



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

ANTHONY CAPIZZI ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Judge Capizzi has been a strong advocate for youth throughout his career, serving as a voice for children on issues such as drug and mental health treatment, disproportionate representation of minorities, and using technology to better help children and families.

Judge Capizzi has overseen the growth of the Juvenile Treatment Court and the implementation of a Juvenile Mental Health Court and Family Treatment Court. He led the initiative to create multiple Evening Reporting Centers, put into practice the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), created the Pro Se Services program, and strengthened the Court's Reclaiming Futures and Natural Helpers programs. Judge Capizzi instituted the use of texting to remind families of hearing dates. He also implemented the use of the IBM Watson Artificial Intelligence in case management and health management issues capabilities in all courtrooms.

He serves as Past-President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association. In addition, he serves on the National Center for State Courts National Judicial Opioid Task Force and the Stewards of Change Institute National Board. He was appointed by Governor DeWine in December 2019 as one of two judges statewide to serve on the Children Services Transformation Advisory Council.



HELEN WALLACE JUDGE

Judge Helen Wallace is the first woman elected to serve as a Montgomery County Juvenile Court Judge. Judge Wallace is committed to protecting and serving children and families. Judge Wallace handles delinquency, abuse, neglect and dependency cases, civil cases, motions to impose jail sentences, and all child endangering cases in Juvenile Court.

Judge Wallace leads the Court's Education Unit, front loading services to families with truancy issues. Judge Wallace created Book Nooks all around the courthouse to promote reading. The Book Nooks provide free books, donated by our wonderful community, to all families that enter the Court. Judge Wallace founded the Helping Everyone Learn Program (HELP) after obtaining a grant from the Ohio Supreme Court to identify individual learnings needs of children.

Judge Wallace helped found the Montgomery County Female Leadership Academy, which provides community leaders as mentors to young woman ages 15-17. She was recognized as the 2021 Public Elected Official of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers, Region 7.



Montgomery County Juvenile Justice Center

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JUVENILE COURT FOCUS

In 2021, the Court continued to face the COVID-19 challenge of bringing parties together safely so as to reduce contact. Pretrial conferences were held remotely between multiple parties in multiple locations. New recording technology allowed the court to complete hearings, on the record, in a virtual environment. New televisions were installed in the courtroom allowing hearings to occur where one party is remote while another party was in person in the courtroom.

DELINQUENCY DOCKET

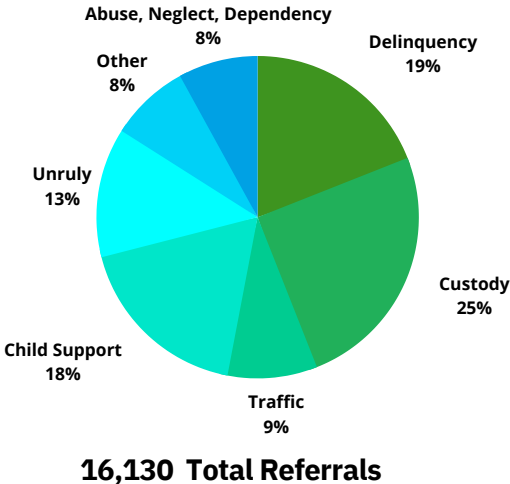
The Juvenile Delinquency Docket has jurisdiction over all offenses involving children under the age of 18, as well as cases involving juvenile protection orders, unruly filings, and juvenile traffic offenders.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, DEPENDENCY DOCKET

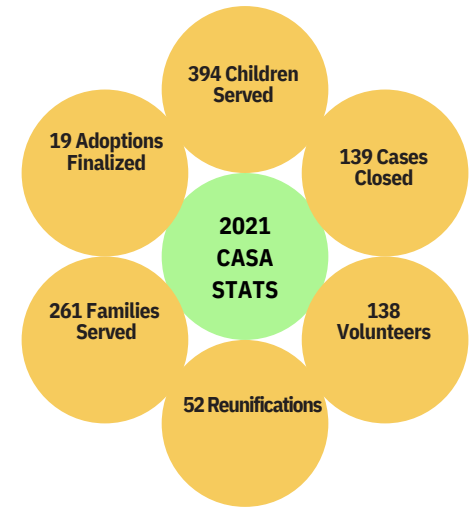
Juvenile Court presides over cases regarding children alleged to be abused, neglected, or dependent. The goal is to strengthen families so that children can safely remain with their families whenever possible, and to find permanent homes for children when that is not possible.

