

LORAIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Sherry L. Glass
Judge

To The Citizens of Lorain County:

The Court is proud to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report documents the Court’s continuing efforts to enhance the services and programming provided to Lorain County citizens. Significant areas of activities are documented throughout this report through narrative, operating statistics, and data.



Frank J. Janik
Judge

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

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



Lisa I. Swenski
Administrative Judge

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

Emily Kirsch, Court Administrator

In 2024, the Court continued to build on its mission by expanding services, enhancing systems, and deepening community engagement.

This year marked the first full calendar year of operation for the Court's Help Center. More than 1,500 individuals received in-person assistance from the Help Center in 2024. The Court also continues to work closely with Ohio Legal Help to prepare for the opening of a Virtual Self-Help Center, expected to launch in summer 2025. Both initiatives were created from funds received through the ARPA Grant in 2022, and they reflect the Court's continued commitment to increasing access to justice by making legal information and resources easier to access.

As a leader in Ohio's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), the Court remains dedicated to reducing unnecessary detainment of juveniles while maintaining public safety and ensuring fairness. As a JDAI site, our focus continues to be on data-driven strategies and community-based alternatives that support better outcomes for youth.

The Court remained focused on diversion efforts to provide early support for youth and families facing behavioral or family-related challenges. This included partnering with key stakeholders to improve access to the Court's Assessment Center services by operating satellite offices in Elyria City Schools, Lorain City Schools, and local police departments. Recognizing truancy as a significant concern in the community, the Court collaborated with schools and community partners to improve the truancy court process and expand diversion opportunities. The Court remains determined to promote proactive, collaborative approaches that support youth success and reduce court involvement.

To further support engagement and equity within the community, the Court, through the Probation Department, launched the Race, Equity, and Inclusion (REI) Coalition in partnership with the Mayors from the City of Lorain and City of Elyria. This initiative unites grassroots and established mentoring organizations to support at-risk and justice-involved youth. Through partnerships with mentoring agencies, youth receive mentoring services tailored to an individual's needs.

Significant progress continues with modernizing our Case Management Systems in both the Juvenile Clerk's Office and the Domestic Relations Clerk's Office. These upgrades aim to streamline workflow, improve efficiency, and expand accessibility through increased use of electronic filing. The Court is proud of the advancements made in these areas as the Court remains steadfast in the goal of achieving a more responsive and accessible justice system.

Throughout 2024, the Court made meaningful strides in expanding services, strengthening community partnerships, and improving access to justice for the residents of Lorain County. The Court continues to focus on delivering fair and timely resolutions, upholding the rights of all who come to Court, and promoting the safety and well-being of children and families.

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 Judges. Magistrates conduct proceedings and issue decisions. Some decisions may not be effective until they are reviewed by the Judge.

PERSONAL STAFF MAGISTRATES

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

COURT MAGISTRATES

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

The Intake Magistrate, with the assistance of the three Judges and three Delinquency Magistrates, is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week, to respond to law enforcement requests for admission of juvenile offenders to the Detention Home. After a juvenile is admitted into secure detention, a formal hearing is held the next business day,

but no later than 72-hours after admission. 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 2024, Administration included the Court Administrator, Deputy Court Administrator/Fiscal Director, Director of Employee and Community Relations, Quality Assurance Manager, Judicial Clerk, and Administrative Assistant.

Key responsibilities include personnel management, fiscal and budget management, facilities management, systems management (IT), and case flow and program development across Court Departments. The Court consists of approximately 160 employees, including Judges and personal staff.

The Court Administrator is responsible for the oversight and management of the Juvenile Clerk's Office, Court Services, Probation and Youth Services, Residential Services, Information Technology, and Court Magistrates. In addition, the Court Administrator oversees implementing updates to the Case Management Systems and case processes. The Administrator provides legal oversight to ensure the Court complies with the law, local rules, and best practices. The Deputy Court Administrator/Fiscal Director is responsible for all fiscal and budget management and acts in place of the Court Administrator when the Court Administrator is unavailable.

In 2024, Administration included a Director of Employee and Community Relations, whose primary responsibility included human resources functions. In addition, the Director worked to identify and develop opportunities for proactive internal and external communications and relationship-building.

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

Delinquency Team

- Registers complaints for truancy and delinquency cases and issues service
- Submits fingerprints and dispositions to BCI&I as required by law
- Issues arrest warrants and warrants to convey to correctional facilities
- Processes bindovers, appeals, and transfers
- Enters journal entries and pleadings into the Case Management System
- Completes background checks for CCW licenses, military, etc.

Traffic & Child Abuse, Neglect, Dependent Team

- Registers juvenile traffic citations and issues Court summons
- Prepares driving privileges forms for work, school, etc.
- Coordinates with BMV on license suspensions and changes
- Handles service, entries, and pleadings for abuse, neglect, and/or dependency cases
- Processes appealed Abuse/ Neglect/ Dependency cases

Child Support and Paternity Team

- Registers State and CSEA Complaints on child support and paternity
- Enters all journal entries and pleadings into the Case Management System
- Processes paternity determinations and submits to the State
- Ensures compliance with Title IV-D requirements
- Handles warrants, jail commits / releases from jail in child support contempt cases

Private Custody and Bookkeeping

- Assists at the clerk's front counter
- Registers private custody/visitation, support, and paternity complaints and pleadings
- Enters all pleadings and journal entries into the Case Management System
- Processes Juvenile Protection Orders and Grandparent POA
- Processes payments of fines, costs, and restitution and disburses same

