

Miami County Juvenile Court 2012 Annual Report



**Miami County
Juvenile Court**

Welcome to Miami County Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Its purpose is to counsel and rehabilitate youth who commit crimes; protect the Miami County community from juvenile crime; assist the victims of juvenile crime; protect children from abuse, neglect and dependency; and provide allocation of parental rights for children whose parents were never married. Under the direction of Judge W. McGregor Dixon, Jr., the court provides a broad range of community based programs. This summary is intended to help the community understand the services the Court provided in 2012.



Judge W. McGregor Dixon, Jr.

Special points of interest:

Clerk's office reorganization

Increases in filing fees

Service Assessment Team

Keeping kids Safe

Connecting with Youth

Statistical Summary



Getting Fit and Having Fun

In late 2012, Practice CrossFit of Troy and Juvenile Probation Officer Abigail Henderson collaborated to design a workout program for youth involved with the court. "CrossFit incorporates gymnastics, weightlifting, running, jumping, throwing and everything in between to make you better at life" said Josh Bunch (co-owner, Practice CF). "They offered to provide this training to our youth at no cost. The goal is to provide at risk youth with a structured, supervised activity, a safe place to go and

support within the community," said Henderson.

The program officially began Jan. 7 2013, and the results have been phenomenal. "Youth are accomplishing things they never thought possible, raising their self-esteem and giving them something of which to be proud," said Henderson. "They are finding support within the community and having fun," she added.

With a bigger facility on the horizon for Practice CrossFit, probation officers are looking forward to reaching out to more



youth and incorporating them further into the CrossFit community. The probation officers try a lot of things to reach the kids, and they all agreed this is one of the best programs the court has provided to the youth on probation.

Scheduling Cases and Reducing Delays

The Juvenile Clerks' Office reorganized in 2012 to provide quicker scheduling of civil cases. Becky Householder, veteran deputy clerk, took over the task of coordinating and scheduling civil cases. "These cases often have multiple parties with representation, and it can be difficult to coordinate schedules," she explained. "Our goal was to reduce the time it

takes to get a case to hearing and also reduce the need for continuances. By using e-mail and coordinating with law offices, we have been able to reduce the need for continuances. I know it can be frustrating to parties to have a long wait to have their cases heard, but we do everything we can to process cases in a timely manner," she said.



Rebecca Householder.
Deputy Clerk

Probation Department Reorganization



Diane Long and Scott Auxier
Service Assessment Team Probation Officers.

In 2012, the Juvenile Probation Department reorganized to better meet the needs of families and youth. The diversion and assessment components were combined into The Service Assessment Team (SAT). Youth served by this team include all youth referred for diversion, pre-sentence investigation, risk assessment, as well as youth referred by the judge and magistrate for recommendations for appropriate services. "The goal of

Service Assessment Team is to assess youth/family by gathering information from youth, parents, schools, counselors and other agencies and provide appropriate recommendations back to the court on the type and level of services and/or supervision that will best meet the needs of the youth and the community," said Diane Long, SAT Probation Officer. "If we can get the right services early, we may prevent further damage to the child and community," she added.

Increase in Court Costs and Filing Fees

The Court increased court costs and filing fees in all case types in December, 2012. "This change was due to a change in the Ohio Revised Code," said Nicole Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Clerk. "Changes to 2303.21 included adding a \$25 court recording fee, and we elected to add this fee to the case and not on each hearing. We did not want the increases to overwhelm our clients," she added.

"As part of the process, we reviewed all the statutory requirements and surveyed other courts. We believe that we are in line with other courts. And, as a further convenience to the public, we accept credit cards for filing fees, court costs and fines. Hopefully, this allows people some flexibility," added Rodriguez.



Heather Herman, Deputy Clerk

Becoming More Aware of Hidden Dangers

The Ohio Revised Code 2152.19 (F) (1) grants juvenile probation officers authority to conduct searches of the person or property of defendants under community control probation without a warrant. Although probation officers have utilized this as a tool for supervision of youth with reasonable suspicion of drugs or weapons, there has been an echoing need for officer safety and more thorough searches. Beginning in 2010, all probation officers began undergoing specialized training in juvenile law and procedures of search and seizure. As a result, in 2012 the Probation Department developed an intervention called Team Approached Safety Searches (TASS).

When a probation officer has reasonable suspicion that his/her probationer is engaging in criminal activity, that youth's information is submitted to the TASS Team. The information is reviewed, and the team then conducts the search. Having the information on the probationer prior to the search helps to ensure a more thorough and controlled search. "These searches are sometimes a necessary part of probation to remove illegal items from the youth's possession and to help them begin to make change," said probation officer Elizabeth Yingst. Contraband and illegal items are removed from the home, and parents are often encouraged and taught how to look for suspi-



Contraband confiscated in a TASS search

cious items. TASS has conducted about a dozen searches and removed bags of illegal items that have been destroyed or turned over to the police for charges.

Connecting with Youth



Delivering duct tape flowers and cards to Piqua Manor

"Our goal is to engage every youth in activities which increase their chances of successfully completing probation," said Stephanie Henning, Probation Officer. "We want to ensure that every youth on probation is either employed, volunteering or involved in a positive extra-curricular activity," she explained.

In 2012, the probation department sponsored several extra-curricular group activities for kids involved with the court. "The goal was help them use their artistic talents to connect to others and give some-

thing back. They made cards and duct tape flowers for the troops, terminally ill patients, and nursing home residents," said Henning.

"The kids were able to use their creative talents to design cards and write personal messages. It is nice to see them working as a group and having some fun. It is amazing how creative they can be with duct tape and a few art supplies," said Henning. "It is good for them to work side by side with probation officers and see them in this supportive role," she added.

Miami County Juvenile Court

201 West Main Street
Troy, Ohio 45373

Phone: 937 440-5970
Fax: 937 440-5971



Please visit our website:
www.co.miami.oh.us

For a copy of the entire annual
report call 440-5990

2012 Statistical Summary

Cases Filed/Transferred In	2012
Delinquent	971
Traffic	571
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	43
Unruly	322
Adult	116
Permanent Custody	12
Custody/Change of Custody/Visitation	758
Support Enforcement/Modifications	2069
Parentage	31
UIFSA	10
Other	18
Transferred/Reactivated	
Total Cases Filed	4921

Types of Dispositions	2012
Bind over to adult court	1
Commitment to DYS	1
Detention	274
David L. Brown	11
West Central Day Treatment	48
West Central Rehabilitation Center	2
Other CCF	0
Community Service	360
Probation	81
Electronic Home Monitoring	37
House Arrest	286
Temporary Custody CSB	28
Protective Supervision CSB	26
Permanent Custody CSB	10
Jail Sentence (Adult)	63
Restitution	149
Cases with Fines Assessed	460
Cases with Costs Assessed	716
Waiver due to Indigence	590
Fines and Court costs	\$132,169.05