

**HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**

**2001 ANNUAL REPORT**

**JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE**

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Glennis R. Menez  
Court Administrator

# The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO  
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

June 21, 2002

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2001 Annual Report. This Report contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this Report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Lee  
Juvenile Court Judge

This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 2001 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B).

### **COURT PERSONNEL**

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menez
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk	Christine Jenkins Virginia Sandison
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation/Truancy Officer Probation Office Secretary	Janice Shroyer, L.S.W. David Beazel Robert Porter Peggy Diding
Project STAY Office Clerk	Judith Winegar*

\*Hired April, 2002

## **PURPOSE OF THE COURT**

Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01 sets forth the purpose of the Juvenile Court as follows:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code;
- (B) To protect the public interest in removing the consequences of criminal behavior and the taint of criminality from children committing delinquent acts and to substitute therefor a program of supervision, care, and rehabilitation;
- (C) To achieve the foregoing purposes, whenever possible, in a family environment, separating the child from its parents only when necessary for his welfare or in the interests of public safety;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapter 2151 of the Revised Code is executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and enforced.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous and professional manner.

## **JURISDICTION**

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23 to hear the following types of matters:

**Delinquent Child** – Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

**Unruly Child** – Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.

**Juvenile Traffic Offender** – Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.

**Abused Children** – Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.

**Neglected Children** – Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.

**Dependent Children** – Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.

**Adults** – Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.

**Paternity** – Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.

**Custody** – Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.

## JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 2001:

Delinquency	132
Traffic (Details provided below)	257
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	5
Unruly	41
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	1
Custody/Visitation	36
Child Support	57
Paternity	10
U.I.F.S.A.	0
Others	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>540</b>

**NOTE:** Twenty-nine (29) juveniles who were first-time offenders were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court.

## TYPES OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS

The following types of citations were issued against juveniles and dealt with by the Court in 2001:

Seat Belt Violations	42
Failure to Control	42
Red Light Violations	4
Failure to Yield	8
Reckless Operation	4
Speed	94
No Operator's License	14
Left of Center	8
Assured Clear Distance	4
Unlicensed Driver	2
FRA Suspension	1
Stop Sign Violation	13
Driving Under Suspension	1
Expired Registration	5
No Headlights	1
Driving Alone on Permit	1
Leaving Scene of Accident	1
Expired Plates	4
Passing School Bus	2
No Plates	1
No Helmet	1
Disobeying Traffic Control	3
No Tail Lights	4
Loud Exhaust	1
Permit Violation	2
Impeding Flow of Traffic	1
Low Exhaust	1
Improper Passing	2
Riding on Outside of Vehicle	1
Wrong Way	2
Without Due Regard for Property	1
DUI	1
Following Too Close	1
Permitting Unlicensed Driver	1
Operating Vehicle with Headphones	1
Improper Lane Usage	1
Unsafe Vehicle	1
Failure to Signal	1

(These figures reflect cases disposed of by the Court in 2001, not necessarily cases filed in the year 2001.)

## **TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES**

Aggravated Riot	1
Aggravated Menacing	2
Assault	9
Breaking & Entering	1
Burglary	1
Contributing	1
Criminal Damaging	6
Criminal Mischief	2
Criminal Trespassing	5
Domestic Violence	10
Failure to Comply w/Peace Officer	1
Falsification	1
Forgery	2
Illegal Conveyance of Deadly Weapon	1
Menacing	1
Obstructing Justice	1
Parole Violation	1
Passing Bad Checks	1
Petty Theft	7
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	4
Possession of Marijuana or Drugs	7
Probation Violation	7
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	38
Receiving Stolen Property	1
Telecommunication Harassment	1
Theft	3
Theft of Checks	2
Trafficking	2
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	1
Vandalism	1
Vehicle Trespass	1

(These figures reflect the number of charges dealt with by the Court in 2001, not necessarily the number of cases filed in the year 2001.)