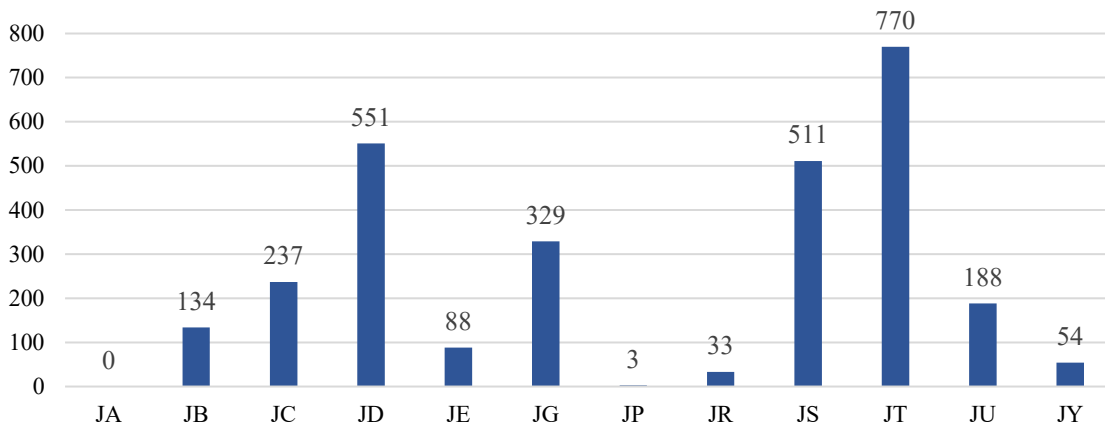
Working in the Juvenile Clerk’s Office requires a broad knowledge of the Court and its functions, juvenile law, and statutes, as well as a basic understanding of civil procedure. With almost 3,000 new cases filed in the Juvenile Clerk’s Office, juvenile clerks must be organized and extremely detail oriented,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

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

2024 JUVENILE CASE FILINGS

ALL CASES FILED BY TYPE

Case Code	Description	Count
JA	Judicial Bypass	0
JB	Paternity Establishment	134
JC	Child Abuse, Neglect, and/or Dependency (Filed by Children Services)	237
JD	Juvenile Delinquent	551
JE	Contributing to Delinquency/Unruly	88
JG	Private Custody/Visitation (Unwed Parents)	329
JP	Permanent Custody	3
JR	Grandparent Power of Attorney	33
JS	Child Support Establishment	511
JT	Juvenile Traffic Offenses	770
JU	Juvenile Unruly, Truancy	188
JY	Civil Protection Order against a Juvenile	54
Total		2,898



2024 JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES

In 2024, there were 770 traffic cases filed, which encompassed 876 violations. A traffic case can contain more than one violation. Of the 770 cases filed, females comprised approximately 38% of the cases, males comprised 61% of the cases, and less than 1% were unknown. The following represents the number of charged violations in 2024:

Traffic Violations	Total
Assured Clear Distance	98
Distracted Driving	28
Drug/Alcohol	8
Failure to Control	47
Failure to Yield	57
Improper Vehicle Characteristics	16
License / Registration Violation	102
Other	13
Reckless / Willful / Wanton Operation	68
School Bus / Emergency Vehicle	21
Seatbelt	31
Speed	321
Traffic Control Device	66
Total	876

Many times, when a juvenile is at Court for the first time in a traffic case, the juvenile may be given the opportunity to complete CARTEENS, which is a diversionary program that provides education on responsible driving. Upon successful completion and payment of costs, the case is **dismissed**. The following is the breakdown of the dispositions ordered of the 770 cases filed in 2024:

Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Absentia	1	1	2
Dismissed	171	228	399
Fines & Costs	41	107	148
Fines & Costs Suspended	10	19	29
License Restricted	19	25	44
License Suspended	5	6	11
Other	2	2	4
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	2	8	10
Transfer to Another Court	30	69	99
Pending	11	13	24
Total	292	478	770

2024 JUVENILE DELINQUENT CHARGES

In 2024, 551 Complaints were filed by the Prosecutor’s Office. Each Complaint represents a court case, and many Complaints have more than one criminal charge. In 2024, the average number of charges on a Complaint was 2.4, and the highest number of charges on a Complaint was 16. A Complaint may have misdemeanor and/or felony charges, and in 2024, there were a total of 1,326 charges filed. Charges may be amended or dismissed in the Court process.

FELONY CHARGES

There were a total of 477 juvenile felony charges filed in 2024, as represented below:

Number of Felony Charge(s) on Initial Complaint		Total: 477	
Abduction	2	Grand Theft Motor Vehicle	9
Aggravated Arson	2	Gross Sexual Imposition	26
Aggravated Burglary	6	Harassment with Bodily Substance	4
Aggravated Riot	11	Having Weapons Under Disability	8
Aggravated Robbery	4	Identity Fraud	2
Assault	31	Illegal Conv./Poss. Deadly Weapon, Safety Zone	20
Attempted Felonious Assault	8	Illegal Use Minor in Nudity Oriented Material	1
Attempted Gross Sexual Imposition	5	Improperly Discharging Firearms in/at Habitation	1
Attempted Murder	1	Improperly Handling Firearms in a MV	15
Breaking and Entering	12	Inducing Panic	16
Burglary	8	Intimidation	2
Carrying Concealed Weapon	28	Kidnapping	7
Complicity in Grand Theft Motor Vehicle	4	Making Terroristic Threats	4
Complicity to Aggravated Robbery	11	Misuse of Credit Cards	1
Complicity to Breaking and Entering	2	Obstructing Official Business / Justice	10
Complicity to Felonious Assault	1	Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor	3
Complicity to Theft / Grand Theft	9	Possession of Criminal Tools	14
Complicity to Robbery	2	Rape	18
Corrupting Another with Drugs	1	Receiving Stolen Property	27
Discharge Firearm into Occupied Habitation	1	Resisting Arrest	2
Discharge Firearm on/near Prohibited Premises	2	Robbery	5
Disrupting Public Service	2	Safecracking	1
Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juveniles	1	Sexual Battery	1
Domestic Violence	16	Strangulation	3
Escape	1	Tampering with Evidence	9
Extortion	1	Theft	22
Failure to Comply with Police	11	Trafficking in Marijuana	2
Felonious Assault	29	Trespass in a Habitation	6
Forgery	1	Unauthorized Use of Property / Motor Vehicle	5
Grand Theft Firearm	7	Vandalism	13

