

A Letter from the Judge

*To the Citizens of Washington
County:*

*I am pleased to present the 1999
Annual Report of the Washington
County Court of Common Pleas,
Probate/Juvenile Divisions for your
information and use.*

*The Probate Court has
jurisdiction in Estates,
Guardianships, Trusts, Adoptions,
Mental Commitments, Wrongful
Death Cases, Minor Settlements and
Name Changes. The Court also issues
all marriage licenses for Washington
County.*

*The Juvenile Court has
jurisdiction in all proceedings
concerning abused, dependent,
neglected, unruly and delinquent
children, juvenile traffic offenders,
custody, parentage, and child support
actions and cases charging adults with
contributing to the delinquency or
unruliness of children.*

*1999 was an exciting year for
the Juvenile Court. After 20 long
months of renovation, the Washington
County Juvenile Center (Formerly the
Open Door Home) reopened on June
7th. Its reopening had been eagerly
awaited by not only the court, but
also law enforcement and parents.
Since its reopening One hundred thirty
youth have been placed in the facility.*

*This report contains detailed
information on the Court's cases,
services and programs provided to the
citizens of Washington County. I
willingly encourage your input and
suggestions.*

*Sincerely,
Timothy A. Williams
Probate/Juvenile Court Judge*

Probate/Juvenile Court Personnel

as of January 1, 2000

Hon. Timothy A. Williams Judge
Marilyn S. Wesel Magistrate
Rae A. Ward Court Administrator/Juvenile Center Superintendent

Pat Brockmeier Probation Officer
Melody Colling Probation Officer
Ron Parsons Probation Officer
Dale Willson Probation Officer
John McCracken Intensive Probation Officer
Amy Church Victim Assistance Coordinator
Pat Ralston Deputy Clerk/Probate
Dianne Schlicher Deputy Clerk/ Probate
Trish Whiteley Deputy Clerk/Probate
Lisa Burkhart Deputy Clerk/Juvenile
Jill Roach Deputy Clerk/Juvenile
Liz Venham Deputy Clerk/Juvenile
Sharon Wolboldt Bookkeeper

WASHINGTON COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
205 Putnam Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750
Telephone No. 740.373.6623
Fax No. 740.376.7425

PROBATE COURT CASES FILED

TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL
Adoption of minor child	21
Misc. Civil Proceedings	10
Admission of Will without Estate filing	11
Application for Certificate of Transfer (no estate)	4
Full Estate Filings	213
Filing Will only, no estate	41
Release of Estate	140
Ohio Estate Tax Filings	52
Guardianship Incompetent	26
Guardianship Minor	8
Marriage	586
Mental Illness	32
Minor's Settlement	7
Name change	11
Registration of Birth	8
Trusts	6
Wrongful Death Settlements	13
Search Warrants Issued	42
TOTAL FILINGS FOR 1999	1231

JUVENILE COMPLAINTS FILED

FORMAL and INFORMAL

TYPE OF CASE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Delinquency - Juvenile Crimes	366	109	475
Unruly (School Truancy - 101) (Parental Unruly - 141)	144	98	242
Traffic	389	220	609
Abuse and Neglect	n/a	n/a	25
Custody	n/a	n/a	67
Paternity	n/a	n/a	4
Permanent Custody to Children Services	n/a	n/a	1
Permanent Surrender of Custody	n/a	n/a	0
Child Support Action	n/a	n/a	95
Juvenile Marriage	n/a	n/a	1
Criminal Complaints against Adults	15	5	20
TOTAL COMPLAINTS FOR 1999			1539

FORMAL JUVENILE COMPLAINTS FILED

TYPE OF CASE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Delinquency - Juvenile Crimes	351	98	449
Unruly	106	73	179
Traffic	389	220	609
Abuse and Neglect	n/a	n/a	25
Custody	n/a	n/a	67
Paternity	n/a	n/a	4
Permanent Custody to Children Services	n/a	n/a	1
Permanent Surrender of Custody	n/a	n/a	0
Child Support Action	n/a	n/a	95
Juvenile Marriage	n/a	n/a	1
Criminal Complaints against Adults	15	5	20
TOTAL FORMAL COMPLAINTS FOR 1999			1450

A complaint is the legal document which sets forth the allegations which form the basis for Juvenile Court jurisdiction.

A **formal complaint** is a complaint that is deemed serious enough to be heard in Court by either the Judge or the Magistrate.

INFORMAL JUVENILE COMPLAINTS FILED

TYPE OF CASE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Delinquency - Juvenile Crimes	15	11	26
Unruly	38	25	63
Traffic	n/a	n/a	n/a
Abuse and Neglect	n/a	n/a	n/a
Custody	n/a	n/a	n/a
Paternity	n/a	n/a	n/a
Permanent Custody to Children Services	n/a	n/a	n/a
Permanent Surrender of Custody	n/a	n/a	n/a
Child Support Action	n/a	n/a	n/a
Criminal Complaints against Adults	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL INFORMAL COMPLAINTS 1999			89

A complaint is the legal document which sets forth the allegations which form the basis for Juvenile Court jurisdiction.

