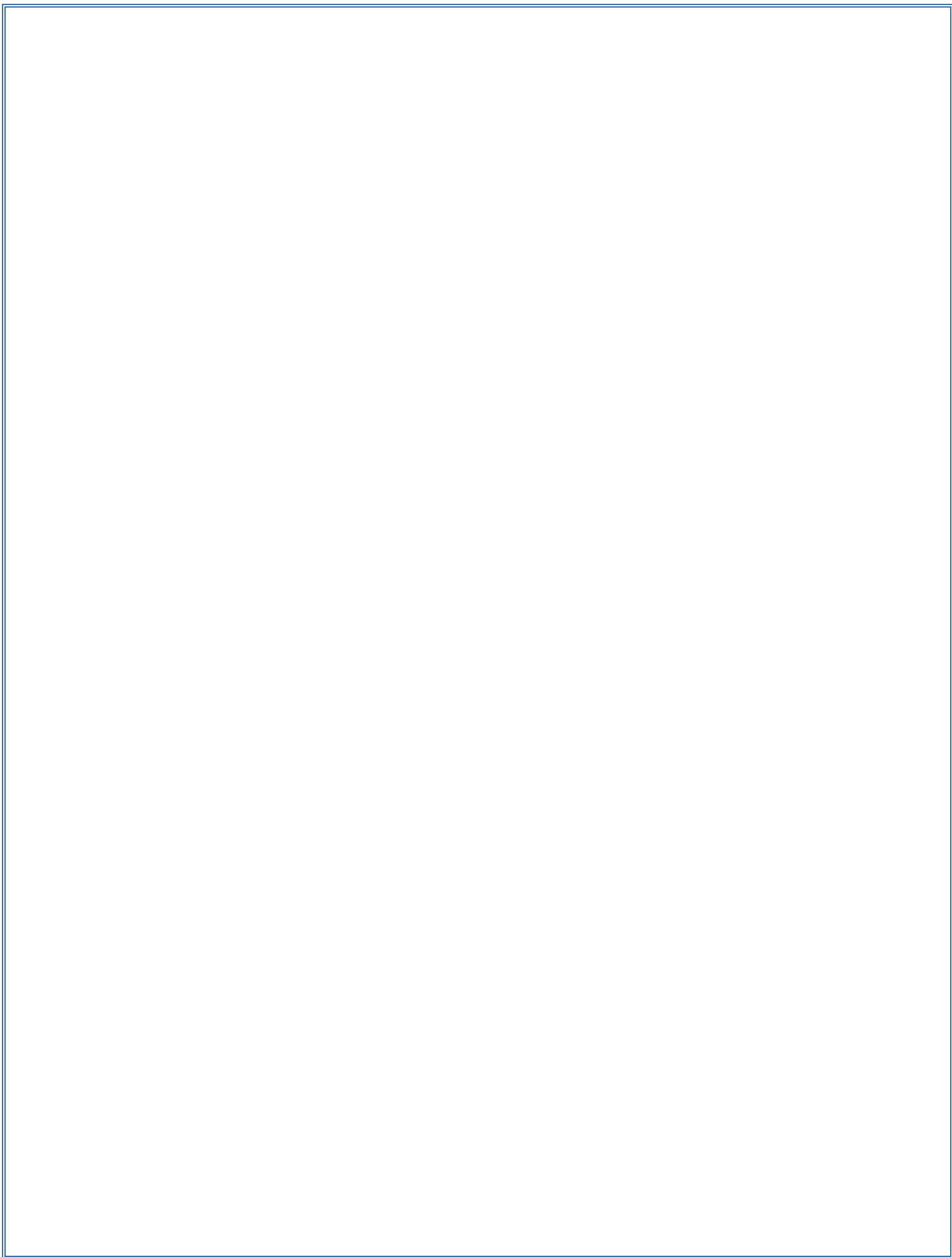


# LORAIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





Sherry L. Glass  
Judge



Frank J. Janik  
Judge



Lisa I. Swenski  
Administrative Judge


The Citizens of Lorain County:


The Court is very pleased to present our 2022 Annual Report for your information and use. 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.

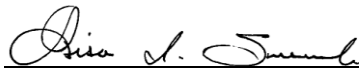
The Court has a long-standing approach of maintaining a high level of services for the citizens of Lorain County. The Judges and staff pledge to seek innovative and efficient means of providing these services. We extend our gratitude to our many stakeholders in the community for their continual support,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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Sherry L. Glass,  
Judge

  
Frank J. Janik  
Judge

  
Lisa I. Swenski  
Administrative 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

As the Court transitioned from pandemic restrictions to post-pandemic era, operations have continued to evolve. The Court continued to recognize the importance of using technology and continued conducting hearings by methods that best serve the needs of the litigants. Depending on the needs of each case, hearings are held by Zoom, in-person, or a combination thereof.

The Juvenile Division of the Domestic Relations Court has continued to be a leader in the State of Ohio by modernizing practices for the youth and families of Lorain County. As a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Court, the Court regularly creates new programming for juveniles that address identified criminogenic factors and individual needs. The Lorain County Assessment and Resource Center continued to flourish, with 2022 being the first full year of expanded Diversion services. Lorain County Juvenile Court, as guided by JDAI principles, strongly values frontloading services at the onset of identified needs and concerns to youth and families.

In addition to the resources offered at the Assessment and Resource Center and through the Juvenile Probation department, the Court offers a wide range of ancillary services in both the Domestic Relations Division and the Juvenile Division to assist families and juveniles. These services include Voices for Children/CASA GAL program, mediation, supervised visitation, child support, and respite services through the Turning Point Shelter.

In October 2022, the Court was awarded a \$425,000 grant from the Office of Criminal Justice to help with the overflow of cases caused by the pandemic. As a part of this grant, the Court will be partnering with Ohio Legal Help to create a Virtual Self-Help Center, which includes a virtual platform to assist self-represented litigants with navigating the court process and completing necessary legal documents. In addition, the Court will be launching a Help Center, which will offer in-person assistance to self-represented parties.

Lastly, in 2022, the Court began the process of upgrading the Court's existing Case Management System. These upgrades will allow staff to access and share information more efficiently. In addition, the Court has started to implement electronic filing of documents in the Juvenile Clerk's Office, which will expand access to justice to litigants, attorneys, and the public.

The following pages provide an overview of the roles, responsibilities, and work of the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court.

Emily Kirsch  
Court Administrator- Domestic Relations Division

Tim Weitzel  
Court Administrator- Juvenile Division

# 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 the 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 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 2022, 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, implementation, and evaluation. These departments are comprised of Probation and Youth Services, Juvenile Clerk's Division, Fiscal Management, Residential Services, Family Court Services, Domestic Support Division, Specialized Docket, and Voices for Children. The Court consists of approximately 155 employees, including Judges and personal staff.

The Juvenile Court Administrator is responsible for recruiting, interviewing, performing background checks and selecting qualified applicants; developing and planning staff training; developing and managing special projects; oversight of probation, residential services, and human resources/personnel management.

The Domestic Relations Court Administrator is responsible for the oversight and management of the Juvenile Clerk's Office, implementing updates to the Case Management Systems in both the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. In addition, the Administrator provides legal oversight to ensure the court and court processes comply with the law, local rules, and best practices.

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, child abuse/neglect/dependency proceedings, protection orders, judicial bypasses, and powers of attorney. The clerks assist the Judges, Magistrates, Probation Officers, Juvenile Facilities, Attorneys, and the 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, Paternity, and Private Custody Team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Registers all complaints regarding truancy, juvenile delinquency, violations of probation, and unruly/ungovernable charges and issues service</li><li>•Determines which offenses require juveniles to be fingerprinted, drafts the appropriate paperwork, and sends to BCI upon disposition</li><li>•Processes all journal entries and orders regarding delinquency including issuing warrants and service</li><li>•Files all documents in the clerk's office and ensures every magistrate and Judge has their files for the week</li><li>•Completes background checks for CCW licenses, the military, etc.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Registers all juvenile traffic complaints and issues service for Court hearings</li><li>•Prepares driving privileges forms for work and school for juveniles</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 the journal entries for all abuse, neglect, and/or dependency cases</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Registers all complaints regarding child support, paternity, and allocations of parental rights and responsibilities</li><li>•Issues service and processes journal entries for these cases</li><li>•Registers/re-opens all cases for child support contempt of court proceedings, including issuing service and processing journal entries</li><li>•Processes determinations of paternity and ensures paperwork is properly sent to the Central Paternity Registry</li><li>•Processes warrants, commits to jail, and releases from jail for defendants going through the child support contempt process</li></ul>

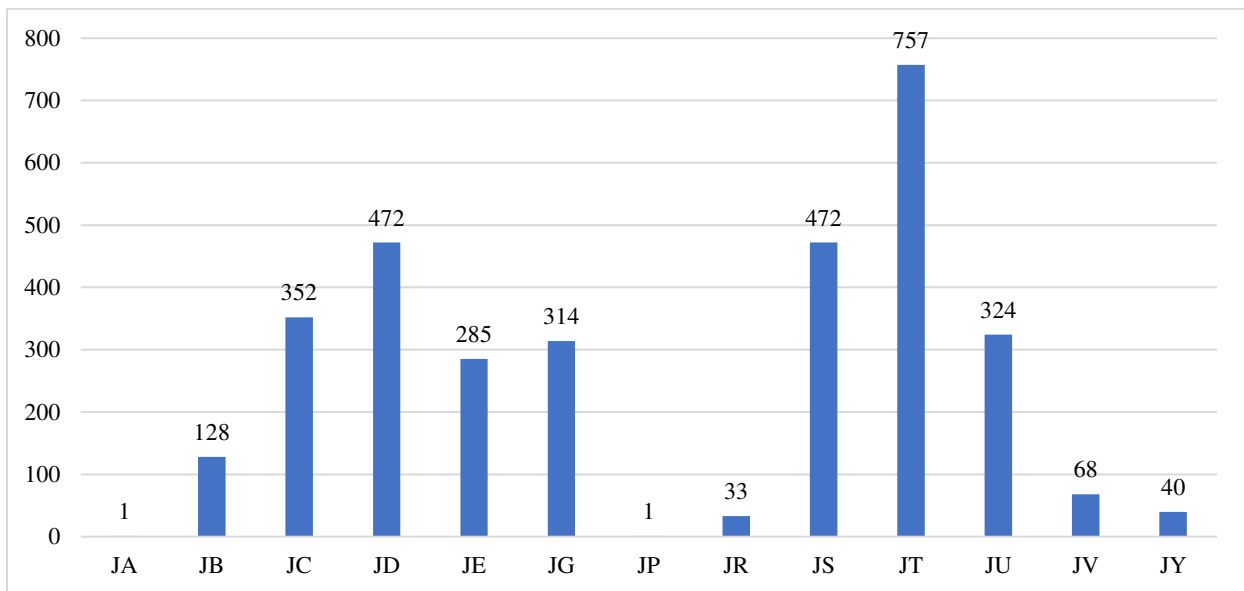
Working in the Juvenile Clerk's Office requires a broad knowledge of the Court and its functions, juvenile law, and statutes, as well as a basic understanding of civil procedure. With over 3,000 new cases filed in the Juvenile Clerk's Office in 2022, a juvenile clerk must be organized and extremely detail oriented, as they are often the final review of all pleadings, entries, and decisions.

