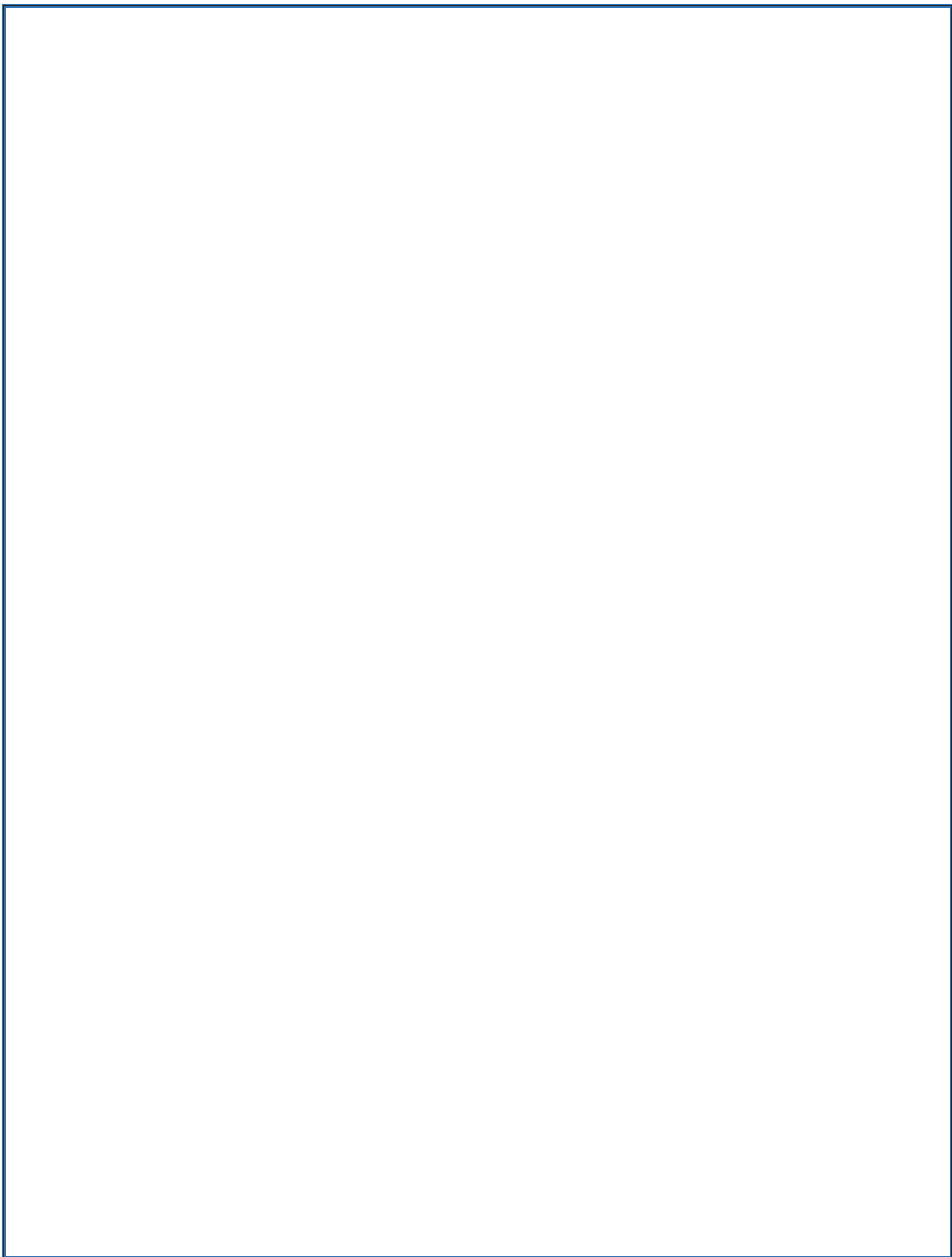


# LORAIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Sherry L. Glass  
Administrative Judge

The Citizens of Lorain County:

The Court is very pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report. This report documents the Court’s continuing efforts to enhance the services and programming provided to Lorain County citizens. Significant areas of activities are documented throughout this report through narrative, operating statistics, and data.



Frank J. Janik  
Judge

The Court has a long-standing approach of maintaining a high level of services for the citizens of Lorain County. The Judges and staff pledge to seek innovative and efficient means of providing effective services. We extend our gratitude to our many stakeholders in the community for their continual support, collaboration, and encouragement.

We hope you find this report enlightening and informative, and we welcome any questions or comments.



Lisa I. Swenski  
Judge

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry L. Glass  
Administrative Judge

Frank J. Janik  
Judge

Lisa I. Swenski  
Judge

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Lorain County Domestic Relations Court will serve the Citizens of Lorain County in a professional, dignified, and timely fashion. The Court will protect the public interest, make cost-effective use of public funds, engage appropriate community resources in providing services, and endeavor to provide for the safety of the public. The Court will strive to ensure that parties receive a just determination in every Court proceeding and enforcement of their constitutional and legal rights. Foremost, the Court will provide for the care, protection, and well-being of the children and families who come before it.

# FOREWARD

Emily Kirsch, Court Administrator- Domestic Relations Division  
Tim Weitzel, Court Administrator- Juvenile Division

In 2023, the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court continued to grow and progress across all divisions in the Court. This has been achieved by focusing on modernizing processes and procedures to ensure that the Court is providing the best possible service to the citizens of Lorain County.

The Court has implemented updates to its case management systems, which will reinforce the Court's goal of becoming paperless. In addition, the Court started accepting e-filing documents in designated cases and is continuing its efforts to expand e-filing to all documents in all case types.

In 2022, the Court received a \$425,000 grant from the Office of Criminal Justice to improve the public's access to justice and create a virtual and in-person Help Center for self-represented litigants. The Court created its in-person Help Center in January 2023, and it officially opened to the public on March 6, 2023. In addition, the Court is partnering with Ohio Legal Help to create the Virtual Self-Help Center website, which will launch in 2024.

The Court continues to be a leader in the state as an official Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative site. The Court makes data-driven decisions to evaluate and create new programming for juveniles that addresses identified criminogenic factors and individual needs. The Court hosted numerous Juvenile Courts and universities from around the state to learn about its innovative programs like the Assessment & Resource Center and Crossroads evening reporting program.

As a participant of the Ohio Probation Transformation initiative, the Court has continued to improve juvenile justice services in efforts to reduce recidivism and ensure success for youth on probation. The Court has strengthened community-based responses through its Reimagining Juvenile Justice implementation efforts, such as coordinating a county-wide juvenile justice training that included a poverty stimulation event at Lorain High School. In addition, the Court received a grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services to link youth offenders with positive pro-social activities in Elyria and Lorain to promote community support.

On May 11, 2023, the Court's Turning Point Shelter received a 3-year accreditation as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program under the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Turning Point is an ODJFS-licensed, co-ed, short-term facility for children who are victims of abuse, neglect, dependency, domestic violence, or human trafficking.

Along with the report of its achievements, the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court submits the 2023 Annual Report regarding the number and kinds of cases coming before it, dispositions, and other data pertaining to the work of the Court.

## JUDGES

The three Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court Judges preside over a wide range of cases and are responsible for holding hearings and ensuring cases are managed in a timely manner. Each Judge has personal staff, which may include an Administrative Secretary, Court Reporter, Bailiff, Staff Attorney, and Magistrates. The cases over which the Judges preside, include the following:

DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT	JUVENILE COURT
Marriage Dissolution	Juvenile Delinquency, Traffic, and Unruly
Divorce	Juvenile Civil Protection Orders
Annulment	Judicial Bypass
Legal Separation	Consent to Marry
Domestic Violence Civil Protection Orders	Permanent Surrender for Adoption
Contempt of Court	Child Abuse, Dependency, Neglect
Custody	Custody
Visitation	Visitation
Child Support	Child Support

## MAGISTRATES

Due to the volume of cases and hearings before the Court, Magistrates are essential to the work being accomplished in an expedient and efficient manner. A Magistrate is a non-elected judicial officer appointed by a Judges of the Court. Magistrates conduct proceedings and issue decisions. Some decisions may not be effective until they are reviewed by the Judge.

### PERSONAL STAFF MAGISTRATES

Each Judge has at least three Magistrates on his/her personal staff, having general responsibility for covering all Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court cases assigned to a Judge's docket. Each Judge determines and assigns a Magistrate on his/her personal staff to preside over certain types of cases.

### COURT MAGISTRATES

In addition to Magistrates assigned to a specific Judge, there are three Magistrates that are assigned to preside over a specific subject matter regardless of the assigned Judge.

The Intake Magistrate is located at the Lorain County Detention Home and reviews all detention requests from law enforcement. The Magistrate conducts initial detention and



arraignment hearings for youth admitted to the Lorain County Detention Home. The Magistrate also manages the truancy docket, conducting all formal hearings regarding school attendance.

Two full time Magistrates, in a dedicated unit, conduct IV-D child support hearings including, but not limited to: establishment of paternity, establishment and modification of child support, objections to CSEA administrative decisions, and enforcement of child support orders. Enforcement can include establishing arrears orders and/or hearings on motions to show cause for failure to pay child support as ordered.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Administration is responsible for the management and direction of all Court operations, with the exception of the Judges and their personal staff. In 2023, Administration included the Domestic Relations Court Administrator, Juvenile Court Administrator, Deputy Court Administrator/Fiscal Director, Quality Assurance Manager, and Administrative Assistant.

Court operations include personnel management, fiscal and budget management, facilities management, systems management (IT), case flow and workflow management, and program development and implementation. These departments are comprised of Probation and Youth Services, Juvenile Clerk's Office, Fiscal Management, Residential Services, Court Services, and Domestic Support. The Court consists of approximately 155 employees, including Judges and personal staff.

The Domestic Relations Court Administrator is responsible for the oversight and management of the Juvenile Clerk's Office and Court Services. In addition, the Administrator oversees implementing updates to the Case Management Systems and case processes. The Administrator provides legal oversight to ensure the Court complies with the law, local rules, and best practices. The Juvenile Court Administrator is responsible for human resources/personnel management and oversight of Probation and Youth Services and Residential Services.

The Deputy Court Administrator/Fiscal Director is responsible for all fiscal and budget management and acts in place of the Court Administrator when a Court Administrator is unavailable.

The Quality Assurance Manager monitors Court programs and practices through regular audits and by collecting and analyzing data and statistics. Job duties also include training staff, ensuring adherence to program model standards, and communicating recommendations for continuous improvement.

# JUVENILE CLERK'S OFFICE

Erika Sugarman, Chief Deputy Clerk

In Lorain County, the Administrative Judge is the Ex-Officio Clerk of the Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Clerk's Office is located in Room 110 of the Lorain County Justice Center at 225 Court St. in Elyria, Ohio. As one of the largest departments of the Juvenile Division, the Clerk's Office handles all matters that fall under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court, including, but not limited to juvenile delinquency, juvenile traffic offenders, paternity, child support and custody for children of unmarried parents, protection orders, child abuse/neglect/dependency proceedings, judicial bypasses, and powers of attorney. The clerks assist the Judges, Magistrates, Probation Officers, Juvenile Facilities, Attorneys, and public by providing legal information, resources, and customer service. Each clerk has a specialized area of expertise, and each team covers a specified area of work. The teams and their duties are designated as follows:

Delinquency Team	Traffic & Child Abuse, Neglect, Dependent Team	Child Support and Paternity Team	Private Custody and Bookkeeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registers all complaints regarding truancy, juvenile delinquency, and unruly/ungovernable charges and issues service</li> <li>• Submits fingerprints and dispositions to BCI&amp;I as required by law</li> <li>• Issues arrest warrants and warrants to convey to various correctional facilities</li> <li>• Processes bindovers to Court of Common Pleas, appeals, and transfers of cases to other county courts</li> <li>• Files all journal entries and pleadings and enters them into the Case Management System</li> <li>• Completes background checks for CCW licenses, the military, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registers all juvenile traffic citations and issues summons for Court hearings</li> <li>• Prepares driving privileges forms for juveniles for work, school, etc.</li> <li>• Liaises with the BMV to ensure all license suspensions and modifications are processed in accordance with journal entries</li> <li>• Registers, issues service, and processes all journal entries and pleadings for abuse, neglect, and/or dependency cases</li> <li>• Processes and transmits the records for appealed Abuse/ Neglect/ Dependency cases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registers all complaints filed by the state and CSEA regarding child support and paternity</li> <li>• Files all journal entries and pleadings and enters them into the Case Management System</li> <li>• Processes determinations of paternity and ensures paperwork is properly sent to the Central Paternity Registry</li> <li>• Ensures compliance with Title IV-D requirements</li> <li>• Processes warrants, commits to jail, and releases from jail for defendants going through the child support contempt process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists all who come to the front counter of the clerk's office</li> <li>• Registers private custody/visitation, support, and paternity complaints, pleadings, and entries</li> <li>• Processes Juvenile Protection Orders and Grandparent POA</li> <li>• Processes payments of fines, costs, and restitution and disburses same</li> </ul>

Working in the Juvenile Clerk’s Office requires a broad knowledge of the Court and its functions, juvenile law, and statutes, as well as a basic understanding of civil procedure. With over 3,200 new cases filed in the Juvenile Clerk’s Office in 2023, juvenile clerks must be organized and extremely detail oriented, as they are often the final review of all pleadings, entries, and decisions.