An **informal complaint** is a complaint which, although filed with the court, is deemed by the court to be best handled in an informal administrative hearing by a prevention officer or a probation officer rather than a formal court setting. These complaints generally involve children who are coming to the court for the first time and involve less serious offenses.

TOP 25 OFFENSES

Committed by Delinquent Children

NUMBER	TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL COMMITTED
1	Theft	85
2	Assault	72
3	Underage Drinking	62
4	Drug Offenses	29
5	Disorderly Conduct	19
6	Violation of Court Order	18
7	Criminal Damaging	18
8	Criminal Trespass	17
9	Domestic Violence	16
10	Criminal Mischief	15
11	Burglary	14
12	Menacing	10
13	Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	8
14	Making False Fire Alarms	7
15	Breaking and Entering	5
16	Weapons Violation	5
17	Receiving Stolen Property	4
18	Rape	4
19	Trafficking in Drugs	4
20	Public Indecency	4
21	Arson	3
22	Abduction	2
23	Gross Sexual Imposition	2
24	Escape	2
25	Obstructing Official Business	2

JUVENILE COURT CASES DISPOSED OF IN 1999

	TOTAL
Cases pending beginning of 1999	242
Cases filed in 1999	1540
TOTAL CASES	1782
Cases heard and disposed of in 1999	1470
Cases pending end of 1999	312

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Probation staff make regular contact with the children, parents, schools, agencies and others involved with the children to assist them in making positive changes in their lives.

The Probation Department monitors youth placed under Court supervision. The department's goal is to provide a community based corrections program with consistent sanctions geared toward altering behavior.

Probation Officers see that probationers comply with Court orders by assist-ing the youth in accepting personal responsibility for their actions.

Probation supervision consists of two levels, General and Intensive. Each type provides varying levels of supervision and expectations of probationers.

The Court has five General Probation Officers who each supervise approximately 50 children at any one time. Most probationers under supervision by a General Probation Officer are of moderate risk. These five Officers supervised a total of 330 children in 1999.

Youth who are most at-risk of becoming more seriously involved in delinquent activity are assigned to the Intensive Probation Officer. This Officer provides the most structured supervision in the department.

He works with felony offenders who are most at-risk of becoming involved in serious delinquent activity which would result in a commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (prison). This Officer carries a small caseload to enable him to monitor each child on a daily basis. The Intensive Probation Officer carries an average caseload of 18.

186 Youth were placed on Probation during 1999

A total of 330 Youth were supervised on Probation in 1999

YOUTH IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service Program is a valuable and constructive dispositional alternative utilized on juvenile offenders. The program has proven to be a positive way that juveniles can take responsibility for their actions. Youth are ordered by the Court to perform a specific number of community service work hours serving non-profit organizations in the community, in order to repay the community for unlawful acts committed.

The Court places youth in various work sites around the community and monitors the progress of the youth to ensure successful completion of Court ordered community service hours.

The overall objective of this program is to enable the youth to change their behavior and attitudes through personal development. The program allows each youth the opportunity to demonstrate self talent and skills, by offering exposure to various career or volunteer opportunities. Gaining a sense of achievement by helping others and working with positive adult role models could ultimately change the direction in a young offender's life.

In 1999, juvenile offenders provided a total of

13,225 hours of volunteer work

for various non-profit agencies in the community. Based on minimum wage, the

community received \$68,109

in donated labor and services from these probationers.

RESTITUTION PROGRAM

The Juvenile Court Restitution Program provides an alternative disposition for youth committing personal property crimes where restitution is appropriate. The program's goal is to assure that responsibility for behavior rests with the youth. It is also intended to be a device for victim compensation.

Juvenile offenders who can make monetary restitution to their victim are ordered to pay the victim under the super-vision of the probation staff.

Those youth who cannot make monetary restitution are assigned community service hours which are worked through Community Action under a grant provided by the Court in order to pay restitution. After each participant fulfills the number of hours required to meet restitution, a check based on minimum wage is issued to the juvenile in the amount due, which is then turned over to the victim. This program has not created Court supervised work sites, but refers youth to not-for-profit agencies through Community Action. Not only is this a cost-effective program, but one that has a high rate of success.

The Juvenile Restitution Program is funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services 510 subsidy grant.

During 1999, delinquent youth were ordered to pay a total of \$9,389.36 to their victims

BICYCLE PATROL

*Trained Probation
Officers patrol the
community on bike
during evenings and
weekends in the summer
months in a first of its
kind program for
Juvenile Courts in Ohio.*

The Probation

Department of Washington County Juvenile Court currently makes use of bicycles in the performance of official duties.

Probation Officers patrol predetermined areas of the community, which include playgrounds, the Washington County Fairgrounds and numerous neighborhoods where problems involving juveniles occur with greater frequency. Because community activities attract a large number of juveniles, Probation Officers will also monitor the activities at the Sternwheel Festival, Belpre Homecoming and Washington County Fair.

In addition, while on bicycle patrol, Probation Officers make contact with juveniles under supervision at their respective homes.