The following table represents the 5 most common felony charges filed in 2024:

Most Common Felony Charge(s) on Initial Complaint	Female	Male	Total
Assault	10	21	31
Felonious Assault	6	23	29
Carrying Concealed Weapon	1	27	28
Receiving Stolen Property	1	26	27
Gross Sexual Imposition	0	26	26

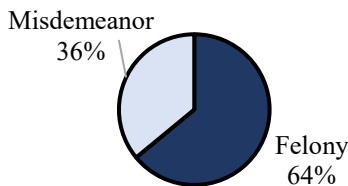
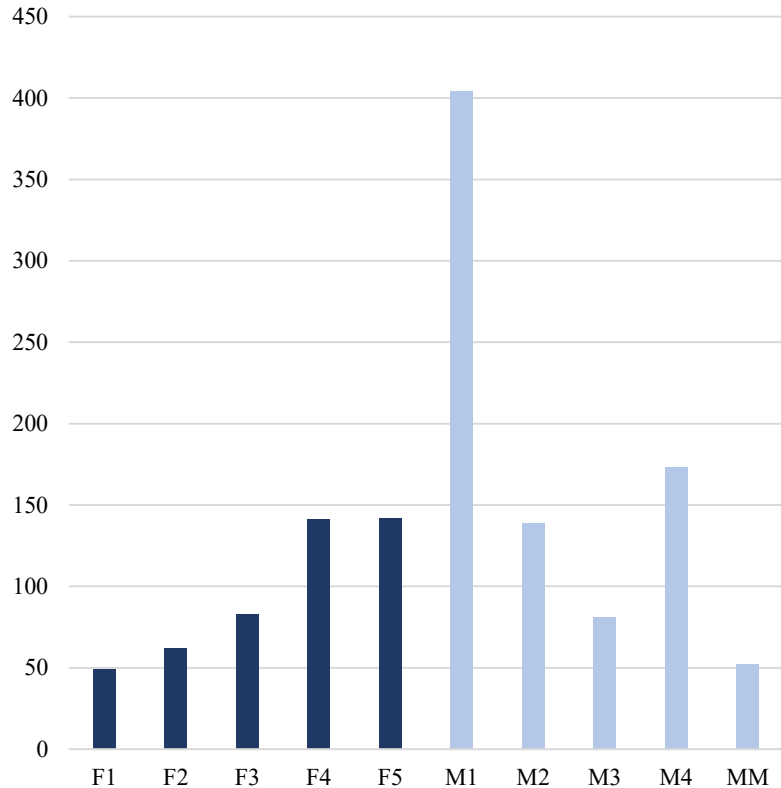
MISDEMEANOR CHARGES

There were a total of 849 misdemeanor charges filed in 2024. The following table represents the 5 most common misdemeanor charges filed in 2024:

Most Common Misdemeanor Charge(s) on Initial Complaint	Female	Male	Total
Disorderly Conduct	36	87	123
Domestic Violence	42	61	103
Assault	19	72	91
Criminal Damaging or Endangering	11	49	60
Aggravated Menacing	6	44	50

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHARGES BY OFFENSE TYPE

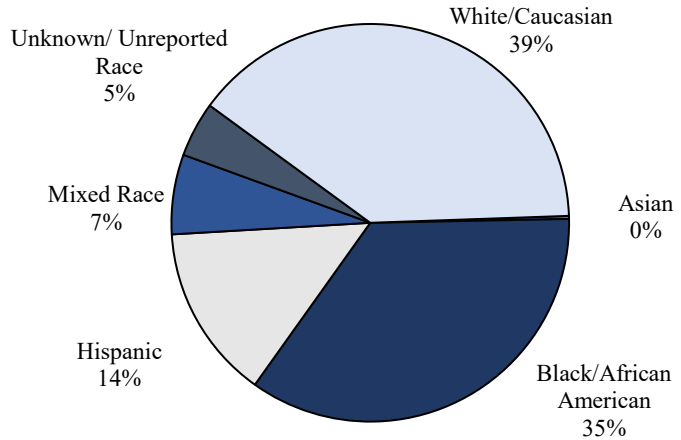
Total Offenses Initially Charged	
F1	49
F2	62
F3	83
F4	141
F5	142
M1	404
M2	139
M3	81
M4	173
MM	52
Total	1326



2024 DELINQUENCY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

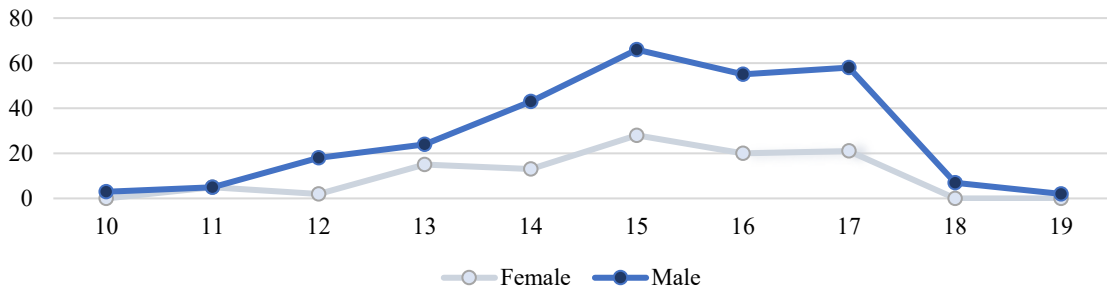
A juvenile offender can have more than one Complaint filed at different times throughout the year. There were 401 youth who had Complaints filed against them in 2024, which accounts for the 551 Complaints. Below is the demographic information of the youth who had a Complaint filed in 2024:

Race / Ethnicity	Total
Asian	1
Black/African American	141
Hispanic	57
Mixed Race	26
Unknown/Unreported Race	18
White/Caucasian	158
TOTAL	401



