



# 2025 Annual Report

**Miami County Juvenile Court**  
**201 W. Main St.**  
**Troy, Oh 45373**  
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**[www.miamicountyohio.gov](http://www.miamicountyohio.gov)**



*Honorable Scott Altenburger*

Serving as the Judge of Miami County – Juvenile and Probate Courts is a privilege. Our primary objective is to prioritize community safety while also supporting families through various services aimed at assisting youth, parents/caregivers and guardians. Collaborating with community partners, we strive to establish and uphold standards of appropriate conduct for both adults and youth. Ohio law mandates a delicate balance between consequences for deviant behavior and rehabilitation, ensuring accountability for juveniles and adults alike.

I take great pride in working alongside our dedicated court staff. Without their commitment, the Miami County Juvenile and Probate Courts would not be as effective in safeguarding the mental and physical well-being of children and ensuring community safety.

As we move forward into 2026, our collective dedication remains unwavering. We are steadfast in our resolve to provide access to justice and essential services for children and families, fostering improvements in their lives and contributing positively to community safety.

Judge Scott Altenburger was first elected in 2018 to fill an unexpired term, to serve as Judge of the Miami County Juvenile and Probate Courts. He was re-elected Judge in 2020. He earned his Juris Doctorate from The University of Toledo, School of Law and a Bachelor's Degree in Education from The University of Toledo receiving a State of Ohio teaching license for 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. He has completed the necessary course work through the Ohio Supreme Court to mediate family law cases. Judge Altenburger's life, education and career experiences make him uniquely qualified to lead the courts. He has been a magistrate and later appointed chief magistrate of the Miami County Court of Common Pleas, General Division from May, 1995 to November, 2018. In these roles, he personally handled in excess of 30,000 family law cases. For more than 18 years, he was an adjunct instructor for Edison State Community College teaching Family Law and Legal Research and Writing. Additionally, he taught paralegal courses at Capital University Law School. Prior to being a magistrate, he was an assistant city law director, assistant county prosecutor, and mayor's court magistrate.

## Current Magistrates



*Katherine Severt*



*D. Andrew Venters*



*Hillary Jaqua*

## Our Purpose

The Juvenile Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Our purpose is to protect the Miami County community from juvenile crime, assist the victims of that crime, counsel and rehabilitate youth who commit crimes, protect children from abuse, neglect, and dependency and provide allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for children whose parents were never married.

Juvenile Court becomes involved in the lives of persons under 18 who:

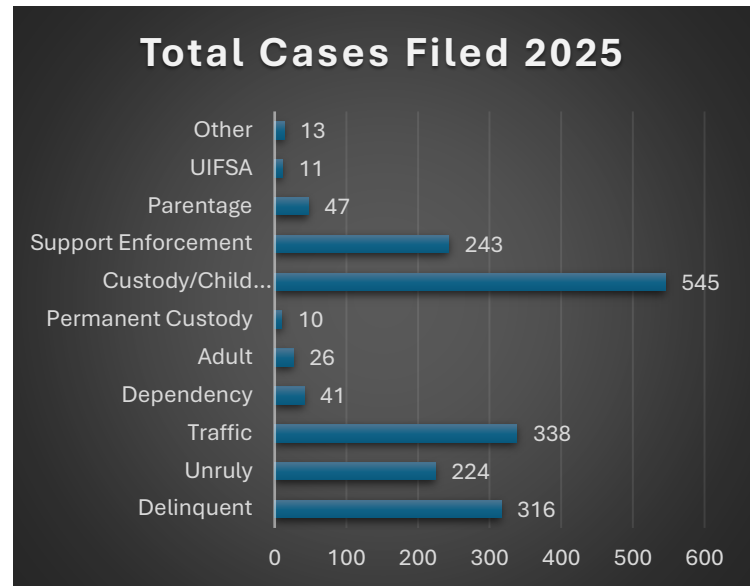
- ❖ Do not obey their parents, school officials, and other custodians
- ❖ Do not attend school, who violate curfew, who drink alcohol and use drugs
- ❖ Commit violations of traffic laws
- ❖ Commit criminal acts
- ❖ Are victims of abuse, neglect or dependency
- ❖ And whose circumstances require orders of paternity, custody, visitation, and child support

The Court also hears cases involving adults who contribute to the unruliness or delinquency of a minor, and those parents who fail to send their children to school as required by law.

