part of a juvenile's record.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Informal Conferences Caseload</b>	64	55	69	86	58	98	85	188	168

# Diversion Services

Diversion Services incorporates a vast variety of interventions that may be utilized both within the Court (General Diversion, Safe Harbor Diversion, School Attendance and Engagement, Mediation Services) and community as alternatives to formal case processing of a youth or family. The intervention utilized is dependent upon the offense, extent of harm to victim or community, and risk of the youth to reoffend.

Extensive research conducted during the past 25 years shows that juvenile offenders deemed at low risk for reoffending benefit most from minimal court intervention. Conversely, research indicates that providing intensive monitoring and treatment to low-risk youth can have a detrimental impact on them. Diversion Services accepts referrals directly from the County Prosecutor or from the Judge/Magistrate when a youth:

1. Is alleged to have committed an offense that can range from a status offense to a misdemeanor\*,
2. Admits to the offense,
3. Is deemed at low or moderate risk of reoffending as determined through administration of the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) questionnaire.

In a diversion case, the delinquency or unruly matter proceeds through informal processing as opposed to adjudication. (As of 2022, youth are no longer ordered to Diversion once they have entered the Courtroom.) If a case is referred from the Judge or Magistrate, the matter has already been filed formally. The youth then enters an admission or is found delinquent or unruly; the disposition order is completion of Diversion Services.

Diversion also provides the youth and their family an opportunity to access needed resources, with the goal of preventing further involvement with the juvenile justice system while allowing the youth to acknowledge responsibility for their actions.

When a youth is referred to Diversion Services, a comprehensive interview with the juvenile and parent(s) is scheduled and facilitated by a Diversion Case Manager. During the assessment interview, the Diversion Case Manager gathers information regarding school behavior, academic challenges, peer relations, and family dynamics while also identifying the strengths of the youth and family.

In addition, specific screenings are administered for mental health and substance abuse issues, as well as prior or current exposure to trauma. If concerns are identified that may indicate a need for intervention, the Case Manager refers the youth and family to appropriate resources; these recommendations are included in the youths Diversion Contract.

Other terms of a youth's Diversion Contract may include the completion of an apology letter, an essay relative to the offense, payment of restitution directly to the victim, community service, referral to mentoring opportunities, or referral to other programs offered through the Court or within the community. These terms are included within the contract as a means of restoration for a victim and to enhance the youth's protective factors in the areas of work, education, relationships, community, health, and creativity.

Youth who are accepted into Diversion Services remain with the department until all terms of the agreed-upon contract are fulfilled. Upon Diversion completion, which averages 90 days, the youth is successfully terminated, and their record is sealed if formally filed. The amount of time between successful termination and sealing of a Diversion case depends on the level of the offense and whether the youth reoffends during a specified period of time. If a youth fails to complete the terms of the contract or commits a subsequent offense while in Diversion, the case can be terminated unsuccessfully and returned to the Prosecutor for formal processing or is returned to the Court for further orders if already adjudicated.

## General Diversion Services Data

<i>School Attendance data is not included in this section.</i>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Youth Referred to Diversion</b>	144	226	229	200	255	229	313	183	144
<b>Successful Completion</b>	90%	93%	94.9%	86.5%	90.0%	83.6%	91.4%	84.9%	85.6%
<b>Unsuccessful Completion</b>	10%	6.6%	3.8%	12.5%	9.2%	15.8%	8.3%	12.4%	13.4%
<b>Neutral Outcome Due to Medical Reason</b>	0%	0.4%	1.3%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.3%	2.7%	1.0%
<b>Offense Level: Felony</b>	0%	3.1%	0.0%	1.1%	0.8%	0.4%	1.9%	0.0%	1.4%
<b>Offense Level: Misdemeanor</b>	90.4%	78.3%	68.1%	60.6%	69.4%	78.8%	73.3%	70.4%	92.1%
<b>Offense Level: Status (curfew, tobacco, etc.)</b>	9.6%	18.6%	31.9%	38.3%	29.8%	20.8%	24.8%	29.6%	6.5%

# Safe Harbor Diversion Services

Human trafficking of women and children is a reality for the Fairfield County community. Trafficking in a rural setting may look different than it does in larger urban communities, but its prevalence is increasing. [University of Cincinnati](#) researchers in 2019 identified 4,209 youth in Ohio at risk as victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. This staggering number affects every area of the state, including Fairfield County. Ranging from the traditional out-of-state runaway arrested at an airport to young people living in hotels with no visible means of support or parent engagement, these cases were the impetus to a new initiative led by the Court and joined by these Fairfield County community partners: Child Protective Services; Community Action Homeless Youth Program; Family, and Children First Council; and Gracehaven in Columbus.

The name Safe Harbor was taken from Ohio legislation that provides for special handling of these troubling cases. Safe Harbor automatically diverts some charges, such as prostitution and soliciting. In rural Ohio, juveniles are not typically receiving those type of charges. However, charges of truancy, theft, and runaway/ unruly youth are red flags that human trafficking may

be happening. National and other Ohio best practice protocols have been used to develop the Court's Safe Harbor program.

Judge Vandervoort convened the Fairfield County Safe Harbor Initiative Advisory Board to begin development of a comprehensive county-wide approach. Advisory Board members researched and attended relevant training. Fairfield County Foundation Women's Giving Circle provided funding for a community-wide training for Fairfield County child- and family-serving agencies.

Cases diverted through Safe Harbor receive behavioral health assessments and referrals, Child Protective Services involvement, skill-building, and empowerment/ support for the youth as well as support in addressing the charges they did receive. The youth, once confirmed into Safe Harbor, is considered a victim or survivor of human trafficking.

