



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Montgomery County Juvenile Court
380 W. Second St
Dayton, OH 45422
(937) 496-7908
www.mcjcoho.org



HELEN WALLACE, ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Judge Helen Wallace is the administrative judge of Montgomery County Juvenile Court, leading the organization of approximately 450 employees who strive to provide individualized justice for children and to protect the community, while carefully balancing the interests of both. Judge Wallace began serving as a Judge in the Court in 2019.



JULIE BRUNS, JUDGE

Judge Julie A. Bruns began serving as a Montgomery County Juvenile Court judge in January 2023. She had previously worked as a Juvenile Court magistrate since 2019, presiding over juvenile traffic cases and private custody cases, and serving as chief magistrate. Prior to becoming a magistrate, Judge Bruns was the Chief of the Juvenile Division Prosecutor's Office from 2005-2019.



Chief Magistrate
Gina Feller

DELINQUENCY DOCKET:

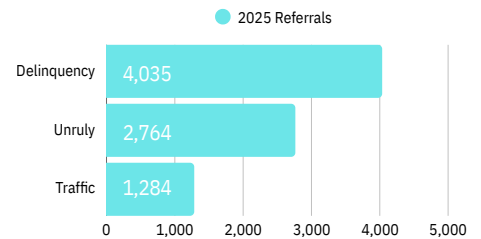
The Juvenile Delinquency Docket has jurisdiction over all offenses involving children under the age of 18, as well as cases involving juvenile protection orders, unruly filings, and juvenile traffic offenders.



Magistrate
Todd Calaway

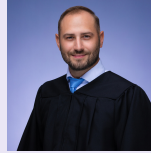


Magistrate
Kelsie Carson

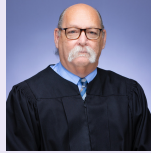


PRIVATE CUSTODY, CHILD SUPPORT & VISITATION DOCKET:

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.



Magistrate
Matt Kimmel



Magistrate
John Kolberg



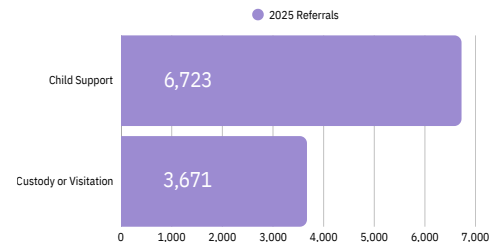
Magistrate
Jeffrey Livingston



Magistrate
Hope Smalls

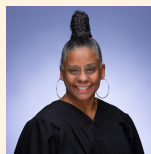


Magistrate
Trent Sulek



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.



Retired Magistrate
Paula Durden



Magistrate
Kathleen Lenski



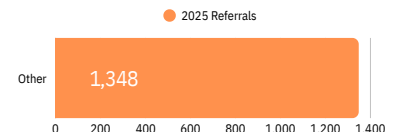
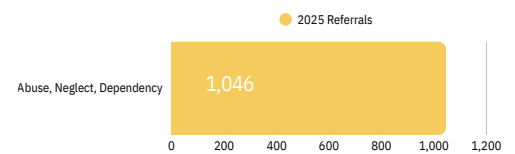
Magistrate
Moira Murty



Magistrate
David Smith



Magistrate
Autumn White



2025 Total: 20,871

FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR YOUTH: INTERVENTION

The Intervention Center (IC) located at the Juvenile Justice Center, is a 24-hour, 7-day a week single point of entry for court services for unruly and delinquent youth. With the onsite support of outside agencies, the IC can provide a triage for youth and their families when more in-depth intervention is needed. Youth are connected to resources such as individual counseling services, certified peer recovery services, and opportunities for restorative justice through community service activities.

In 2025, the Intervention Center conducted 1,790 administrative hearings, monitored 494 youth in the Electronic Home Monitoring program, and facilitated 107 placements of 96 youth into Emergency Foster Care.

