



## ***2009 Probate/Juvenile Court Annual Report***

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***Washington County, Ohio***

*Honorable Timothy A. Williams  
Courthouse Annex, Marietta, Ohio 45750*

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*I present to you the 2009 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.*

*Sincerely,*

*Timothy A. Williams, 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  
Rachel Davis ..... 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

# ***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, 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 and 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	20
Adoption of Adult	0
Miscellaneous Civil Proceedings	22
Admission of Will without Estate Filing	16
Full Estate Filings	183
Filing Will Only (no estate)	14
Summary Release of Estate	67
Release of Estate	60
Ohio Estate Tax Filings	56
Disinterment of Body	0
Conservatorship	0
Guardianship of Incompetent	37
Guardianship of Minor	6
Marriage Licenses Issued	413
Mental Illness	11
Minor's Settlement	8
Name Change	14
Registration of Birth/Correction of Birth Record	6
Transfer of Structured Settlements	0
Trusts	8
Wrongful Death Settlements	10

TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL
Search Warrants Issued	43
<b>TOTAL FILINGS FOR 2009</b>	<b>994</b>

## *JUVENILE COURT*

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



Attorney Mark Kerenyi 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 Kerenyi 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 failing to send children to school and 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) full-time 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. 253.

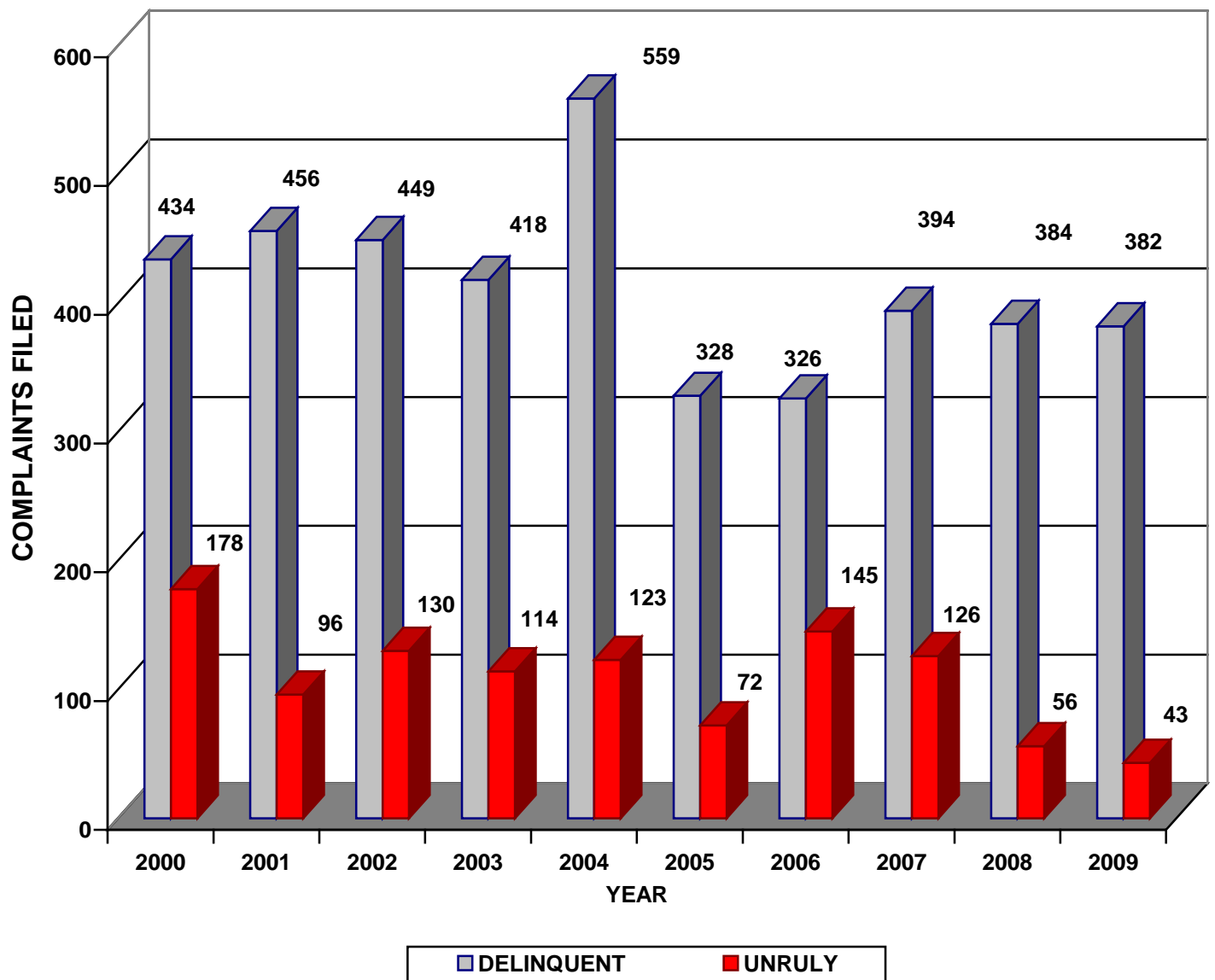
## ***JUVENILE COMPLAINTS FILED***

<b>TYPE OF CASE</b>	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Delinquency (Juvenile Crimes – 349) (Truancy – 33)	297	85	382
Probation Violations	72	17	89
Unruly (School Truancy - 12) (Parental/School Unruly - 31)	25	18	43
Traffic	265	125	390
Tobacco Offenses	16	4	20
Abuse and Neglect	n/a	n/a	59
Custody	n/a	n/a	94
Permanent Custody	n/a	n/a	4
Paternity	n/a	n/a	9
Child Support Action	n/a	n/a	98
Juvenile Marriage	n/a	n/a	0
Complaints against Adults – Contributing	n/a	n/a	20
Complaint against Adults – Failure to Send Child to School	n/a	n/a	38
<b>TOTAL COMPLAINTS FOR 2009</b>			<b>1246</b>