In August of 2022, the Clerk’s Office started the court-wide transition to electronic filing. This process has streamlined the Clerk’s Office and allowed the Court to provide better service to the public. The goal of electronic filing is to provide enhanced access to justice and resources for the citizens of Lorain County, and eventually become a fully paperless and electronic court.

## 2022 JUVENILE CASE FILINGS

### ALL CASES FILED BY TYPE

Case Code	Description	Count
JA	Judicial Bypass	1
JB	Paternity Establishment	128
JC	Child Abuse, Neglect, and/or Dependency (Filed by Children Services)	352
JD	Juvenile Delinquent	472
JE	Contributing to Delinquency/Unruly	285
JG	Private Custody/Visitation (Unwed Parents)	314
JP	Permanent Custody	1
JR	Grandparent Power of Attorney	33
JS	Child Support Establishment	472
JT	Juvenile Traffic Offenses	757
JU	Juvenile Unruly, Truancy	324
JV	Violations of Probation, may include new delinquent offense	68
JY	Civil Protection Order against a Juvenile	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,247</b>



## 2022 JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES

In 2022, there were 717 traffic cases filed, which encompassed 849 violations. A traffic case can contain more than one violation. Of the 717 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 2022:

<b>Traffic Violations</b>	<b>Total</b>
Assured Clear Distance	120
Distracted Driving	7
Drug/Alcohol	13
Failure to Yield	90
Improper Vehicle Characteristics	17
License / Registration Violation	141
Other	22
Reckless / Willful / Wanton Operation	16
School Bus / Emergency Vehicle	13
Seatbelt	45
Speed	344
Traffic Control Device	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>849</b>

Many times, when a juvenile is at Court for the first time in a traffic case, the juvenile may be offered to do 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 717 cases filed in 2022. Approximately 139 cases remained pending at the end of 2022.

<b>Traffic Dispositions</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Absentia	2	5	7
Dismissed	119	166	285
Fines & Costs	56	82	138
Fines & Costs Suspended	7	10	17
License Restricted	3	11	14
License Suspended	1	3	4
Other	1	1	2
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	1	12	13
Transfer to Another Court	29	61	90
Unavailability	3	5	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>578</b>

## 2022 JUVENILE DELINQUENT CHARGES

In 2022, 532 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 2022, the average number of charges on a Complaint was 2.5 and the highest number of charges on a Complaint was 20. Each Complaint may have Misdemeanor and/or Felony charges. The following represents all the charges that were filed in an initial Complaint in 2022. Charges may be amended or dismissed in the Court process.

Number of Felony Charge(s) on Initial Complaint		Total: 546
Abduction	3	Grand Theft Motor Vehicle 10
Aggravated Arson	1	Gross Sexual Imposition 14
Aggravated Assault	2	Harassment with a Bodily Substance 1
Aggravated Burglary	6	Having Weapons While Under Disability 4
Aggravated Menacing	2	Identity Fraud 3
Aggravated Possession of Drugs	2	Illegal Conv./Poss. Deadly Weapon, Safety Zone 11
Aggravated Riot	19	Improperly Handling Firearms in a MV 11
Aggravated Robbery	9	Inciting Violence 1
Aggravated Vehicular Homicide	1	Inducing Panic 5
Arson	1	Intimidation 3
Assault	35	Involuntary Manslaughter 1
Attempt to Commit Aggravated Arson	1	Making Terrorist Threats 3
Attempted Breaking and Entering	2	Menacing by Stalking 2
Attempted Trespass in a Habitation	1	Misuse of Credit Cards 3
Breaking & Entering	21	Murder 4
Burglary	13	Obstructing Justice 2
Carrying Concealed Weapon	33	Obstructing Official Business 7
Complicity to Aggravated Burglary	2	Pandering Obscenity 3
Complicity to Breaking and Entering	6	Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor 9
Complicity to Burglary	1	Pandering Sexually Oriented Matter 2
Complicity to Felonious Assault	2	Participation in a Criminal Gang 1
Complicity to Grand Theft	1	Passing Bad Checks 1
Complicity to Identity Fraud	1	Possession of Criminal Tools 4
Complicity to Misuse of Credit Card	1	Rape 23
Complicity to Vandalism	7	Receiving Stolen Property 14
Corrupting Another with Drugs	4	Reckless Homicide 1
Criminal Damaging	2	Robbery 31
Discharge Firearm into Occupied Habitation	2	Sexual Battery 4
Discharge Firearm on or near Prohibited Premises	5	Tampering with Evidence 15
Disrupting Public Services	3	Telecommunications Fraud 1
Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juveniles	1	Theft 28
Domestic Violence	13	Trafficking in Marijuana 1
Drug Possession – Cocaine	3	Trespass in a Habitation 2
Drug Possession – Marijuana	1	Unauthorized Use of Property 3
Escape	2	UUMV 2
Failure to Comply with Police	13	Vandalism 36
Felonious Assault	38	Vehicular Assault 1
Forgery	2	Vehicular Homicide 1
Grand Theft – Firearm / Dangerous Ordinance	15	Voluntary Manslaughter 1

The following table represents the 5 most common Felony charges filed in 2022:

Most Common Felony Charge(s) on Initial Complaint	Female	Male	Total
Felonious Assault	2	36	<b>38</b>
Vandalism	7	29	<b>36</b>
Assault	10	25	<b>35</b>
Carrying Concealed Weapon	0	33	<b>33</b>
Robbery	6	25	<b>31</b>

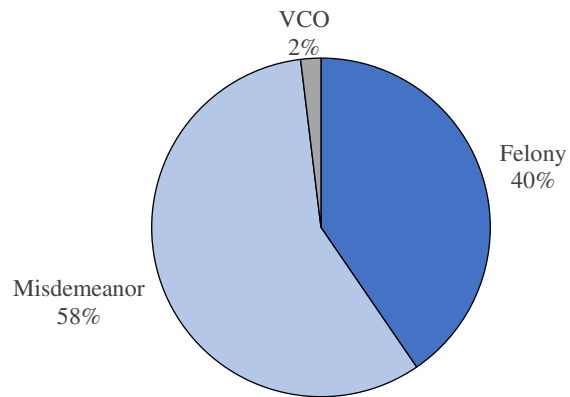
### Misdemeanor Charges

In 2022, there was a significant decrease in the number of cases with only Misdemeanor charges filed with the Court, as most of those cases now go through Diversion. There were a total of 786 Juvenile Misdemeanor charges filed in 2022. The following table represents the 5 most common Misdemeanor charges filed in 2022:

Most Common Misdemeanor Charge(s) on Initial Complaint	Female	Male	Total
Domestic Violence	49	51	<b>100</b>
Disorderly Conduct	28	64	<b>92</b>
Assault	29	55	<b>84</b>
Criminal Trespassing	9	62	<b>71</b>
Petty Theft	2	59	<b>61</b>

### Additional Case Demographics

Total Offenses Initially Charged	
Unclassified Felony*	4
F1	50
F2	87
F3	96
F4	125
F5	184
M1	379
M2	127
M3	53
M4	178
MM	41
PV/VCO *	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>1350</b>



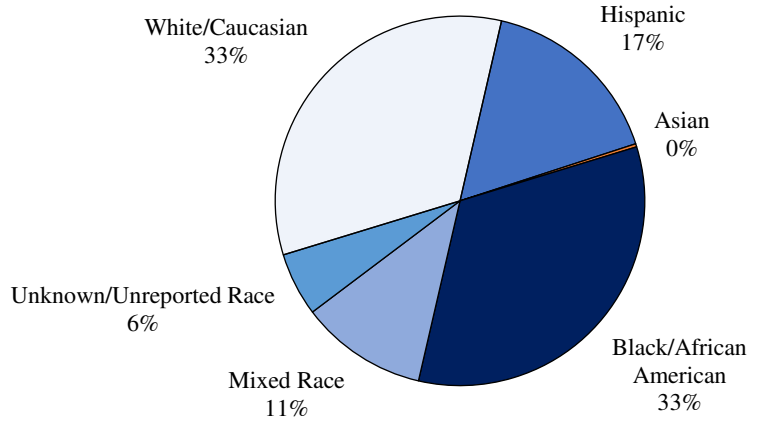
\*Unclassified Felony: Felonies that are not classified by a degree. The 4 unclassified felonies listed above represent Murder.

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

## 2022 Offenses by Race and Ethnicity

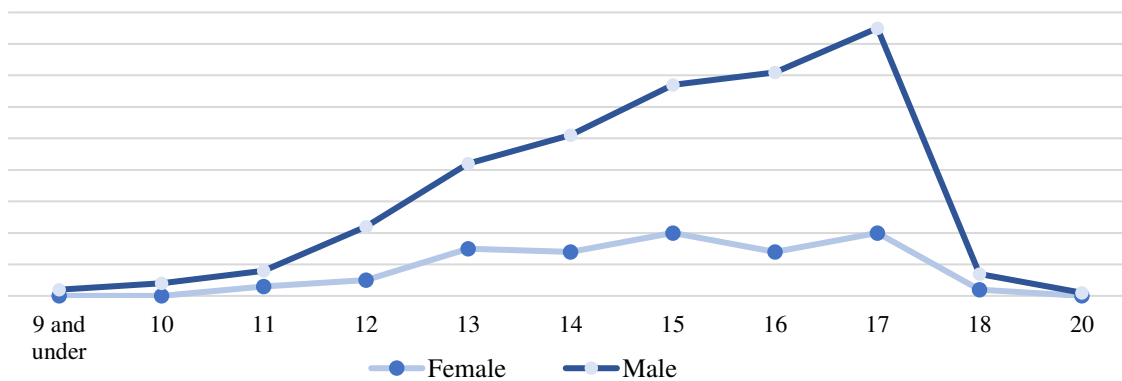
A juvenile offender can have more than one Complaint filed at different times throughout the year. There were 360 youth who had Complaints filed against them in 2022, which accounts for the 532 Complaints. Below is the demographic information of the youth who had a Complaint filed in 2022:

Race / Ethnicity	Total
Asian	1
Black/African American	120
Hispanic	59
Mixed Race	40
Unknown/Unreported Race	20
White/Caucasian	120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>360</b>



Age and Gender of Youth*	Female	Male	Total
Age 9 and under	0	2	2
10	0	4	4
11	3	5	8
12	5	17	22
13	15	27	42
14	14	37	51
15	20	47	67
16	14	57	71
17	20	65	85
18	2	5	7
20	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	93	267	<b>360</b>

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



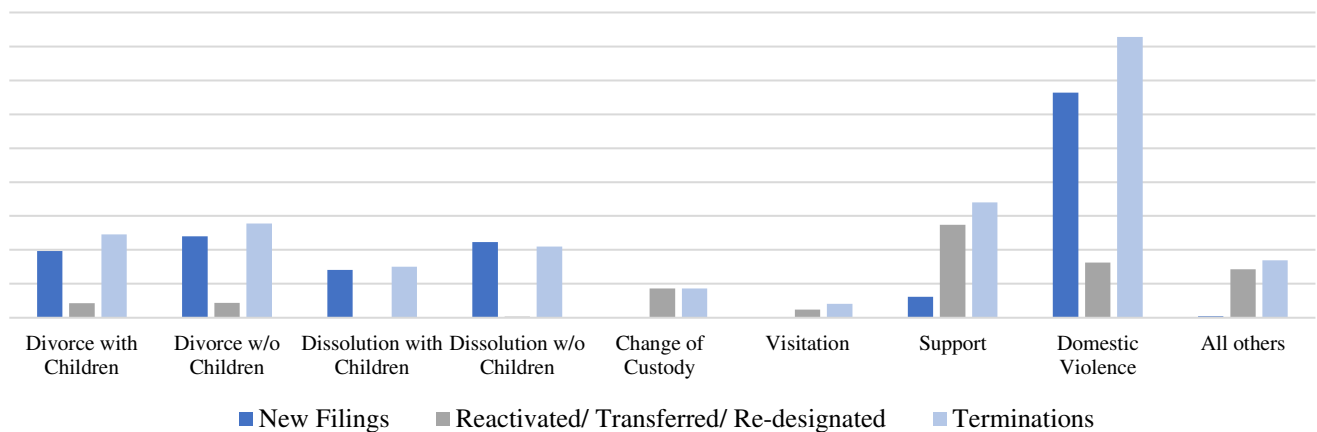
# DOMESTIC RELATIONS CLERK’S OFFICE

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. These 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 processes adult Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order requests.