The Court has continued to work on its goal of becoming paperless, more technologically advanced, and being more accessible to the public it serves. The clerks now receive approximately 80% of their juvenile traffic citations electronically. Additionally, the Court received a grant that allows litigants to sign up for text-message reminders of their hearing dates. There is a computer in the clerk’s office to allow litigants to view their cases and print off any documents they need.

## 2023 JUVENILE CASE FILINGS

### ALL CASES FILED BY TYPE

Case Code	Description	Count
JA	Judicial Bypass	1
JB	Paternity Establishment	122
JC	Child Abuse, Neglect, and/or Dependency (Filed by Children Services)	319
JD	Juvenile Delinquent	576
JE	Contributing to Delinquency/Unruly	178
JG	Private Custody/Visitation (Unwed Parents)	349
JP	Permanent Custody	3
JR	Grandparent Power of Attorney	41
JS	Child Support Establishment	514
JT	Juvenile Traffic Offenses	801
JU	Juvenile Unruly, Truancy	206
JV	Violations of Probation (may include new delinquent offenses)	49
JY	Civil Protection Order against a Juvenile	57
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,216</b>



## 2023 JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES

In 2023, there were 801 traffic cases filed, which encompassed 963 violations. A traffic case can contain more than one violation. Of the 801 cases filed, females comprised approximately 37% of the cases, males comprised 62% of the cases, and less than 1% were unknown. The following represents the number of charged violations in 2023:

<b>Traffic Violations</b>	<b>Total</b>
Assured Clear Distance	89
Distracted Driving	13
Drug/Alcohol	24
Failure to Control	45
Failure to Yield	51
Improper Vehicle Characteristics	26
License / Registration Violation	151
Other	16
Reckless / Willful / Wanton Operation	55
School Bus / Emergency Vehicle	18
Seatbelt	27
Speed	381
Traffic Control Device	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>963</b>

Many times, when a juvenile is at Court for the first time in a traffic case, the juvenile may be given the opportunity to complete CARTEENS, which is a diversionary program that provides education on responsible driving. Upon successful completion and payment of costs, the case is dismissed. The following is the breakdown of the ordered dispositions of the 801 cases filed in 2023:

<b>Traffic Dispositions</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Absentia	2	5	7
Dismissed	154	208	362
Fines & Costs	60	113	173
Fines & Costs Suspended	12	20	32
License Restricted	6	39	45
License Suspended	7	25	32
Other	4	1	5
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	4	7	11
Transfer to Another Court	28	61	89
Unavailability	1	2	3
Pending	21	21	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>801</b>

## 2023 JUVENILE DELINQUENT CHARGES

In 2023, 622 Complaints were filed by the Lorain County Prosecutor’s Office. Each Complaint represents a court case, and many Complaints have more than one criminal charge. In 2023, the average number of charges on a Complaint was 2.5 and the highest number of charges on a Complaint was 10. A Complaint may have misdemeanor and/or felony charges, and in 2023, there were a total of 1,555 charges filed. Charges may be amended or dismissed in the Court process.

### Felony Charges

There were a total of 527 juvenile felony charges filed in 2023, as represented below:

Number of Felony Charge(s) on Initial Complaint		Total: 527	
Abduction	5	Failure to Comply with Police	13
Aggravated Burglary	3	Felonious Assault	51
Aggravated Possession of Drugs	2	Grand Theft – Firearm	9
Aggravated Riot	35	Grand Theft Motor Vehicle	18
Aggravated Robbery	4	Gross Sexual Imposition	18
Arson	1	Having Weapons While Under Disability	7
Assault	33	Illegal Conv./Poss. Deadly Weapon, Safety Zone	25
Attempted Burglary / Attempted Agg Burglary	2	Illegal Use Minor in Nudity Oriented Material	2
Attempted Felonious Assault	3	Improperly Handling Firearms in a MV	6
Attempted Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle	13	Inciting Violence	3
Attempted Gross Sexual Imposition	1	Inducing Panic	2
Attempted Murder	3	Intimidation	3
Attempted Tampering with Evidence	2	Kidnapping	4
Attempting to Corrupt Another with Drugs	1	Menacing by Stalking	2
Breaking & Entering	14	Miscellaneous	4
Burglary	4	Obstructing Official Business	14
Carrying Concealed Weapon	21	Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor	14
Complicity in Attempted Grand Theft Motor Vehicle	7	Possession of Criminal Tools	9
Complicity in Grand Theft Motor Vehicle	11	Rape	17
Complicity in Receiving Stolen Property	9	Receiving Stolen Property	33
Complicity in Trafficking of Drugs	1	Resisting Arrest	1
Complicity to Robbery / Aggravated Robbery	3	Robbery	2
Complicity to Felonious Assault	1	Strangulation	4
Counterfeiting	11	Tampering with Evidence	8
Discharge Firearm into Occupied Habitation	3	Theft	10
Discharge Firearm on or near Prohibited Premises	2	Trafficking in Marijuana / Drugs / Cocaine	4
Domestic Violence	22	Trespass in a Habitation	3
Drug Possession – Cocaine	2	Unauthorized Use of Property / MV	4
Escape	1	Vandalism	17

The following table represents the 5 most common felony charges filed in 2023:

<b>Most Common Felony Charge(s) on Initial Complaint</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Felonious Assault	8	43	<b>51</b>
Aggravated Riot	13	22	<b>35</b>
Assault	18	15	<b>33</b>
Illegal Conv/Possession Deadly Weapon School Safety Zone	7	18	<b>25</b>
Domestic Violence	11	11	<b>22</b>

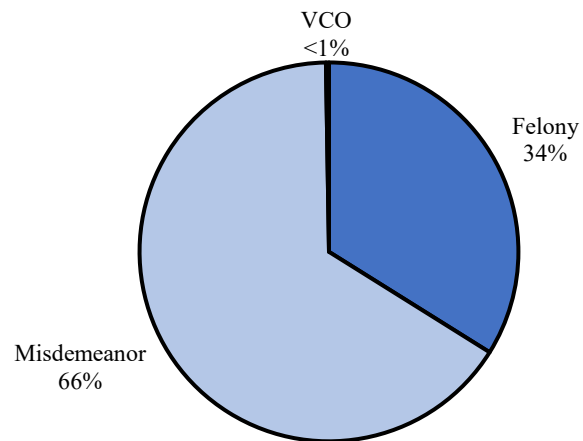
### Misdemeanor Charges

There were a total of 1,028 misdemeanor charges filed in 2023. The following table represents the 5 most common misdemeanor charges filed in 2023:

<b>Most Common Misdemeanor Charge(s) on Initial Complaint</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Disorderly Conduct	58	138	196
Domestic Violence	51	64	115
Assault	36	79	115
Criminal Trespassing	9	63	72
Criminal Mischief	18	47	65

### Additional Case Demographics

<b>Total Offenses Initially Charged</b>	
Unclassified Felony*	3
F1	32
F2	59
F3	85
F4	187
F5	161
M1	416
M2	183
M3	86
M4	271
MM	68
PV/VCO **	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,555</b>



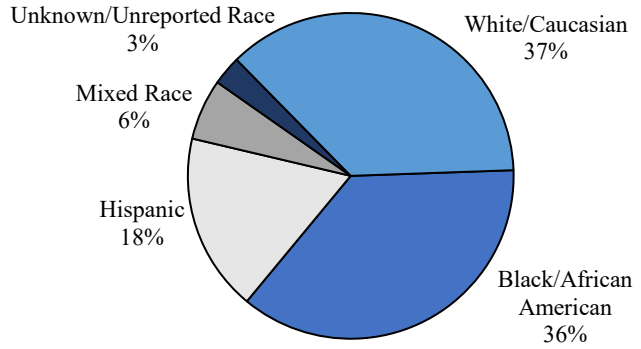
\*Unclassified Felony: Felony that is not classified by a degree. The 3 unclassified felonies listed above represents Attempted Murder.

\*\*PV (Probation Violation) and VCO (Violation of Court Order) are unclassified offenses.

## 2023 Offenses by Race and Ethnicity

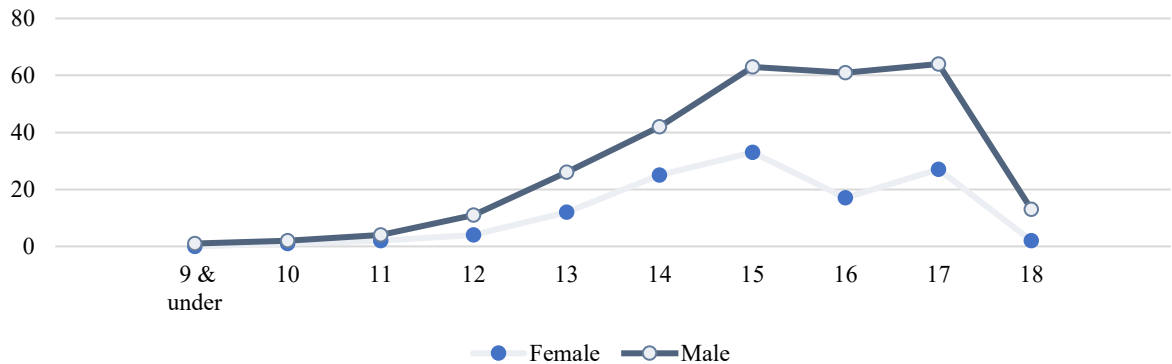
A juvenile offender can have more than one Complaint filed at different times throughout the year. There were 413 youth who had Complaints filed against them in 2023, which accounts for the 622 Complaints. Below is the demographic information of the youth who had a Complaint filed in 2023:

Race / Ethnicity	Total
Black/African American	151
Hispanic	73
Mixed Race	25
Unknown/Unreported Race	12
White/Caucasian	152
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>413</b>



Age and Gender of Youth*	Female	Male	Not Reported	Total
Age 9 and under	0	1	0	1
10	1	2	0	3
11	2	4	0	6
12	4	11	0	15
13	12	26	0	38
14	25	42	0	67
15	33	63	1	97
16	17	61	0	78
17	27	64	2	93
18	2	13	0	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>413</b>

\*Age listed represents the age of the juvenile at the time the first Complaint was filed



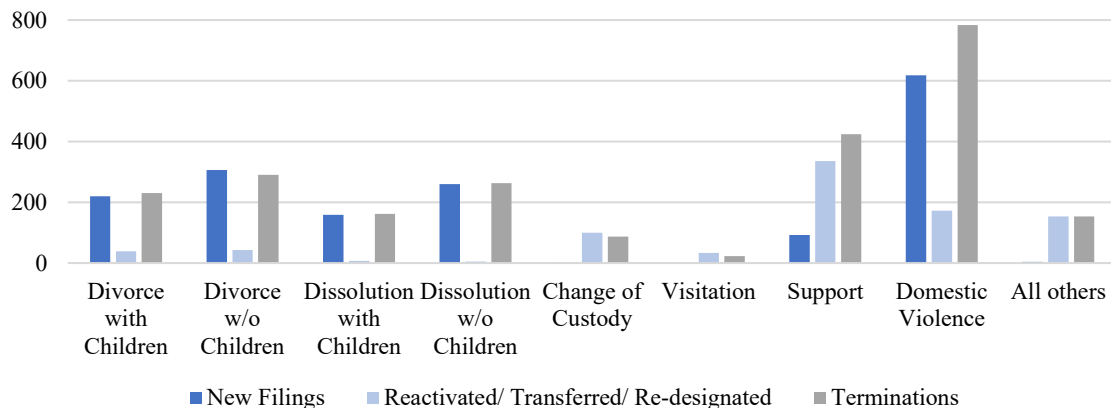
# DOMESTIC RELATIONS CLERK’S OFFICE

While all Juvenile matters are filed with the Juvenile Clerk’s Office, all Domestic Relations Court cases are filed with the Clerk of Court’s Office, which is operated by the Lorain County Clerk of Court, Tom Orlando. Domestic clerks process all cases involving married couples seeking to end their marriage through divorce, dissolution, annulment, or legal separation, as well as visitation, custody, child support/spousal support, and contempt matters for married or divorcing couples. The Court also processes adult Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order requests.