Age and Gender of Youth*	Female	Male	Not Reported	Total
10	0	3	1	4
11	5	5	1	11
12	2	18	0	20
13	15	24	1	40
14	13	43	1	57
15	28	66	3	97
16	20	55	4	79
17	21	58	4	83
18	0	7	0	7
19	0	2	1	3
Totals	104	281	16	401

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



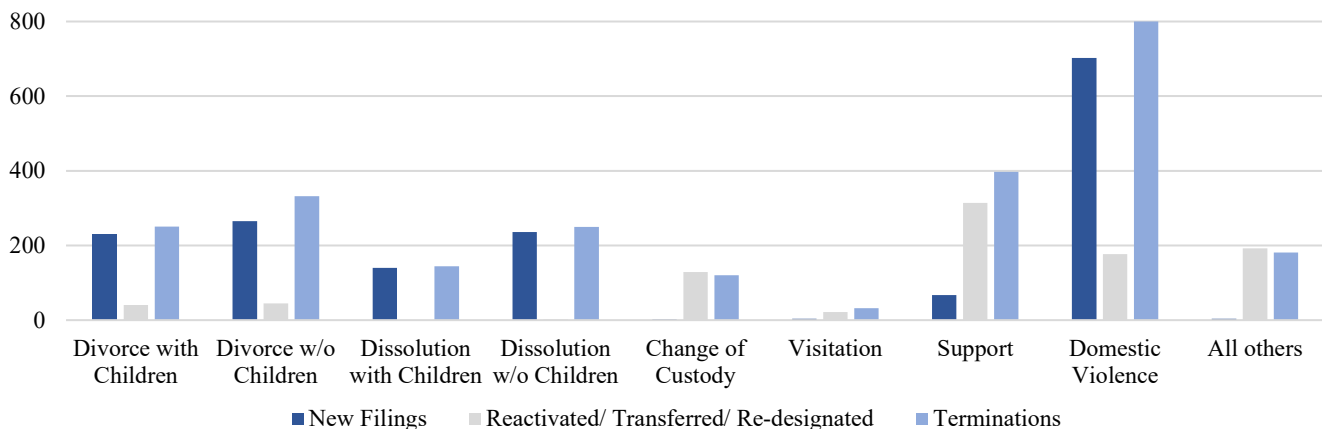
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CLERK’S OFFICE

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

2024 DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE FILINGS

A case is opened in the Domestic Relations Division with a new filing and/or a post-decree filing. A matter that has not been decided by the Court is considered a **new filing**. If, after the initial order on a case, a party seeks additional orders, the case will be **re-opened or reactivated**. If a filing contains multiple requests for relief, and the Court rules on one but others remain pending, that case will then be deemed **redesignated**. In addition, cases may be **transferred** from another Court to Lorain County Domestic Relations Court. The following represents the case designation for Domestic Relations filings in 2024:

Type of Filing	New Filings	Reactivated/ Transferred/ Redesignated	Terminations
Divorce with Children	231	41	251
Divorce without Children	265	45	332
Dissolution with Children	140	0	144
Dissolution without Children	236	2	250
Change of Custody	2	129	120
Visitation	4	22	32
Support	67	314	397
Domestic Violence	702	177	873
All others	4	192	181
Total	1,651	922	2,580



DEPARTMENT OF COURT SERVICES

Jessica Alvis, Director

ASSIGNMENT COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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

Throughout 2024, the Court continued to expand the use of electronic filing on juvenile cases. The Assignment Commissioners played an essential role in ensuring that the workflows and entries were successfully completed and filed electronically. The work of the Assignment Commissioners allows the Court to function seamlessly and effortlessly.

COURT SERVICES

The Court Services Department offers 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.

A ***Home Inspection*** is ordered when the Court is determining an appropriate placement for children. A Home Inspection consists of a Court Specialist visiting a litigant's home and examining all areas on the property, including rooms, cupboards, closets, garages, and other structures. The inspection checks for safety and/or environmental hazards. The Specialist's findings are documented in a written report that is submitted to the Court. **In 2024, Court Services received 33 referrals for Home Inspections.**

An ***Investigation*** is ordered by the Court, and it involves interviews with parties to a case, as well as related individuals, such as family members, teachers, and/or any other person who may have relevant information. The Specialist also gathers parties' background information and relevant agency records. A thorough report is submitted to the Court, with findings and recommendations for companionship time, services, and/or restrictions. **In 2024, Court Services received 108 referrals for Investigations.**

Mediation is a structured, confidential, non-adversarial process where a Court Mediator helps parties communicate, understand each other’s perspectives, and resolve disputes, especially in high conflict cases. The Court’s Mediators help develop parenting agreements, and they may also address other issues such as parenting time, medical information, unpaid bills, or property return. Referrals for Mediation can be made by the Court or services can be requested by parties through the **Pro Se Mediation** program. **In 2024, Court Services received 73 referrals for Mediation.**

When the Court orders **Supervised Visitation**, the Specialist supervises visitation between the parties and the minor child(ren). The Specialist monitors interactions, provides support, and assists in developing safe exchange plans. There are two designated visitation rooms at the Justice Center. The Specialist prepares a written report for the Court detailing their observations. **In 2024, Court Services conducted 314 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. The Seminar includes a presentation with legal information from Judge Frank Janik. A licensed Clinical Social Worker then provides guidance for families going through the separation process. **In 2024, 280 individuals completed the Seminar for Separating Parents.**

The following illustrates the number of referrals received and/or services offered by Court Services in 2024:

Case Type	2024 Numbers
Home Inspections (Cases Referred)	33
Investigations (Cases Referred)	108
Mediation (Court Referred & Pro Se Referrals)	73
Supervised Visits Conducted	314
Seminar for Separating Parents (Attended)	280