## 2022 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.

Type of Filing	New Filings	Reactivated/ Transferred/ Re-designated	Terminations
Divorce with Children	197	43	246
Divorce w/o Children	240	44	278
Dissolution with Children	141	0	150
Dissolution w/o Children	223	3	210
Change of Custody	1	86	86
Visitation	0	24	41
Support	62	274	340
Domestic Violence	664	163	828
All others	4	143	169
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>2,348</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.

The purpose of the Domestic Support Department is to provide judicial services to address all issues 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.

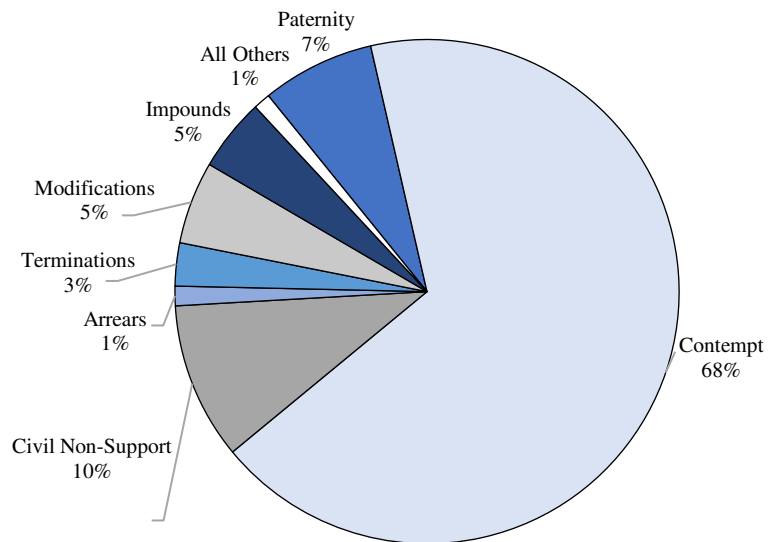
The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court contracted for both judicial services and juvenile clerking services for 2022. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$360,916.15 and the magistrate services contract totaled \$529,553.83.

The 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 2022 calendar year, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 7,565 hearings involving issues of child support including: Paternity, Contempt, Civil Non-Support, Arrears, Terminations, Modifications, Impounds, Contempt of Court, and others. This was a 64% increase from 2021. Contempt hearings increased by 127% from 2021.

The Juvenile Clerk’s Office registered 17,864 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2022. This was an increase of 35% from 2021.

Hearing Type	Count
Paternity	548
Contempt	5115
Civil Non-Support	762
Arrears	95
Terminations	209
Modifications	401
Impounds	353
All Others	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,565</b>



## ASSIGNMENT COMMISSIONERS

The Assignment Commissioners maintain the Court dockets for both Domestic Relations and Juvenile Magistrates and Judges. 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 court hearings, needing documents/paperwork, or asking questions. Assignment Commissioners are also responsible for ensuring victims are protected by directing individuals to private waiting rooms.

Court hearings have continued to be conducted by Zoom; however, in 2022,

there was an increase of in-person hearings and/or hybrid hearings. Assignment Commissioners have adapted to meet the needs of the public, and work to ensure that parties have the proper Zoom information. In addition, the Court has designated rooms for litigants who receive assistance by the Assignment Commissioners with Zoom on Court computers.

Understanding that the transition from in-person hearings to virtual hearings has been a significant change for the public, Assignment Commissioners ensure all parties have the necessary information they need to appear virtually. The work of the Assignment Commissioners allows the Court to function seamlessly and effortlessly.

## FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Family Court Services (FCS) Specialists are state Certified Mediators that 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 2022, Family Court Services also began conducting *Adult Truancy Conferences*. Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor cases, where an adult is charged for failing to send a child to school, are referred to Family Court Services by a Jurist. In these conferences, the Specialist works with schools and families to create a plan to address school attendance and underlying barriers. If the parent is unsuccessful with completing the plan, the Specialist may refer the case for formal charges through the Juvenile Court Process.

Since the pandemic, the number of cases referred to Family Court Services by the Magistrates and Judges has steadily increased.

The following illustrates the number of referrals received and/or services offered by Family Court Services in 2022:

Case Type	2022 Numbers
Adult Truancy Cases (Cases Referred)	74
Adult Truancy Conferences Held	33
Home Inspections (Cases Referred)	26
Investigations (Cases Referred)	43
Mediation (Court Referred & <i>Pro Se</i> Referrals)	41 Court Ordered 3 <i>Pro Se</i>
Supervised Visits Conducted	115
Seminar for Separating Parents (Attended)	607

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 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 FCS 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 Family Court Services, the FCS Specialist will facilitate and observe visitation between the parties and the minor child(ren). The FCS Specialist will provide intervention and assistance when necessary and also work with the families to create safe exchange plans. There are two visitation rooms for families located at the Justice Center, and some of the visits also occur by Zoom. The assigned

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 2022, the Seminar was offered exclusively by Zoom. The Seminar includes a presentation from one of the three Judges regarding general legal information about the Court process and what to expect and information from 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.

## VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Voices for Children (VFC) is affiliated with and 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 Voices for Children 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 Voices for Children Program are provided by the National VOCA Grant, State SVAA Grant, and local funding.

VOCA (Grant):	\$84,527
State (SVAA):	\$2,880
Local Court:	\$161,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$248,407</b>

Voices for Children 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.

The volunteers review records, conduct interviews, and maintain contact with

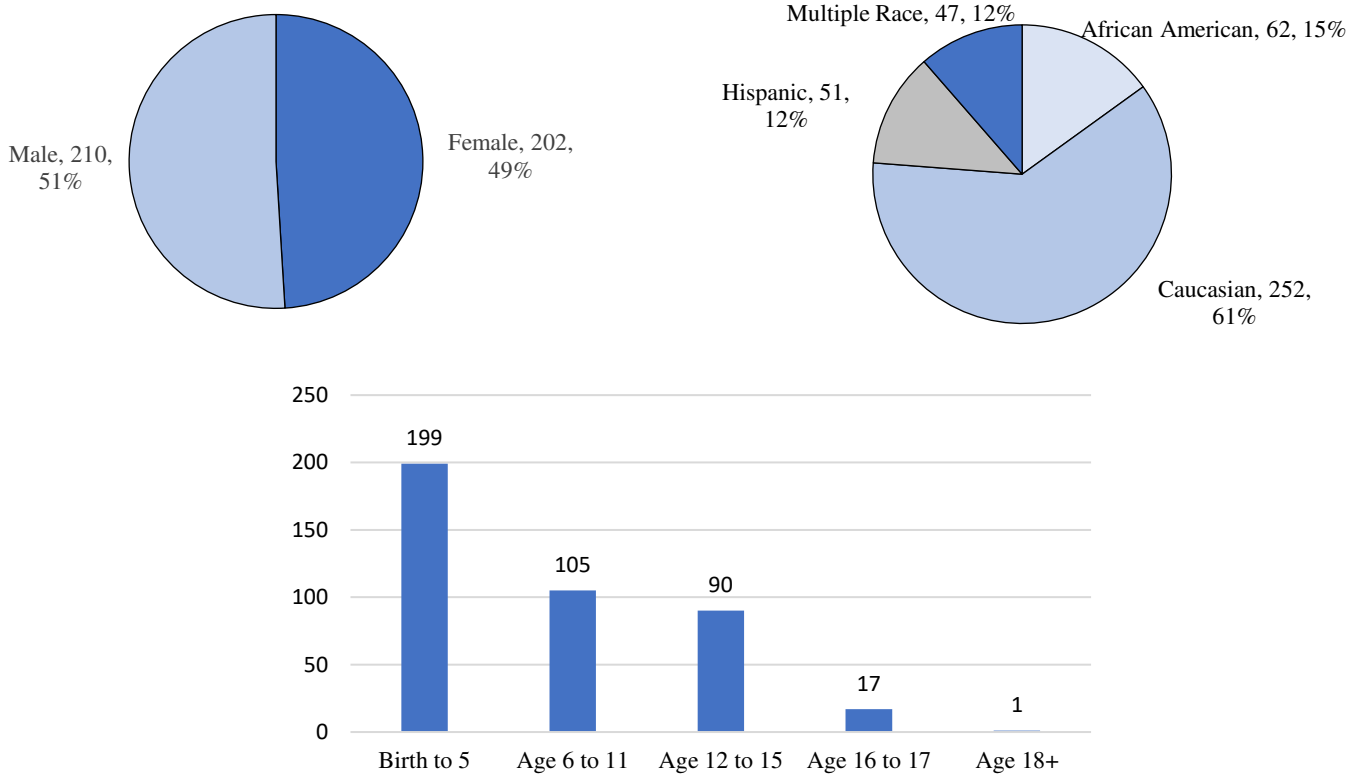
parents, relatives, foster parents, neighbors, and most importantly, the child. Upon completion of the investigation, the CASA-GAL appears in Court, provides information, and makes recommendations as to what course of action is in the best interest of the child.

CASA-GAL volunteers must complete 30-hours of pre-service training which includes four classroom sessions (28 hours) and additional hours for courtroom observation (minimum of 2 hours). All CASA-GAL Volunteers are screened, interviewed, and receive a criminal background check administered through the Web-Check System. The Judge administers an oath, and the volunteers are then recognized as Officers of the Court. In addition, the Volunteer CASA/GAL is required to attend 12-hours of continuing education annually.