The Court's Behavioral Health team developed a human trafficking screening protocol for all youth who interact with the Court, regardless of which pathway they enter the Court.

	2023	2022	2021
<b>Youth Identified for Safe Harbor Diversion Services</b>	0	4	5



# School Attendance and Engagement

Due to the April 2017 implementation of HB 410 school attendance (truancy) legislation, responsibility for early intervention for school attendance was assigned to the schools. The Court continues to partner with each school district to support individual youth school attendance intervention plans. Youth who subsequently receive truancy charges are served through the Court's Diversion programs when at all possible.

2023 was the first full calendar year of Community-Based Diversion Services in Fairfield County. Through a partnership with Fairfield County Family and Children First Council, a community-based school attendance intervention—TREK—was implemented in October 2022. This partnership allows families challenged with school attendance issues to be diverted to the Council, where they are assessed to determine the needs of the youth/family and address underlying concerns that may be contributing to the youth's lack of school attendance. TREK allows these vulnerable families to receive needed service linkage and collaboration of community providers without having to be under any form of Court supervision.

<i>*Determination data is for Court only. Determination data was unavailable for 2022 cases diverted by the community as TREK began in October 2022.</i>	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Truancy Cases</b>	87	81	69	47	56	65	71	89	55
<b>Truancy Cases Diverted</b>	54 by the Court; 33 by the Community	42 by the Court; 39 by the Community	69	47	56	30	50	51	9
<b>Successful Diversion of Truancy Cases</b>	56%	85% *	85.9 %	71.2%	72.5%	67.0%	88.0%	80.4%	88.0%
<b>Unsuccessful Diversion of Truancy Cases</b>	41%	13% *	8.8%	25.4%	25.0%	30.0%	12.0%	19.6%	12.0%
<b>Diverted Truancy Cases Closed with Neutral Status</b>	3%	2% *	5.3%	3.4%	2.5%	3.0%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

# Mediation Services

Mediation is offered to youth who may otherwise incur a formal charge of disorderly conduct, misdemeanor assault, criminal mischief/damaging, menacing, or other misdemeanor offenses that do not pose a serious threat to the community or to themselves. The Court developed the Mediation Program after researching best practices throughout the state and nation. A trained on-staff Mediator is assigned to facilitate these cases. Mediations can be conducted virtually via Zoom to be more accessible to the community.

Referrals to Mediation come from the Fairfield County Prosecutor's Office, the Fairfield County Juvenile Court Judge or Magistrate(s), Court Services, or Diversion. Diversion staff may refer a youth on their caseload as an alternative to "bumping" that individual to Court Services, specifically in instances where a conflict exists (such as domestic violence, fighting, etc.). Court Services Case Managers may refer a youth on their caseload when there is indication of a conflict in the youth's life.

Research has shown that youth who engage in physical conflict benefit from learning alternative ways to resolve issues

with their peers. It offers both (or additional) parties an opportunity to identify their conflict, own their own part in the conflict, and work toward an understanding of the other person's point of view.

Mediation offers an identified victim a chance to ask questions that only the offender can answer—such as the how and why of the offense. Mediation is also an opportunity for the victim to express frustrations and concerns. Mediation gives the offender an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions by facing the victim and working together to create an agreement that is acceptable to all parties.

The goal of the agreement reached through the process is to restore in some manner what was lost by the victim. The Mediation Agreement also makes the offender personally accountable for the loss, injury, or damage done against the victim. Once a youth completes the Mediation process and, if they experience no further conflicts for a period of at least 30 days, the matter is closed successfully, and no formal charges are filed.

	2023	2022	2021
<b>Youth Referred to Mediation Services</b>	5	35	23

# Court Services

The Court Services Department was created in 2022 as part of a larger Court reorganization. The department was designed to combine the services and functions of the former Intake and Assessment and Probation departments.

The new department structure has created several advantages for Court staff, youth and families. For example, the new structure allows for all youth facing formally filed delinquency charges to be managed in a single department. Additionally, that youth and family can typically work with a single case manager from the time the case is filed until the youth completes his or her involvement with the Court.

This structure has helped foster strong bonds between youth and Case Managers and has enhanced the ability to address any barriers to youth and family success.

## **INTAKE SERVICES**

Immediately following the formal filing of a charge by the Prosecutor, a Case Manager is assigned to evaluate the risk level and needs of every juvenile. As part of this process, the Case Manager contacts the family to gather preliminary information about family background, education, mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and pro-social activities.

The staff member also meets with the family at the time of the initial hearing, while providing a brief update to the Court during the hearing. In some cases, the judicial officer may find that no

further formal Court involvement is necessary and order a Pre-Adjudication/Disposition intervention described in further detail on page 15. Typically, however, the case will go through a lengthier formal process. As the case moves forward through the formal legal process, the Case Manager continues to work closely with the youth and family, while also assessing the long-term needs of the youth.

As part of this process, multiple evidence-based tools are used including the [Ohio Youth Assessment System \(OYAS\)](#), the [Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument \(MAYSI-2\)](#), and the [Child Trauma Screen](#). Additionally, the Case Manager contacts collateral sources (for which releases of information have been signed by the parent) including schools, counselors, and others to gather more information.

In most cases, all of the information described above is compiled into a Pre-Disposition Report (PDR) which includes recommendations for further monitoring and intervention. The PDR is distributed to judicial staff, prosecutors, the attorney and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) for the youth, and typically guides the Court in making appropriate orders for the youth. Generally, the PDR will recommend one of several specific interventions which are described briefly below.