## 2023 DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE FILINGS

A case is opened in the Domestic Relations Division with a new filing and/or a post-decree filing. A matter that has not been decided by the Court is considered a new filing. If, after the initial order on a case, a party seeks additional orders, the case will be re-opened or reactivated. If a filing contains multiple requests for relief, and the Court rules on one but others remain pending, that case will then be deemed redesignated. In addition, cases may be transferred from another Court to Lorain County Domestic Relations Court. The following represents the case designation for Domestic Relations filings in 2023:

Type of Filing	New Filings	Reactivated/ Transferred/ Redesignated	Terminations
Divorce with Children	220	39	230
Divorce w/o Children	306	43	290
Dissolution with Children	159	7	162
Dissolution w/o Children	260	5	263
Change of Custody	1	100	87
Visitation	0	33	23
Support	92	336	424
Domestic Violence	618	173	784
All others	4	154	154
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>2,417</b>





# DOMESTIC SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

The IV-D/Domestic Support Department provides judicial services to the Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), operated by the State of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Judicial services provided include cases involving the support of children, including establishment, modification, and enforcement. The juvenile clerking unit provides staff to prepare and file formal documents and journal entries pertaining to child support.

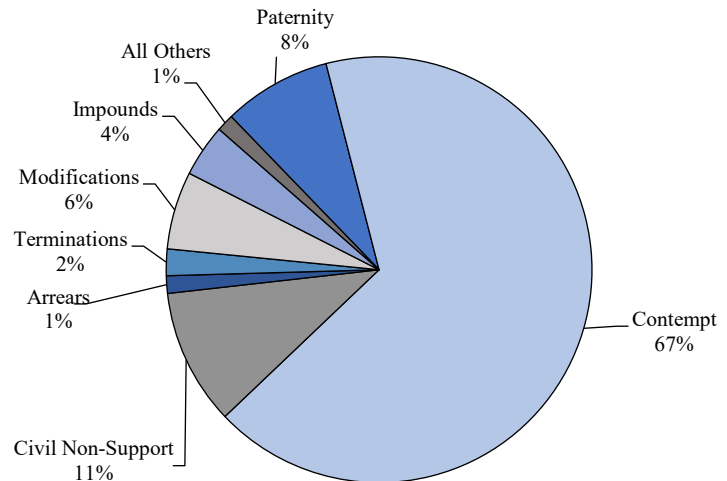
The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court contracted for both judicial services and juvenile clerking services for 2023. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$393,615.92 and the judicial services contract totaled \$550,131.97.

The two contracts provide federal reimbursements for the operation of the Domestic Support Unit under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. Funding includes full and partial reimbursement of salaries and fringe benefits for 18 court employees, including two magistrates.

During the 2023 calendar year, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 8,951 hearings involving issues of child support including: paternity, contempt, civil non-support, arrears, terminations, impounds, modifications, and others. This was an 18% increase from 2022. Contempt hearings increased by 17% from 2022.

The Juvenile Clerk’s Office registered 17,544 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2023. This was a decrease of 2% from 2022.

Hearing Type	Count
Paternity	735
Contempt	5,988
Civil Non-Support	925
Arrears	119
Terminations	181
Modifications	529
Impounds	357
All Others	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,951</b>



# DEPARTMENT OF COURT SERVICES

Jessica Alvis, Director

## ASSIGNMENT COMMISSIONERS

The Assignment Commissioners maintain the Court dockets for both Domestic Relations and Juvenile Magistrates and Judges. The Assignment Commissioners maintain a broad knowledge of all Court departments and assist the public with inquiries.

On any given day, multiple Court hearings are conducted by Judges and Magistrates, which result in dozens of individuals calling, checking in or out, scheduling further court hearings, requesting documents/paperwork, and/or asking questions. The Court has continued to hold hearings in-person, by Zoom video conference, and/or hybrid hearings, which

is combination of both in-person and video. Assignment Commissioners have continued to meet the needs of the public and work to ensure that parties have the proper hearing and Zoom information.

In 2023, the Court's filing system began its initial steps for electronic filing. As a part of this process, the Assignment Commissioners have undergone training to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to process workflows and entries electronically. The work of the Assignment Commissioners allows the Court to function seamlessly and effortlessly.

## COURT SERVICES

Court Services (CS) Specialists offer a wide variety of services for litigants and families. These services include Home Inspections, Investigations, Mediation, Supervised Visitations, and the Seminar for Separating Parents. The Department's services can be accessed either by Court order or by party request when an agreement cannot be reached regarding issues of custody and visitation or when assistance with custody determinations is needed.

In 2023, Court Services launched an in-person Help Center to provide additional services to self-represented litigants and families. Since the launch of the Help Center, the number of cases referred to Court Services by the Magistrates and Judges has steadily increased.

The following illustrates the number of referrals received and/or services offered by Court Services in 2023:

Case Type	2023 Numbers
Home Inspections (Cases Referred)	33
Investigations (Cases Referred)	126
Mediation (Court Referred & <i>Pro Se</i> Referrals)	77 Court Ordered (17 <i>Pro Se</i> )
Supervised Visits Conducted	210
Seminar for Separating Parents (Attended)	625

A ***Home Inspection*** is ordered when the Court is determining the most appropriate placement for children. A Home Inspection consists of a Specialist visiting a litigant's home and viewing all structures and its contents on the property, including all rooms, cupboards, closets, and garages. A Home Inspection also includes assessing the home for safety and/or environmental hazards. The Specialist will document observations and prepare a written report for the Court.

An ***Investigation*** is ordered by the Court, and it includes interviewing parties to a case, as well as related individuals, such as family members, teachers, and/or any other person who may have significant information about the parent or child(ren). In addition, parties' background information and documentation from outside agencies is collected by the Specialist. A thorough report is submitted to the Court, which sets forth the facts and findings from the investigation and makes recommendations for companionship time, services, and/or restrictions.

***Mediation*** is a structured, confidential, non-adversarial process whereby parents and/or parties to a case meet with a Certified Mediator, who assists the parties in communicating and understanding the perspectives and positions of one another, discussing the needs of children, and resolving disputes in high-conflict cases. The Court's Mediators assist parties in developing and drafting parenting agreements that are in the best interest of the child(ren). In addition to parenting time establishment, other issues that may be mediated include return of property, exchange of medical information, and unpaid medical bills. Referrals for Mediation can be made by the Court or services can be requested by parties through the ***Pro Se Mediation*** program.

When the Court orders ***Supervised Visitation*** through Court Services, the Specialist will facilitate and observe visitation between the parties and the minor child(ren). The Specialist will provide intervention and assistance when necessary, and at times, the Specialist will also work with the families to create safe exchange plans. There are two visitation rooms for families located at the Justice Center. The Specialist will prepare a report for the Court detailing observations during the supervised visitations.

The ***Seminar for Separating Parents*** is a required program for parents separating either by divorce or dissolution, as well as for unmarried parents and/or other parties seeking custody and/or visitation. In 2023, the Seminar was offered exclusively by Zoom. The Seminar includes a presentation from Judge Frank Janik regarding general legal information about the Court process and what to expect. Additional information is then provided by a licensed Clinical Social Worker to guide and assist families with the separation process. The philosophy of the Seminar is that a child's future welfare depends upon parents' ability to help their child navigate the separation without being subjected to parental conflict.

## HELP CENTER

On October 24, 2022, the Court was awarded grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. This grant allowed the Court to launch an in-person Help Center for self-represented litigants. The Help Center officially opened to the public on March 6, 2023. The Help Center provides self-represented individuals with information necessary to successfully navigate through the Court’s processes and procedures regarding divorce, dissolution, legal separation, protection orders, custody, visitation, and/or child support issues. In 2023, the Help Center served 918 individuals.

The Court also used grants funds to partner with Ohio Legal Help to develop a Virtual Self-Help Center (VSHC). The role of the VSHC is to provide an interactive online process for obtaining standardized forms and navigating the filing process. The Help Center and the VSHC are effective tools to improve the public’s navigation through Court processes both online and on-site.

The Judges and Help Center staff hosted an Open House on November 3, 2023, where the Court welcomed stakeholders and members of the community to tour the Help Center and learn more about its mission. In less than one year, the Help Center expanded its staff and office space in order to accommodate the needs and response of the community. The Help Center also participates in an externship program with Case Western Reserve Law School where law students can earn credit hours while serving the public at the Help Center.

After receiving assistance from the Help Center, individuals are provided a Feedback Form about their experience. Feedback from the public has been positive, and 99.6% of those who completed the form indicated they were satisfied with Help Center services.

Since the creation of the Help Center, the Court has seen an increase in referrals to Court Services for investigations, home inspections and supervised visitations. Over half of the individuals that come to the Help Center are seeking help with custody filings. Child support and divorce/dissolution are the second and third most common case types as indicated below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Change Court Order</b>	1	0	4	5	4	4	4	5	6	6	2	6	<b>47</b>
<b>Child Support</b>	3	0	8	7	15	17	15	13	15	11	20	16	<b>140</b>
<b>Contempt</b>	0	0	2	6	3	3	1	2	3	2	1	3	<b>26</b>
<b>Custody-not married</b>	1	0	12	16	39	27	35	48	26	33	22	26	<b>285</b>
<b>Divorce/Dissolution</b>	3	0	7	11	16	6	10	25	14	17	24	13	<b>146</b>
<b>Notary</b>	0	5	3	3	5	5	2	5	5	10	1	0	<b>44</b>
<b>Other</b>	3	3	15	5	9	9	10	13	13	11	12	20	<b>123</b>
<b>Protection Order</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	2	<b>9</b>
<b>Visitation</b>	1	1	6	9	8	14	5	11	7	11	12	13	<b>98</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>918</b>

# VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Voices for Children (VFC) is affiliated as a member of the nationally recognized Court Appointed Special Advocate – Guardian ad Litem (CASA-GAL) Program. The role of CASA-GAL volunteers is to advocate on behalf of neglected and dependent children in formal court proceedings.

The VFC Program is responsible for recruiting volunteers, overseeing training and continuing education requirements, and providing support for volunteers throughout the Court process. The funding sources for the VFC Program are provided by the National VOCA Grant, State SVAA Grant, and local funding, as represented below:

VOCA (Grant):	\$96,291
State (SVAA):	\$2,472
Local Court:	\$161,414
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$260,177</b>

VFC staff train, supervise, and prepare volunteers to become a CASA-GAL. The volunteer undertakes an investigation into the circumstances and the family life

of each assigned child. Upon completion of the investigation, the CASA-GAL appears in Court, provides information, and recommends what course of action is in the best interest of the child.

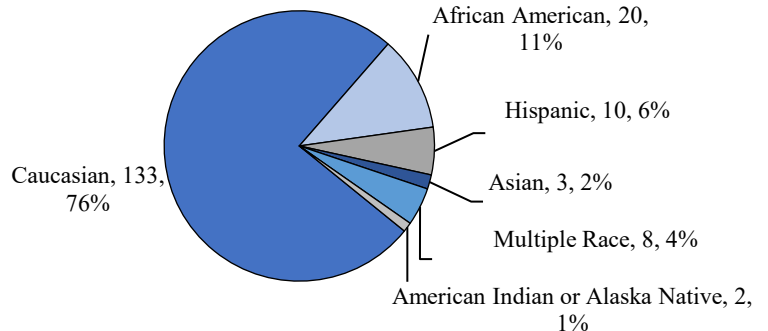
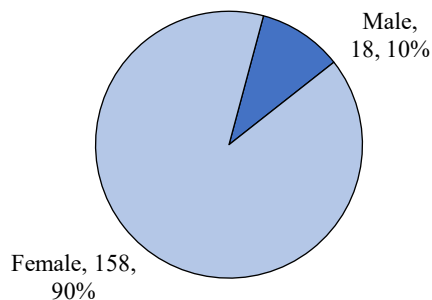
CASA-GAL Volunteers must complete 30-hours of pre-service training which includes four classroom sessions (28 hours) and a minimum of two hours of courtroom observation. All Volunteers are screened, interviewed, and receive a criminal background check. In addition, volunteers are required to attend 12-hours of continuing education annually.

The success of the VFC Program is due to the commitment of the volunteers recruited from within the community, the program and support staff, private citizens, community organizations, the business community, and the Voices for Children Board. The Board assists the program in fund raising, marketing, and public awareness of this program.

In 2023, volunteers served 411 children, ages birth to 21 years old.

## Voices for Children Volunteers

In 2023, the VFC Program had 176 active volunteers, ranging in age from 21 to 60+ years old. The educational completion of range from high school graduate to post collegiate graduate. The following represents the demographic information of the volunteers in 2023:



# **DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND YOUTH SERVICES**

Sarah Tremont, Chief Probation Officer

## **INTRODUCTION**

Lorain County Department of Probation and Youth Services (“Juvenile Probation”) provides services to youths and families referred by the Court to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. The Probation Department includes the Juvenile Court Assessment & Resource Center, Diversion, Attendance Program, Investigation & Referral, Predisposition Services, General and Sex Offender Probation, Success for Youth, and Crossroads Program.