The success of the Voices for Children 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 the Voices for Children Program

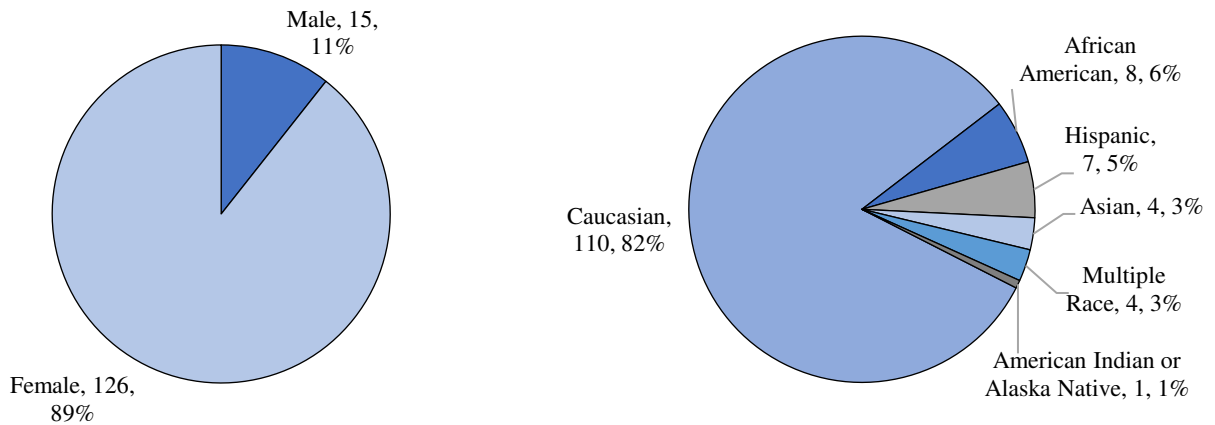
## Children Served

Each volunteer is assigned as the guardian ad litem for children who are alleged to be neglected and/or dependent. In 2022, volunteers served 412 children. The following is the demographics information of the children served in 2022:



## Voices for Children Volunteers

In 2022, the Voices for Children Program had 134 active volunteers, ranging in age from 21 to 60+ years old, with a median age of 51.1. The educational completion of volunteers range from high school graduate to post collegiate graduate. The following represents the demographic information of the volunteers in 2022:



# **DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND YOUTH SERVICES**

Jennifer Marple/Sarah Tremont, Chief Probation Officer

## **INTRODUCTION**

Lorain County Department of Probation and Youth Services (“Juvenile Probation”) provides services to youth and families referred to by the Court in an effort to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. The Juvenile Probation Department includes the Juvenile Court Assessment & Resource Center, Diversion, Attendance Program, Investigation & Referral, Predisposition Services, General Probation, and Crossroads Evening Reporting Program.

As youth are alleged to have committed status (unruly/ungovernable/truant), misdemeanor, and/or felony offenses, Probation Department staff utilizes evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing, Carey Guides, and Thinking for a Change to provide case management services and to identify barriers and needs of the youth and family. The Court continues to work with county and state partners to learn and employ the best methods possible 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. Since the Court was accepted as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and an Ohio Probation Transformation (OPT) Court, the Court continues to receive training and coaching designed to foster important changes.

A key component to increase better outcomes for youth is through collaboration with the community. The Court has been trained in the Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) curriculum, which is an approach that challenges community stakeholders to rethink the conventional approach to working with youth and instead adopt a Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach that facilitates growth and development. In 2022, the Court hosted a Resource Fair at the Lorain County Community College, with over 50 community agencies in attendance. The Court will continue educating the community by hosting RJJ events in 2023.

In 2022, the Court experienced an increase in youth weapons related charges and violent offenses. As a result, the number of youth commitments to the Ohio Department of Youth Services increased in 2022. To meet the needs of the community, the Probation Department utilizes a variety of programming, services, and levels of supervision. These services are summarized below.

## **JUVENILE INTAKE DEPARTMENT**

The Lorain County Juvenile Court Intake Department, located at the Lorain County Detention Home, performs several functions for the Court. The unit processes the following:

- Unofficial Complaints and police reports referred for diversion services through the Assessment Center and/or Diversion Program
- Tobacco and Curfew violations
- Requests from law enforcement for admission to the Detention Home
- Initial detention and arraignment hearings for youth admitted to the Lorain County Detention Home
- All official Complaints for alleged truant behavior for juveniles and adults

### **DETENTION MATTERS**

One primary Intake Magistrate, with the assistance of the three Judges and three Delinquency Magistrates, is available twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days per week, to respond to law enforcement requests for admission of juvenile offenders to the Lorain County Detention Home. The Intake Magistrate conducts initial detention and arraignment hearings for all youth who have been admitted to the Detention Home. After a juvenile is admitted into secure detention, there will be a formal hearing the next business day, but no later than 72-hours after admission.

### **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CASES**

In Ohio, if a juvenile and/or adult caregiver meet certain truancy criteria, a Complaint may be filed in Juvenile Court against a juvenile, the parent/caregiver, or both. All official Complaints concerning school attendance are initially treated informally to provide an opportunity to divert the matter from formal court action. If diversion attempts are unsuccessful, then the case may be referred back to the Intake Magistrate for consideration of formal charges. The Intake Magistrate will preside over all the formal truancy actions. Cases involving youth who are no longer of compulsory school age, currently on court supervision in other matters, or who have relocated outside of Lorain County's jurisdiction, are dismissed.

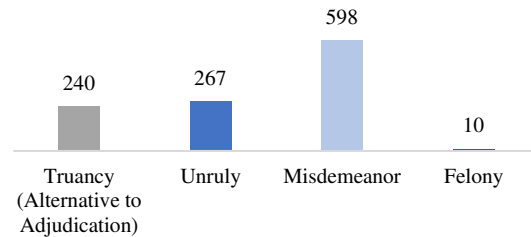
## ASSESSMENT CENTER

In 2019, Lorain County Juvenile Court received funding through the Ohio Department of Youth Services to create an Assessment Center in 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 8 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 with youth who are not appropriate for secure detention.

The Assessment & Resource 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 Short Screener, a Public Health Screener, and the OYAS Diversion Tool. 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 the Juvenile Justice system, 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 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 2022, one thousand one hundred fifteen (1,115) cases were referred to the Assessment Center.** There are four offense classifications of referrals to the Assessment Center. The breakdown of the classifications in 2022 is listed below.

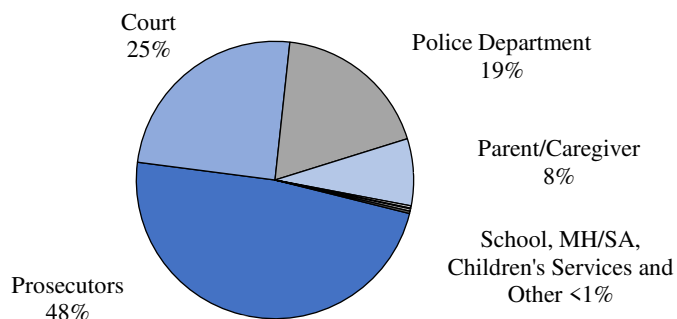


*2022 AC Referral Offense Classification*

Referral Offense Classification	
Truancy (Alternative to Adjudication)	240
Unruly	267
Misdemeanor	598
Felony	10

Assessment Referral Sources	
Prosecutors	537
Court/ Magistrate	275
Police Department	206
Parent / Caregiver	87
School	3
Children Services	3
MH/SA Agency	3
Other	1

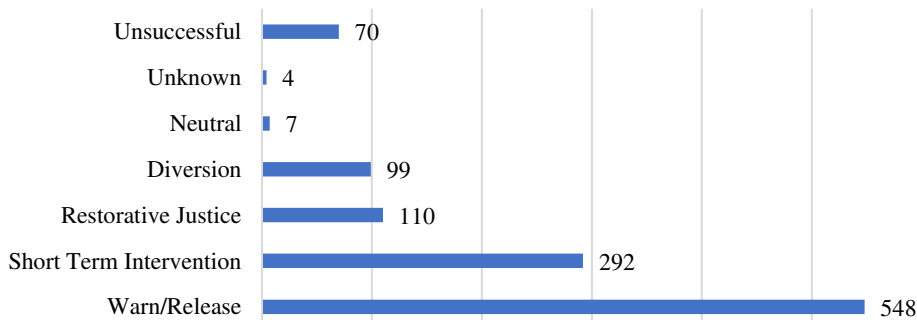




2022 AC Referral Sources

### Referral Outcomes

During 2022, the Assessment Center closed 1,062 cases, leaving 53 cases pending at the end of 2022 and into 2023. Below is a breakdown of all the cases that were closed in 2022. These numbers reflect cases that may have been opened in 2021 or 2022.



2022 AC Referral Decisions

### Referral Outcomes by Race

	White/ Caucasian	Black/ African American	Multiple Race	Latino/ Hispanic	Asian	Unknown
Warn/Release	261	194	21	49	0	23
Short Term Intervention	156	62	29	39	3	3
Restorative Justice	52	34	6	15	1	2
Diversion	41	22	17	19	0	0
Neutral	2	2	3	0	0	0
Unknown	2	1	0	0	0	1
Unsuccessful	26	21	8	10	0	5

## **DIVERSION SERVICES**

In 2022, Diversion Services continued to front-load 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 Lorain County Assessment and 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 safety 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 Referrals

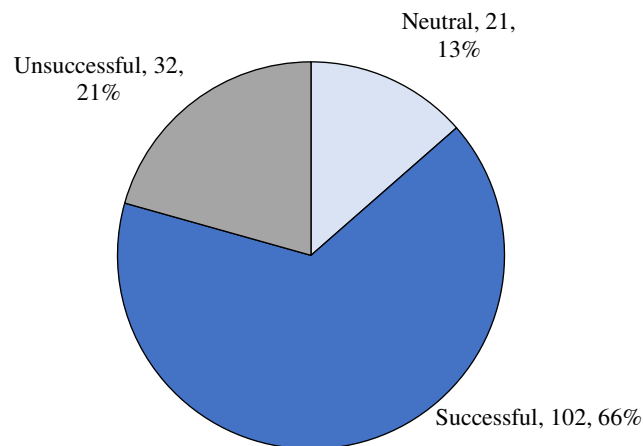
2022 Diversion Cases	
Carryovers	31
Referred in 2022	124
Cases Processed in 2022	155
Carryovers to 2023	31

2022 Referrals by Gender	
Female	52
Male	71
Non-Binary / Unknown	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

2022 Referrals by Race / Ethnicity	
White / Caucasian	52
Black / African American	33
Mixed Race	18
Hispanic	18
Asian	1
Unknown /Unreported	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

## Diversion Outcomes

Of the 155 Diversion cases processed in 2022, 102 were successfully completed. There were 21 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.



*2022 Diversion Case Completion Status*

# TRUANCY

The process for addressing truancy follows a continuum of approaches from prevention to intervention to prosecution. In the 2017-2018 school year, new legislation went into effect which changed the methods of calculating when a juvenile is truant. In addition, under the new laws, truancy interventions are aimed at identifying and addressing non-academic barriers that keep students from attending school daily.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

To fulfill the mandated requirements under the law and address unique barriers, the Lorain County Juvenile Court’s Attendance Program works in unison with partnering school districts to address attendance issues of students. The Attendance 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.

In the 2021/2022 school year, the Attendance Program had 1,432 referrals. Of those referrals, 1,281 were handled unofficially resulting in diversion prior to a Complaint being filed.