HELP CENTER

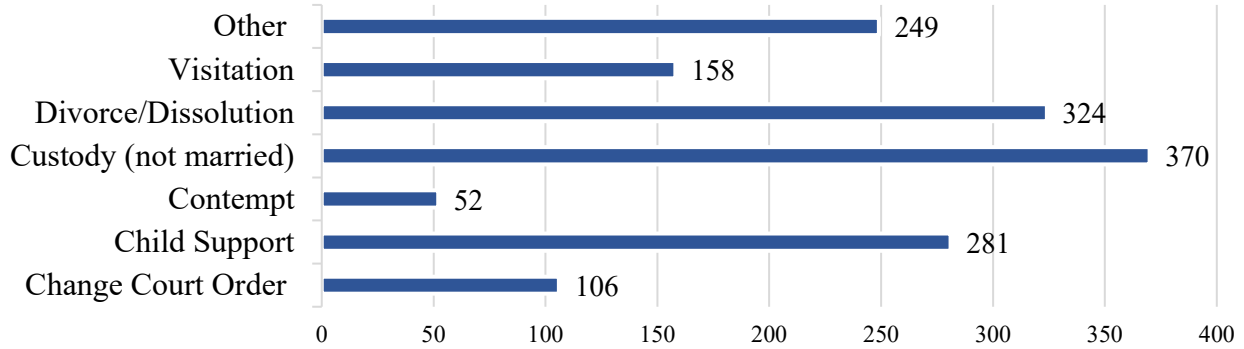
The Help Center celebrated its one-year anniversary on March 6, 2024, marking 2024 the first full calendar year of operation. The Help Center was created after receiving grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

In addition to launching the in-person Help Center, the Court is using grant funds to develop a Virtual Self-Help Center (VSHC) in partnership with Ohio Legal Help. Throughout 2024, the Help Center focused its efforts on preparing for the launch of the Virtual Self-Help Center, which is expected to be made available to the public in the summer of 2025.

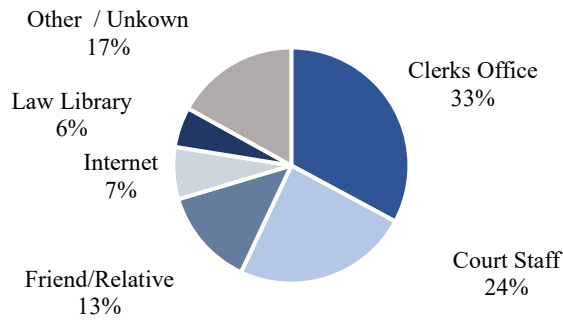
The Help Center assists self-represented individuals by providing information to help litigants successfully navigate the Court process for divorce, dissolution, legal separation, protection orders, custody, visitation, and/or child support issues. The in-person Help Center is open for walk-in appointments on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and appointments can

also be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **In 2024, the Help Center served 1,540 individuals.**

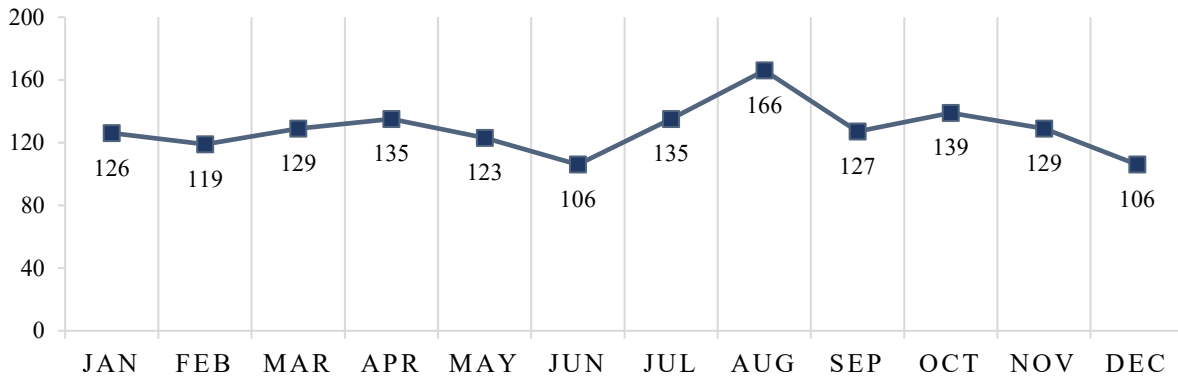
Of the 1,540 individuals who were served at the Help Center, the majority sought assistance with Custody, Divorce/Dissolution, and Child Support. The following are the case types and services the Help Center assisted with in 2024:



When Help Center staff meet with individuals, they collect information on how the individual was referred to the Help Center. The Clerk’s Office is the most common referral source, followed closely by Court staff. The following are referral sources for 2024:



The Help Center experienced its highest volume of individuals served in August, assisting 166 people. The least busy months were June and December, with 106 individuals served in each.



VOICES FOR CHILDREN

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

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

VOCA (Federal Grant):	\$88,030
SVAA (State Grant):	\$3,118
Local Court:	\$163,511
Total:	\$254,659