As youth are alleged to have committed status (unruly/ungovernable/truant), misdemeanor, and/or felony offenses, Probation staff utilizes evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing and Carey Guides to provide case management services and identify barriers and needs of the youth and family. The Court works with county and state partners to learn and employ the best methods to coach and foster behavioral change, while supervising youth with an expectation of adherence to the law and rules of probation to promote public safety.

The Court and the Probation Department work collaboratively with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) to develop services and programming in line with best practices in Juvenile Justice. The Probation Department continues to receive specialized training designed to foster changes as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and an Ohio Probation Transformation (OPT) Court.

A key component to ensure long-term success for youth is through collaboration with the community. The Court has been trained in the Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) curriculum, which is an initiative that challenges community stakeholders to rethink the conventional approach to working with youth.

## **JUVENILE INTAKE**

The Intake Department, located at the Detention Home, performs several functions for the Court. The unit processes the following: requests from law enforcement for admission to the Detention Home; initial detention and arraignment hearings for youth admitted to the Detention Home; and Complaints for alleged truant behavior for juveniles and adults.

One primary Intake Magistrate, with the assistance of the three Judges and three Delinquency Magistrates, is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week, to respond to law enforcement requests for admission of juvenile offenders to the Detention Home. After a juvenile is admitted into secure detention, a formal hearing is held the next business day, but no later than 72-hours after admission.

## ASSESSMENT & RESOURCE CENTER

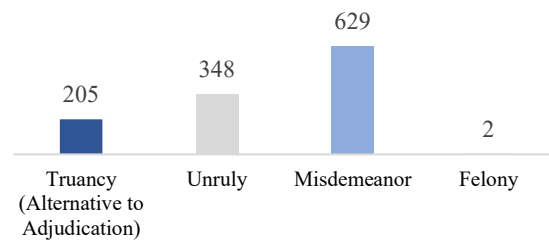
In 2019, Lorain County Juvenile Court received funding through the Ohio Department of Youth Services to create an assessment center in an effort to front-load services to youth and families at the onset of identified behavioral or familial problems. The Assessment & Resource Center is open 7 days a week and receives referrals from the Lorain County Prosecutor’s Office, law enforcement, educators, and community agencies. The Center serves youth 7 to 18 years old and identifies appropriate levels of individualized intervention based on risk, need, and familial circumstances. The Court also collaborates with local law enforcement agencies to assist youth who are not appropriate for secure detention.

The Assessment Center staff meet with youth and families to determine risk levels and identify barriers and needs by completing a variety of assessment tools including the GAIN-SS, a Public Health Screener, the SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Expression), Human Trafficking screener, and the OYAS Diversion Tool (risk instrument). The Assessment Specialists subsequently link youth and families with community-based support services. The desired short-term outcomes are to initiate immediate services to youth and families in need, divert youth from formal court involvement, and create a system of support that will be present for youth and families after the Court is no longer involved.

Each Assessment Specialist provides light case management services to monitor progress and assist with any barriers to involvement in support services. Post-assessment family contact frequency is determined based on

individual family needs and if further contact is warranted and/or productive.

**In 2023, there were 1,184 referrals processed at the Assessment & Resource Center, representing 982 youth and 26 parents who received services at the Assessment Center.** There are four offense classifications of referrals to the Assessment Center. For multiple offenses and/or multiple applicable classifications, the referral is classified based upon the primary reason for the referral. The breakdown of the classifications in 2023 is listed below.



*2023 AC Referral Offense Classification*

Referral Offense Classification	
Truancy (Alternative to Adjudication)	205
Unruly	348
Misdemeanor	629
Felony	2

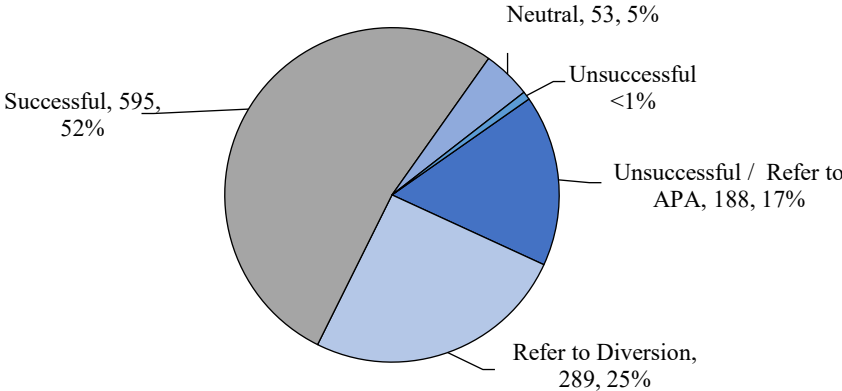
Assessment Referral Sources		
		%
Prosecutor	626	53%
Court/Magistrate	34	3%
Police Department	186	16%
Parent/Caregiver	124	10%
School	2	< 1%
Children Services	1	< 1%
Truancy/Attendance	211	18%

Misdemeanor offenses represented the largest classification of referrals (629). Each referral may include more than one misdemeanor offense; however, the data is collected under the offense that is the primary concern. The following are the top 5 misdemeanors listed as the primary concern for Assessment & Resource Center referrals in 2023:

Most Common Misdemeanor Charge(s)	Female	Male	Total
Assault	51	62	<b>113</b>
Disorderly Conduct	34	53	<b>87</b>
Domestic Violence	40	43	<b>83</b>
Possession of Marijuana	15	34	<b>49</b>
Criminal Trespass	6	39	<b>45</b>

### Assessment Center Case Outcomes

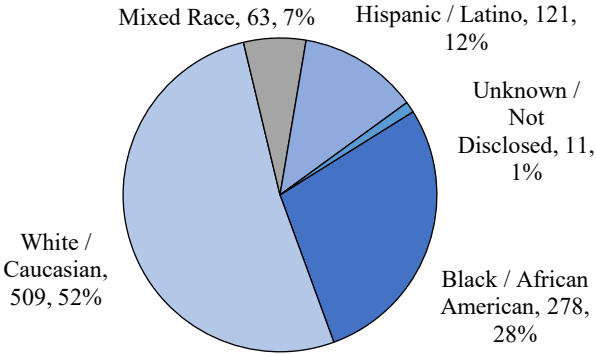
Of the 1,184 cases served, 50 remained pending at the end of 2023. Below is a breakdown of the case outcomes in the remaining 1,134 cases closed in 2023.



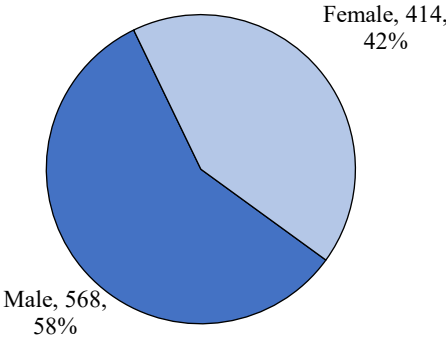
2023 AC Case Outcomes

### Assessment & Resource Center Youth

Below is a breakdown of the demographic data for the 982 youths served by the Assessment & Resource Center in 2023.



AC Referrals by Race and Ethnicity



AC Referrals by Gender



## **DIVERSION SERVICES**

In 2023, Diversion Services continued to front-load preventative services for youth and families at the onset of identified behavioral or familial problems. Recognizing that diversion services can reduce the risk of reoffending behaviors, the Court shifted its diversion program practices to include status offenses and alleged misdemeanors. The purpose of Diversion Services is to minimize a youth's exposure to the effects of formal prosecution, criminalization of normal adolescent behavior, trauma related to detainment, and risk of further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Diversion services are geared to focus on helping the youth build positive relationships in the community, introducing youth to supportive services, and linking youth with services by avoiding delays related to formal court processing. Located at the Assessment & Resource Center, Diversion Services offers a family-friendly environment for staff to work with youth and families.

The Lorain County Prosecutor's Office, the Assessment Center, schools, and caregivers filing Unofficial Complaints generate most of the diversion referrals. Each referral is reviewed and handled on an individual basis by the Department. During the diversion and case planning process, the Diversion Specialist and the family work collaboratively to identify barriers and needs to determine necessary community intervention. The Diversion Specialist and family jointly develop a safety plan that promotes well-being until additional planning can begin with a community service provider. To effectuate the youth's success, the Diversion Specialist offers time-limited supportive case management.

Diversion Specialists further provide restorative justice services to youth and victims of delinquent acts. Diversion Specialists contact alleged victims of crime to determine how the victim may best feel restored. When restoration through restitution is necessary, the Diversion Specialist works with the victim to complete the appropriate documentation and plans for the youth to participate in the Court's Payback Program. The Diversion Specialist also coordinates community service opportunities that best fit the youth's interests/abilities within the community.

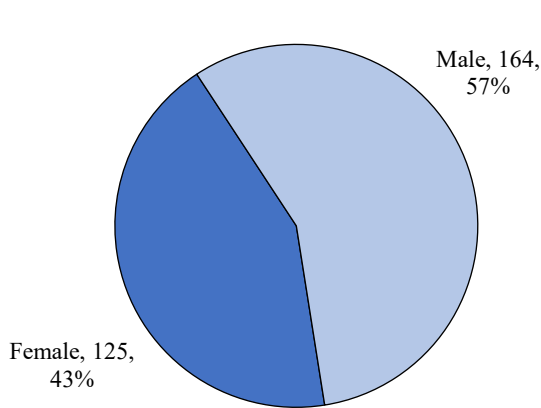
Diversion cases are monitored for up to 90 days. Diversion Specialists focus on goal setting that addresses resiliency, strengths, needs, and linkage to supports. Goals are met through family and community investments that support probation transformation, positive youth development, engaging youth and families, reducing the number of youths of color in the juvenile justice system, and reducing state congregate care.

## Diversion Services Referrals

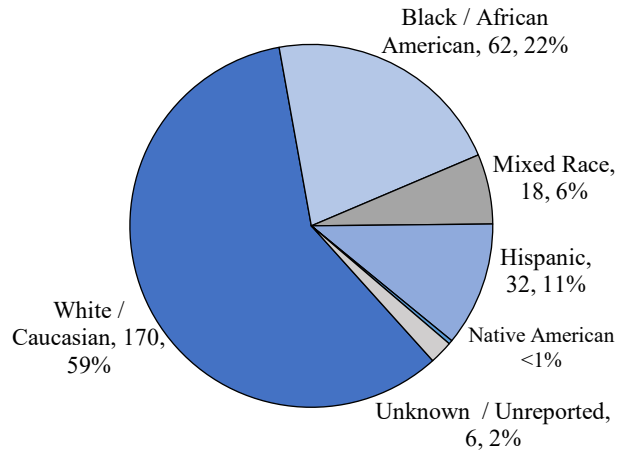
The Diversion Program processed 318 cases in 2023, including carryovers from 2022 and new referrals.

2023 Diversion Cases	
Carryovers from 2022	29
Referred in 2023	289
Cases Processed in 2023	318
Carryovers to 2024	64

Below is a breakdown of the youth demographics for the 289 referrals to Diversion in 2023.



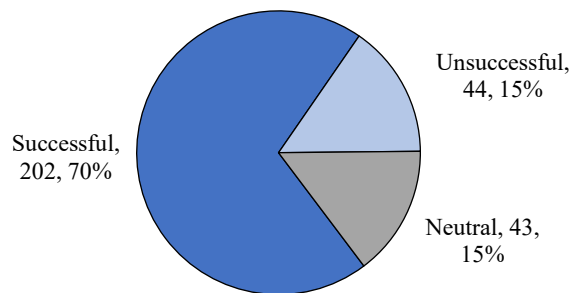
*2023 Diversion Referrals by Gender*



*2023 Diversion Referrals by Race and Ethnicity*

## Diversion Outcomes

Of the 289 Diversion cases referred in 2023, 202 were successfully completed. There were 43 cases that were classified as neutral completion, which includes families that cannot be located. Unsuccessful cases are typically referred to the Prosecutor’s Office for review of formal charges.



*2023 Diversion Case Completion Status*

## TRUANCY

Ohio truancy laws changed in 2017, with a focus on decriminalizing truancy and addressing the needs of the student and juvenile through prevention and intervention. The law outlines a continuum of intervention categories used to resolve attendance issues, starting with school-based interventions, then diversion interventions, and ending with court-based interventions as a matter of last resort.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

The Lorain County Juvenile Court has partnered with the Educational Services Center to improve school attendance and outcomes for youth in Lorain County through the Lorain County Juvenile Court’s Attendance Program. This Court program consists of Attendance Officers, who are assigned to specific participating school districts.