## **COURT SERVICES**

*See the Court Services Array of Interventions on page 15.*

# Court Services Array of Interventions

<b>Intervention Level #1:</b> Pre-Adjudication/ Disposition Intervention	<b>Intervention Level #2:</b> Court Services Engagement	<b>Intervention Level #3:</b> Probation	<b>Intervention Level #4:</b> Community Intensive Services Program (CISP)
<p>This level of intervention is intended to serve low-risk youth who have had a formal charge filed with the Court, but where the judicial officer determines that further formal Court involvement is not necessary to protect the interest of the community, and that dismissal of the charge is in the best interest of the child.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u>                      Typically, no longer than 90 days from the date of the youth's last Court appearance</p> <p>Written case plan optional while Case Manager monitors compliance with temporary orders and ensures youth is unlikely to commit additional offenses.</p>	<p>This level of intervention is designed to serve low- or moderate-risk youth who, either because of the youth's history or due to the nature of the charge, require further Court involvement, but whose needs can be met with an intervention less than that of formal probation.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u>                      Target of 120 days with 30-day extensions as needed</p> <p>A written "Engagement Plan" is completed with the youth and family. The plan focuses on the needs and desires of the youth. The plan is strength-based, emphasizes Positive Youth Development principles, and is designed to foster long-lasting connections.</p>	<p>This level of intervention is designed to serve moderate or high-risk youth who, either due to the youth's history or due to the nature of the charge, require a more significant intervention designed to help the youth be successful, and to protect the safety of the community.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u>                      Indefinite and typically longer than the lower-level interventions described above. The case is reviewed by the Case Manager and a supervisor every 30 days to determine when termination is appropriate. A written "Probation Success Plan" is completed with the youth and the family. The plan focuses on community safety, safety of the youth, and the needs and desires of the youth and family.</p>	<p>This level of intervention is designed to serve moderate- or high-risk youth who, due to the youth's history and due to the nature of the charge, have demonstrated that a significant, closely-monitored intervention is needed to avoid a long-term commitment to a secure facility, to maximize the potential for the long-term success of the youth, and to ensure the safety of the community.</p> <p><u>Length of Supervision</u>                      Indefinite. The case will be reviewed by the Case Manager and supervisor every 30 days and may be terminated at any time after all steps within the program are completed and youth and community safety are ensured.</p> <p>In addition to the written "Probation Success Plan" completed with the Case Manager, the youth and family will meet with the Case Manager to review and complete various other documents detailing steps associated with successful completion of CISP. These steps are monitored very closely with an expectation of strict compliance.</p>



# Court Services Data

## Detention

* <i>Length of Stay does not include cases still open as of start of 2024.</i>	<b>Number of Youth Referred in 2023</b>	<b>Average Length of Supervision</b>
<b>Intake</b>	102	N/A
<b>Pre-Adjudication/Disposition</b>	6	138 days
<b>Engagement</b>	35	135 days
<b>Probation</b>	18	357 days

[Research](#) on the impact of detention on adolescent development and mental health indicates that its use increases the likelihood of recidivism and negatively affects future employment and educational opportunities. At Fairfield County Juvenile Court, detention is considered only after other graduated sanctions have been attempted. While placement in secure detention may be ordered for up to 90 days per charge or violation, it is used primarily as a short-term sanction when the youth is a danger to themselves or the community, or when the youth is at risk of absconding.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
<b>Total Number of Bed Days</b>	1,209	1,648	1,098	892	2,093	2,767	2,074	2,061	2,961	4,486	6,132	4,835	5,110	5,869	6,767	6,745	6,026	5,957	4,837
<b>Average Daily Number of Juveniles in Detention</b>	3.31	4.52	3.01	2.44	5.73	7.58	5.68	5.63	8.11	12.29	16.80	13.21	14.00	16.08	18.54	18.48	16.51	16.32	13.35

# **Programs and Services**

## **Behavioral Health**

Counseling/Consulting  
Multidisciplinary Team Coordination  
Family Engagement  
Resiliency Training  
Community Outreach and Education

## **Resource Center**

Reporting Services  
Community Service  
Group Mentoring/Community Outreach  
Workforce Development  
Subsidized Youth Employment



# Behavioral Health

Licensed social work/mental health professionals within Fairfield County Juvenile Court's Behavioral Health (BH) team provide mental health and substance abuse assessments for juveniles referred from Court Case Managers and Specialists or by the Judge/Magistrates. If through their interview with the youth and parent(s) it is determined that further counseling or treatment is needed, the team will make a referral for the youth to the most appropriate community resource or provide short-term in-house counseling. The BH team also is available for immediate lethality screening and referral when a youth is at risk for suicide or is a threat to others. Additionally, the team provides case consultation services to all Court staff. One Behavioral Health Specialist is focused on family engagement. Her primary role is to engage, educate, advocate for, and support parents/caregivers who have youth in Juvenile Court programming; as well as to facilitate meetings to support family voice and choice.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Lethality Assessments</b>	12	4	3	3	6	36	10	27	31
<b>Mental Health Assessments/Consults</b>	66	41	42	67	94	116	99	57	104
<b>Youth in Ongoing Treatment</b>	40	29	13	23	44	36	10	27	31
<b>Total Youth Served (Unduplicated)</b>	87 Includes 14 Public Sensitivity/ Healthy Relationships cases	66 Includes 20 Public Sensitivity/Healthy Relationships/ Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) cases.	63	77	129	156	140	158	201

# Resource Center

Fairfield County Juvenile Court Resource Center (RC) provides a combination of interventions and programs joined under one umbrella to better serve youth and families, law enforcement, and other community partners. The RC is located in Connexion West, a Lancaster community center focused on helping individuals and families.