PRIVATE CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT & VISITATION DOCKET

The Private Custody, Child Support, and Visitation Docket has jurisdiction involving the issues of paternity, custody, parenting time, visitation, and child support when the child’s parents were not married at the time of their birth, when the child’s parents married after their birth but have not filed for divorce, or when a non-parent initiates a filing.



CASA CELEBRATES 33 YEARS



The Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA) trains and supervises adult volunteers to serve as Guardians Ad Litem (GAL) for abused, neglected, and dependent children. CASA volunteers conduct independent investigations, provide reports and monitor the child’s case as long as it remains in the Court system. As informed, independent and objective voices for these children, the CASA volunteer advocates for what is in the best interest of the children.

CASA celebrated 33 years in Montgomery County in 2021. Volunteers and staff accumulated over 700 hours in training. The topics included: substance abuse, GAL report writing, the DDS (developmental disability services), Fostering Futures, LGBTQ+, Ohio KAN, COPE, Special Education, and Family First.

Magistrates



Magistrate
Julie Bruns



Magistrate
Todd Calaway



Magistrate
Paula Durden



Magistrate
Gina Feller



Magistrate
John Kolberg



Magistrate
Marshall Lachman



Magistrate
Kate Lenski



Magistrate
Jeffrey Livingston



Magistrate
Moira Murty



Magistrate
Hope Smalls

EDUCATION SERVICES DELIVERS YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL

The Juvenile Court Education Department is chartered by the Ohio Department of Education and offers a comprehensive and individualized year-round educational programming for students placed in each of three facilities within the county: Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC), Center for Adolescent Services (CAS), and the Juvenile Justice Center (Detention).

During the 2020-2021 school year, five youth from CAS graduated.

The district employs 16 full-time licensed teachers, including each core content area, as well as art, and physical education and intervention specialists. The high school-based program allows students to continue to earn credits towards graduation that are in alignment with school districts across the State of Ohio. The district employs two full-time transition coordinators, who collaborate with students' home districts, to obtain records, transcripts, and collaborate with stakeholders to ensure youth are empowered to be successful.

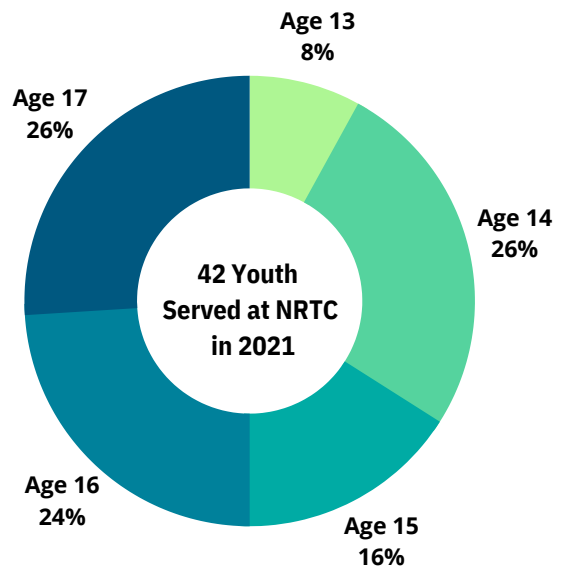


NICHOLAS RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER GIVES CARE YOUTH NEED

The Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC) is a 24-hour, non-secure, multi-tiered residential treatment facility, licensed by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services and the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, certified for up to 25 male and female at-risk youth.

With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was of utmost importance that Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC) continue to ensure that the 24/7 operations of the facility were maintained and our youth received the high level of treatment and educational services expected by the Court, stakeholders, and community.

In June, NRTC successfully earned national accreditation through the Council of Accreditation (COA). And, NRTC was awarded Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP) compliance status in September, as required by and outlined in the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).



CENTER FOR ADOLESCENT SERVICES EQUIPS TEENS

The Center for Adolescent Services is a Community Correctional Facility located in New Lebanon that provides evidence-based therapeutic and treatment services for felony-adjudicated youth. In 2021, it provided services to 76 residents. Other accomplishments included:

- Awarded the Gold Award in the Schools of Excellence Prevention Program
- Residents completed 210.3 hours of community services
- Crocheted and donated items to local community organizations
- Received re-accreditation
- Partnered with two new community partners (YWCA & Writers in Residence) to provide additional groups for the residents.