When a juvenile reaches the statutory threshold for habitual truancy, the assigned Attendance Officer develops an Absence Intervention Team and Absence Intervention Plan. During the creation of the Absence Intervention Plan, interventions are identified to assist with addressing barriers to school attendance. The Attendance Officer conducts weekly school visits and discusses updates with the Absence Intervention Team. The Attendance Officer conducts a 30-day review with the parent/guardian(s) and evaluates the case in 60 days to determine progress.

If the juvenile is not successful with completing the Absence Intervention Plan or continues to miss school, then a Complaint must be filed in juvenile court.

In the 2022-2023 school year, the Attendance Program had 1,739 referrals, with the breakdown based upon school district as follows:

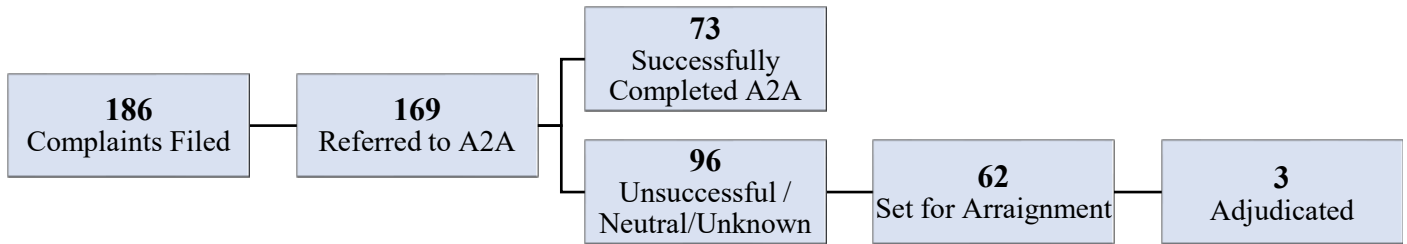
<b>School Districts and Numbers of Referrals – 1,739 Total</b>			
Avon	142	LCJVS	120
Avon Lake	88	Midview	385
Clearview	201	North Ridgeville	272
Columbia	9	Oberlin	31
Firelands	206	Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	169
Keystone	50	Wellington	66

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the Court reviewed its processes and aimed to create a practice that aligned with guidance from the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Department of Education. This led to the Court discontinuing the Court’s Attendance Program after the 2022-2023 school year. Throughout 2023, the Court met with school leaders, provided resources, and conducted training for various school staff to ensure educational partners had the necessary tools for a successful transition.

## JUVENILE TRUANCY CASES

There were 186 Habitual Truant Complaints filed in 2023. Pursuant to truancy laws, each juvenile is required to be considered for an Alternative to Adjudication (A2A) program prior to the Court taking any formal action on the Complaint. To determine eligibility for the Court’s Alternative to Adjudication program, the family is referred to the Assessment Center. Once the Assessment Center deems the juvenile is eligible, the family meets with a Diversion Specialist to identify the barriers to the child’s school attendance, develop a plan to eliminate those barriers, and avoid formal action on the Complaint.

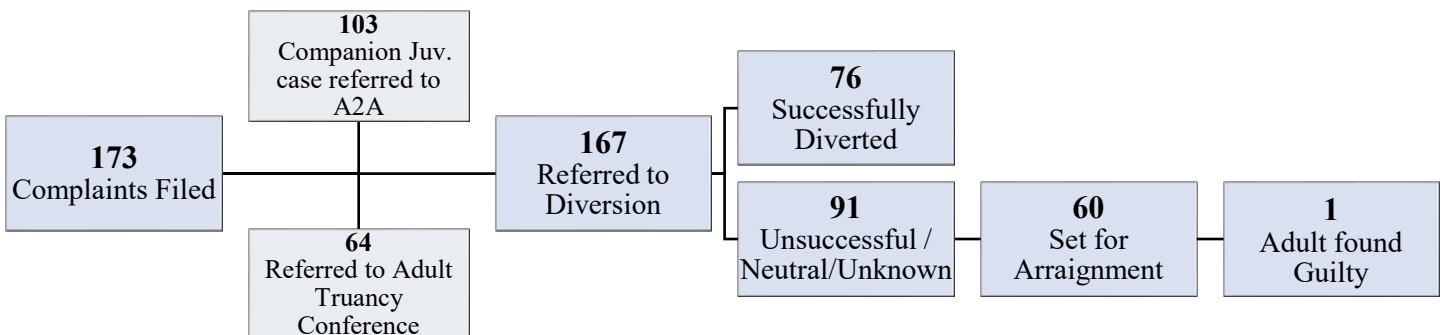
Of the 186 Habitual Truant Complaints filed, 169 cases were referred to the Court’s Alternative to Adjudication Program, and 73 cases were successful, while 96 had a discharge status of unsuccessful, neutral, or unknown. Of the 96 cases, 62 were set for arraignment, and the outcome in 3 of those cases resulted in an adjudication.



## ADULT TRUANCY CASES

In 2023, there were 173 Complaints filed against adults charged with Failure to Send a Child to School. If the adult case had a companion juvenile case that was referred to Alternative to Adjudication (A2A), the adult case was held in abeyance (“on hold”) until there was an outcome to the Alternative to Adjudication process. If there was no juvenile companion case, the adult case was referred to an Adult Truancy Conference, which is the adult diversion program.

A total of 167 cases were referred to diversion; specifically, 103 Complaints were held in abeyance while the juvenile’s case was going through the diversionary process and 64 cases were referred to an Adult Truancy Conference. Of the 167 cases referred to diversion, 76 of those cases were successfully diverted. There were 60 cases set for arraignment, and 1 adult was found guilty of Failure to Send a Child to School.



## IN-HOME DETENTION/PRE-DISPOSITIONAL SERVICES

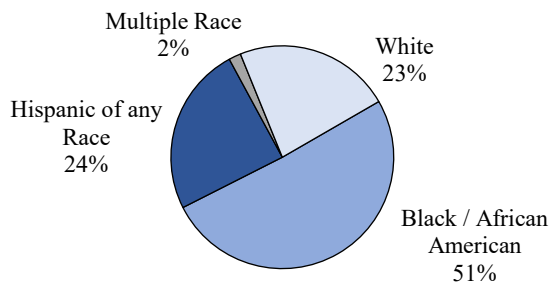
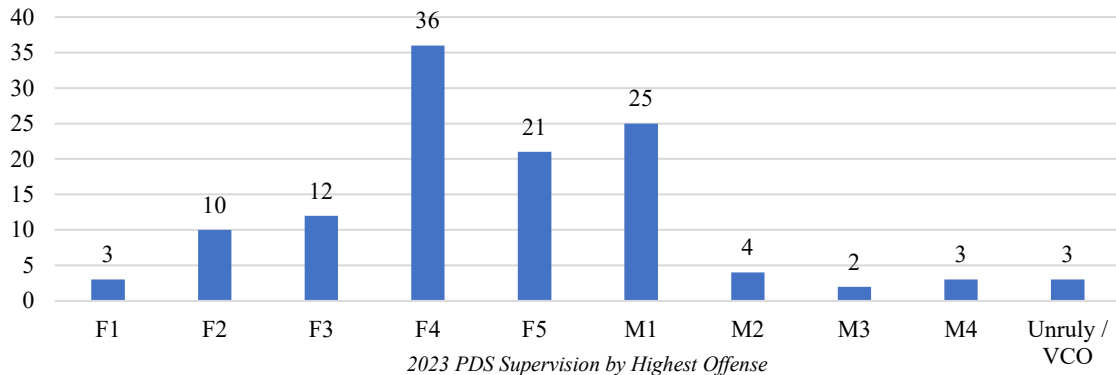
In-Home Detention/Pre-Dispositional Services Program (IHD/PDS) provides an alternative to secure detention for youth awaiting adjudication and/or disposition of their case. Youth identified by a jurist as requiring supervision or electronic monitoring due to the nature of the offense and/or the juvenile’s behavior are referred to the program. PDS has three supervision levels: In-Home Reporting, In-Home Detention, and Temporary Orders.

In-Home Reporting and In-Home Detention are ordered pending adjudication. Youth on ***In-Home Reporting*** are required to report to PDS bi-weekly, via phone, and youth on ***In-Home Detention (IHD)*** cannot leave home without authorization. Youth placed on ***Temporary Orders*** have been adjudicated but are waiting disposition, and these youth typically are subjected to the same supervisory requirements as IHD youth.

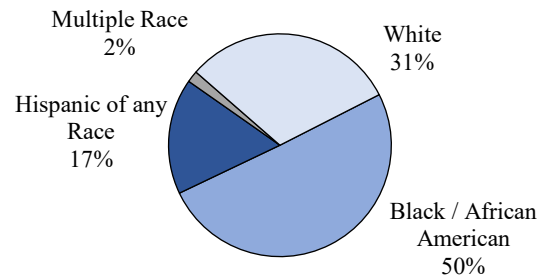
Youth may be ordered to be placed on a GPS or cell electronic monitoring device (EMD), which is worn on the youth’s ankle. Use of this equipment permits 24-hour monitoring of a youth’s whereabouts and adherence to “home detention” rules by Court staff.

While on the program, Court staff conduct random visits to the juveniles’ home, school, and/or work site, and staff may conduct random drug testing. Violation of program rules or further criminal activity could result in the child being remanded to the Detention Home.

In 2023, there were 119 juveniles placed on a PDS Program and 57 juveniles placed on an EMD. The bar graph represents the highest offense level for each case requiring PDS Supervision in 2023, and the pie charts represent the demographic information for juveniles placed on a PDS Program with an EMD:



2023 PDS Supervision by Race and Ethnicity



2023 EMD Placement by Race and Ethnicity

## INVESTIGATION AND REFERRAL PROGRAM

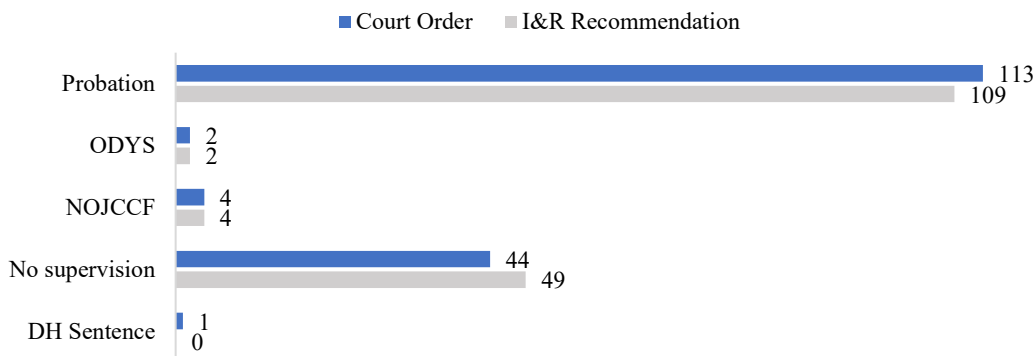
The purpose of the Investigation and Referral (I&R) Department is to conduct investigations and evaluate juvenile offenders who have received official Court charges and have been adjudicated delinquent. The Judge or Magistrate refers the case to I&R to determine the need for services after a formal court hearing.

Upon receipt of a referral, an Investigative Probation Officer conducts an interview with the youth and family and completes various assessments, such as the MAYSI, Ohio Scales, and OYAS, to determine appropriate recommendations for disposition. Recommendations are based on the youth’s risk level and may include a level of formal court supervision, mental health and/or substance use counseling, psychiatric services, mentoring, no contact orders, restitution, letters of apology, community service, written essays, secure detention sentence, or other out-of-home placement such as the Ohio Department of Youth Services or a Community Correctional Facility (CCF).

Investigative Probation Officers also have the option to refer any youth who meets criteria for a comprehensive psychological evaluation through Bellefaire JCB’s *Juvenile Offender Program (JOP)*. This evaluation is considered if the youth has a qualifying offense and there is concern the youth may be suffering severe mental illness. Should the JOP assessment result in a recommendation for residential treatment, the Investigative Probation Officer may be required to present the case to the Children’s Continuum of Care Committee (4C) for consideration of funding for placement.

Investigations are normally completed within forty-five (45) days unless the complexity of the case requires additional time. Referrals for therapeutic services are made by the Investigative Probation Officer to available community agencies. Investigative Probation Officers must maintain an understanding of community-based therapeutic interventions and programs, the agencies that offer them, and potential waitlists for services.

In 2023, 165 Cases were referred to I&R, and all cases except for 30 were closed in 2023. There was a total of 164 cases closed in 2023, 32 of which were carried over from 2022. The data below represents the 164 I&R cases that had a disposition hearing and were closed in 2023:



*I&R Recommendations vs. Case Disposition*

## GENERAL PROBATION

Juveniles placed on General Probation are typically at moderate or high risk to re-offend and are assessed as best able to benefit from individualized services in the community, rather than a specific program or intensive supervision. These youth are required to complete a Court-ordered case plan with potential orders for mental health and substance abuse services, community service, mentoring, and any other order deemed necessary.