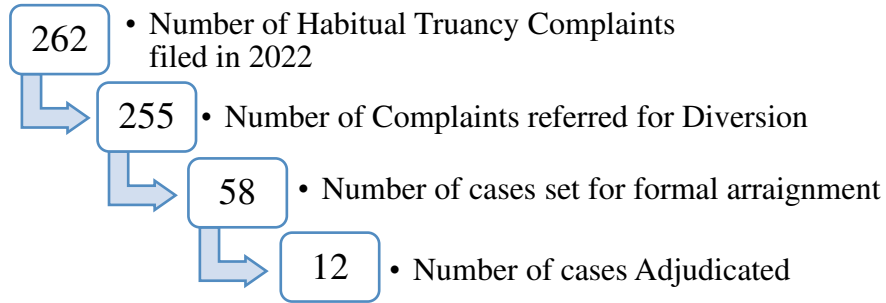
School Districts and Numbers of Referrals – 1,432 Total			
Avon	129	LCJVS	78
Avon Lake	92	Midview	217
Clearview	202	North Ridgeville	138
Columbia	47	Oberlin	44
Firelands	184	Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	179
Keystone	55	Wellington	67

## JUVENILE TRUANCY COMPLAINTS

**There were 262 Habitual Truant Complaints filed in 2022.** Each juvenile in the truancy cases, pursuant to Ohio’s attendance laws, was required to be considered for an Alternative to Adjudication program. 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.

The following statistics show all formal court actions that occurred on habitual truancy cases during the 2022 calendar year. These statistics include actions taken on cases that

may have been filed prior to 2022, but were still open or re-opened during the calendar year:



Of the 255 Complaints that were referred to Diversion, 157 cases were successfully diverted. See below for the completion status of the 255 Complaints:

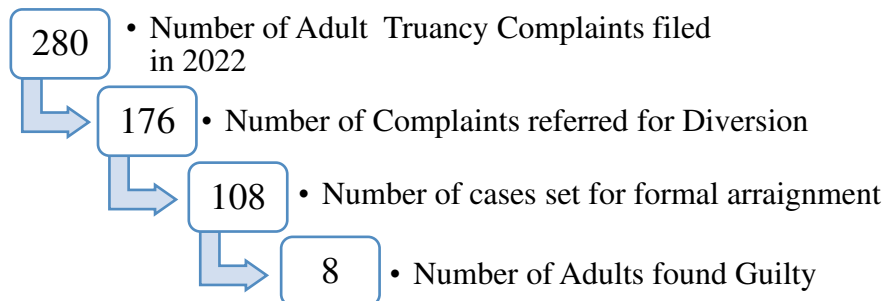
Completion Status	
Successfully Diverted	157
Neutral Discharge	14
Unsuccessfully Closed	9
Unsuccessfully Diverted / Referred for Formal Complaint	73
Unknown	2

### ADULT TRUANCY CASES

In 2022, there were **280** 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, the adult case was held in abeyance (“on hold”) until there was an outcome to the Alternative to Adjudication process.

If the Alternative to Adjudication process for the juvenile was unsuccessful or there was no juvenile companion case, the adult case was offered a diversionary option. In the beginning of 2022, a new process was put in place to address these Complaints. Instead of the Adults being diverted through an informal process overseen by the Intake Magistrate, the cases were referred to the Family Court Services for Adult Truancy Conferences.

The following statistics represent all formal court actions that occurred on adult truancy cases during the 2022 calendar year. These statistics include actions taken on cases that may have been filed prior to 2021, but were still open or re-opened during the calendar year:



## **SUPPLEMENTAL DIVERSION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

In addition to Diversion Services, the Court provides specific diversionary programs for youth.

### **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 heard by Magistrates and the Diversion Specialist.

**In 2022, seven (7) youth were referred and seven (7) successfully completed (100% successful completion rate).** Upon completion, the YES Program rates the youth on likelihood to reoffend. In 2022, program youths were rated as 89%, “Low Risk to Re-Offend,” which is above the national average of 65% for the program.

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

The Court designed the Eduvention Program to provide drug and alcohol education and information to juveniles and parents who are referred to the Court for misdemeanor alcohol and/or drug offenses. Juveniles and their parent/guardian are given the opportunity to attend the four sessions of the program in lieu of a delinquency charge being filed.

Eligible participants are typically, but not exclusively, first time offenders. Some participants are Court-ordered to attend the sessions, while others are referred by the Prosecutor’s Office after reviewing a police report provided to the Court without official charges being filed. The Court maintains a record of any attendance in the program, regardless of referral source.

The LCADA Way (“LCADA”), which is a non-profit organization based in Lorain County, provides the Eduvention programming at an off-site location with no cost to the participants. LCADA administers pre- and post-program testing, as well as a screening instrument, to participants to determine the need for further assistance or treatment. After an orientation meeting with families, some individuals are determined to require additional interventions, and LCADA staff refers them accordingly.

The Eduvention Program had sixty-four (64) new referrals in 2022.

## IN-HOME DETENTION/PRE-DISPOSITIONAL SERVICES

The In-Home Detention/Pre-Dispositional Services Program (IHD/PDS) provides an alternative to secure detention for youth awaiting adjudication and/or disposition. Youth who have been identified by a Judge or Magistrate as requiring supervision or electronic monitoring due to the nature of their offense and/or behavior since the offense will be referred to the program. IHD has also been utilized in providing monitoring services for those juveniles who are proceeding through the Competency Attainment Program (CAP).

Pre-Dispositional Services has three main supervision options: In-Home Reporting, In-Home Detention, and Temporary Orders.

***In-Home Reporting:*** Youth placed on in-home reporting are required to call into IHD/PDS staff bi-weekly to “check-in.” Staff can also field phone calls from parents/caregivers to report violations.

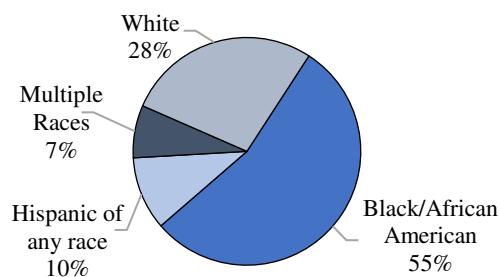
***In-Home Detention (IHD):*** Youth placed on IHD have not been adjudicated and are working through the pre-trial stages of Court proceedings. Youth on IHD cannot leave home without authorization and are limited to who is allowed to visit their residence.

***Temporary Orders:*** Youth placed on Temporary Orders have been adjudicated but are waiting dispositional orders. Youth on Temporary Orders typically are subjected to the same supervisory requirements as IHD youth.

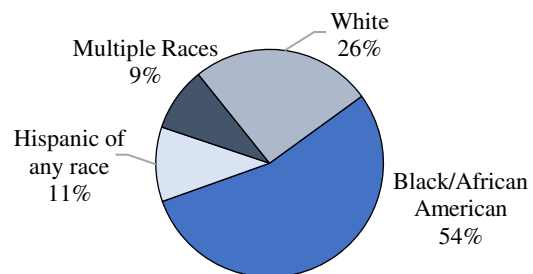
Youth may be ordered by a Judge or Magistrate to be placed on a GPS or cell electronic monitoring device (EMD), which is worn on the youth’s ankle. Use of this equipment permits 24-hour monitoring of a youth’s adherence to “home detention” by Court staff. The youth and the parent/guardian are required to sign a contract to ensure compliance and to report any non-compliance with program rules.

While on the program, Court staff conduct random visits to the juveniles’ home, school, and work sites. Contacts are also made by phone and text messaging. Random drug testing is also available for identified youth. Violation of program rules or further criminal activity could result in the child being remanded to the Lorain County Detention Home.

The following represents the demographic information for juveniles placed on PDS Supervision and youth placed on EMD for any of the PDS programs:

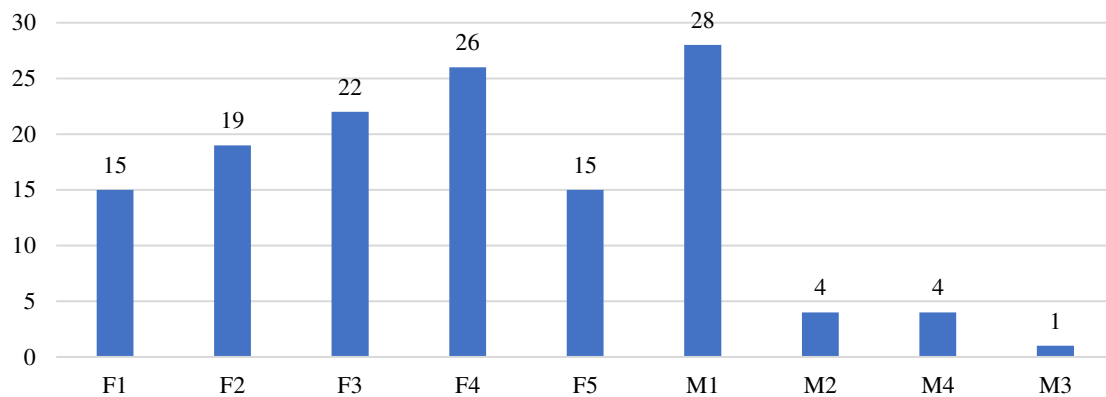


*Youth Placed on PDS in 2022*



*Youth Placed on EMD in 2022*

Juveniles may be placed on PDS with more than one charge/case pending. The chart below depicts the highest offense level for each case requiring PDS Supervision in 2022.



*Highest Offense of PDS Supervised Youth Placed on in 2022*

## **INVESTIGATION AND REFERRAL PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Investigation and Referral (I&R) Program is to 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, a Case Planner 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).

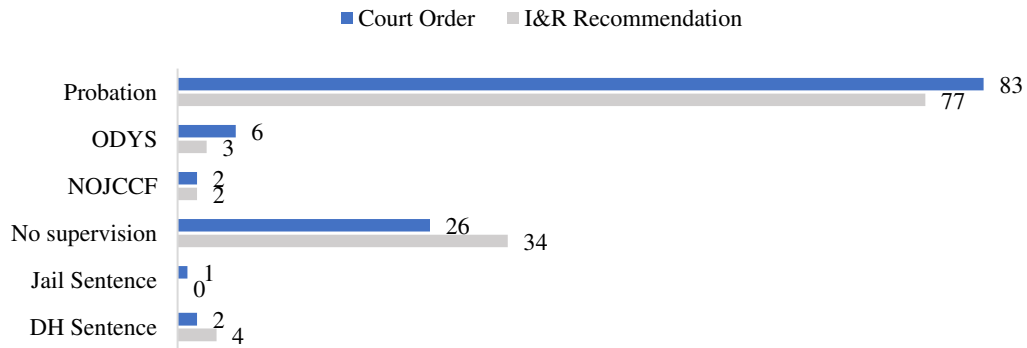
The Case Planners also have the option to refer any youth who meets criteria for a comprehensive psychological evaluation through Bellefaire JCB's *Juvenile Offender Program (JOP)*. This evaluation is considered if the youth has a qualifying offense and there is concern the youth may be suffering severe mental illness. These youth typically have either not been previously psychologically evaluated or there is concern the youth has been historically misdiagnosed.