Of the above cases, 8 delinquency and 22 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***

<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>TYPE OF CASE</b>	<b>TOTAL COMMITTED</b>
1	Criminal Damaging	46
2	Drug Offenses	45
3	Assault	37
4	Underage Drinking	35
5	Delinquent by School Truancy	33
6	Theft	31
7	Domestic Violence	25
8	Sex Related Offenses	21
9	Disorderly Conduct	20
10	Criminal Trespass	19
11	Escape / Violation of House Arrest	11
tie	Breaking & Entering	11
13	Obstruction of Official Business	9
tie	Vandalism	9
15	Burglary	5
16	Menacing	4
tie	Receiving Stolen Property	4
18	Arson	3
19	Telephone Harassment	2
20	Weapons Violation	1

# ***TOP 15 TRAFFIC OFFENSES***

NUMBER	TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL COMMITTED
1	Speed	120
2	Seat Belt	62
3	Failure to Control	45
4	Assured Clear Distance	34
5	No Operator's License / License Violation	30
6	Stop Sign / Red Light Violations	17
tie	Failure to Yield	17
8	Turn Signal Violation	6
tie	Improper Backing	6
tie	Reckless Operation	6
11	Failure to Display Plates	5
tie	Drunk Driving	5
tie	Unsafe Vehicle	5
14	Tire Squealing	3
15	Passing School Bus	2

***Traffic violations committed:  
68% by boys  
32% 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.*

***“If you bungle raising your children, I don’t think whatever else you do matters very much.”***

***Jacqueline  
Kennedy  
Onassis***

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 328 children in 2009.

***173 Youth were placed on probation during 2009***

***114 male: 65%  
60 female: 35%***

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***A total of 328 Youth were supervised on probation in 2009, including 155 from previous year***

***111 male: 72%  
44 female: 28%***

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***89 probation violations were filed in 2009***

## ***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.

In 2009, juvenile offenders provided a total of ***12,669 hours of volunteer work*** for various non-profit agencies in the community.

Based on minimum wage, the ***community received \$92,483*** in donated labor and services from these offenders.

## ***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 working 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.

In 2009, juvenile offenders were ***ordered to pay a total of \$4,406*** to their victims. ***A total of \$3,458.37 was collected*** and paid out for past and present restitution.



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

1699 Colegate Drive  
Marietta, Ohio 45750  
Telephone No. 740.374.7453  
Fax No. 740.374.3581  
E-mail address: [wcjc@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wcjc@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  
Mary Summers .....Medical Coordinator  
Lorraine Rammage ..... Administrative Assistant  
Peggy Shiflett .....Bookkeeper  
Sue Lane ..... 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.*
- *3 case managers and 13 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.*
- *Staff licensed professional clinical counselor provides individual mental health counseling to the youth.*
- *A licensed professional counselor provides family counseling.*
- *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 L & P Services.*
- *Court ordered parenting program.*
- *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 Outdoor Adventure program.*
- *Voluntary non-denominational bible study offered.*
- *Medical, dental, and optical care provided.*

# WASHINGTON COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER 2009 Statistics

## **REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

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ADMISSIONS:  
2009 Admissions: 27  
Males 18  
Females 9

2008 Admissions  
still in Program  
during 2009: 20  
Males 14  
Females 6

Total Served 2009: 47  
Males 32  
Females 15

RESIDENCE:  
Washington County 46  
Other counties 1

OFFENSES:  
Delinquent Children 47  
Felonies 2  
Misdemeanors 45  
Unruly Children 0

Average days to  
complete program 381

## **SELTHER CARE PROGRAM**

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ADMISSIONS: 34  
Males 16  
Females 18

RESIDENCE:  
Washington County 32  
Other Counties 2

OFFENSES:  
Delinquent Children 32  
Felonies 5  
Misdemeanors 27  
Unruly Children 2

MISCELLANEOUS:  
Average length  
of stay 20 days

## **DETENTION PROGRAM**

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ADMISSIONS: 85  
Males 75  
Females 10

RESIDENCE:  
Washington County 80  
Other Counties 5

OFFENSES:  
Delinquent Children 85  
Felonies 19  
Misdemeanors 66  
Unruly Children 0  
Traffic 0

MISCELLANEOUS:  
Average length  
of stay 17 days

**Community Service Hours Performed: 3,176**

*Based on minimum wage,  
the community received \$23,185  
in donated labor and services from these probationers.*

# ***PLACEMENT OF YOUTH OUTSIDE HOME***

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

11 Boys  
0 Girls

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

7 Boys

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

2 Boys

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

18 Boys  
9 Girls

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**Foster Care with  
Washington County Children Services**

9 Delinquent and Unruly children  
80 Abused, Neglected and Dependent children