Juveniles placed on General Probation are assigned a Probation Officer, who reports the youth's progress to the Court. The Probation Officer promotes behavioral change in the youth through rapport building and utilizing evidence-based programming and tools such as motivational interviewing, Carey Guides, and community-based services. The Probation Officer maintains regular contact with the juvenile, parents, school officials, service providers, and other individuals significant in the juvenile's life.

Probation Officers review and update case plans regularly to assess whether the family or juvenile's need for services has changed from what was originally considered. The Probation Officer is responsible for submitting reports to the Court regarding the youth's progress or behavioral concerns. Probation Officers administer rewards and sanctions through continual oversight of the juvenile's conduct, performance, and progress towards goals.

General Probation also supervises youth who receive services from the Juvenile Offender Program (JOP). JOP is a collaborative effort between the Court, Integrated Services Partnership of Lorain County, the Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Services Board, and Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau. This partnership provides an extensive assessment and psychological evaluation for juveniles who have exhibited significant mental health issues and are involved with the Court primarily for an offense of violence.

General Probation Officers also provide supervision for youth placed in Community Correctional Facilities (CCF) and any adults placed on supervision for Contributing to the Unruliness or Delinquency of a Minor.

**A total of 151 juveniles were served on General Probation in 2023, including 36 carry-overs from 2021 and 2022.** There were 48 youth released from General Probation in 2023, with 30 of those youth released successfully.

The demographic information for youth served on General Probation in 2023 is indicated below:

<b>2023 General Probation Youth Demographics</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Mixed Race</b>	<b>Hispanic Any Race</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carry Over from 2022	14	13	4	5	36
Placed on	22	32	12	14	80
Released	18	16	4	10	48
Carry Over into 2024	18	28	12	9	67

## SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a sexual offense are referred for a sex offender risk assessment, which is completed by a licensed, certified sex offender evaluator. The assessment determines recommendations based on risk level, which may include community or residential treatment or commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

The Probation Officer along with the youth and family, creates a case plan with agreed-upon goals. Offenders participate in sex offender-specific treatment with community-based treatment providers or through placement in a residential treatment facility. The treatment provider, youth, and family create a safety plan to support the offender’s success. Offenders may be released from the program when the treatment provider represents that the juvenile has completed counseling and/or programming. Failure to complete all requirements of the program may result in further Court action.

In 2023, 14 youth were placed on the Sex Offender Program with 14 carried over from prior years. Of the 28 juveniles placed on this program during the 2023 year, all identified as male apart from one youth who identified as female. There were 16 youth released from the Sex Offender Program in 2023, with 15 of those youth released successfully and 1 transferred out of the county.

<b>2023 Sex Offender Youth Demographics</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Mixed Race</b>	<b>Hispanic Any Race</b>	<b>Total</b>
Prior Year Carry Over	8	1	1	4	<b>14</b>
Placed on	7	2	2	3	<b>14</b>
Released	12	4	0	0	<b>16</b>
Carry Over into 2024	5	1	3	3	<b>12</b>



## SUCCESS FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

The Success for Youth Program provides specialized programming and skill development for court-involved youth who may be facing additional barriers, such as mental health symptoms, substance abuse issues, and/or low functioning level. Year-round programming offers an opportunity to develop social skills, self-management, and job skills to assist juveniles in obtaining employment and eventual independence.

Catholic Charities Lorain County collaborates with the Court to provide case management, social skills development, assistance with career development, computer skills, and realistic job skills training that is designed to meet educational and employment needs, as well as personal development. Juveniles on Success for Youth probation attend group sessions twice per week to work on skill development and participate in field trips and pro-social activities in the community.

Youth benefit from access to a Catholic Charities Case Manager that provides advocacy in the schools, Court, at home, and in the community. The youth’s Probation Officer works closely with the Case Manager and attends all group sessions. The Probation Officer and Case Manager plan social activities that provide an opportunity for youth to utilize their skills, while providing tools for redirecting conflicts and addressing any barriers to learning.

In 2023, the Success for Youth Program received 9 cases and 8 cases were carried over from 2022. Of those 17 cases, 15 of the youth identified as male and 2 identified as female. There were 9 cases closed in 2023, 8 successfully, and 1 unsuccessfully, where youth was transferred to another program.

<b>2023 Success for Youth Demographics</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Mixed Race</b>	<b>Hispanic Any Race</b>	<b>Total</b>
Prior Year Carry Over	1	4	1	2	<b>8</b>
Placed on	2	4	1	2	<b>9</b>
Released	2	4	1	2	<b>9</b>
Carry Over into 2024	1	4	1	2	<b>8</b>

## **CROSSROADS EVENING REPORTING PROGRAM**

The Crossroads Program serves moderate to high-risk juvenile offenders, ages 13-18. Youth receive evidence-based, behavioral change programming that teaches cognitive and pro-social skills designed to modify behaviors and provide youth with tools to make better decisions in the community and home. Youth in this program are at risk of removal from their homes due to the severity of the offense, delinquency history, and/or community risk.

The Crossroads Program is divided into two tracks. Track A is designed for youth that require a high level of intense supervision and are not involved in extensive treatment services in the community. Track A youth receive services from an onsite Applewood clinician who provides ongoing youth and family case management and group counseling. Youth that require a high level of supervision but are also in need of more intensive therapeutic care in the community, participate in the program through Track B, which adjusts for time that is needed for youth to participate in the community/home treatment.

Each track is limited to a maximum of 8 youth (16 total) in the Reporting Phase and has a unique 13-week schedule in which youth report to the Crossroads center. Youth report to the Crossroads facility from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the school year and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. during the summer months. The Reporting Phase consists of a levels system, in which youth can earn reduced reporting requirements. Staff facilitate an evidence-based curriculum designed to promote behavior change, and youth participate in independent living activities, life skills lessons, career exploration, and team-building tasks, which are facilitated by staff.

Youth may receive approved rewards and incentives based on their improved behavior, school attendance, and progress toward case plan goals.

The Aftercare Phase is a 4-week minimum non-reporting monitoring period for both tracks that allows youth to continue therapeutic services and to ensure that youth are appropriately using newly obtained skills in the community and the home. A Surveillance Monitor conducts home visits on the weekends to provide additional supervision and support. Upon successfully completing case plan requirements, youth will be discharged from the Crossroads Program.

Twenty-four (24) Crossroads cases were closed in 2023, 16 of which were terminated successfully.

<b>2023 Crossroads Youth Demographics</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Mixed Race</b>	<b>Hispanic Any Race</b>	<b>Total</b>
Prior Year Carry Over	2	8	0	2	<b>12</b>
Placed on	4	20	3	7	<b>34</b>
Released	2	17	1	4	<b>24</b>
Carry Over into 2024	4	11	2	5	<b>22</b>

## **SUPPLEMENTAL DIVERSION AND COURT-SPONSORED PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Psycho-educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factor associated with criminal behavior. During 2023, the Court utilized evidence-based programming to address criminogenic factors. Evidence-based programs are those whose documented outcome evaluations have been studied and found to be effective. Training was provided to staff to assist in the facilitation and presentation of these groups.

The following represents the number of cases in 2023 and case outcomes:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Carry-overs</b>	<b>2023 Referrals</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>Neutral / Transferred</b>	<b>Unsuccessful/Terminated</b>
EDUVENTION	23	121	58	17	40
ReNOUNce DeNOUNce	0	35	24	3	8
Keeping Your Cool (KYC)	10	36	4	0	10
PREP-MC	-	31	8	22	1
Girls' Circle	-	32	5	27	0
Guys' (Boys') Council	-	22	3	19	0

### **EDUVENTION SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Eduvention is designed to increase awareness of substance abuse through 6 hours (four 1.5 hour sessions) of substance abuse education. A parent/guardian is required to attend each session with the youth. A low-intensity, education-based curriculum is utilized by the treatment provider to provide necessary education and skills to the youth and their parent/guardian to deter further substance use. Eduvention is provided by The LCADA Way.

### **RENOUNCE DENOUNCE GANG INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

The ReNOUNce DeNOUNce Program offers community-based programming that addresses the criminogenic needs of moderate to high-risk violent youth offenders through use of research-informed cognitive behavioral interventions that are designed to reduce violent crime. Youth participants must be under formal court supervision and be adjudicated of a violent offense as defined by the Ohio Revised Code, a firearm related offense, or a gang related offense. Youth will participate in weekly 2-hour sessions as part of the 10-week first phase of the program. After completion of the first phase, youth participants will continue with the second aftercare phase of programming for up to 6 months, with the average duration of programming for all youth participants being approximately 8.5 months.

### **KEEPING YOUR COOL (KYC)**

Keeping Your Cool (KYC) is a skill-building program that provides strategies to control anger and aggression and looks at changing ways of thinking in order to effect change. It is comprised of 10 consecutive sessions. Keeping Your Cool is provided by the Nord Center.

## **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)**

PREP-MPC is a comprehensive education program that provides young people with independent living skills as well as accurate and age-appropriate sex education. Making Proud Choices is the foundation of unintended pregnancy and STI prevention component of PREP. The curriculum is supplemented by the PREP Adulthood Modules, which include: Healthy Relationships, Financial Literacy, and Career Building. This curriculum is designed to assist youth to make safer and more adaptive choices, while reducing risk of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections. In addition to education on abstinence and contraceptive use, PREP also offers services to prepare young people for adulthood by implementing activities that address many subjects

## **GIRLS CIRCLE**

The “Pathways to the Future” curriculum is a skill-building support circle for use with at-risk or court-involved female youth. It examines thoughts, beliefs, and actions regarding friendship, trust, authority figures, mother/daughter relationships, sexuality, dating violence, HIV, drug abuse, stress, and goal setting. It encourages youth to explore their choices and decision-making through lively, prepared discussions and activities.

## **THE COUNCIL FOR BOYS AND YOUNG MEN**

This program is a strengths-based group approach to young men’s healthy, safe development and encourages them to act safely, show respect in their relationships, develop a healthy perspective, see other’s points of view, use good judgment, and identify goals and aspirations. Topics that may be addressed include competition, bullying, valuing diversity, safe expression of emotions, making safe decisions, and rejecting violence.

## **YES PROGRAM**

The Youth Education Shoplifting Program (YES Program) is an educational, rehabilitative program offered to juveniles referred to Court for first-time, petty theft/shoplifting offenses. Participants are referred to the program from both official and unofficial cases. **In 2023, 26 youth were referred and 25 successfully completed, which resulted in a 96% successful completion rate.** Upon completion, the YES Program rates the youth on likelihood to reoffend. In 2023, program youths were rated as 44%, “Low Risk to Re-Offend,” which is below the national average of 54% for the program.

## **RESTITUTION AND PAYBACK PROGRAM**

Restitution is an essential component in the rehabilitation process and is also the means whereby victims find recourse through the justice system. The process is initiated by the Lorain County Prosecutor's Office prior to dispositional hearings. Victims are required to supply documentation to the Prosecutor verifying their loss. Once the restitution amount is determined, it is ordered at disposition. Following the hearing, the juvenile and parent/guardian meet with the PayBack Manager to establish a payment plan. The juvenile is given two payment options: (1) Submit monthly payments to the Court that will be dispersed to the victim; (2) Participate in the Court's PayBack Program.

The PayBack Program is designed to assist juvenile offenders in the restoration of financial loss to victims and their communities. Juveniles receive minimum wage while completing community service hours to earn up to \$500.00 that will be paid directly to the victim.

The Payback Manager is responsible for securing community service sites, coordinating and verifying volunteer hours, monitoring restitution payments, and communicating with victims. If the juvenile is not making efforts to complete court-ordered restitution, the PayBack Manager will request a hearing in front of a Magistrate. In some instances, this results in the suspension of the youth's driver's license. The Court will make every attempt to collect restitution from the juvenile offender up to the age of 21, when the Court loses jurisdiction over the case.

