



## *2007 Probate/Juvenile Court Annual Report*

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*Washington County, Ohio*

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*I present to you the 2007 Annual Report of the Washington County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions, for your information and use.*

*This report contains information on the Court's cases, services, and programs provided to the citizens of Washington County.*

*If you have any questions concerning any information contained in this report, please feel free to contact Rae Ward, Court Administrator, at the Court.*

*Sincerely,*

*Timothy A. Williams*

*Probate/Juvenile Court Judge*



# **WASHINGTON COUNTY PROBATE/JUVENILE COURT**

## **COURTHOUSE ANNEX**

205 Putnam Street

Marietta, Ohio 45750

Telephone No. 740.373.6623

Fax No. 740.376.7425

E-mail: [probate-juvenile@washingtongov.org](mailto:probate-juvenile@washingtongov.org)

## **PERSONNEL**

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Hon. Timothy A. Williams ..... Judge  
Mark Kerenyi ..... Magistrate  
Rae A. Ward ..... Court Administrator

Peggy Shiflett..... Bookkeeper  
Pat Ralston ..... Deputy Clerk/Probate  
Trish Whiteley ..... Deputy Clerk/Probate  
Lisa Burkhart ..... Deputy Clerk/Juvenile  
Jill Roach ..... Deputy Clerk/Juvenile  
Liz Venham ..... Deputy Clerk/Juvenile  
Justin Gregory ..... Probation Officer  
Kim Hinkle..... Probation Officer  
Kristi Mettler..... Probation Officer  
Eric Seckman ..... Probation Officer  
Melody Zimmerman ..... Probation Officer  
Lori Hart ..... Victim Assistance Coordinator

# ***PROBATE COURT***

Judge Timothy A. Williams serves as the Probate Judge for Washington County. The position is an elected, non-partisan office with a six-year term. He was first elected in February, 1997.

Judge Williams is a 1984 graduate of Ohio Northern University law school. He served as an associate editor of the Ohio Northern University Law Review. After graduation he entered private practice from 1984 through 1997. From 1989 to 1997 he also served as the Juvenile Court Magistrate for Washington County.

As Probate Judge he hears the following types of cases: estates, guardianships, trust, adoptions, mental commitments, wrongful death cases, minor settlements and name changes. The Court also issues all marriage licenses for Washington County.

While most Probate Court records are open to the public, Ohio law closes records pertaining to mental illness and adoptions.

The Court maintains the following records that are open to the public during business hours:

- Estates, Guardianships, Trusts, Misc. 1789 to present
- Marriage 1789 to present
- Birth 1867 to 1908
- Death 1867 to 1908

The Judge and his staff are dedicated to serving the public in a professional manner. While the staff of the Probate Court is prevented from practicing law, all efforts are made to help the public within the constraints of the law.

The day-to-day operation of the Court, including supervision of all employees, is managed by the Court Administrator, Rae A. Ward. If you have questions or concerns about the operation of the Court, please contact Ms. Ward at (740)373-6623 Ext. 253.

# ***PROBATE COURT CASES FILED***

<b>TYPE OF CASE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Adoption of Minor Child	18
Adoption of Adult	1
Miscellaneous Civil Proceedings	16
Admission of Will without Estate Filing	14
Application for Certificate of Transfer (no estate)	0
Full Estate Filings	159
Filing Will Only (no estate)	8
Summary Release of Estate	44
Release of Estate	67
Ohio Estate Tax Filings	51
Conservatorship	0
Guardianship of Incompetent	31
Guardianship of Minor	6
Marriage Licenses Issued	467
Mental Illness	20
Minor's Settlement	4
Name Change	30
Registration of Birth/Correction of Birth Record	8
Trusts	4
Wrongful Death Settlements	9
Search Warrants Issued	52
<b>TOTAL FILINGS FOR 2007</b>	<b>1009</b>

# *JUVENILE COURT*

Judge Timothy A. Williams as the Probate Judge also serves as the Judge of the Juvenile division for Washington County.



Mark Kerényi serves as the full time Magistrate for the Juvenile Court. He was appointed by Judge Williams on March 1, 2004 to help handle the caseload of the Court.

Magistrate Kerényi is a 1990 graduate of Cleveland Marshall College of Law. He was in the private practice of law from 1996 to 1998. From 1998 to 2004 he served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Washington County prior to joining the Court.

Together, the Judge and Magistrate hear the following types of cases: abused, neglected, dependent, unruly and delinquent children, juvenile traffic offenders, custody, visitation, parentage, child support actions and cases charging adults with contributing to the delinquency or unruliness of children.

To monitor the behavior of the children that the Judge and Magistrate place on probation, the court has a juvenile probation staff consisting of five (5) fulltime probation officers.