Programs and services under the RC umbrella are Assessment Services—including Community Request for Services and On-Call Services (*described on page 7*), Reporting Services, Mentoring, Community Service, Workforce Development, and the Youth Subsidized Employment Program.

The purpose of the RC is multifaceted:

- To utilize restorative justice system best practices to provide high-risk, Court-involved youth a safe and structured environment in which to develop skills, connect to community resources, and establish positive relationships to improve daily living and reduce further involvement in the juvenile justice system;

These skills, as outlined in the Fairfield County Juvenile Court Guiding Principles include:

- Pro-Social,
- Moral Reasoning,
- Academic,
- Workforce Development, and
- Independent Living.

- To promote public safety through around-the-clock availability to local law enforcement for assistance with emergent needs related to juveniles displaying unruly or delinquent behaviors;
- To utilize trauma-informed practices to promote public and youth safety by encouraging local school districts, law enforcement, other community partners, and affected families to refer juveniles displaying unruly or delinquent behaviors to the RC for skills-development and/or other resources for the youths' personal development and success;
- To assess youth for underlying issues that contribute to their concerning behaviors and to intervene with development of safety plans and provision of appropriate services and referrals to behavioral health and other community partners ;
- To assist youth existing detention with their transition back into the community; and
- To provide mentoring services and opportunities for positive community engagement while modeling appropriate social interaction and promoting resiliency.



# Reporting Services

Reporting Services utilizes restorative justice system best practices to provide high-risk, Court-involved youth a safe and structured environment in which to develop skills, connect to community resources, and establish positive relationships. Primary goals are to improve daily living and to reduce further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Programming is based on cognitive behavioral change and structure.

Originally funded through the Ohio Department of Youth Services, Reporting Services provides intensive supervision, as well as supportive services that address identified needs of the juveniles who are referred. Youth ages 12 through 18 are referred by Court Services and the Judge/Magistrates and less frequently by Diversion Services. Eligible youth may be ordered pre-adjudication, by the Court at adjudication, or as a condition of probation. Eligible youth include those who are not a danger to themselves or others or to the property of others. In addition, a youth who is a flight risk is not eligible for placement with Reporting Services.

Programming is scheduled for three hours after school Monday through Thursday during the academic year and for 3.5 hours in the afternoon during the summer. The daytime summer schedule

allows youth greater opportunity to participate in community service projects and provides supervision earlier in the day when the youth may otherwise be home alone.

Transportation is provided to and from the Resource Center, which houses Reporting Services. During transportation time, staff engage in meaningful conversation with the youth. A standard referral is for 25 days. Upon program completion, youth may return for a 10-day referral to continue their skill-building and positive relationship development and receive additional supervision.

At times, Reporting Services is used when youth on probation need temporary supervision when parent(s) are unable to provide it. This service may occur outside of standard program hours if needed to best serve the youth and family.

Because Court staff were unable to meet with youth in person during the COVID pandemic, Reporting Services team members developed a virtual program to enable the Court to continue to provide support to individual youth and families through a creative use of technology and increased staff engagement. Although not in use since 2021, provision of virtual Reporting Services is possible should the need arise.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Number of Youth Ordered in Lieu of Detention</b>	55	45	41	49	106	66	82	29
<b>Number of Hours Served in Lieu of Detention</b>	3,942	3,051	2,217	2,046	4,846	6,250	5,839	454

# Mentoring

Mentoring provides Court-involved, at-risk youth opportunities to work one-on-one with a screened and trained adult mentor whose support and camaraderie will contribute to the development of positive skills. Studies show that more than 76% of at-risk young adults with a mentor aspire to enroll in and graduate from college, versus 56% of at-risk young adults who had no mentor. The Court's mentor program offers three different approaches: one-on-one, group, and team. One-on-one is a traditional approach through which a pre-screened adult is matched with a youth based on similar interests. The matched pair is encouraged to meet for at least two hours weekly for six months. Evidence shows that timeframe provides ample opportunity for an engaging mentorship to evolve. Through group mentoring, two adults facilitate a group consisting of four to six youth who meet for a six-week period. The Court regularly utilizes the group approach in house. Two adult sisters mentoring one youth together is an example of team mentoring. Established youth groups and programs such as Connexion West Mentor Academy are other examples of a team mentoring approach.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Mentoring Caseload</b>	32*	26	27	36	40	50	20	27	36
* Includes 22 in-house mentoring group participants, 6 youth in community mentoring groups, and 4 one-on-one matches									

# Community Service

Court-involved youth are provided the opportunity to participate in community service work, through which they may regain community trust, pay restitution, and fulfill obligations while developing new skills and building quality relationships with adult mentors. The Judge/Magistrate or Court case managers and specialists refer the youth to Community Service. Youth often complete volunteer projects with Court staff at several sites throughout Fairfield County and may work off assigned hours under the supervision of the Supportive Services Specialist Lead. Through a blended approach, youth may volunteer independently at an established community partner site such as Connexion West, Lancaster Parks and Recreation, Habitat for Humanity, local churches and Pickerington Food pantry. Community connections have the potential to transpire into positive mentorships after Court involvement. During the summer, Court staff collaborate with Fairfield County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officers (SROs) to work on community projects such as park cleanups, landscaping and painting. Youth work as a team with Court staff and the SROs. Lunch is provided after the hard work. Sites have included Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lancaster and Pickerington, food pantries, Maywood Mission, Foundation Dinners, local churches, highway cleanup sites, and many more.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Number of Youth Performing Community Service</b>	46	51	83	128	142	137	130	123	174
<b>Hours Youth Completed in Community Service</b>	883	1,204	1,558	1,797	1,859	1,785	1,927	2,292	3,654

# Workforce Development Program

In keeping with the principles of restorative justice, goals of the Workforce Development (WFD) Program are to prepare Court-involved youth for the workforce and to increase their ability to obtain and retain employment.