INTERVENTION CENTER LINKS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Intervention Center (IC) is a 24-hour, 7-day a week single point of entry for court service for unruly and delinquent youth, located at the Juvenile Justice Center, 380 W. Second St. in Dayton.

With the onsite support of outside agencies, including South Community, Inc.'s Caring for Kids, that conducts comprehensive assessments on youth, and the Children Services Division of the Department of Job and Family Services, the IC can provide a triage for youth and their families when more in-depth intervention is needed.

In 2021, the IC continued to facilitate COVID-19 screenings of all youth and staff entering the department.

In collaboration with a local food pantry, With God's Grace, the IC delivered 2,904 meals to families involved with the Court. The staff made bi-weekly food deliveries that included enough food to feed a family for three days at a time. With the support of the Probation Department, the IC Programming Unit was also able to provide 45 students with school supplies, 17 families with Thanksgiving Dinner, and 25 youth with Christmas gifts during the holidays.

PROBATION SERVICES FOCUS: TRANSFORMATION

Probation Services continued Transformational Probation, which focuses on a team approach to address issues, and attempts to improve behaviors by utilizing positive-action case plans and incentives. Studies have shown that continued Court involvement only increases the likelihood a youth stays involved in the legal system. The transformational approach utilizes behavior modification techniques that encourage the youth to develop a support team to lean on to make better choices/decisions.

In 2021, the Court hired an education-specific probation officer and increased utilization of the Education Departments' IEP Compliance staff.

The Family Treatment Diversion (FTD) program came to fruition in February 2021 to provide treatment and accountability to substance-dependent parents with pre-adjudicated child welfare cases, who may also have a co-occurring mental health disorder, that requires treatment and recovery services to protect their children, reunite families and expedite permanency.

Juvenile Treatment Court is a separate and specialized docket within the Court assisting in the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders who have been adversely affected by drugs and alcohol. Treatment Court provides intensive services to approximately 75 youth and their families at any time. The program is individually paced, successful completion typically takes nine months, but can take up to two years.

DETENTION SERVICES OFFERS SAFETY & TREATMENT

Detention Services provides a comprehensive program for youth in a safe and secure environment, while protecting the public safety. Youth range in age from 10- to 20-years old. Detention Services houses five distinct populations within its 144-bed facility -offering evidence based programming, educational, mental health, medical, physical, and life-skills programming.

In 2021, Detention Services facilitated dozens of secure transports to Children's Medical Center for Covid-19 testing to ensure continued safety. It also successfully completed 609 20-minute virtual visitations and facilitated hundreds of phone conferences with detained youths and their attorneys.

The five distinct populations and the numbers of youth served in 2021 include:

Detention Services - those awaiting the legal process or transfer to approved placements (499 youth in 2021)

The Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitative Effort-Specialized Treatment Program (JCARE-STP) is designated for male sex offenders ages 14 to 18 of all felony levels. (16 served)

Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitative Effort-Aggression Replacement Training (JCARE-ART) is a treatment program in the Ohio Youth Assessment System for those identified moderate- to high-risk male youth, ages 12 to 19; who would otherwise be committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. (24 served)

The Corrections Program is an alternative for adjudicated youth who have demonstrated the need for an immediate short-term commitment, either for 5- or 10-days. The program is designated for youth between the ages of 10-17. (48 served)

The Detention Certified program is for youth under age 21, whose cases are transferred to adult court for prosecution, but who can be behaviorally maintained in a juvenile setting. (5 served)



COURT SERVICES PROVIDES TEXT REMINDERS

During 2021, Court Services began sending text messages to litigants that opted in to receiving notification of their hearing date in civil cases. The Court applied for, and received, a technology grant from the Ohio Supreme Court to begin receiving traffic citations from the Ohio State Patrol electronically. The Court also received funding to begin the process of e filing complaints and motions.

Court Services receives and processes all case-related filings and documents. The Citizen Services office provides Pro Se services for those clients that choose to file legal documents without attorney representation. By providing Pro Se Services, and specifically a staff attorney, documents are reviewed with clients before they are filed with the Court. Filings are more accurate, the case flow process smoother and the amount of time clients have to spend at the Court reduced.

Located on the mezzanine and lower level of the Juvenile Justice Center, the Clerk's Office filed 10,515 new cases and reactivations and maintained over 120,000 official case jackets and 10 years of social history case jackets.