**In 2023, \$24,887.37 in restitution payments were collected and distributed to victims.** Of that amount, \$10,114.23 was earned through the Court's PayBack Program.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

A Judge or Magistrate may order community service hours as a means of "giving back" to the community. Youth are provided a list of approved community service sites in Lorain County and must complete their hours in a timely manner. Juveniles may also purchase and donate non-perishable items that are then distributed to various approved organizations throughout the County, if approved by the jurist. **In 2023, 1,204 hours of community service were completed.**

# SUPERVISION PLACEMENT & RELEASE STATISTICS

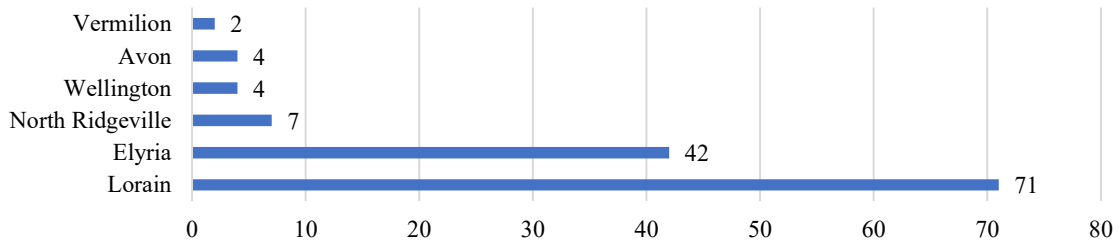
## All Probation Placements in 2023

The following tables/charts show the number of youths who were placed on the Court’s Community Supervision Programs (aka Probation). On some occasions, a youth can be transferred from one program to another program based on supervisory needs. Below represents youth that were placed on any Community Supervision Probation in 2023:

Community Supervision Program	White/Caucasian	Black/African American	Mixed Race	Hispanic of Any Race	Total	Percent
General Probation	22	32	12	13	79	58%
Sex Offender	7	2	2	3	14	10%
Success for Youth	1	6	0	2	9	7%
Crossroads	4	20	3	7	34	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>136</b>	

## Probation Placements by Youth’s Residence in 2023

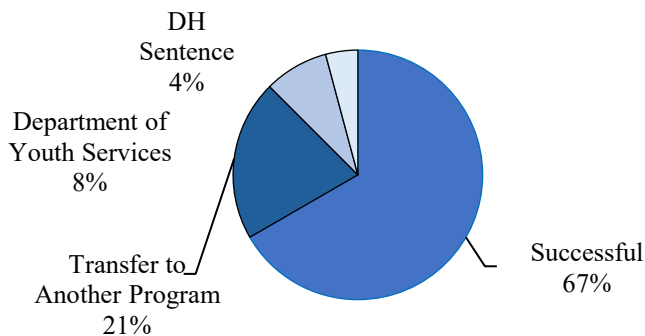
Of the 136-youth placed on Probation in 2023, 52% of those youth resided in the city of Lorain at the time of placement. The following is the breakdown of the cities of youths’ residences at the time of placement on probation:



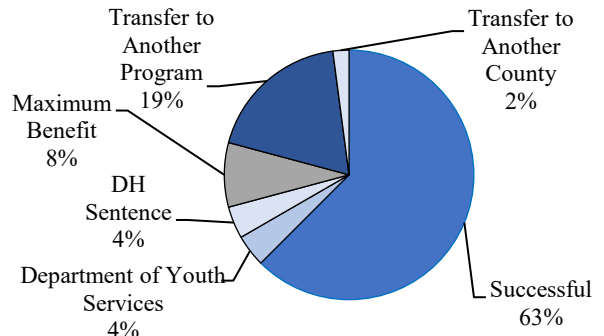
*\*The following cities had one juvenile placed on Probation in 2023: Sheffield Village, Grafton, Eaton Township, Columbia, Avon Lake, and Amherst.*

## Crossroads & General Probation Releases in 2023 by Outcome

*Crossroads Releases by Outcome in 2023*



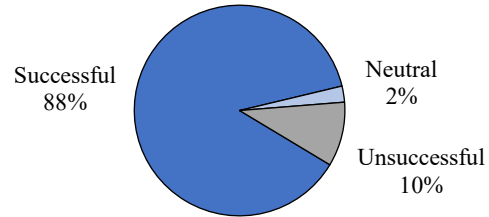
*General Probation Releases by Outcome in 2023*



## All Probation Releases in 2023 by Outcome

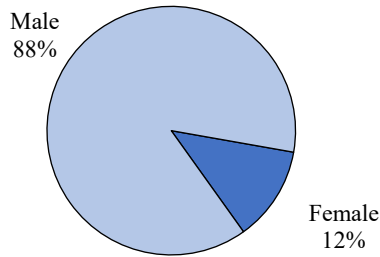
The following charts and graphs represent youths who were released from Probation in 2023, which also includes youths placed on probation supervision prior to 2023.

Successful Releases	71
Neutral	2
Unsuccessful	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>



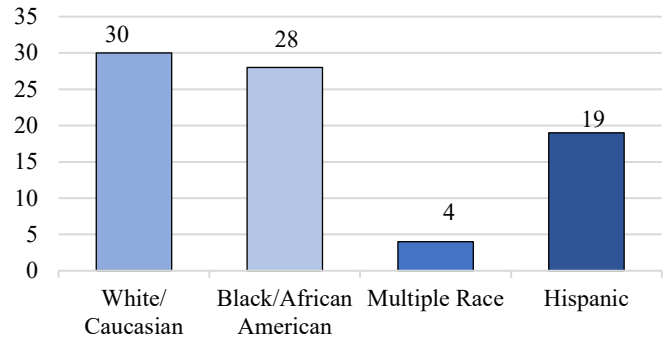
## All Probation Releases in 2023 by Demographics

*Youth Released in 2023 by Gender*



Male	71
Female	10

*Youth Released in 2023 by Race/Ethnicity*



White/Caucasian	30
Black/African American	28
Multiple Race	4
Hispanic	19

*Overall Unsuccessful Terminations by Race/Ethnicity*

Race/Ethnicity	Count	%
Hispanic Any Race	1	13%
Black	4	50%
White	1	13%
Mixed Race	2	25%

*Overall Successful Terminations by Race/Ethnicity*

Race/Ethnicity	Count	%
Hispanic Any Race	17	24%
Black	24	34%
White	28	39%
Mixed Race	2	3%

## **FAMILY REUNIFICATION COURT**

The Lorain County Family Reunification Court is a certified specialized docket developed to assist parents with reunification and maintaining care of their children, in circumstances where one of the issues preventing effective parenting is substance use. To participate in the program, the parent must have an active abuse, neglect, and/or dependency Court case with Lorain County Children Services, and substance use must be an identified barrier of the parent.

Judge Sherry L. Glass presides over the Family Reunification Court, and the team includes professionals specializing in areas such as substance use treatment, mental health, housing, and child welfare. A Case Manager provides supervision and oversight of all current participants and maintains contact with past and potential participants. Each participant has a designated Family Reunification Court attorney who is a member of the team and works with the participant to coordinate services for successful and/or continued reunification of the children and participant.

Upon acceptance into the program, participants receive a treatment plan, which is monitored by the treatment team on a weekly basis. The program offers incentives and rewards for participants' progress as the participant works through the five stages of the program, ending with a graduation upon successful completion of the program.

The program is designed to last approximately 9-12 months, and in 2023, there were 2 parents that graduated from Family Reunification Court.

In 2023, the Family Reunification Court was set to undergo the recertification process to continue as a specialized docket. After careful consideration, the Court ultimately decided not to seek recertification; therefore, 2023 was the last year that the Court would have this specialized docket. In 2023, there were four (4) participants that received their Certificate of Achievement due to Family Reunification Court discontinuing.



# **DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

David Lucey, Director

## **LORAIN COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION HOME**

9967 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

The Lorain County Detention Home is a 24-hour facility providing secure confinement of juvenile offenders through the age of 21 years old. The Detention Home is licensed by the Ohio Department of Youth Services and operates within compliance with the Ohio Administrative Code and the Ohio Supreme Court. Judges and Magistrates determine if secure detention is appropriate by utilizing a screening instrument that factors the level of offense, court history, risk to the community and self, and risk of flight. Delinquent and/or alleged delinquent youth may be confined to secure detention by an order of the Court for a period not to exceed 90 days on each charge.

The Detention Home has 44 beds designed to house 28 males and 16 females in individual rooms. The facility has indoor and outdoor recreational areas; a meal service program with a dining facility; an educational program with two classrooms; and a medical team. The Detention Home employs 33 full-time employees as well as several relief workers, nursing staff, and contracted mental health providers. Full-time employees consist of a Residential Facilities Director, Superintendent of Detention, 4 Shift Supervisors, 4 Control Room Clerks, 19 Juvenile Detention Officers, 2 Nurses, 1 Maintenance Supervisor, 1 Maintenance Worker, and 1 Intake Specialist. The staff ratio during daylight hours is 12:1, with a ratio increasing to 25:1 during non-waking hours.

### Admission Process

During the admission process, each youth is administered the MAYSI-2 screener, which assesses for mental health concerns. Along with MAYSI-2, the OYAS Detention Instrument is conducted during admission to determine the risk of recidivism. Each youth must review a 30-minute video presentation on the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and is informed of the zero-tolerance policy for sexual assault and harassment. Upon completion of the admission process, each youth receives an orientation packet that advises youth of the facility rules and possible consequences for rule violations, programs and services available and delivered, Detention Home youth's daily operations and youth schedules, and youth's rights and liberties and avenues to report violation of one's rights and liberties.

### Medical Services

The Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home contracts with Medical Director, Dr. Douglas McDonald, employs two full-time nurses, and 3 contracted part-time nurses to meet the needs of the facility complex. Within seven days of admission, a Detention Home nurse or doctor physically examines each juvenile. A juvenile who is receiving med-som services through a practicing and licensed provider may continue to receive medications while residing at the Detention Home. A nurse is available 24 hours a day for consultation or emergency services.

### Mental Health Services

The Court contracts with Applewood Centers to provide both crisis intervention services and ongoing mental health services for detained youth. Twenty-four hour access is given to all mental health professionals to assist youth. When deemed appropriate, youth are transported to mental health appointments outside of the facility by Court staff.

### Educational Services

The Court contracts with the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Lorain County to provide educational services for youth in detention. ESC provides two full-time educators who provide educational instruction at the facility with access to 25 individual computer stations and an emphasis placed on state proficiency testing.

### Religious Services and Group Programming

Non-denominational religious services are provided on a weekly basis by Iron Bar Ministries for the facility. The Court also offers other therapeutic group activities on a regular basis including ReNounce DeNounce, Men of Courage, and Writer's in Residency. Participation in these services is voluntary.

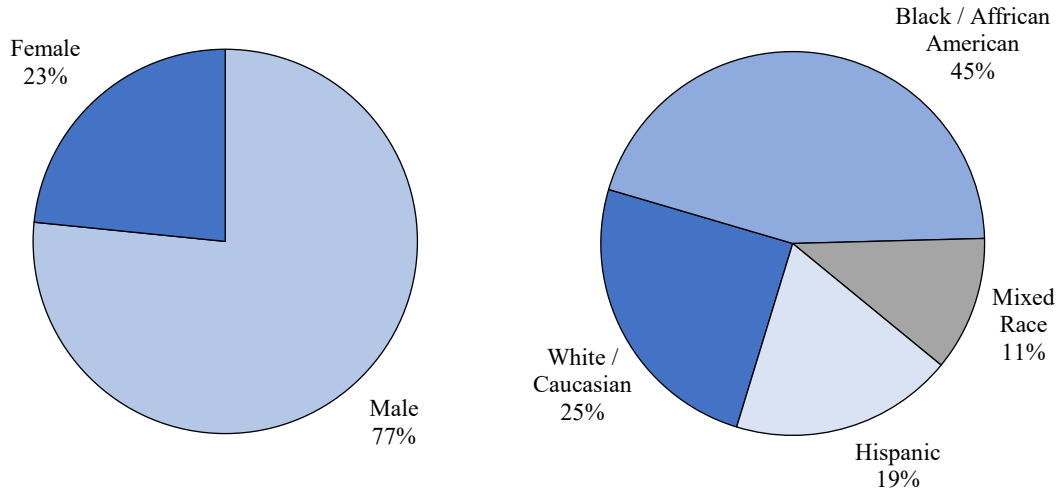
### Visitation

The Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home encourages visitation with parents and/or legal guardians through regular in-person visits, virtual visits, or telephone calls during designated visiting times. Attorneys may visit youth at any reasonable time during normal business hours.

## Detention Admissions Demographics

In 2023, there were 282 admissions to the Detention Home with an average length of stay of 33 days. There were 216 male admissions and 66 female admissions. The male population represented 77% of the admitted youth while female population represented 23% of the admitted youth. In 2023, minority youth continued to be overrepresented in the detainment population. White youth constituted 25% of admissions while Black youth accounted for 44% of admissions. Hispanic youth and Mixed-Race youth accounted for 19% and 11% of admissions.