WFD uses this five-step approach to achieve the goals.

1. Assessment
2. Job Readiness Assistance
3. Individual Job Search
4. Job Placement
5. Job Retention

The WFD Coordinator meets with youth and parent(s) to conduct a comprehensive assessment to determine the level of assistance needed and to identify barriers and challenges.

Youth attend Job Readiness workshops that provide training in interviewing, time management, work habits/conduct, attendance, communication, conflict management, positive relationships with supervisors/ coworkers, good hygiene, and appropriate work attire.

The Coordinator meets with the youth to help create resumes, explain job postings and the value of networking, complete online job applications and employment paperwork, review employer expectations, determine work schedules, arrange transportation, balance school and work, and communicate with supervisors.

Workplace issues and problems are identified early and addressed as they occur to avoid resignation or firing. Support services are identified and accessed to help each young person maintain employment. School attendance and grades are reviewed on a regular basis.

<i>* Work Readiness Training was suspended from February 2020 through October 2021 due to the COVID pandemic</i>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Youth Referred to Workforce Development</b>	33	24	27	45	48	52	24
<b>Obtained Unsubsidized Employment</b>	18	7	14	30	38	26	7
<b>Retained Unsubsidized Employment for At Least 4 Months</b>	11	4	8	16	20	10	4
<b>Average Hourly Wage Earned</b>	\$12.00	\$9.70	\$9.17	\$8.96	\$8.38	\$8.30	\$9.70
<b>Completed Work Readiness Training</b>	4	0	4*	18	20	19	0

# Subsidized Youth Employment Program (SYEP)

The Subsidized Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides subsidized wages to at-risk youth while giving employers incentives to provide participants with 120 hours of quality on-the-job training. Youth can be placed with public, private, or non-profit employers. SYEP participants are youth ages 15 to 18 who have multiple barriers that have limited their employability.

The goal of SYEP is to help youth develop the necessary skills and work ethic to transition into unsubsidized employment at the conclusion of the program. Participants attend Job Readiness workshops to prepare for their placement. Fairfield County Juvenile

Court has partnered with TeenWorks, Inc. since the program's inception in 2018 to operate the SYEP program. TeenWorks provides administrative oversight. Funding comes from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, Columbus Foundation, Fairfield County Foundation, and United Way of Fairfield County.

The Workforce Development Coordinator maintains consistent contact with employers and youth to monitor and evaluate progress and address any issues that may arise. She provides support services to ensure participants are equipped to be successful on the job.

Program Resource	Short-term Outcome	Enrollment				Achieved Goal			
		2023	2022	2021	2020	2023	2022	2021	2020
Work Readiness Training	Received a Certificate of Completion	3	3	3	2	3 (100%)	3 (100%)	3 (100%)	2 (100%)
Work Readiness Training	Increased Score/Skill Level	3	3	0	2	3 (100%)	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)
On-the-Job Training	Completed 120 Hours	3	3	0	2	1 (33%)	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)
On-the-Job Training	Conducted Pre- and Post-Program Evaluations	3	3	3	2	1 (33%)	3 (100%)	3 (100%)	1 (50%)
Workforce Development Services	Obtained Unsubsidized Employment	0	1	1	2	0	3 (100%)	1 (100%)	1 (50%)



# **Specialized Dockets and Strategic Initiatives**

**Excel**

**Protecting and  
Advocating  
for Children Together  
(PACT)**



# Excel

Provided through a specialized docket of Fairfield County Juvenile Court, Excel is a court-supervised treatment program designed to improve outcomes for families who are involved with Protective Services (PS) with their primary barrier to reunification being substance misuse. Participants include Fairfield County parents who are at least 18 who are working toward reunification. Goals of Excel (formerly known as Family Court) are:

1. Improve participants' recovery support systems and recovery capital.
2. Through a multi-system approach, family members will have access to services to create a healthy environment for children to grow and develop.
3. Reduce recidivism/refiling of abuse, neglect, dependency cases for participants.

Through the use of tools for rapid substance and trauma screening, parents are offered early access to services and supports.

Excel is a strength-based program enhanced with strategic incentives. Focus is on goal-setting and achievement, with participants earning incentives for their accomplishments. Incentives have included self-care items, cleaning supplies, housewares, gift cards, and family-focused games and movies.

Referrals to Excel are made by PS. Upon acceptance into Excel, participants are expected to actively participate in treatment, refrain from using and/or possessing any mood-altering substance, submit to random drug screens, attend all required counseling sessions, appear for regularly scheduled status hearings, and comply with all rules of their treatment plan and program. Successful completion of Excel becomes part of the PS case plan for reunification.

*Data not tracked until 2020.									
**Additional data (neutral and unsuccessful exits) not tracked until 2020.									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Total Number of Participants</b>	28	29	34	35	31	13	16	15	10
<b>Number of Children Reunified</b>	8	6	12	21	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Number of Participants Closed</b>	8 Includes 5 neutral and 3 unsuccessful exits	9 Includes 4 neutral and 5 unsuccessful exits	8 Includes 3 neutral and 5 unsuccessful exits	11 Includes 7 neutral and 4 unsuccessful exits	9**	7**	3**	6**	2**
<b>Number of Program Graduates/ Successful Commencements</b>	4	5	8	8	4	2	7	1	6

# Protecting and Advocating for Children Together (PACT)

Protecting and Advocating for Children Together (PACT) is a collaborative effort between Juvenile Court and Protective Services to serve families linked in both systems. Research shows dual-involved youth present with a range of unique challenges and needs that can lead to higher costs and further system involvement than those youth without dual-system involvement. Juvenile Court and Protective Services identify shared youth and create a family-centered team approach to serving these unique youth and families through the PACT process. PACT teams place family needs and supports at the center of their work, creating changes that work to prevent further system involvement.