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

In 2022, 124 Cases were referred to the I &R Program, and all cases except for 12 were closed in 2022. There was a total of 120 cases closed in 2022, 28 of which were carried



over from 2021. The data below represents the 120 I&R cases that had a disposition and were closed in 2022:

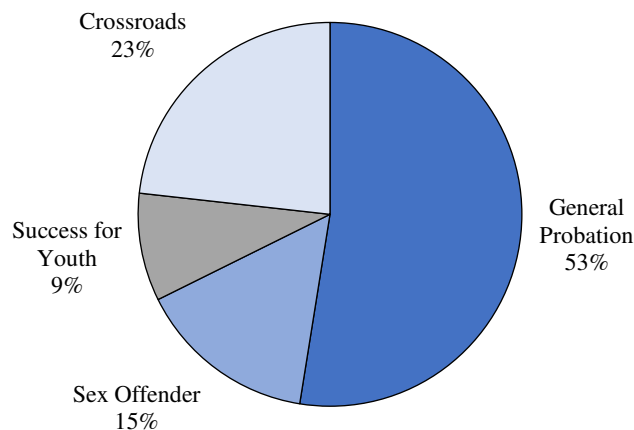


*I&R Recommendations vs. Case Disposition*

## COMMUNITY SUPERVISION PROGRAMS

The following tables/charts indicate the number of youths who were placed onto 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. Additionally, Juvenile Drug Court and Mental Health Court were both discontinued in June 2022; therefore, those programs are not represented on the chart below.

*Community Supervision Program	White/Caucasian	Black/African American	Mixed Race	Hispanic of Any Race	Total
General Probation	13	21	7	11	52
Sex Offender	8	2	0	5	15
Success for Youth	2	2	2	3	9
Crossroads	5	11	2	5	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>99</b>



## **GENERAL PROBATION**

Juveniles placed on General Probation are typically at moderate or high risk to re-offend. They are assigned to General Probation when they are assessed as best able to benefit from individualized services in the community, rather than a specific program or more 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 the Court deems 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 establishment of rapport and shared vision of the changes the youth and family must make to reduce risk of re-offending. Probation Officers use behavioral change tools such as motivational interviewing tools, Carey Guides, and community-based services to address identified needs. The Probation Officer maintains regular contact with the juvenile, parents, school officials, service providers, and other individuals significant in the juvenile's life. The juvenile and family are responsible for utilizing Court-ordered services to achieve case plan goals, complying with the law and rules of Probation, and maintaining required contact with the Probation Department.

Probation Officers review and update case plans regularly to assess whether the family or juvenile's need for services has changed or is more significant than originally considered. The 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. The responsibilities of the Probation Officer include notifying all parties of hearings, providing security services for the Court, participating in meetings with outside agencies, assisting families in working with those agencies, and working with various school systems.

General Probation also supervises youth who receive services from the Juvenile Offender Project (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 currently involved with the Court, primarily for offenses of violence that have exhibited significant mental health issues. The assessments may be completed by Bellefaire JCB or a contracted service provider. Community resources are recommended, and services put in place to assist the juvenile and family. Bellefaire JCB also provides a JOP/residential bed when the need for inpatient treatment is indicated.

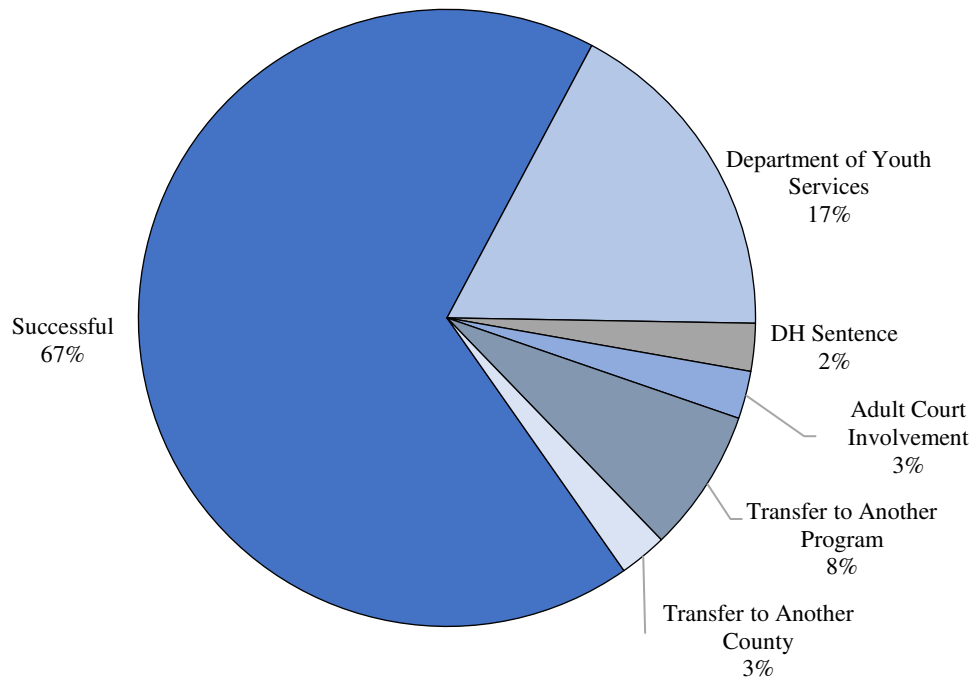
General Probation Officers also provide supervision for youth placed in Community Correctional Facilities (CCF) and any adults placed on supervision for Contributing to the Unruliness or Delinquency of a Minor.

A total of 77 juveniles were served on General Probation in 2022, including 25 carry-overs from 2020 and 2021. The demographic information for youth served on General Probation in 2022 is indicated below:

2022 General Probation Youth Demographics	White	Black	Mixed Race	Hispanic Any Race	Total
Carry Over from 2022	14	7	2	2	25
Placed on	13	21	7	11	52
Released	13	15	5	7	40
Carry Over into 2023	14	13	4	6	37

### General Probation Termination Outcomes

There were 40 youth released from General Probation in 2022, with 27 of those youth released successfully. Of the remaining 13 cases, seven received a DYS commitment, one was sentenced to the Detention Home, one was transferred to Adult Court, three were transferred to another program, and one was transferred out of the county.



2022 General Probation Termination Outcome Percentages

## SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a sexual offense are referred for a sex offender risk assessment, which is completed by a licensed and certified sex offender evaluator. The assessment determines appropriate recommendations based on risk level, with options including community treatment, out-of-home placement, or commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Working in conjunction with I&R and the sex offender evaluator, the Probation Officer will design safety plans for juveniles who remain in the community to provide adequate supervision of the offender and protection for the victim. Offenders participate in individual therapy with local agency treatment providers or through their placement if placed in a treatment program. Offenders are considered for release from this program when their treatment provider has indicated that they have completed their counseling and/or programming. Failure to complete all requirements of the program may result in further Court action, typically necessitating out of home placement.

In 2022, 15 youth were placed on the Sex Offender Program with 9 carried over from prior years. One (1) of the youth was in either a secure or non-secure out-of-home placement. The youth either carried over or placed on this program during the 2022 year all identified as male apart from two (2) youth who identified as female.

<b>2022 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	6	1	1	1	<b>9</b>
Placed on	8	2	0	5	<b>15</b>
Released	6	2	0	2	<b>10</b>
Carry Over into 2023	8	1	1	4	<b>14</b>

In 2022, 10 youth were released from the Sex Offender Program and 7 were released successfully. Of the remaining 3, 1 received a County Jail Sentence, 1 was transferred out of the county, and 1 is unknown.

## SUCCESS FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

Success for Youth Program provides programming and skill development for court-involved youth who may be facing additional barriers, such as mental health symptoms, substance abuse issues, and/or 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.

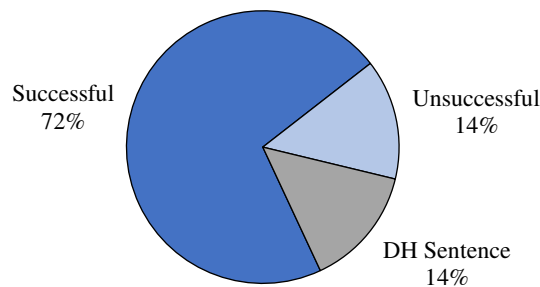
Catholic Charities collaborates with the Court to provide case management, social skills development, assistance with career development, computer skills, and realistic job skills training that is designed to meet educational and employment needs, as well as personal development. Juveniles on Success for Youth probation attend group sessions twice weekly 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 system, 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 2022, the Success for Youth Program received 9 cases and 6 cases were carried over from 2021. Of those 15 cases, 13 of the youth identified as male and 2 identified as female.

2022 Success for Youth Demographics	White	Black	Mixed Race	Hispanic Any Race	Total
Prior Year Carry Over	2	3	0	1	6
Placed on	2	2	2	3	9
Released	2	3	0	2	7
Carry Over into 2023	2	2	2	2	8

Seven (7) Success for Youth cases were closed in 2022, five (5) successfully, and two (2) unsuccessfully.



*2022 Success for Youth Termination Outcome Percentages*

## **CROSSROADS PROGRAM**

The Crossroads program was launched July 1, 2019. Moderate to high-risk male and female juvenile offenders, 13-18 years of age, are the target population for the high-level court supervision program. Program youth are on a trajectory for removal from the home based on the severity of the placement offense, delinquency history, criminal behavior, community risk and concerns, and previous ineffective programming efforts.

In 2021, the Program was modified to include tracks and incentive programs. The Crossroads Program is divided into two tracks. Track A is designed for criminal-thinking youth that require a high level of supervision yet are not involved in extensive treatment services. Track A youth are connected with an onsite Applewood clinician who provides ongoing youth, parent, and family case management services as well as group counseling activities. Youth that need a high level of supervision, but also in need of more intensive therapeutic care, participate in the program through track B. Track B adjusts for the time that is needed for youth to participate in the community/home treatment services by reducing the frequency and number of total reporting days required.

Each track is limited to a maximum of 8 youth (16 total) in the Reporting Phase. Each track has a unique 13-week reporting schedule in which youth report to the Crossroads center, followed by a standard 4-week minimum Aftercare Phase. While on the Reporting Phase, youth report to the Crossroads facility from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm during the school year and 10:00 am to 2:00 pm during the summer months. Staff will coordinate, assist, and monitor an individualized need-driven therapeutic and counseling experience, as well as facilitate independent living skills, unique learning experiences, and group activities.

Each Reporting Phase track consists of a levels system, which allows youth to earn reduced reporting requirements and eventually earn placement into the Aftercare Phase of the program. The Aftercare Phase is a 4-week minimum non-reporting monitoring period for both tracks that allows youth to continue therapeutic services. This period will also serve as an opportunity to ensure that youth are appropriately using newly obtained skills in the community and the home. Upon successfully completing case plan requirements, youth will be terminated from the Aftercare Phase and discharged from the Crossroads Program. A Surveillance Monitor will conduct home visits on the weekends to provide additional supervision and support.