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

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

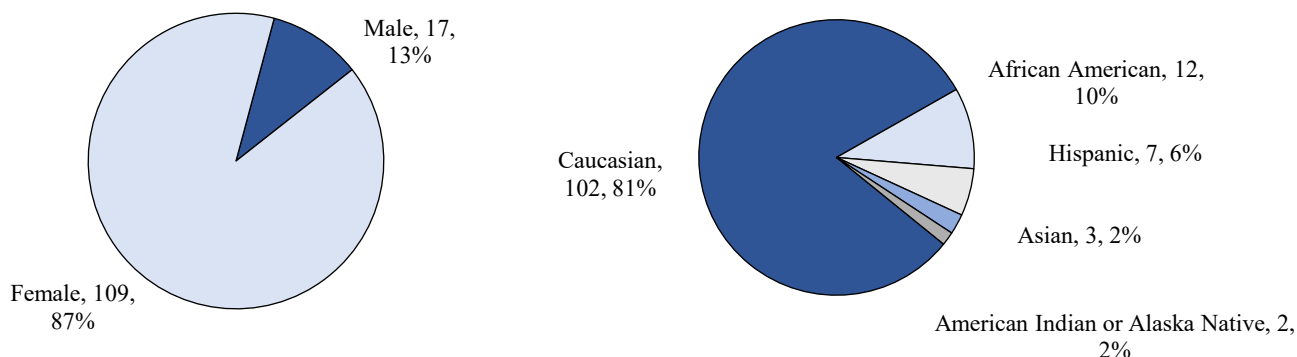
CASA-GAL Volunteers must complete 30-hours of pre-service training which includes four classroom sessions (28 hours) and a minimum of two hours of courtroom observation. All Volunteers are screened, interviewed, and undergo a criminal background check. In addition, volunteers are required to attend 12-hours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

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

In 2024, volunteers served 360 children, ages birth to 21 years old.

VOICES FOR CHILDREN VOLUNTEERS

In 2024, the VFC Program had 126 active volunteers. They ranged in age from 21 to 60+ and brought diverse educational backgrounds—from high school diplomas to advanced degrees. The following represents the demographic information of the volunteers in 2024:



DOMESTIC SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

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

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

The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court contracted for both judicial services and juvenile clerking services for 2024. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$405,688.33 and the judicial services contract totaled \$ 571,175.67. The two contracts provide federal reimbursements for the operation of the Domestic Support Unit under Title IV-D

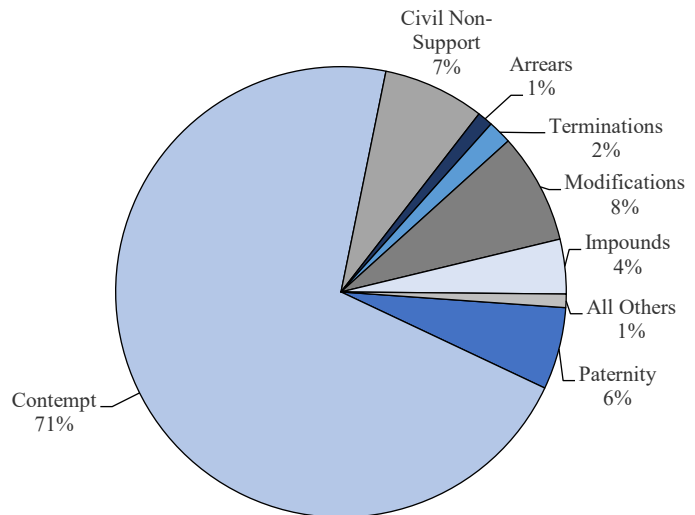
of the Social Security Act. Funding includes full and partial reimbursement of salaries and fringe benefits for 17 court employees, including two magistrates.

During the 2024 calendar year, the Juvenile Clerk’s Office registered 15,369 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2024. This was a decrease of 12 % from 2023.

Additionally, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 8,625 hearings involving issues of child support including: paternity, contempt, civil non-support, arrears, terminations, impounds, modifications, and others. This was a 3.6% decrease from 2023. Contempt hearings increased by 2.3% from 2023.

The following information shows the number of Hearings by Hearing Type:

Hearing Type	Count
Paternity	509
Contempt	6,140
Civil Non-Support	629
Arrears	96
Terminations	147
Modifications	683
Impounds	338
All Others	83
Total	8,625



DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND YOUTH SERVICES

Sarah Tremont, Chief Probation Officer

INTRODUCTION

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

Youth may be referred to a program for status offenses, misdemeanors, or felonies. Probation staff use evidence-based tools like Motivational Interviewing and Carey Guides to manage cases and address each youth’s need. The focus is on behavioral change, accountability, and adherence to probation conditions.

The Court works collaboratively with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) to align services and programming with best practices. As a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and an Ohio Probation Transformation (OPT) Court, staff receive ongoing specialized training.

Community collaboration is key. Through the Reimagining Juvenile Justice (RJJ) curriculum, the Court promotes collaboration between systems and with stakeholders working with youth, focusing on support and long-term success.

2024 JUVENILE PROBATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES BY STAGE OF COURT INVOLVEMENT

Early Intervention <i>Before a Case Comes to Court</i>	Initial Court Involvement <i>After a Case is Filed</i>	Post-Adjudication & Pre-Disposition	Post Disposition
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment & Resource Center• Diversion Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Dispositional Services (In-Home Program)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-Dispositional Services (Temporary Orders)• Investigation & Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Probation• Sex Offender Probation• Success for Youth Program• Crossroads Program

Purposes of the Assessment & Resource Center

Gives families help and support with managing their child's behaviors.

Works with youth on problems, such as anger, peer / home conflict, truancy, bullying, not following the rules.

Connects youth and families with community resources and services.

Diverts youth from the juvenile court system.

ASSESSMENT & RESOURCE CENTER

The Court continues to operate the Assessment & Resource Center, originally established in 2019 with funding from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Center was created to provide early intervention and support service to youth and families at the onset of behavioral or familial challenges.

The Assessment Center staff meet with youth and families to determine risk levels and identify barriers and needs by completing a variety of screening tools including the GAIN-SS, a Public Health Screener, the SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Expression), Human Trafficking screener, and the OYAS Diversion Tool (risk instrument). The Assessment Specialists subsequently link youth and families with community-based support services.

The desired short-term outcomes are to initiate immediate services to youth and families in need, divert youth from formal court involvement, and create a system of support that will be present for youth and families after the Court is no longer involved.

Each Assessment Specialist provides light case management services to monitor progress and assist with any barriers to involvement in support services. Post-assessment family contact frequency is determined based on individual family needs and if further contact is warranted and/or productive.

2024 REFERRALS

In 2024, there were 1,115 referrals processed at the Assessment Center, representing 956 youth and 6 parents. There are four offense classifications, and if more than one is applicable, the classification for multiple offenses is based upon the primary reason for the referral.