	2023	2022
<b>Families Served</b>	45	30
<b>Average Range</b>	13-17 years	13-18 years
<b>Average Age</b>	14.5 years	15.9 years
<b>City of Residence</b>	Lancaster: 25 Pickerington: 3 Canal Winchester: 3 Other/Out of County: 12	Lancaster: 18 Pickerington: 10 Canal Winchester: 1 Pleasantville: 1
<b>Offense</b>	Felony: 3 Misdemeanor: 24 Status: 18	Felony: 4 Misdemeanor: 17 Status: 9
<b>Court Department</b>	Diversion Services: 31 Court Services: 14	Diversion Services: 25 Court Services: 5

# **Juvenile Court Funding and Statistics**

## **Juvenile Court Funding**

## **Juvenile Court Statistics**

New Cases

Comparison of Charges and/or Filings

Violent Crime Statistics

Offenses Against an Individual 65 Years of Age or Older  
or Permanently and Totally Disabled

Sexual Offenses

Traffic



## Juvenile Court Funding

FUNDING SOURCE	PROVIDES FOR	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fairfield County General Fund	<i>Court Operations and Employees</i>	3,532,347.00	3,260,334.00	2,562,253.00	2,567,972.00	2,355,338.00	2,083,396.00	1,975,569.00	1,856,247.00	1,797,010.00
Department of Youth Services 510	<i>Employees—Counselors, Psychological Evaluations and Trainings</i>	1,126,632.79	970,598.25	922,843.67	842,991.08	974,868.72	714,265.97	901,004.65	779,472.73	770,616.26
Juvenile Court Recovery Fund	<i>Employees</i>	45.00	279.00	135.00	821.86	225.54	30,768.39	32,452.58	178,417.56	24,139.59
Computer/Computer Research	<i>Maintenance, Upgrades to Software and Equipment, Website</i>	8,311.00	9,489.00	8,634.00	17,225.36	13,974.00	14,208.12	57,568.72	15,908.64	20,479.60
Drug Court Fund Grant ODMHAS	<i>Drug Court Operations</i>	35,000.00	35,000.00	110,000.00	60,000.00	63,811.00	30,011.82	37,500.00	108,900.00	65,164.85
Ohio Multi-System Youth Fund	<i>Mental Health Counselors</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	65,000.00	130,000.00	131,001.68	130,016.81	130,000.00	130,000.00
Title IV-E Fund	<i>MSY Placement Shared Pool and Workforce Development</i>	47.95 <i>BWC Refund</i>	0.00	1,545.87	909.80	311,871.73	209,743.20	368,397.77	305,564.37	821,714.51
<b>Total Juvenile Revenue</b>		<b>\$4,702,383.74</b>	<b>\$4,275,700.25</b>	<b>\$3,605,411.54</b>	<b>\$3,554,098.24</b>	<b>\$3,850,088.99</b>	<b>\$3,213,395.18</b>	<b>\$3,502,509.53</b>	<b>\$3,374,759.55</b>	<b>\$3,629,574.82</b>



## Juvenile Court Statistics: New Cases













NEW CASES	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Adult	63	48	80	57	110	125	137	165	75
Delinquency	235	163	156	221	270	424	515	402	409
Unruly	26	11	19	36	56	71	36	4	1
Traffic	466	500	415	451	573	593	751	746	728
Abuse, Neglect, Dependency	145	145	138	164	143	162	128	169	186
Grandparent Power of Attorney and Miscellaneous	29	33	26	31	39	35	59	50	67
Motion for Permanent Custody (including refiles)	25	23	21	24	37	23	29	25	23
Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation and Motions filed in A, N, D	192	185	184	180	131	130	137	167	121
Private Custody Transferred and Filed	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	Combined with above	38	19	33
<b>Total New Juvenile Cases</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,039</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>1,848</b>	<b>1,714</b>

## Juvenile Court Statistics: Comparison of Filings and/or Charges

CHARGES AND/OR FILINGS	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Felony Filings	65	49	41	48	41	66	55	51	71
Trespass	9	9	2	10	10	21	31	18	9
Criminal Mischief	14	9	1	9	6	8	13	7	128
Criminal Damaging/Vandalism	10	31	7	24	22	30	54	28	36
Theft—Petty or Grand, and Safecracking	17	42	16	64	42	75	66	60	74
Arson	0	0	2	0	0	1	5	2	1
Burglary, Robbery, Breaking and Entering	4	15	16	19	10	11	11	8	13
Disorderly Conduct	29	21	14	18	33	99	113	37	74
Drug & Alcohol	22	21	18	13	27	90	115	78	111
Tobacco	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
Truancy	22	42	69	47	51	21	70	115	49

## Juvenile Court Statistics:

 Violent Crimes
  Sexual Offenses
  Traffic
  Other

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
 Assault—Aggravated or Attempted, Neglect, Felonious Assault	63	30	47	23	52	77	50	42	46
 Menacing/Aggravated by Stalking, Kidnapping, Abduction	25	13	12	18	26	54	27	23	14
 Domestic Violence	3	2	1	14	33	59	82	24	21
 Rape, Sexual Battery	5	4	8	0	8	13	1	5	26
 Gross Sexual Imposition, Sexual Imposition	4	2	10	1	16	24	15	7	27
 Disseminating, Importuning, Public Indecency, Pandering	7	1	2	5	3	17	6	2	9
 Speed	209	238	188	203	262	245	336	347	328
 Assured Clear Distance Ahead	30	48	51	53	70	72	88	85	80
 Operating a Vehicle While Impaired	7	9	12	1	2	16	10	14	6
 Felony Traffic Offense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
 Vehicular Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
 Other <i>** Significantly higher due to change in new data tracking technology</i>	537**	354	337	260	303	361	413	328	309