### **Additional Information on Delinquent/Unruly Youth**

Average Age:	15.1 yrs.
Male/Female Breakdown:	107 Males 35 Females



**TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION (First-Time Offenders) IN 2001:**

Assault	4
Criminal Damaging	2
Criminal Mischief	2
Criminal Trespassing	2
Menacing (Aggravated)	1
Petty Theft	1
Possession of Drugs	1
Prohibitions	3
Telecommunications Harassment	1
Unruly	5
Unruly/Truant	7

**FELONIES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES IN 2001:**

Total felony charges:	12
Males:	11
Females:	1

Types of Felony Charges brought before the Court in 2001:

Vandalism  
Breaking & Entering  
Theft of Checks  
Forgery  
Theft  
Trafficking Drugs  
Obstructing Justice  
Possession of Drugs  
Illegal Conveyance or Possession of Deadly Weapon or  
    Dangerous Ordnance  
Failure to Comply with Peace Officer

## DISPOSITIONS

The following dispositions were made in the year 2001:

### Delinquencies

Community Service	1335 hrs. ordered 1236 hrs. completed
Apologies	4
Insight (Drug & Alcohol Assessment)	45
Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluations	5
House Arrest	3
No Association Provision	27
Court Costs	55
Fines	28
Operators License Suspensions	16
Counseling/Assessments	42
Detention	15
Suspended Detention	21
Restitution	15
Suspended Placement	10
Must Obtain Employment	11
Probation/Continued Probation	85
Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	
Suspended Commitments	7
Victim Offender Reconciliation Program	14
Project STAY	6

\*Other dispositions included: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Respite Care, Custody Changes, Supervision Only, GED Requirement, Hunter Safety Course, Time Out Program, Travel Restrictions, Must take medication, Camp 3-D, Improve Grades.

## OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

As stated in Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.01(C), the Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when

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necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety. The following out-of-home placements were made in 2001:

Placements with extended family	0
Placements in foster homes	0
Placements in group homes	4
Placements in Treatment Centers	1
Total:	5

### **Additional Information Regarding Placements**

#### **Multi-County Juvenile Attention System**

Holmes County participates in the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, funded jointly by Stark, Columbiana, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Carroll Counties. The System provides treatment and detention options to the participating Juvenile Courts, including group homes, a residential treatment center, and attention/detention centers.

Holmes County represents 4.03% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2001, Holmes County used 532 "bed days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days in facilities) at System Detention Centers, for a total of 1.49% of the total bed days used by all participating counties. Of those 532 total bed days, 2 bed days were at the Louis-Tobin Attention Center, or 0.02% of the total bed days used, and 530 bed days were at the Wayne-Holmes Attention Center (5.56%).

Holmes County also placed 8 juveniles in the System's Treatment Centers, representing 3.39% of the total usage of those facilities. One juvenile was placed in the New Philadelphia Group Home (3.45%), one juvenile was placed in the Canton Group Home (3.85%), one juvenile was placed in the New Philadelphia Group Home (4.55%), two juveniles were placed in Roger's Honor Farm (5.00%) and four juveniles were placed in the Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio (2.84%).

## **Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities**

Two juveniles were committed to ODYS facilities during the year 2001. One of those juveniles was released from the system in the year 2001; however, one remains committed in the system.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Probation Department**

During calendar year 2001, the Probation Department supervised 92 youth on probation (69 males, 23 females), including juveniles carried over from the year 2000. During this period, 35 youth were placed on probation, and 60 were successfully removed from probation.

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a child to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience. In 2001 a total of 1236 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those 1236 hours represent services valued at \$6365.40 to the Holmes County community.

### **Youth Services Grant**

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. In Fiscal Year 2002 (covering the period of July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002) the allocation for Holmes County Juvenile Court was \$181,551.33 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The allocation from the State is based upon the number of juvenile felony convictions in the County during prior years, and the variable portion of the grant is debited a fixed amount per diem for the care of Holmes County children in Department of Youth Services facilities during the year. Funds not expended during

the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional or continuing programs in coming years.