Referral Offense Classification	
Truancy (Alternative to Adjudication)	114
Unruly	447
Misdemeanor	552
No Charge/Linkage Only	2

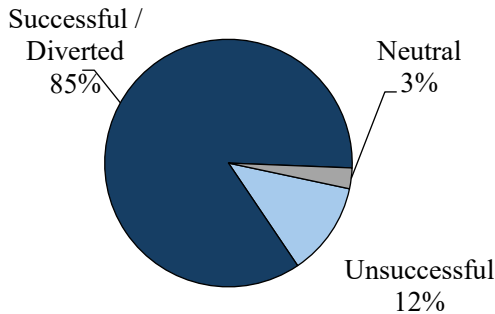
2024 ASSESSMENT CENTER CASES BY THE NUMBERS

2024 Referral Sources	
Prosecutor	657
Court/Magistrate	88
Law Enforcement	138
Parent/Caregiver	164
School	63
Community Providers	5

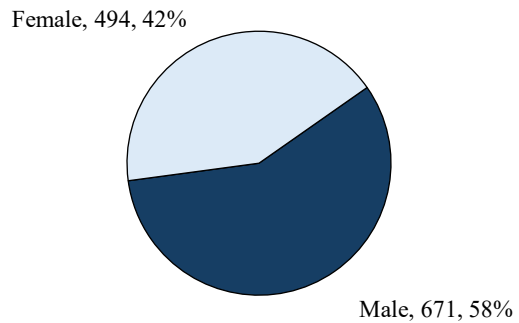
Misdemeanor offenses represented the largest classification of referrals (552). Each referral may include more than one misdemeanor offense. The following are the top 4 misdemeanors listed as the primary concern for Assessment & Resource Center referrals in 2024:

Most Common Misdemeanor Charge(s)	Female	Male	Total
Assault	38	68	106
Disorderly Conduct	41	52	93
Domestic Violence	32	43	75
Theft	23	42	65

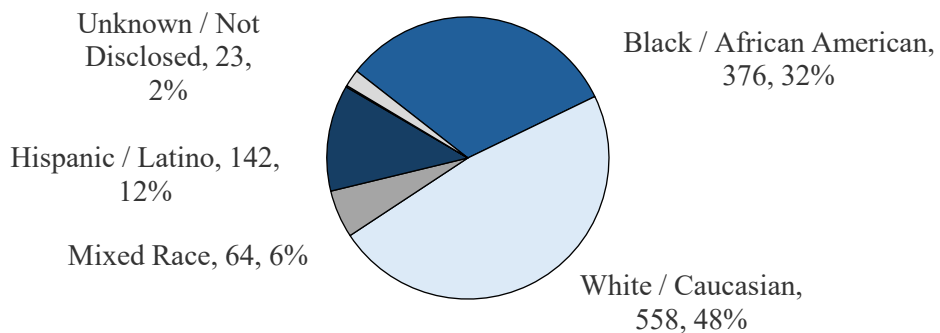
Of the 1,165 cases served, 93 remained pending at the end of 2024. When cases are unsuccessful, they are either referred to the Prosecutor for review for formal charges or they are closed. The following are the **1,072 case closures** by outcome in 2024:



2024 ASSESSMENT CENTER CASES BY GENDER



2024 ASSESSMENT CENTER CASES BY RACE & ETHNICITY REPRESENTATION



DIVERSION SERVICES

In 2024, Diversion Services continued to front-load preventative services for youth and families at the onset of behavioral or familial problems. The purpose of Diversion Services is to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system, avoiding trauma, prosecution, and criminalization of typical adolescent behavior. Located at the Assessment & Resource Center, Diversion Services provides a supportive, family-friendly setting for intervention.

Referrals for Diversion come from the Prosecutor’s Office, Law Enforcement, the Assessment Center, schools, and caregivers. Each referral is reviewed individually, and a Diversion Specialist collaborates with families to identify barriers and needs, develops a safety plan, and connects families with community resources. Diversion Services emphasizes time-limited, supportive case management to promote youth well-being and success.

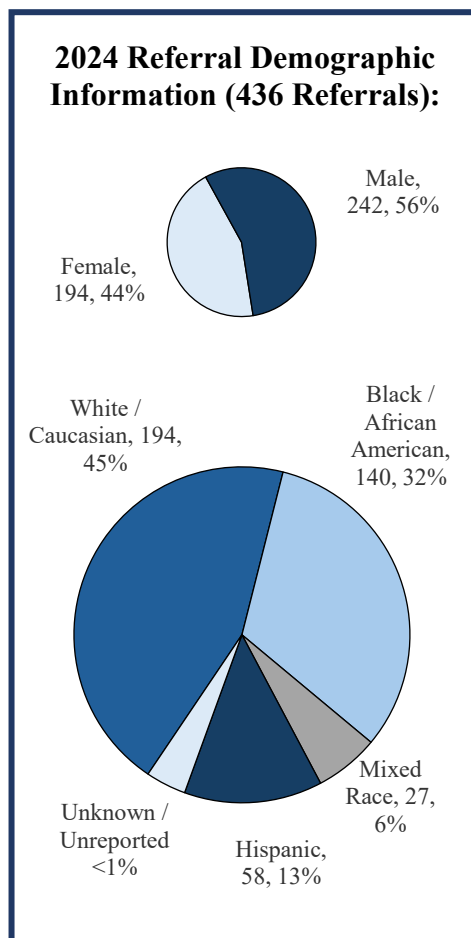
Diversion Specialists also reach out to crime victims to support restoration. When appropriate, restitution may be arranged through the Court’s Payback Program. Specialists coordinate community service tailored to the youth’s skills and interests.

Cases are monitored for up to 90 days. Diversion Specialists focus on goal setting, building resiliency, and connecting families to supports that encourage positive youth development.