- Programming opportunities for diversion of low-risk youth included:
- Disproportionate Minority Contact Diversion Program (DMC/DP) - 328 referrals in 2025;
 - 10 & Under Program - 76 referrals;
 - Sexually Oriented Diversion Approach (SODA)- 16 accepted referrals in 2025;
 - Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)-78 referrals;
 - Traditional Diversion-88 referrals;
 - Education Unit – 354 referrals;
 - Creating Opportunities for Resilience & Empowerment (CORE) - 88 referrals.



Intervention Center staff aim to stay informed about the technology updates that regularly occur with the electronic home monitoring software.

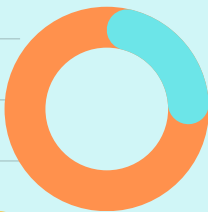
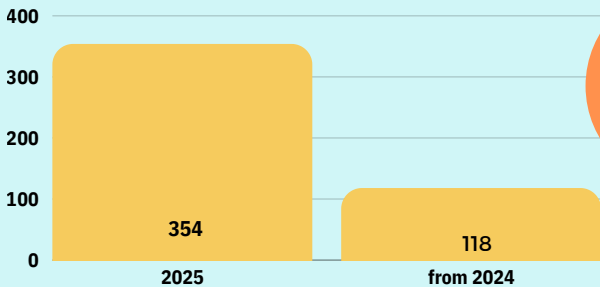
TRUANCY DATA

354 TOTAL REFERRALS

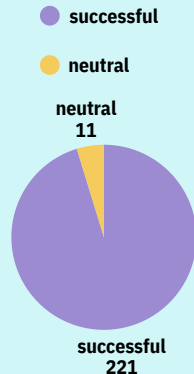
354 CASES HANDLED INFORMALLY/ ALTERNATIVES TO ADJUDICATION

7 HABITUAL TRUANCY COMPLAINTS

SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ALTERNATIVES TO ADJUDICATION



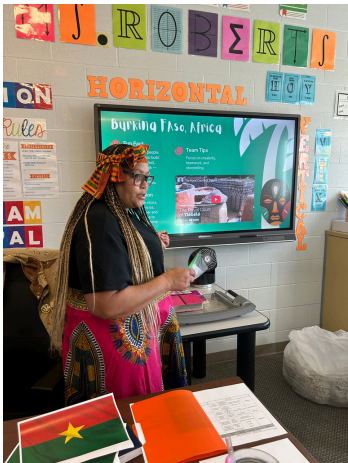
2 cases were filed on truancy only, and 5 truancy referrals were filed officially due to the youth receiving other delinquent charges



Neutral can be those who turned 18, or moved out of county or state.

The number of youth who failed to complete alternatives & were adjudicated unruly: 1

NURTURING YOUTH WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN



Teachers in the Detention Center coordinated a World Harvest event in November.

The Juvenile Court’s Education Department has a school chartered by the Ohio Department of Education located within the county. Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC), Center for Adolescent Services (CAS), and the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) all offer education to youth. Comprehensive middle and high school courses of study are offered through year-round programming and partnership with the local school districts for Title 1, Part D funded programming and services.

The school receives federal funding to improve the quality of education in facilities for neglected and delinquent youth who have yet to attain the credits that allow them to graduate from high school and are under the age of 21.

The school teaches core content areas of English, Math, Social Studies, and Science, as well as Art and Physical Education. This allows for students to engage and continue on their educational path. The Court supplements services for those youth that

have significant learning deficits.

CAS has recently been approved as an official GED testing site so any youth that are detained or on probation has the opportunity to take the GED assessment in a secure environment.

Additionally, the school maintains community partnerships with K-12 Gallery & TEJAS, Fathers to Fearless, and Sinclair Wi-STEM to implement additional programming for students.

In an effort to support the social-emotional needs of all youth, Education staff collaborate with the facilities to maintain full implementation of PBIS programming to include holiday celebrations, building-wide events, and incentives for students.

Last year, the Education department implemented a sensory room at NRTC so students have an opportunity to reduce over-stimulation and enhance emotional regulation. The primary goal is to provide a safe, calm space to reset behaviors and emotions, fostering improved focus and reduced stress.