The following seven (7) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2001:

**1. Program Administration**

This program provides part of the salary and a proportionate amount of benefits for the Grant Administrator and Assistant Grant Administrator. The Grant Administrator administers and manages the fiscal and programmatic areas of the Youth Services Grant and related subsidy programs. The Assistant Grant Administrator manages the data collection and reporting which the grant requires. The program also provides funds for travel to and attendance at training sessions and meetings conducted by the Department of Youth Services.

**2. Intensive Probation**

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for our two full-time Probation Officers. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office, funds to attend training programs, and funds with which to purchase drug test kits which the Probation Officers use in the course of their work with juveniles.

**3. Educational Services**

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk, and additional funds which are paid directly to Holmes County Department of Job & Family Services (as fiscal agent) for a portion of the expenses related to Project STAY. Project STAY provides services to youth who cannot be placed in a regular school setting. Adjudicated delinquent or unruly youth and at-risk youth are placed in the STAY Program when they fit the criteria of STAY pupils. This would include severe behavioral problems and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) students. The social workers and teachers make referrals for assessments to determine what needs will be met for each youth in the project. The Alternative Learning Center is an integral part of the Project STAY Program. Behavioral and family issues are addressed in an effort to help the student attain a positive self-image and problem solve in a mature manner. Academic

classes are also provided with strong emphasis placed on proficiency in the core subject areas.

#### **4. Out of Home Placement**

Out of home placements have been described elsewhere in this Report. This Grant Program provides a funding option for placement of juveniles outside the home when every effort has been exhausted to keep the child in the home.

#### **5. Clinical Assessments**

This program provides funds for psychiatric, psychological, or drug and alcohol assessments for delinquent and/or unruly youth to assist the court in developing individual treatment plans.

#### **6. Monitoring/Surveillance**

Electronic home supervision is an available option when a juvenile fails to respond to the guidance and supervision of the custodian. Juveniles are electronically restricted to the home unless services and education appointments are arranged. It offers constant monitoring of the juvenile's whereabouts and associations. This grant program provides funds for juveniles who are unable to pay for electronic home supervision in situations where it is the Court's order that they be placed on electronic home supervision.

#### **7. Recreation**

One of the Court's major projects in the year 2001 was "Choice Camp." Part of the funding for this project came from the Youth Services Grant; however, the majority of the funding came from the Family & Children First Council's Family Stability Grant.

Choice Camp was held at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County, Ohio, on August 20, through August 23, 2001. Thirty adjudicated and at-risk youth attended the camp, along with 15 adult staff volunteers. Judge Lee, all three Probation Officers and Bailiff Brad Conn attended from the Court. The activities and presentations had an emphasis upon personal decision-making, thus the name "Choice Camp." The four-day camp focused on the youth's value systems and life experiences, how those relate to their decision-making, and the consequences of both positive and negative choices. Along with motivational and instructional

activities, the campers and staff had ample time for traditional camping fun and recreation.

## **8. TRUANCY**

The Truancy Program was a new addition to the grant-funded programming for 2001. This program, administered by the Holmes County Victim Offender Reconciliation Program was developed to address causes of and solutions to truancy. Those solutions would incorporate a restorative and mediation approach for students and families in collaboration with school officials and the Juvenile Court staff. Thirty-five (18 males, 17 females) juveniles and their families were served through this program in 2001.

## **FAMILY & CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL Family Stability Incentive Funding**

In addition to funding used for Choice Camp described above, Holmes County Family and Children First Council provided Juvenile Court with a \$5,000 "Mini-Grant" in the year 2001 to provide services to families and children at risk. These funds were used to purchase a computer, software, and videos to assist and instruct families and youth in relevant areas such as job-hunting skills, parenting skills, dealing with step-families, social skills, dealing with divorce, and the power of choice.