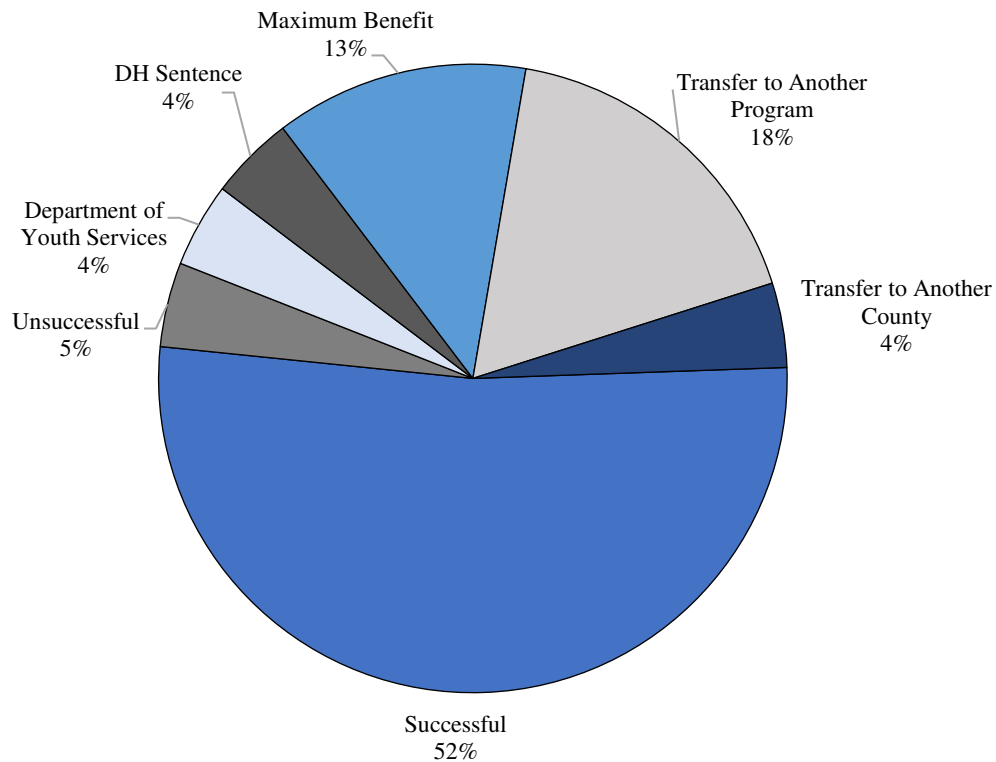
Youth in the Program will receive therapeutic services including Thinking for a Change, Making Proud Choices, mental health counseling, and Substance Use Disorders (SUD) services when applicable. Youth will also participate in Independent Living exercises, life skills lessons, Career Exploration, Critical Thinking Challenges, and team building exercises.

Youth receive incentives for negative drug screens, school attendance, behavior, engagement in services, and good behavior at home. Youth are incentivized with gift cards, extra snacks, candy bars, additional free time, and meals of their choice.

Through supervision and services received, juveniles will learn new cognitive and pro-social skills designed to modify behaviors and provide youth with tools to make better decisions at home and in the community. As behavioral habits change, the youth and family will notice improvements not only in the behavior of the child, but also the environment at home. In 2022, the Crossroads Program received 23 cases and 12 cases were carried over from prior years. Of those cases, 1 youth identified as female, and the remaining youth identified as male.

<b>2022 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	4	6	1	1	<b>12</b>
Placed on	5	11	2	5	<b>23</b>
Released	7	9	3	4	<b>23</b>
Carry Over into 2023	2	8	0	2	<b>12</b>

Twenty-three (23) Crossroads cases were closed in 2022, 12 of which were terminated successfully.



## 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 2022, \$18,424.15 in restitution payments were collected and distributed to victims.** Of that amount, \$6,286.83 was earned through the Court’s PayBack Program.

2021 Carryovers	2022 New Referrals	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful/ Neutral	Carryover to 2023
47	55	16	2	84

## 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. **In 2022, 1,490 hours of community service were completed.**

2021 Carryovers	2022 New Referrals	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful/ Neutral	Carryover to 2023
21	92	70	0	43

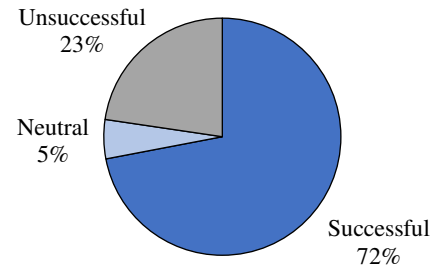


## YOUTH RELEASED FROM SUPERVISION

The following charts and graphs represent youth who were released from probation supervision in 2022, which also includes youth placed on probation supervision prior to 2022.

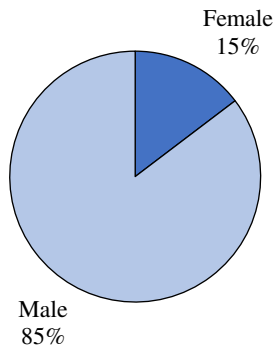
### All Probation Releases in 2022 by Outcome

Successful Releases	54
Neutral	4
Unsuccessful	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>



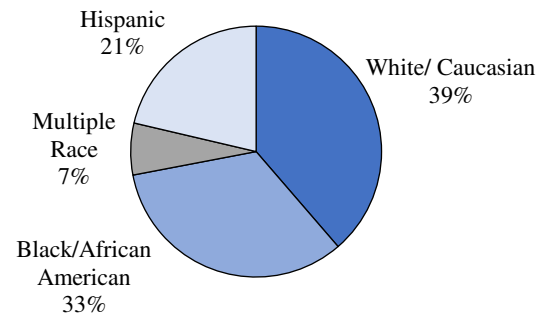
### All Probation Releases in 2022 by Demographics

*Youth Released in 2022 by Gender*



Male	64
Female	11

*Youth Released in 2022 by Race/Ethnicity*



White/Caucasian	29
Black/African American	25
Multiple Race	5
Hispanic	16

*Overall Unsuccessful Terminations by Race/Ethnicity*

Race/Ethnicity	Count	%
Hispanic Any Race	5	29%
Black	6	35%
White	5	29%
Mixed Race	1	6%

*Overall Successful Terminations by Race/Ethnicity*

Race/Ethnicity	Count	%
Hispanic Any Race	9	17%
Black	18	33%
White	23	43%
Mixed Race	4	7%

## COURT-SPONSORED PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Psycho-educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factor associated with criminal behavior. During 2022, the Court utilized evidence-based programming to address criminogenic factors. Evidence-based programs are those whose 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.

Like many other in-person programs offered by the Court, the following programs had many sessions that were either canceled or delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These barriers also caused the number of referrals to decrease. Due to changes in the Court referral process and available facilitators, several of the Court-Sponsored programs were suspended in 2022.

Program	Carry-Overs	2022 Referrals	Successful	Neutral	Unsuccessful/Terminated
Keeping Your Cool (KYC)	16	43	10	24	15
Girls' Circle	7	40	14	24	0
Boys' Council	6	25	16	12	3
Making Proud Choices (MPC)	0	34	13	17	4

### 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.

### Boys' Council

Boys' Council is a strengths-based group approach to promote boys' and 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.

### Making Proud Choices (MPC), aka Personal Responsibility Education Program

Making Proud Choices (MPC) is a comprehensive education program that provides young people with independent living skills as well as accurate and age-appropriate sex education. 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, MPC also offers services to prepare young people for adulthood by implementing activities that address many subjects. MPC was formerly known as Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP).

## **SPECIALIZED DOCKETS**

At the beginning of 2022, the Court was operating two specialized dockets for Juveniles: Mental Health Court and Drug Court. With the implementation of JDAI, it became evident that the juvenile specialized docket model did not correlate with the philosophical approach to probation. Recognizing that many of the youth being served in these programs would benefit from an alternative approach to formal court supervision based on the juvenile's level of risk and needs, these two specialized dockets were discontinued.

### **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 Family Reunification Court Case Manager provides case management services for 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 2022, there were 4 parents that graduated from Family Reunification Court.

# DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

David Lucey, Director

## LORAIN COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION HOME

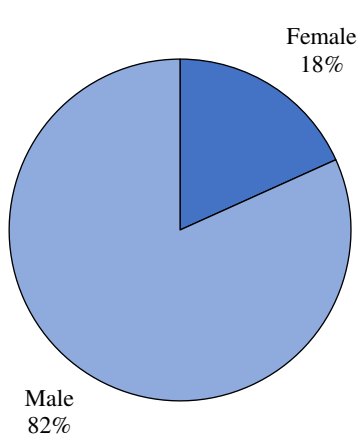
9967 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

The Lorain County Detention Home provides secure confinement of juvenile offenders through the age of 21 years old. Judges and Magistrates determine if secure detention is appropriate by utilizing a screening instrument based on the level of offense, court history, and risk level. 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, which is the maximum number of days a youth can be sentenced to the Detention Home on any given case.

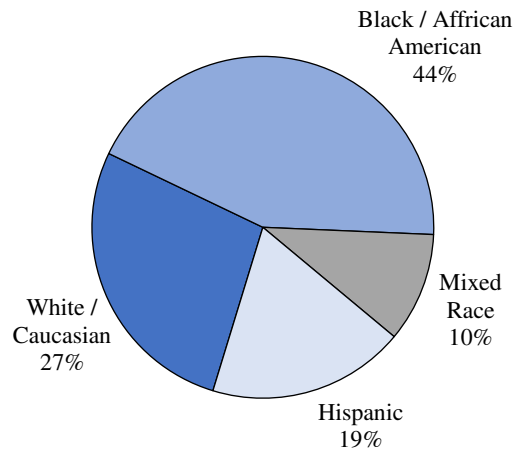
In 2022, there were 241 admissions to the Detention Home with an average length of stay of 33.1 days. There were 197 male admissions and 44 female admissions. Ten (10) juvenile offenders received a DH sentence as part of a dispositional order from a Judge or Magistrate. Detention youth may receive credit for time served prior to a dispositional court hearing. If youth have multiple cases, youth can receive sentences on each case, resulting in a longer stay if a jurist chooses to run the sentences consecutively rather than concurrent.

Minority youth continue to be overrepresented in Lorain County's detainment population. In 2022, White youth constitute 27% of admissions while Black youth make up 44% of admissions. Hispanic youth and Mixed-Race youth account for 19% and 10% of admissions. The White population of Lorain County is 74%, more than twice the admissions percentage at the Lorain County Detention Home. Black youth are admitted to the Detention Home at a rate over five times their representative population; Hispanic youth are admitted at a rate twice their representative population.

The following represents the demographic information of youth admitted to the Detention Home in 2022.



2022 Detention Home Admissions by Gender



2022 Detention Home Admissions by Race/Ethnicity

The Detention Home is licensed by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The facility 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, and two classrooms. The staff ratio during daylight hours is 12:1, with a ratio increasing to 25:1 during non-waking hours.

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 abuse/rape and/or harassment and how to report it.

#### Medical Services

The Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home contracts with Medical Director, Dr. McDonald, and employs two full-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. Contract nurses are also available 24 hours a day for consultation or emergency services. In 2022, the Detention Home continued to follow a COVID-19 protocol established by the Medical Director and the Ohio Department of Youth 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. As needed, youth are transported to mental health appointments outside of the facility by Court staff.

#### Educational Services

While in detention, education continues throughout the year through the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Lorain County. ESC employs two full-time teachers to provide educational instruction at the facility with access to 25 individual computer stations and an emphasis placed on state proficiency testing.