PROBATION PUTS FOCUS ON COORDINATED RE-ENTRY

The divisions of the Probation Department include the Traditional Unit, Resource Planning Program, Adult Probation, Evening Reporting Center I & II, Community Based Services, Juvenile Court Work Program and Transportation.

The Resource Planning Program (RPP) supports moderate and high-risk youth as they return to the community after placement. This transition is critical for long-term success and public safety.

In 2025, the Probation Department strengthened its reentry approach, by improving coordination and continuity of care using the existing staff and budget. The teams collaborated closely with schools, the judiciary, court administration, detention, and the Evening Reporting Center. This partnership ensured clearer transition planning and consistent contact with youth.

These improvements produced strong results. Recidivism for RPP, a high-risk population, declined from a high of 58% in prior years to 18% in 2025. This outcome highlights how focused leadership and teamwork advance youth success.

The Probation department's recidivism rate (up to 1 year post termination) is 11%. Recidivism looks at if a youth has been adjudicated of a new offense one year post involvement with Juvenile Court.



The Community Based Services Girls Group completed a community service project at Heavenward Farm that also involved horseback riding.

2025 Probation Data

•Total Youth Served: **637** •Total Youth Admitted: **342**
•Total Terminated: **439** •Average Length of Probation: **9 months**

DETENTION CENTER OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE CARE

Detention Services provides a comprehensive program for pre and post dispositional 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 six distinct populations within its 96-bed facility. All youth housed or committed to placement are offered evidence based programming, educational, mental health, medical, physical, and life-skills programming.

In 2025, Detention Services continued to offer a variety of programming designed to inspire youth to make better decisions, encourage them to become leaders in their peer groups, and decrease their involvement in delinquent behaviors. This included a Black History Program, Professional Career Expo, Skillstreaming, Harvest Fest, assemblies with local professionals and motivational speakers, and weekend incentivized activities and tokens. The facility continued to incorporate Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports standards and practices to incentivize youth for expected behaviors.

The six distinct populations and the number of youth served in 2025 include: Detention Services - those awaiting the legal process or transfer to approved placements. (841 youth served in 2025)

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 (5 youth served).

Juvenile Cognitive Alternative Rehabilitative Effort-Aggression Replacement Training (JCARE-ART) is a treatment program for felony

adjudicated male youth ages 12-19, identified as moderate to high risk to reoffend per the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) who would otherwise be committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (38 youth served).

The Corrections Program is an alternative program for adjudicated youth who have demonstrated the need for an immediate short-term commitment of either for 5 or 10 days. The program is designated for youth between the ages of 10-17 (13 youth served).

The Detention Certified Program is for youth under the age of 21, whose cases have been transferred to the adult Court for prosecution; but who can be behaviorally maintained in a juvenile setting (6 youth served).

The Detention Motion to Transfer (MTT) Program services youth under the age of 21, who are awaiting a determination of amenability or transfer to the adult Court (12 youth served).



Detention regularly brings in guest speakers.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES PROVIDE SAFETY, EDUCATION

In 2025, the Center for Adolescent Services (CAS) provided services to 82 youth. CAS received a total of 55 referrals during the year with 38 being females and 17 being males. Of those, demographics include 53 African American youth in placement, 24 white youth, 1 Hispanic youth and 2 other/unknown youth. The average length of stay for males was 231 days and the average length of stay for females was 184 days.

CAS also successfully completed the American Correctional Association Audit and received accreditation in November 2025. CAS continued to provide cognitive behavior therapy to meet the crimino-



CAS completed the ACA audit in 2025.

genic needs and gender specific therapy to address the needs of females. CAS received capital upgrades to the parking lot, HVAC and security systems.

In 2025 Nicholas Residential Treatment Center (NRTC) had 247 referrals to programming. Of those referrals, 126 were male referrals and 121 were female. Throughout the year, NRTC provided services to a total of 26 youth. Of those youth, 14 were males and 12 were females. Demographics include 16 African American youth, 8 white youth and 2 other/unknown youth.