Probation Officers will average four to six hours on any particular patrol, with most of these hours performed in the evening.

The Court believes the program has been highly effective as a deterrent to juvenile criminal activity because of its high visibility.

To our knowledge, this Court is the only one in the State of Ohio that utilizes a bicycle patrol program of this kind.

Public response has been positive and supportive, encouraging expansion and development of our program.

Our program increases public awareness of the function and purpose of Juvenile Probation Officers in Washington County and has opened new channels of communication between the public and the court system.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

*The Victim Assistance
Coordinator
is an invaluable position.
Sometimes victims
feel forgotten
once a case
goes to Court.*

Amy Church serves as the Juvenile Court Victim assistance Coordinator. She advocates for both victims of juvenile crime and victims who are minors helping them through the court process.

The services provided by the Juvenile Victim Assistance Program include:

- Keeping the victim notified of the progress of the case.
- Providing emotional support during court hearings.
- Assistance with preparation of Victim Impact Statements detailing losses, injury, and victim's opinions for use by the Judge in sentencing.
- Assistance with filing for Victims of Crime Compensation from the State.
- Assistance in collecting restitution for losses and out of pocket expenses.
- Providing transportation to court hearings, shelters or other safe places, such as a relative's home, or in some cases, provide hotel accommodations.
- Coordinating with other agencies to obtain assistance for the victim.

***605 Victims assisted
during fiscal 1999****

**** 383 Victim Impact
Statements prepared for
* Judge's consideration***

WASHINGTON CO. JUVENILE CENTER (FORMERLY OPEN DOOR HOME)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- *Certified teacher provided by Marietta City Schools will provide year round classroom instruction on site.*
- *3 case managers and 9 youth specialists will work with the youth helping them achieve their rehabilitation plan.*
- *A licensed counselor provides weekly counseling to the youth.*
- *Internship programs with Ohio University, Marietta College and Washington State Community College which provide interns at the Center in psychology, sociology and criminology.*
- *On site Intensive weekly counseling provided by Washington County Mental Health, Washington County Recovery Alternatives, and Center Staff.*
- *Court ordered parenting program for all youth's parents.*

The operation of the Open Door Home was assumed by the Juvenile Court in 1972. It serves as an alternative to state institutionalization for youth of Washington County.

It closed for extensive renovations in October, 1997. When reopened in early June of 1999, it was renamed the Washington County Juvenile Center. It can accommodate 15 boys and 10 girls in the secure residential care program and 6 children in secure detention.

The Washington County Juvenile Center is one of only 19 structured residential rehabilitation facilities in the state.

It provides adolescents, ages 12 - 18 with three basic services: residential rehabilitation program, shelter care services and detention capabilities.

The Center's mission is to provide a safe, structured environment where delinquent, and unruly youth receive help for their special needs through a four to six month behavior modification program that emphasizes positive reinforcement.

RENOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

- *cost - \$1.8 million*
- *increased capacity from 18 youth to 31 youth*
- *secure intake/observation room*
- *family visitation lounge*
- *3 secure detention cells*
- *classroom*
- *conference room*
- *centralized laundry*
- *exam room*
- *complete interior and physical plant renovation*

WASHINGTON CO. JUVENILE CENTER

Statistics June - December 1999

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

*

ADMISSIONS:

34
 Males 26
 Females 8

RESIDENCE:

Washington County: 32
 Other counties: 2

OFFENSES:

Delinquent Children: 32
 Felonies: 12
 Misdemeanors: 20
 Unruly Children: 2

MISCELLANEOUS:

Average Age: 16
 Youngest Child: 12
 Oldest Child: 17

SHELTER CARE PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS:

21
 Males 10
 Females 11

RESIDENCE:

Washington County 20
 Other counties: 1

OFFENSES:

Delinquent Children: 14
 Felonies: 4
 Misdemeanors: 10
 Unruly Children: 7

MISCELLANEOUS:

Average Age: 16
 Youngest Child: 12
 Oldest Child: 17

Average length of stay:
 14 days

DETENTION PROGRAM

ADMISSIONS:

76
 Males 59
 Females 17

RESIDENCE:

Washington County: 53
 Other counties: 23

OFFENSES:

Delinquent Children: 69
 Felonies: 41
 Misdemeanors: 28
 Unruly Children: 7

MISCELLANEOUS:

Average Age: 16

Youngest Child: 13

Oldest Child: 17

Average length of stay:

10 days

***COMMITMENTS TO
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES
(Juvenile Prison System)***

The total commitments to Ohio Department of Youth Services (D.Y.S.) during 1999 was 18. This represents 50% of the felony level adjudicated youth in Washington County. The court's commitment rate last year was 21.15%. The state average for 1998 was 17.2%. State figures were not available for 1999.

Total felonies filed during 1999	76
Total adjudicated delinquent	36
Total dismissed felonies	40

Breakdown of commitments by age and sex.

Age	Male	Female
12	0	1
13	1	0
14	2	0
15	2	0
16	4	0
17	5	0

Age	Male	Female
18	2	1
Totals	16	2