The Court protects the interests and rights of our children and the public by holding youth accountable for their actions and providing services aimed at rehabilitating the youth and their families. The Court strives to strengthen the family and empower parents to actively provide the balance of love, structure, supervision, and responsibility so that their children will develop the self-control and independence needed to become productive, self-sufficient, law-abiding adults.

The Court becomes involved with youth through various channels, including parents, school officials, law enforcement authorities, neighbors, the Child Protective Services Agency, and the Prosecutor's office.

Under the direction of Judge Scott Altenburger and with the support of three full-time magistrates, the Court provides a broad range of preventative services, interventions, and consequences. This report is intended to help you understand the children we serve and give you an overview of the services we provided in 2025.



## 2025 Case Statistics

Total Cases Filed: 1814

Total Cases Terminated: 1812

Total Delinquency Cases filed: 316

Total Unruly Cases filed: 224

Total Civil Case filings: 897

- Custody/Child Support/Visitation: 545
- Support Enforcement: 243
- Parentage: 47
- Dependency: 41
- UIFSA: 11
- Permanent Custody: 10

Traffic Cases filed: 338

Adult Criminal Cases filed: 26

Other Cases filed: 13

## Charges by Type

Agg Menacing	10
Assault Misdemeanor	33
Assault Felony	4
Arson	1
Attempted Theft	1
Bike Path Violation	1
Breaking & Entering	10
Carry Concealed Weapon/Concealed Weapon	3
Contempt of Court Order	82
Criminal Damaging	16
Dangerous Drugs	1
Disrupting Public Service	1
Disorderly Conduct	47
Domestic Violence	32
Failure to Comply	8
Falsification	1
Grand Theft/Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle	5
Improper Handling	1
Menacing	3
Obstructing Official Business/Obstructing Business	11
Pandering Obscenities	8
Pattern of Corrupt Behavior	1
Possession of Hashish	1
Probation Violation	34
Public Indecency	1
Rape	4
Receiving Stolen Property	4
Resisting Arrest	1
Sale of Alcohol	1
Sexual Battery	1
Sexual Imposition & Gross Sexual Imposition	4
Strangulation	1
Tampering w/ Evidence	5
Telephone Harassment	1
Theft	15
Trespassing/Criminal Trespassing	14
Unauthorized use of Motor Vehicle	6
Underage Alcohol/Underage Consumption/Underage Purchase	13
Unruly	6
Vandalism	8
Weapon on School Grounds	1

**Total Delinquency Charges** **401**

**Total Delinquency Cases Filed or Reactivated** **316**

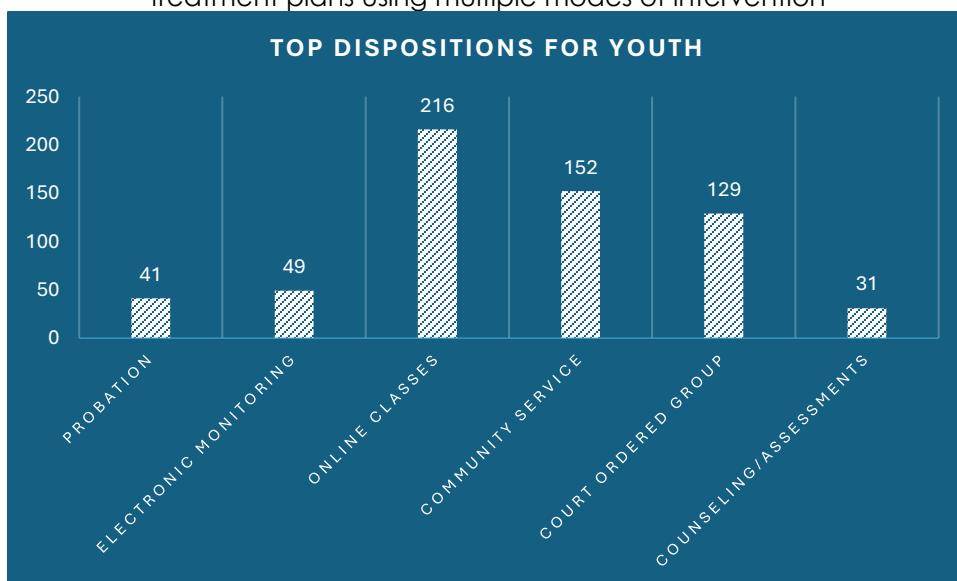
## 2025 Dispositions in Juvenile Court

Miami County Juvenile Court considers multiple factors in the disposition of a case. The court works diligently to dispose of cases in a fair and responsible manner. Each case and family is unique, and the court has many options they can offer that protect the community, rehabilitate the youth involved, and serve and support our families and the community.