The Court also operates the Washington County Juvenile Center, a residential treatment and rehabilitation program for boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 18 which lasts an average of six months. The Center can accommodate 25 children in the program.

The day-to-day operation of the Court and Juvenile Center, including supervision of all employees, is managed by Court Administrator, Rae A. Ward. If you have questions or concerns about the operation of the Court or the Center, please contact Ms. Ward at (740)373-6623 Ext. 252.

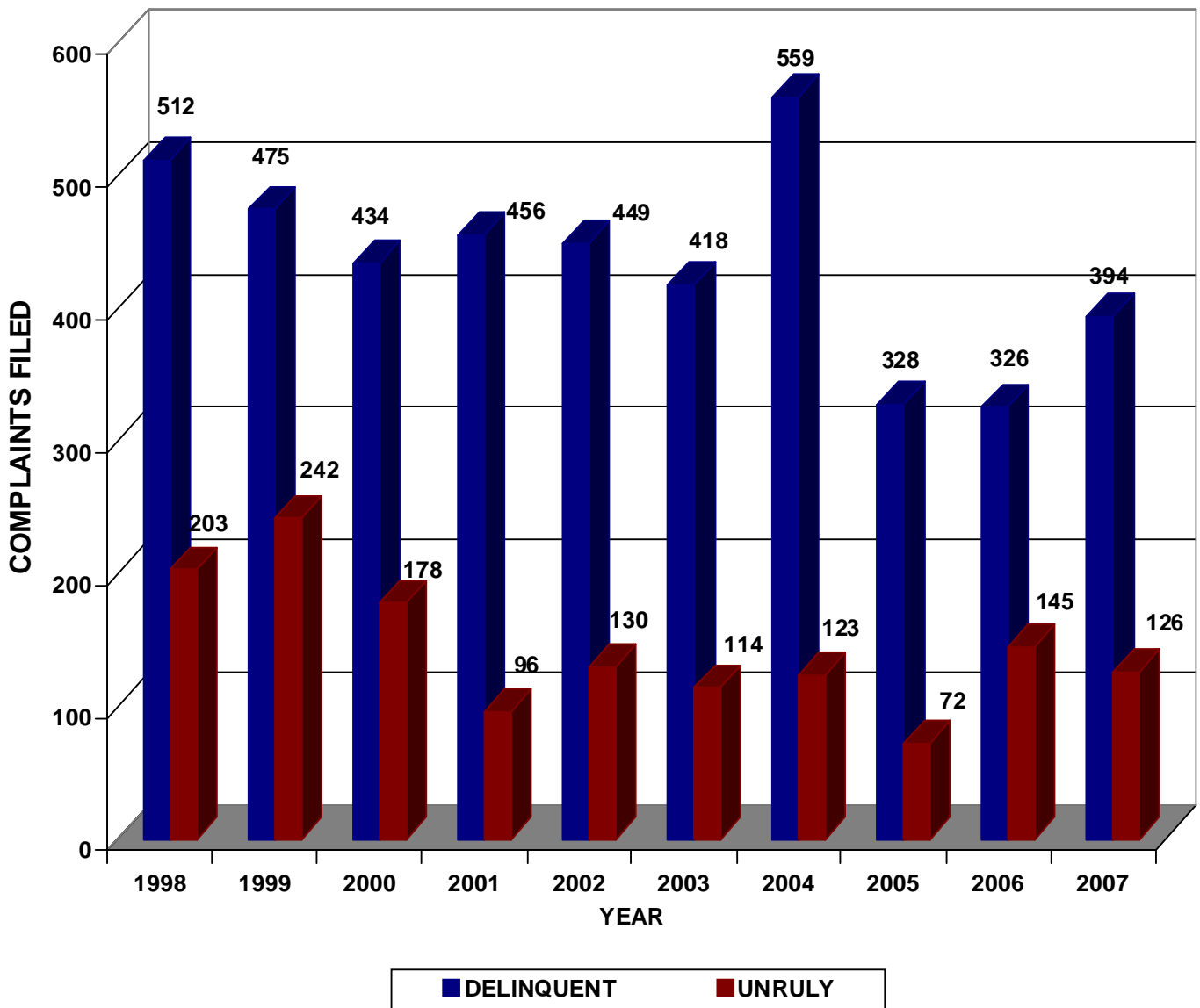
# ***JUVENILE COMPLAINTS FILED***

TYPE OF CASE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Delinquency (Juvenile Crimes – 372) (Chronic Truant – 22)	312	82	394
Probation Violations	82	20	102
Unruly (School Truancy - 69) (Parental/School Unruly - 57)	67	59	126
Traffic	224	145	369
Tobacco Offenses	38	4	42
Abuse and Neglect	n/a	n/a	42
Custody	n/a	n/a	67
Permanent Custody	n/a	n/a	2
Paternity	n/a	n/a	10
Child Support Action	n/a	n/a	113
Juvenile Marriage	n/a	n/a	0
Complaints against Adults – Contributing	n/a	n/a	14
Complaint against Adults – Failure to Send Child to School	n/a	n/a	32
<b>TOTAL COMPLAINTS FOR 2007</b>			<b>1313</b>

Of the above cases, 8 delinquency and 18 unruly, were handled informally.