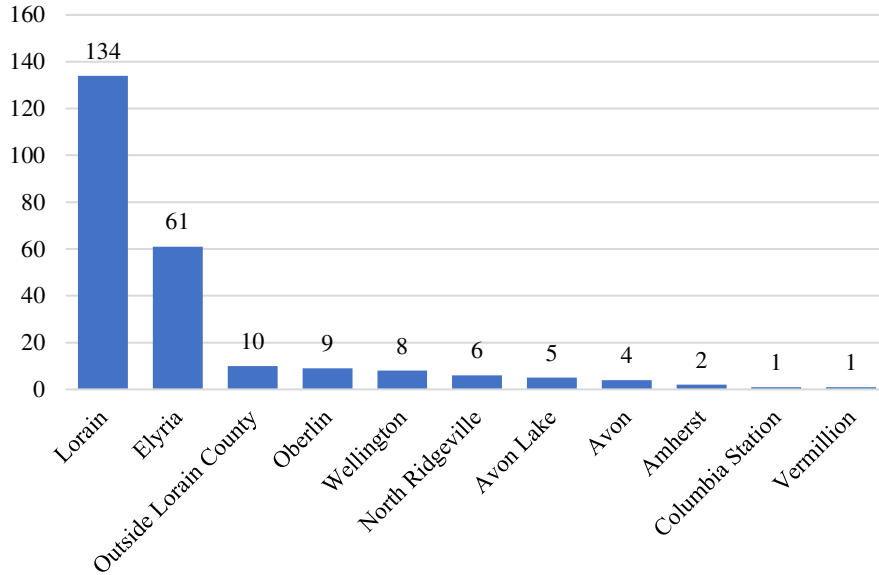
#### Religious Services

Non-denominational religious services are provided on a weekly basis by Iron Bar Ministries for the facility.

#### Visitation

The Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home encourages visitation with parents and/or legal guardians through regular in-person visits. In-person visitation was suspended when COVID-19 was reported at high transmission rates by the CDC for Lorain County. Phone and video calls were substituted for in-person parent visitation sessions.

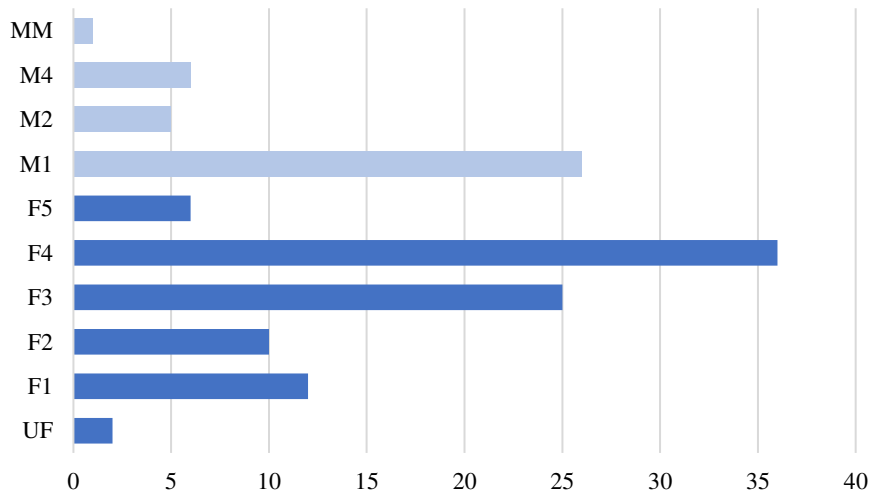
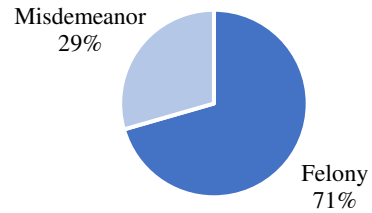
The following data is based on youth admissions to the Detention Home in 2022. Anytime a youth is placed in the Detention Home more than once, it represents a new admission.



2022 City of Residence for 2022 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 2022. Misdemeanors make up 29% of all charges, and 66% of the Misdemeanors were Domestic Violence charges.



2022 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 200-youth served by the facility in 2022, 39% 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 2022 was 5.3 days while the average length of stay for a LCCS-placed youth was slightly longer at 7.2 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 Child Care Workers 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, the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) implemented a new federal policy 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. To meet the FFPSA requirements by the 2024 deadline, Turning Point Shelter is working toward certified accreditation as Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (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 2022, the department processed over \$719,000.00 of state reimbursement requests for court appointed counsel. The department is also responsible for the financial management, reporting, and auditing of all state and federal grants.

## **GRANTS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE**

In 2022, the Court applied for ten (10) grants with a potential award of \$2,759,377.45. Ten (10) grants were awarded in the amount of \$2,108,656.13. Grant awards included two (2) technology grants, the creation of a virtual and in-person Help Center, an e-citation grant for law enforcement, and various juvenile and court services grants.

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 programs and services offered to the community.

## **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 Court's 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.



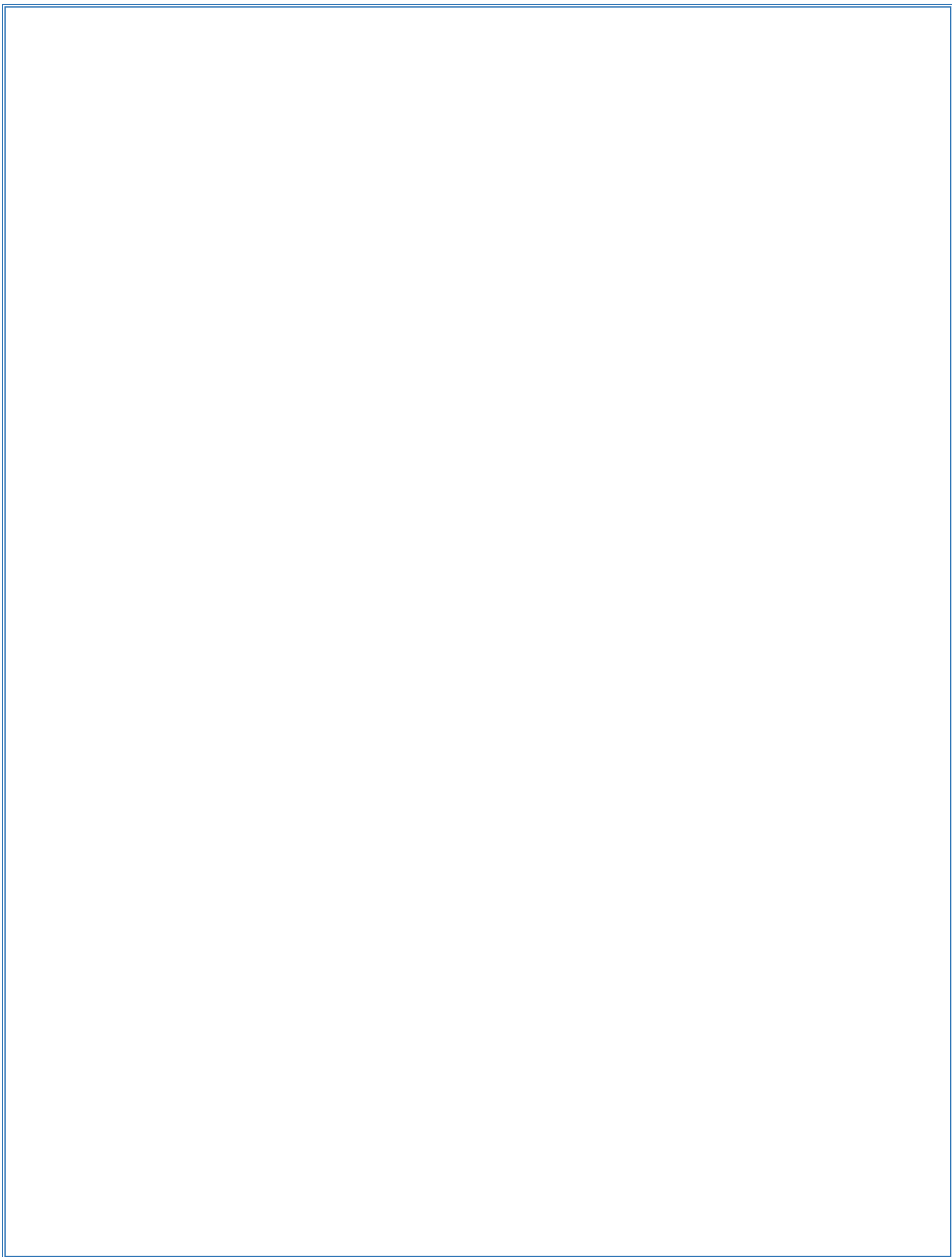
<b>2022 Expenditures</b>	<b>Salaries</b>	<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>Operating Costs</b>	<b>Equipment and Leases</b>	<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>Total Grants</b>
Administration and Elected Officials	2,330,428.83	350,125.32	148,096.98	48,289.08	2,876,940.21	
Juvenile Services	2,318,636.81	339,574.98	142,022.04	98,220.17	2,898,454.00	
Domestic Support/ IV-D	455,327.52	-	47,393.58	-	502,721.10	
Detention Services	1,584,753.64	238,022.80	394,262.34	-	2,217,038.78	
Pathways	-	-	4,462.45	-	4,462.45	
Turning Point	444,734.74	67,062.70	7,446.16	1,982.86	521,226.46	
Multipurpose Building	-	-	28,808.47	-	28,808.47	
Specialized Dockets	64,723.20	18,427.23	37,563.04	-		120,713.47
Truancy	-	-	6,851.46	-		6,851.46
RECLAIM	611,208.24	171,190.68	522,829.55	-		1,305,228.47
Targeted RECLAIM	127,422.74	19,455.99	153,999.05	-		300,877.78
IV-E	66,257.60	9,378.86	5,187.55	16,546.68		88,536.85
VOCA	50,260.00	34,267.58	4,009.27	-		88,536.85
Other Grants	46,724.00	32,406.72	47,257.89	54,029.24		180,417.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,100,477.32</b>	<b>1,279,912.85</b>	<b>1,550,189.83</b>	<b>219,068.03</b>	<b>9,049,651.46</b>	<b>2,099,996.57</b>

2022 Revenue	Refunds, Reimbursements	Fines, Fees	Federal and State Reimbursements	Agency Contributions, Donations	Total General Fund Revenue	All Other Revenue
Administration and Elected Officials	20.00	356.10	-	-	376.10	
Juvenile Services	267.13	82,759.01	-	-	83,026.14	
Domestic Support/ IV-D	-	-	626,510.26		626,510.26	
Detention Services	-	-	70,089.97	-	70,089.97	
Pathways	-	-	-	-	-	
Turning Point	-	-	-	130,000.00	130,000.00	
Multipurpose	-	-	-	-	-	
Specialized Dockets	-	-	117,616.00	-		117,616.00
Truancy	-	-	-	243,671.07		243,671.07
RECLAIM	-	-	1,676,264.16	-		1,676,264.16
Targeted RECLAIM	-	-	128,778.00	-		128,778.00
IV-E	169,584.58	-	-	-		169,584.58
VOCA	-	-	91,179.69	-		91,179.69
Other Grants	98,971.67	96,933.78	-	-		195,905.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>268,843.38</b>	<b>180,048.89</b>	<b>2,710,438.08</b>	<b>373,671.07</b>	<b>910,002.47</b>	<b>2,622,998.95</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 sincerely 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, Probation, Family 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 Population
- Intake Department
- Diversion



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**

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