Examples of dispositions include, but are not limited to:

- Detention
- Suspended commitment and/or placement in a residential facility
- Suspended commitment and/or placement in a CCF
- Suspended commitment and/or placement in DYS
- Probation Supervision
- Electronic Home Monitoring
- House Arrest
- Random Drug Screens
- Individual and/or family counseling
- Substance Abuse Groups
- Real World Real Money Group
- Resolving Conflict Peacefully Group
- Online classes
- Parent Project Group
- Suspended Driver's License and/or limited driving privileges
- YEI! Program (Community Service)
- Extra Chores
- CROPS Program
- Essays
- Letters of Apology
- Curfew
- No Contact orders
- Restitution/Fines/Court Costs
- Bind Over to Adult Court
- Protective Supervision CPS
- Permanent Custody CPS
- Jail Sentence (Adults)

When disposing of delinquency cases, Miami County Juvenile Court utilizes the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) risk assessments, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), and Child & Adolescence Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessments to guide staff. Any youth adjudicated on a first-degree misdemeanor offense or higher will undergo one or more of these assessments. The assessments provide the court with the level of risk that a youth poses, history of trauma, the families' strengths and needs, and insight into possible cognitive distortions. Following assessments, probation staff uses the information gathered to make dispositional recommendations and individualized treatment plans using multiple modes of intervention



### Cases by Termination Type

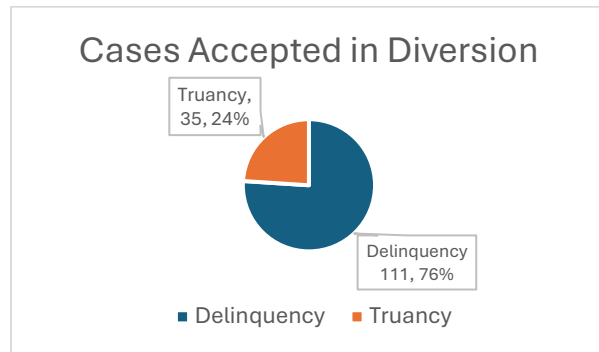
Trial by Judge: 4  
Trial by Magistrate: 79  
Dismissal: 366  
Admission to Judge: 130  
Admission to Magistrate: 1015  
Certification/Waiver Granted: 0  
Unavailability: 163  
Transfer to Another Court: 9  
Interlocutory Appeal: 0  
Other Terminations: 46

### Delinquency Placement Statistics 2025

- Youth placed in detention: 100
- Youth placed in residential facility: 1
- Youth placed in CCF: 3
- Youth placed in DYS: 3

### Alternatives to Adjudication

The Diversion Program is an alternative to formal court proceedings. All charges against first-time offenders are reviewed by a probation officer, to assess whether diversion is appropriate. Only specific types of charges, such as unruly offenses, (school truancy, running away, curfew violations, tobacco offenses or violating the rules set by their parents or school officials), as well as minor delinquencies such as petty theft, disorderly conduct, criminal trespassing and criminal damaging are diversion eligible. In 2020, the diversion program expanded to include drug and alcohol complaints.



### Truancy Statistics

Number of Truancy cases filed: 35

Number of youth who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication: 16

Number of youth who failed to complete alternatives & were adjudicated unruly: 5

Cases pending at year end: 14

## Alternatives to Detention

House arrest and electronic home monitoring are two alternatives that allow a youth to remain in the community yet restrict a youth's movement within the community. These strategies allow a youth to continue to live at home and attend school, work, counseling, and other approved activities. These programs serve as a short-term sanction and remind juveniles that they need to follow curfews and other court-imposed expectations. House arrest is less restrictive and relies heavily on a youth's compliance, parental participation and monitoring. Electronic home monitoring uses an ankle bracelet with GPS technology that detects movement and alerts probation officers when a child is engaging in activity away from approved venues. Both approaches are used extensively by probation officers to enhance supervision.