An **informal complaint** is a complaint which is handled by the court in an informal administrative hearing by a probation officer rather than a formal court hearing. These complaints generally involve children who are coming to the court for the first time and involve less serious offenses.

## 10 YEAR HISTORY OF DELINQUENT AND UNRULY COMPLAINTS



# ***TOP 20 OFFENSES***

## ***Committed by Delinquent Children***

NUMBER	TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL COMMITTED
1	Theft	60
2	Assault	41
3	Underage Drinking	33
4	Domestic Violence	29
5	Criminal Damaging	27
6	Disorderly Conduct	25
7	Delinquent by Chronic School Truancy	22
8	Drug Offenses	20
9	Vandalism	19
10	Receiving Stolen Property	12
11	Criminal Trespass	9
tie	Burglary	9
13	Sex Related Offenses	8
tie	Criminal Mischief	8
tie	Vehicular Assault	8
16	Breaking and Entering	6
17	Escape / Violation of House Arrest	5
tie	Robbery	5
tie	Forgery	5
20	Menacing	4
tie	Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle	4
tie	Arson	4

# ***TOP 15 TRAFFIC OFFENSES***

<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TYPE OF CASE</b>	<b>TOTAL COMMITTED</b>
1	Speed	137
2	Failure to Control	54
3	Seat Belt	50
4	No Operator's License / License Violation	25
5	Assured Clear Distance	22
6	Stop Sign / Red Light Violations	21
7	Failure to Yield	13
8	Improper Passing	5
tie	Reckless Operation	5
10	Improper Backing	4
tie	Left of Center	4
12	Tire Squealing	2
13	Drunk Driving	1
tie	Hit / Skip	1
tie	Passing School Bus	1

***2007 TOTAL TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS: 369***

***(Violations committed 60% by boys and 40% by girls)***

# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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

*“One of the hardest things to teach a child is that the truth is more important than the consequences”*

*O.A. Battista*

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 assisting the youth in accepting personal responsibility for their actions.

The Court has five probation officers. These five officers supervised a total of 340 children in 2007.

***132 Youth were placed on probation during 2007***

*99 male: 75%  
33 female: 25%*

\*\*\*

***A total of 340 Youth were supervised on probation in 2007, including 208 from previous year***

*244 male: 72%  
96 female: 28%*

\*\*\*

***102 probation violations were filed in 2007***

# ***COMMUNITY SERVICE***

The Community Service Program is a valuable and constructive dispositional option. 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.

The Court monitors the progress of the children to ensure successful completion of court ordered community service hours.

The overall objective of this program is to enable the children to change their behavior and attitudes through personal development. Gaining a sense of achievement by helping others could ultimately change the direction in a young offender's life.

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*In 2007, juvenile offenders provided a total of*  
**13,647 hours of volunteer work**  
*for various non-profit agencies in the community.*

*Based on minimum wage, the*  
**community received \$93,482**  
*in donated labor and services from these probationers.*

# ***RESTITUTION PROGRAM***

The Juvenile Court Restitution Program provides a dispositional option 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 obtain compensation for the victim.

Juvenile offenders who can make monetary restitution to their victim are ordered to pay the victim under the supervision 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.

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

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**During 2007, delinquent youth were ordered to pay a total of \$25,917 to their victims.**

**During 2007, a total of \$19,813.04 for past and present restitution was collected and paid to victims.**

# ***VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR***

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*The Victim Assistance  
Coordinator is an  
invaluable position.  
She keeps victims from  
feeling forgotten once  
a case goes to Court.*

**T**he Juvenile Court Victim Assistance Coordinator advocates for both victims of juvenile crime and juveniles who themselves are victims, 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.
- Assisting with preparation of victim impact statements detailing losses, injury, and victim's opinions for use by the Judge in sentencing.
- Assisting with filing for Victims of Crime Compensation from the State.
- Assisting in collecting restitution for losses and out of pocket expenses.
- Coordinating with other agencies to obtain assistance for the victim.