NRTC successfully completed a Council on Accreditation audit in April 2025 and found to be in compliance. NRTC was also found to be in compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code when reviewed by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth in October of 2025. NRTC continued to provide services through a trauma informed care approach.

Both CAS and NRTC continue to collaborate of mental health services provided to the youth with the addition of a licensed clinician to oversee the referral process for youth and to ensure mental health needs are being met. CAS and NRTC each were recognized through the Montgomery County Educational Services Center in receiving an award as Schools of Distinction in Mental Wellness in 2025 for the services provided to both youth and staff.

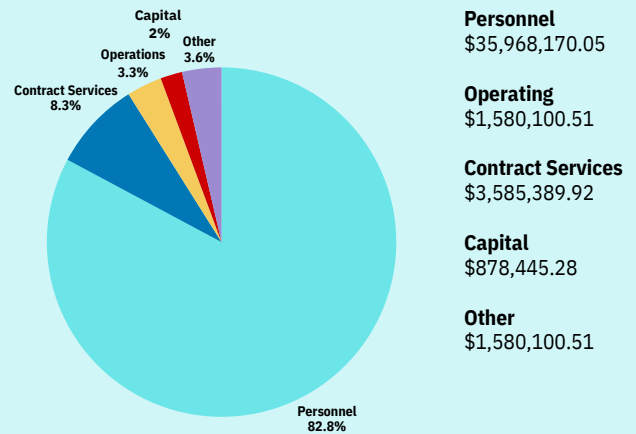
2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- 122 new Court employees were hired in 2025 (not including 23 internal moves).
- 16 federal, state and local grants totaling approximately \$14 million were awarded to the Court in 2025.
- The Clerk's Office processed a total of 26,201 new filings and expanded the use of e-filing.
- Three new directors were named in 2025. William Hudson became director of Detention in January. Andrina Ryhlick was named director of Probation in May. Nick Harvey became the director of Information Technology in July.
- David Smith was appointed as magistrate in July after the retirement of Magistrate Paula Durden.
- Construction began on the fourth floor of the Juvenile Justice Center. In 2026, the Probation Department, including the Court Appointed Special Advocate team, will move to the newly renovated space.



Construction began in 2025 to renovate the fourth floor of the Juvenile Justice Center.

BUDGET: \$43,433,744



COMMON DISPOSITIONS FOR YOUTH

Electronic Home Monitoring	727
Diagnostic Assessment	586
Probation Community Control	467
Emergency Foster Care Placement	149
Evening Reporting Center	142

TREATMENT COURT: ADVANCING RECOVERY, REUNIFICATION

Family Treatment Court helps parents achieve recovery while keeping children safe and families together. In 2025, the docket received 27 referrals and accepted 78% of them. This reflects steady engagement and effective screening processes.

Program outcomes remained strong. Of the 15 participants who exited the program, 75% completed it successfully. The average time families spent on the docket decreased from 18 months to 16 months.

These results show that Family Treatment Court staff are moving cases efficiently while maintaining high



Children and family members are invited to attend the graduation ceremonies for Family Treatment Court participants.

success rates. The Court remains focused on timely reunification, lasting family stability, and community safety.

CASA GROWS TO MEET DEMAND



CASA volunteers from across the region gathered for a Dayton Dragons game in 2025.

The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program grew significantly in 2025 to meet the rising demand for child-focused advocacy. Court filings increased from 774 in 2024, to 809 in 2025.

The CASA program responded by expanding its reach. Successful volunteer appointments rose from 58 to 91. This 57% increase ensures more children receive an independent advocate during critical court proceedings.

The improved efficiency allowed CASA to connect children with advocates faster, even as case volume rose. This progress ensures the court makes informed decisions that promote stability and positive outcomes for our youth and families.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

	2024	2025	Change
Court Filings	774	809	+4.5%
Volunteer Appointments	58	91	+57%