# **Probate Court Funding and Statistics**

**Probate Court Update**

**Probate Court Funding**

**Probate Court Statistics: New Cases**

**Guardianship Service Board Statistics**



# Probate Court Update

## 2023 GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2023 was another busy year for the Fairfield County Probate Court, with a total of 943 new cases. This included the opening of 641 estates and 91 new guardianships during the year. These numbers reflect a continued high demand for Probate Court Services in Fairfield County. *See page 35 for more statistics.*

During 2023, the Probate Court continued its years' long process of converting to a new case management system. In October, the Court successfully went live with Tyler Technologies software. This conversion was made possible in large part due to a dedicated group of staff members who made significant adjustments to practices, forms, and procedures.

The Probate Court is already utilizing the new system to enhance the Court's efficiency and productivity. Each week, hundreds of documents are processed by clerks and submitted to the Court's judicial officers for review. Previously, this work would have involved the movement of physical files to and from various offices.

With the implementation of the new system, the Court now completes the vast majority of these tasks through electronic work queues. Additionally, with respect to a small segment of Probate Court cases, a physical file is no longer created at all. Instead, from the start of the case until the case is closed, all paperwork is filed, processed, and signed electronically.

The Court continued its practice of working closely with its partners to facilitate strong customer service. Throughout the year, Court leadership team members met with members of the Guardianship Service Board to problem-solve challenging cases, and to enhance existing practices. The Court also

worked closely with Fairfield County Board of DD to create a user-friendly process for family members of disabled adults to seek Court approval for certain services.

## 2024 GOALS

In 2024, the Probate Court will continue to maximize the capabilities of its new case management system, including by continuing to process the vast majority of its internal paperwork utilizing electronic workflow queues rather than moving physical files. Additionally, the Court will likely expand the number of case types in which physical files are not created. Finally, the Court will look to continue to fully implement the tools of the new system by generating reports, evaluating data, and creating new mechanisms to best serve the public.

In recent years, the Court has utilized various funding sources to create electronic images of historic Probate Court records. In 2024, the Court will be well-positioned to offer public access to the bulk of these images. Court staff will work with internal and external partners to create mechanisms for the public to search for these files easily and efficiently. These changes will allow our customers easier access to public records, while saving staff time and energy previously dedicated to searching for these records.

The Probate Court, along with the Clerk of Court and County Recorder, plans to take steps toward implementing a Good Deeds program. The program would be designed to provide County residents with the information necessary to plan for the future while understanding how real property, titled vehicles, and the Probate Court intersect. The Probate Court will likely visit and view at least one other local county that has implemented the program prior to tailoring a program for Fairfield County.



## Probate Court Funding

FUNDING SOURCE	PROVIDES FOR	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Fairfield County General Fund	<i>Court Operations and Employees</i>	801,776.70	747,320.00	750,460.92	710,529.00	712,495.00	673,937.10	645,558.00	653,257.00	549,784.00
Computer and Legal Research	<i>Maintenance and Upgrades</i>	22,943.97	23,784.00	23,508.00	36,178.18	21,197.74	20,772.26	20,228.00	42,826.62	33,326.00
Indigent Guardian Funds	<i>Guardians/ Attorney for Indigent Wards</i>	17,560.00	18,630.00	18,120.00	13,072.00	14,988.00	14,290.00	13,620.00	13,650.00	17,299.00
Special Projects	<i>Court Special Projects</i>	41,214.23	46,107.74	43,467.66	34,180.50	45,947.79	43,763.00	46,457.50	50,278.08	33,269.26
<b>Total Probate Revenue</b>		<b>\$883,494.90</b>	<b>\$835,841.74</b>	<b>\$835,556.58</b>	<b>\$793,959.68</b>	<b>\$794,628.53</b>	<b>\$752,762.36</b>	<b>\$725,653.50</b>	<b>\$760,011.70</b>	<b>\$633,678.26</b>

## Probate Court Statistics: New Cases

<b>NEW CASES</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Adoptions & Placements	51	62	53	61	66	40	51	58	45
Civil Actions	23	18	15	21	14	8	19	51	49
Estates	641	684	633	500	562	549	511	522	589
Wrongful Death Actions	5	8	11	5	2	2	2	6	3
Guardianships (All Types)	91	118	103	89	120	106	55	57	73
Civil Commitments	4*	59	39	31	63	60	38	35	34
Name Changes	104	99	129	71	67	72	82	65	81
Minors' Settlements	15	30	15	13	11	15	9	12	12
Birth Record Corrections	7	6	4	2	10	7	7	9	3
Trusts	2	6	13	4	3	1	7	5	8
Conservatorships	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total New Probate Cases</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>897</b>
<b>New Marriage Licenses Issued</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>875</b>

\* This drastic decline in civil commitment numbers is the result of the Court no longer opening cases for out-of-county billing due to our transition to our new case management system in 2023.