***185 victims were assisted during 2007***



## ***WASHINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER***

1699 Colegate Drive  
Marietta, Ohio 45750  
Telephone No. 740.374.7453  
Fax No. 740.374.3581  
E-mail address: [wjc@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wjc@suddenlinkmail.com)

### ***Administrative Personnel***

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Rae A. Ward .....	Superintendent
Natalie Doughty .....	Professional Clinical Counselor
Brian Hesson .....	Senior Case Manager
Stephanie Galati.....	Case Manager
Niccole Burkhart .....	Case Manager
Kelly Easterling.....	Case Manager
Mary Summers .....	Medical Coordinator
Lorraine Rammage .....	Administrative Assistant
Peggy Shiflett .....	Bookkeeper
Michelle Whitacre .....	Teacher
Erika Copley .....	Teacher
Kendra Whittekind .....	Teacher's Aide

# *WASHINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER*

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## *Mission*

The Washington County Juvenile Center is operated by the Juvenile Court and serves as an alternative to state institutionalization for youth of Washington County. Youth can only be placed in the Center by the Juvenile Judge.

The Washington County Juvenile Center is one of only 17 residential rehabilitation facilities certified by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Center is inspected by the Department each year and meets all state requirements.

The Center can accommodate 15 boys and 10 girls in the residential rehabilitation program and 5 children in secure detention.

The Center provides children, ages 12 – 18, with three basic services: residential treatment and rehabilitation program, shelter care services and detention capabilities.

The Center's mission is to provide a safe, structured environment where delinquent youth receive help for their special needs through a very structured behavior modification program. The program emphasizes positive reinforcement and focuses on improving the child's behavior, academics, and emotional and mental well-being.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER

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## *Program Highlights*

- *Rehabilitation plan prepared by child and family team consisting of child, parents, probation officer, case manager, counselor, and teacher.*
- *4 case managers and 12 youth specialists work with the youth helping them achieve their rehabilitation plan.*
- *2 certified teachers and 1 teacher's aide employed through Marietta City Schools provide individualized classroom instruction on site.*
- *An on site licensed professional clinical counselor provides individual mental health counseling to the youth.*
- *A licensed counselor provides individual drug and alcohol counseling.*
- *On site mental health services provided by a licensed psychiatrist.*
- *Weekly anger management and drug and alcohol group counseling provided by Washington County Mental Health and Southern Ohio Solutions.*
- *Court ordered parenting program, as well as family counseling.*
- *Tutors that help youth with problem academic areas.*
- *Community Service performed daily by youth.*
- *Voluntary running club for youth where they run daily and compete in local races.*
- *Participation by youth in Walkabout Way, a 10 week Behavior Management Adventure program.*
- *Voluntary non-denominational bible study offered.*
- *Medical, dental, and optical care provided.*

# WASHINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER 2007 Statistics

**REHABILITATION  
PROGRAM**

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ADMISSIONS:  
2007 Admissions: 27  
Males 20  
Females 7

2006 Admissions  
still in Program  
during 2006: 24  
Males 14  
Females 10

Total Served 2007: 51  
Males 34  
Females 17

RESIDENCE:  
Washington County 50  
Other counties 1

OFFENSES:  
Delinquent Children 51  
Felonies 10  
Misdemeanors 41  
Unruly Children 0

MISCELLANEOUS:  
Average age 16  
Average length  
of stay 201 days

**SELTHER CARE  
PROGRAM**

\*\*\*\*\*

ADMISSIONS: 33  
Males 20  
Females 13

RESIDENCE:  
Washington County 32  
Other Counties 1

OFFENSES:  
Delinquent Children 33  
Felonies 7  
Misdemeanors 26  
Unruly Children 0

MISCELLANEOUS:  
Average age 16  
Average length  
of stay 22 days

**DETENTION  
PROGRAM**

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ADMISSIONS: 111  
Males 89  
Females 22

RESIDENCE:  
Washington County 102  
Other Counties 9

OFFENSES:  
Delinquent Children 109  
Felonies 33  
Misdemeanors 76  
Unruly Children 2  
Traffic 0

MISCELLANEOUS:  
Average age 16  
Average length  
of stay 16 days

**Community Service Hours Performed: 4,507**

*Based on minimum wage,  
the community received \$93,482  
in donated labor and services from these probationers.*

# ***COMMITMENT OF FELONY OFFENDERS***

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**Department of Youth Services**  
(Juvenile Prison System)

14 Boys  
0 Girls

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**Perry Multi County Juvenile Facility**  
(Boys only facility located in New Lexington, Ohio)

3 Boys

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**Hocking Valley Community Residential Center**  
(Boys only facility located in Nelsonville, Ohio)

3 Boys

\*\*\*\*\*

**Washington County Juvenile Center**  
(Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Marietta, Ohio)

5 Boys  
0 Girls