## West Central Juvenile Detention Center

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center is a secure holding facility serving youth from Auglaize, Clinton, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble, Shelby and Van Wert counties. The Center can house up to 44 males and females who will attend school year-round, undergo counseling and psychological assessments as needed. West Central contracts with Recovery and Wellness to provide mental health counseling and crisis management. All youth participate in a variety of treatment and educational programming while detained.

In 2025 the center had a revenue of approximately \$2,249,880 and operational expenses were \$2,401,925. All revenue comes from the counties that utilize the facility with no contributions from the Miami County General Fund.

West Central JDC provides youth with the basic necessities. The residents receive three meals per day and a snack in the evening. They have a structured gym period daily and attend an on-site school Monday through Friday. School is provided year-round and is guided by three full time certified teachers. The youth participate in multiple groups including anger management, substance abuse, health & hygiene, and mental health. Multiple times a year special speakers provide unique educational opportunities.



The youth have the option to participate in meditation, Bible study, and church service while at the Center. Parents, grandparents, or legal guardians may visit two times per week. Phone calls are offered once per week, letter writing is offered twice per week. Both phone calls and letter writing can increase with the youths' good behavior.

Totals per County in 2025										
	Auglaize	Clinton	Darke	Mercer	Miami	Preble	Shelby	Van Wert	Other	Total
Intakes	201	25	64	96	100	63	65	47	2	663
Total Days in Det.	2060	480	1000	1350	1724	765	2282	750	123	10534
Avg. Length of Stay	10.2	19.2	15.6	14.1	17.2	12.1	35.1	16.0	61.5	22.3
Average Age	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.9	15.6	16.0	15.7	15.5	16.3	15.8

**2025 Court Budget:**

	2025 Appropriations & Carryover		Expenditures
General Fund - Juvenile Court	\$	1,761,934.30	\$ 1,383,571.32
General Fund - Juvenile Probation	\$	1,023,698.86	\$ 577,136.49
General Fund - Juvenile Probation (Special	\$	1,000.00	\$ -
Felony Delinquent Care and Custody	\$	605,769.41	\$ 466,980.47
Juv. Probation Title IV-E Administration	\$	250,000.00	\$ 25,315.00
Juv. Probation Title IV-E Maintenance	\$	212,512.63	\$ 69,732.61
Juv. Court Child Support Fund	\$	73,650.88	\$ 770.93
Juv. Computerization	\$	41,575.26	\$ 11,718.76
Special Projects - General	\$	123,760.00	\$ 59,736.32
Legal Research	\$	2,000.00	\$ -
Indigent Driver Fund	\$	1,000.00	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,096,901.34</b>	<b>\$ 2,594,961.90</b>

**2025 Highlights**

- The probation department utilized funds awarded through a statewide grant to purchase a new vehicle. This new vehicle has updated safety features and is being used to transport youth for community service.
- Two new community service sites for probation youth were established. These new partnerships include The Skate Church in Troy and Mainstreet Piqua.
- Our youth worked a total of 2160 hours of community service and work opportunity this year.
- Through the Miami County Commissioners, the probation department was awarded a portion of funds available through the Opioid Settlement Grant Program. These funds are providing families assistance with rides to court ordered programming through Community Rides to Work. A portion of the funds are also being utilized to provide materials to assist those struggling with substance abuse.
- The probation department worked with court contracted therapist Kari Higgins to become certified in Problematic Sexual Behavior through the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Printing Costs

Ohio Revised Code § 2151.18 requires that the Court include on each printed copy of the Annual Report the cost of each printed copy. The Annual Report was printed using the Court's color copier so no exact costs are associated with its printing. Only two printed copies are being made in order to satisfy the legal requirements that two copies remain on file with the Court, with distribution of the Annual Report being made electronically in order to minimize costs. The Annual Report can be found on the Court's web site at [www.miamicountyohio.gov/133/Juvenile](http://www.miamicountyohio.gov/133/Juvenile)