## Guardianship Service Board Statistics

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Cases	143 (71 male; 72 female)	132 (64 male; 68 female)	122 (65 male; 57 female)	102 (57 male; 45 female)
Number of Contact Hours per Client per Month	4.64	4.33	6.94	3.00
Age Range of Clients/Wards	18 to 98	18 to 86	20 to 87	19 to 96
Ages 60 or Older	61 (43%)	58 (44%)	50 (41%)	45 (44%)
Non-residential ( <i>Long-term Care Facility</i> )	58 (40.6%)	58 (44%)	43 (35%)	44 (43%)
Residential ( <i>Living in the Community</i> )	85 (59%)	74 (56%)	79 (65%)	58 (57%)
Qualifying Conditions ( <i>Wards may have more than one condition.</i> )				
Mental Illness	103 (72%)	104 (79%)	80 (78%)	100 (82%)
Cases with Allegations of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation	74 (52%)	71 (54%)	54 (53%)	54 (44%)
Other Physical or Cognitive Impairment That Impacts Decision-Making	59 (41%)	63 (48%)	46 (44%)	35 (29%)
Developmental Disability	61 (43%)	53 (40%)	40 (39%)	34 (28%)
Dementia	50 (35%)	49 (37%)	35 (34%)	60 (49%)
Substance Abuse	34 (24%)	41 (31%)	29 (28%)	66 (54%)

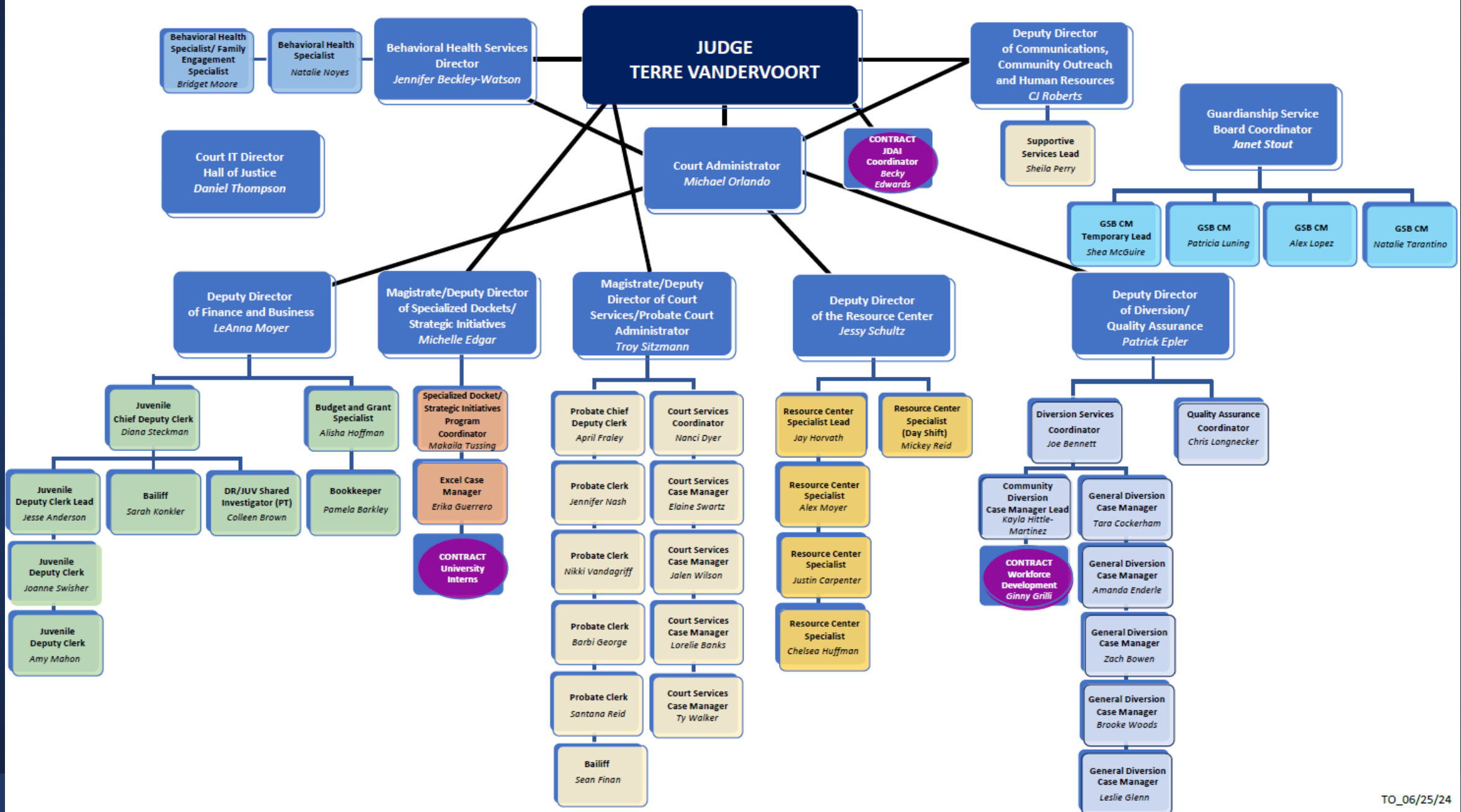
# **Juvenile and Probate Court**

**Current Table of Organization**

**2023 Annual Report Distribution and Printing**



# Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court Table of Organization





# **Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court 2023 Annual Report Distribution**

## **Distribution**

Emailed to:

1. Commissioner Jeff Fix
2. Commissioner Steve Davis
3. Commissioner Dave Levacy
4. Fairfield County Administrator Aunie Cordle
5. Supreme Court of Ohio
6. Fairfield County District Library

Posted online at [www.fairfieldcountyprobate.com](http://www.fairfieldcountyprobate.com)

## **Printing**

Cost of Printing: \$0 (prepared in-house and distributed electronically)