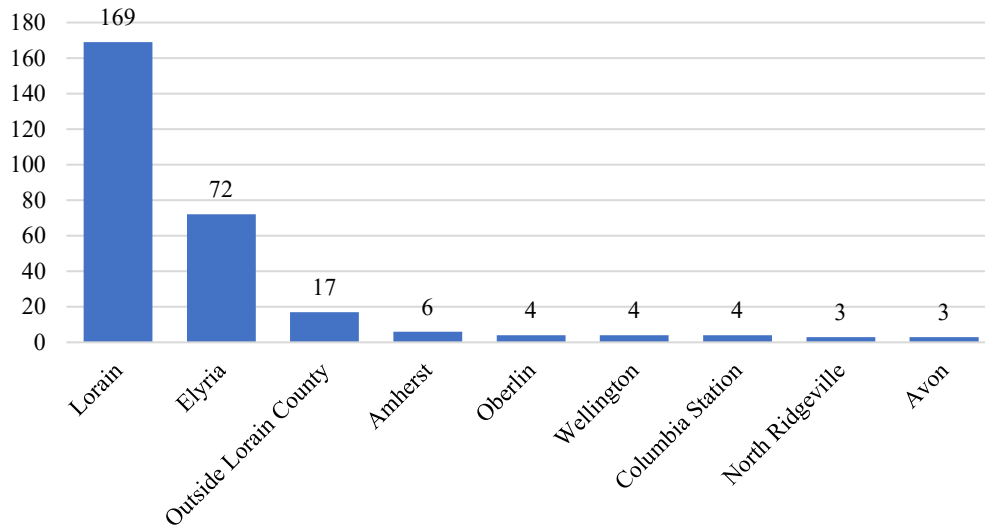
The following represents the demographic information of youth admitted to the Detention Home in 2023.



*2023 Detention Home Admissions by Gender*

*2023 Detention Home Admissions by Race/Ethnicity*

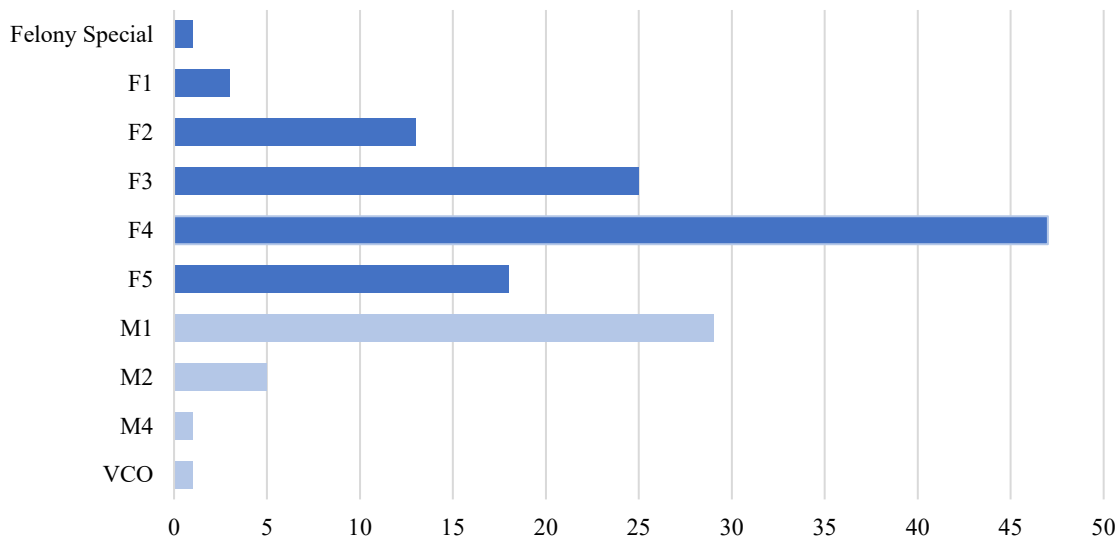
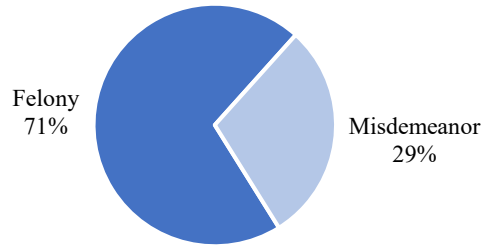
The following data shows the city of residence for youth admitted to the Detention Home in 2023. Anytime a youth is placed in the Detention Home more than once, it represents a new admission.



*2023 City of Residence for 2023 Detention Population*

## Detention Admissions by Offense Level

The following data represents admissions for new charges only. Although juveniles may have many charges, this data represents the highest charge for each admission in 2023. Misdemeanors make up 29% of all charges, and 71% of the Misdemeanors were Domestic Violence charges.



*2023 Detention Home Admissions by Offense Level*

## TURNING POINT SHELTER

1076 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Turning Point Shelter is an ODJFS-licensed, co-ed, short-term facility for abused, dependent or neglected children as well as domestic violence and human trafficking victims. The Shelter is also utilized for children with mental health illnesses, developmental disabilities, or other issues where secure confinement would not be appropriate. Turning Point is a 10-bed facility for 5 girls and 5 boys, ages 12 to 17, with the average length of stay designed to be less than 13 days.

The Court collaborates with Lorain County Children Services (LCCS) to utilize the shelter to help stabilize the displaced youth of Lorain County. Of the 168-youth served by the facility in 2023, 38% were placed at the request of LCCS. The ability for LCCS to place children temporarily in the shelter provides the agency an opportunity to identify an

appropriate relative or to link the parent with services so that the child may safely return home.

The average length of stay at Turning Point Shelter during 2023 was 5.9 days while the average length of stay for a LCCS-placed youth was slightly longer at 8 days. Turning Point Shelter has a Social Worker on staff that works with each child and family to create a service plan that will allow a safe transition back into the home and community. The Social Worker completes several assessments to assist in creating the plan. These include a psychosocial, Trust Survey, GAINS assessment, and Human Trafficking questionnaire. Based on the results, the Social Worker makes referrals to a variety of community-based services that may include drug and alcohol counseling, mental health services (both individual and family), teen mentoring, and any other service the child may need. Upon release, the social worker will also complete and review a safety plan with the child and guardian to assure a healthy and safe transition.

Child Care Workers provide around-the-clock supervision for residents, and receive annual training in order to effectively monitor and care for residents. Nursing staff are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The facility also contracts with a consulting physician for any non-emergent medical needs of the children while they are in residence.

In 2018, new federal policy required that all youth residential facilities must be time-limited, trauma-informed, judicially reviewed, and focused on engaging the child's family during and after treatment, with the goal to prepare the child for a swift return to family and community life. On May 11, 2023, Turning Point Shelter received a 3-year accreditation as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) under the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

# **DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

Kristen Richardson, Deputy Court Administrator/Fiscal Director

The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court receives funding from the Lorain County Board of Commissioners as well as state, federal, and local grants. The County's General Fund provides the majority of the Court's annual budget. Funding is utilized for operational costs, staff salaries, and fringe benefits for over 150 Domestic Relations Court and Juvenile Court employees.

## **FISCAL**

The Fiscal Department is responsible for preparing and monitoring the Court's annual budget, financial processing of all court expenditures, deposits, reconciliation of accounts, payroll, benefits, purchasing, and processing court appointed attorney reimbursements. In 2023, the department processed over \$907,608.00 of state reimbursement requests for court appointed counsel, which was an increase of 26% from 2022. The department is also responsible for the financial management, reporting, and auditing of all state and federal grants.

## **GRANTS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The Grants Manager researches grant opportunities available through state, federal, and local agencies, writes grant proposals, and maintains reporting requirements of grant awards. In 2023, the Grants Manager applied for 7 grants with a potential award of \$1,607,956.87, based on eligibility criteria. There were 5 grants awarded in the amount of \$1,366,011.10. Grant awards included a technology grant for electronic citations, mental health services for court involved youths, victims of crime services, and various juvenile services. One grant is pending for the replacement of the Detention Home control board and security doors for \$124,632.00.

The Quality Assurance Manager is responsible for the collection and analysis of data to measure the quality of programming in both juvenile and domestic relations divisions. Quality assurance is also a requirement for federal and state grant awards. The results of the data collection and analysis allow the Court to continuously improve the quality of our programs and services offered to youths and families.

## **SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT**

The Systems Department provides network and desktop support to over 150 Court employees located at the Lorain County Justice Center, Detention Home, Turning Point Shelter, Crossroads Program, and the Assessment and Resource Center. Systems is responsible for the Court's computer hardware, software, intranet, Court website, and other related systems. The Court's case management system, Courtview, maintains the docketing, imaging, and judicial and probation management systems. The department also

manages the high-resolution video security system located at the Lorain County Detention Home and Facilities Complex that allows for remote monitoring and archiving 160 days of security camera data. The video security system provides comprehensive monitoring capabilities and a heightened level of safety and security for the juveniles and staff.

In 2023, the Court upgraded security cameras at the Detention Home and Facilities Complex, implemented text messaging notifications for court hearings, and continued the case management system upgrade in the Juvenile Clerk's Office. Goals for 2024 include the implementation of Judicial Tools software for jurists, electronic disposition reporting to the Bureau of Crime Identification & Investigation and upgrading the case management system for Domestic Relations case filings. The goal of the Court is to become paperless with electronic access to the public, staff, and attorneys.

2023 Expenditures	Salaries	Fringe Benefits	Operating Costs	Equipment and Leases	Total General Fund	Total Grants
Administration and Elected Officials	2,491,631.05	336,251.78	146,419.72	31,842.80	3,006,145.35	
Juvenile Services	2,401,378.15	330,235.44	150,167.86	40,264.02	2,922,045.47	
Domestic Support/ IV-D	508,646.24	236,166.21	87,503.38	760.00	833,075.83	
Detention Services	1,728,008.63	241,101.42	404,921.27	15,500.05	2,389,531.37	
Pathways	-	-	5,502.97	-	5,502.97	
Turning Point	474,127.22	66,094.74	12,204.03	228.00	552,653.99	
Multipurpose Building	-	-	16,513.15	-	16,513.15	
Specialized Dockets	73,943.60	11,495.66	28,478.00	-		113,917.26
Help Center	67,680.00	20,117.32	41,831.31	-		129,628.63
RECLAIM	782,634.94	126,862.62	415,217.15	-		1,324,714.71
Targeted RECLAIM	-	-	96,785.96	-		96,785.96
IV-E	63,151.20	10,365.98	8,293.54	20,236.50		102,047.22
VOCA	60,508.80	35,766.97	2,921.74	-		99,197.51
Other Grants	161,336.12	32,788.16	172,195.96	20,981.00		387,301.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,813,045.95</b>	<b>1,447,246.30</b>	<b>1,588,956.04</b>	<b>129,812.37</b>	<b>9,725,468.13</b>	<b>2,253,592.53</b>



2023 Revenue	Refunds, Reimbursements	Fines, Fees	Federal and State Reimbursements	Agency Contributions, Donations	Total General Fund Revenue	All Other Revenue
Administration and Elected Officials	323.50	414.60	-	-	738.10	
Juvenile Services	461.34	149,856.48	-	-	150,317.82	
Domestic Support/ IV-D	-	-	518,480.96		518,480.96	
Detention Services	6,005.83	-	84,134.67	-	90,140.50	
Pathways	-	-	-	-	-	
Turning Point	56.03	-	-	130,000.00	130,056.03	
Multipurpose	-	-	-	-	-	
Specialized Dockets	-	-	117,616.00	-		117,616.00
Help Center	-	-	425,000.00	-		425,000.00
RECLAIM	-	-	987,946.38	-		987,946.38
Targeted RECLAIM	-	-	128,778.00	-		128,778.00
IV-E	167,124.83	-	-	-		167,124.83
VOCA	-	-	99,682.82	-		99,682.82
Other Grants	81,651.30	116,055.33	-	162,447.38		360,154.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>255,622.83</b>	<b>266,326.41</b>	<b>2,361,638.83</b>	<b>292,447.38</b>	<b>889,733.41</b>	<b>2,286,302.04</b>

The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court is sincerely grateful to the many agencies, community leaders, and providers that all work toward the common goal of providing effective and efficient services to the citizens of Lorain County.

This goal, coupled with the creative vision, energy, and passion of those involved, allows this Court to continue being a positive force in addressing the needs of the community.

We thank all those who contributed their time, energy, resources, and effort into making Lorain County a leader among Courts in the state of Ohio.



The **Lorain County Justice Center**, located at 225 Court Street in Elyria, houses the following:

- Fourth Floor: Judges, Administration, Fiscal
- Second Floor: Magistrates, Juvenile Probation, Court Services, Domestic Support, Voices for Children
- First Floor: Juvenile Clerk's Office  
Domestic Relations Clerk's Office



The **Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home**, located at 9967 S. Murray Ridge Road in Elyria, houses the following:

- Detention Home staff and juvenile residents
- Intake Department
- In-Home Detention/PDS



The **Juvenile Complex** is a series of buildings located on Infirmary Road in Elyria, that houses the following:

- Assessment Center (1070 Infirmary Road)
- Turning Point Shelter (1076 Infirmary Road)
- Crossroads (1064 Infirmary Road)

### Domestic Relations Court Contact Information

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
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 Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch  
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