

HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

1998 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, 1999

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 1998 Annual Report. This Report contains detailed 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,

Thomas C. Lee
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 1998 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18.

COURT PERSONNEL

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menez
Bailiff Mentor Program Coordinator	Bradley S. Conn
Chief Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk	Jennifer Evans Teresa Gallion
Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation Office Secretary	Patrick Barnes Janice Shroyer, L.S.W.* Annette Lanham
Project STAY Office Clerk	Karen Hunter
Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Coordinator	Sharon Hoffman*

*Hired in 1999

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 1998:

Delinquency	152
Traffic	334
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	13
Unruly	35
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	4
Custody/Visitation	22
Child Support	59
Paternity	4
U.I.F.S.A.	1
Probation Violations	38
Others (Misc.)	33
Informal/Diversion	121
TOTAL:	816

DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 1998:

Traffic Cases

Total number of dispositions: 266

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Moving Violations	150	73
Resulting in accident	54	26
Not resulting in accident	96	47
Non-Moving Violations	9	1
Seatbelt Violations Only	21	12
Total Ordered to pay court costs:	256	
Total court costs collected	\$14,335.20	
Total Ordered to pay fines:	243	
Total fines paid	9,795.00	
Total Operators' Licenses Suspended	53	
Number granted driving privileges	22	
Total Ordered to attend CARTEENS	83	

Other dispositions of traffic cases:

- 1 Juvenile placed on probation
- 2 Juveniles ordered Community Service for total of 50 hours
- 4 Cases transferred to Wayne County
- 1 Case transferred to Stark County
- 2 Cases transferred to Tuscarawas County
- 1 Case transferred to Ashland County
- 1 Juvenile referred to Diversion Program
- 1 Juvenile ordered to repair vehicle within 60 days
- 1 Juvenile ordered to curfew of 10 P.M. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Delinquencies, Unrulies & Probation Violations

Total number of dispositions:	152	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Delinquencies	75	18
Misdemeanors	50	13
Felonies	25	5
Probation Violations or Violation of a Court Order	25	8
Unrulies/Truancies	21	5
Juveniles ordered to pay court costs	59	
Total court costs paid	\$4118.69	
Juveniles ordered to pay fines	7	
Total fines paid	\$600.00	
Juveniles ordered to make restitution	18	
Juveniles ordered to detention	27	
Juveniles ordered community service	37	
Total hours ordered	1213	
Operators' licenses suspended	10	
Granted driving privileges	3	
Juveniles placed on probation	34	
Juveniles referred to Diversion	27	
Juveniles ordered Shoplifting Diversion	4	
Juveniles ordered to house arrest	16	
Juveniles ordered Drug & Alcohol Assessment	11	
Juveniles ordered Insight Classes	1	
Juveniles ordered to participate in home-based Intervention	4	
Juveniles ordered to make apology to victim	10	
Juveniles ordered to have psychological evaluation	4	
Juveniles ordered psychiatric evaluation	1	
Juveniles ordered to VORP (Victim Offender Reconciliation Program)	1	
Juveniles ordered to do essay	1	
Juveniles ordered to attend school regularly	3	

Juveniles ordered to home schooling	1
Juveniles ordered to graduate high school	1
Juveniles ordered to counseling	25
Juveniles placed in foster care	2
Juveniles ordered to Multi-County, R.T.C.	7
Juveniles ordered no contact with named party	6
Juveniles ordered to drug screens	4
Changes of custody (to another party)	7
Juveniles ordered blood test for medicine levels	1
Juveniles committed to Ohio Dept. Of Youth Services	2
Juveniles ordered to seek work	1
Juveniles ordered to One to One Mentoring Program	1
Total number of cases transferred for disposition:	11
Transferred to: Wayne County	5
Ashland County	1
Tuscarawas County	2
Seneca County	1
Cuyahoga County	2
Total number of cases dismissed:	6

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 1998:

Placements with extended family	4
Placements in foster homes	2
Placements in group homes	5
Placements in Detention Facilities	4
Total:	15

PROGRAMS

Probation Department

The Court was pleased to be able to move the Probation Department from its "satellite location" at the Department of Human Services Building, back to the Courthouse in the newly renovated suite of offices occupied by the Juvenile Court. This arrangement has greatly enhanced the ability of the Probation Department to work more closely with the Judge and the Juvenile Court Clerks, resulting in increased efficiency in the operation of both the Court and the Probation Department.

The Court's Chief Probation Officer, Rob Schlegel, resigned from his position in December, 1998.

During calendar year 1998, the Probation Department supervised 80 youth on probation (63 males, 17 females). During this period, 33 youth were placed on probation and 39 were successfully removed from probation.

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

Shoplifters Alternative Course	14
Diversion Program	121
- 97 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 1998 a total of 140 juveniles provided Community Service amounting to approximately 3400 hours. This was an increase of 1100 hours from 1997. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those 3400 hours represent services valued at \$17,510.00 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 1999 (covering the period of July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999) the grant provided the Juvenile Court with \$161,934.84 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 eight (8) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 1998:

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. During the year 1998, the Probation Department also used grant funds to purchase a television and VCR for probationers' viewing of

instructional videotapes in the Court's Conference Room when recommended by the Probation Officer.

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 "at-risk" elementary and junior high age children. 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 1998 this grant program provided funds for the Mentor Coordinator's salary and benefits and funds for training materials and program-related supplies. In 1998 the Court contracted with The Counseling Center for a training session for the mentors entitled "Improving Communication." The Court anticipates scheduling another training session for mentors in 1999.

During the year, 71 children were referred to this program. Eighteen juveniles were matched with mentors. Currently, 13 more mentors are needed to match with children qualifying for this program. There is currently 1 match in progress. Some children who were referred to the program did not proceed to matching because of various reasons, including the following: (1) Parents or child declined participation; (2) family was in the process of moving from the County; (3) the child was not interested in the program; (4) the parents were not interested in participating; (5) insecurity of a parent when another adult would be involved in the relationship; or (6) no response from parent(s) to initial contact from the Coordinator.

7. Substance Abuse and Awareness

During 1998 the Court initiated a project to bring to Holmes County Milton Creagh, a nationally known motivational speaker and author, who would be making presentations to many of the junior and senior high students in the Holmes County area, as well as to the general public. The focus of Mr. Creagh's presentations would be on substance abuse and awareness and the parent's role in prevention of substance abuse problems. The grant provided a portion of the engagement fee for Mr. Creagh's appearances scheduled for May, 1999.

8. Diversion

The Court's Diversion Program has been described previously in this report. The Department of Youth Services Grant in 1998 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.