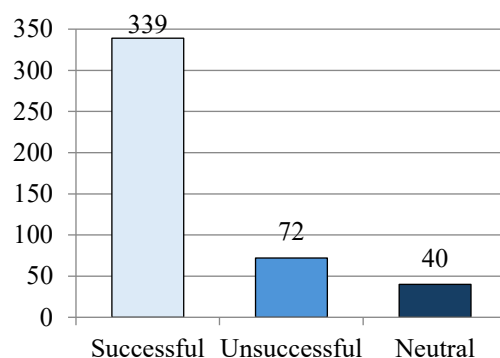
In 2024, Diversion Services received **436** referrals. Including the 65 cases carried over from 2023, Diversion Services served **501** cases, with 50 remaining pending at the end of 2024. There were **451** cases that were closed in 2024. Cases are closed as being successful, unsuccessful (which may include referring the case to the Prosecutor’s Office), or neutral (includes cases where the family could not be located).

2024 CASES & REFERRALS

2024 Diversion Cases	
2023 Carryovers	65
Referred in 2024	43
Carryovers to 2025	50



2024 CASE CLOSURES



TRUANCY

In 2024, a significant number of cases processed by the Assessment Center involved truancy. Since changes to Ohio's truancy laws in 2017, focus has shifted from criminalizing truancy to addressing the root causes behind school absenteeism.

Before a truancy case can be filed in Juvenile Court, schools are required to work with families on an individualized intervention plan for up to 60 days. If the attendance issues are resolved during that time, no further action is needed; however, if the issues remain, the school is then required to file a formal complaint with the Court.

JUVENILE TRUANCY CASES

In accordance with Ohio truancy laws, every Complaint that is filed in juvenile Court must be considered for an Alternative to Adjudication Program before any formal action is taken on the Complaint. Because court-based intervention is considered a matter of last resort, all formal complaints filed by schools must be referred for possible diversion to A2A.

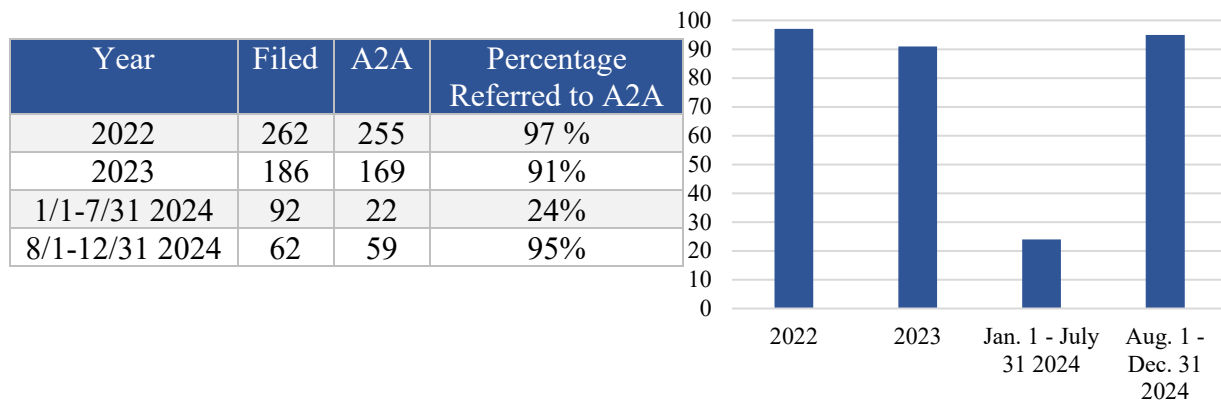
The Court's A2A Program is operated through the Assessment Center. The primary goal is to work collaboratively with families to identify and address barriers that prevent regular school attendance. During the A2A process, Assessment Center staff complete assessments, identify strengths and needs, develop case plans, link the juvenile and/or families to services, and provide case management.

In 2023-2024 school year, the Prosecutor's Office reviewed the Complaint after it was filed and recommended the case be (1) Dismissed; (2) Referred to Alternative to Adjudication; or (3) Proceed with Formal Action. In the 2023-2024 School Year, there were a total of **117 Habitual Truancy Complaints** filed, and 46 were referred to Diversion after the Prosecutor's Office review of the case. Of the remaining 71, an additional 8 cases were referred to A2A after the juvenile was arraigned.

Recognizing a decrease in referrals to A2A in the **2023-2024** school year, the Court collaborated with educational partners, the Prosecutor's Office, and community stakeholders to strengthen the truancy response and promote diversion efforts. This led to the formation of the Lorain County Truancy Workgroup facilitated by Lorain County Children & Family Council, which included the Court, education professionals, and community organizations. The Court also provided targeted training to school personnel on the truancy process.

These efforts yielded significant results. From August 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, there were 62 Habitual Truancy cases filed, and of those cases, 59 cases, or 95% of cases, were referred to A2A.

JUVENILE CASES REFERRED TO A2A FROM 2022-2024:



HABITUAL TRUANCY SUMMARY – CALENDAR YEAR 2024

In the 2024 calendar year, 153 complaints were filed in Juvenile Court for Habitual Truancy. Of those, 81 cases were referred to the A2A program at the Assessment Center. Among the referred cases, 41 were successfully closed, while 40 were closed unsuccessfully. Depending on the reason for an unsuccessful outcome, the Prosecutor’s Office may proceed with formal charges, or the case may be dismissed. Dismissals may occur due to statutory affirmative defenses, the juvenile reaching the age of 18, or relocating outside the Court’s jurisdiction. Ultimately, only one juvenile was adjudicated for Habitual Truancy in 2024.

ADULT TRUANCY CASES

Under Ohio truancy laws, a Complaint may also be filed against an Adult for Failing to Send a Child to School. If the adult case has a companion juvenile case that was referred to Alternative to Adjudication (A2A), the adult case is held in abeyance (“on hold”) until there is an outcome to the Alternative to Adjudication process. If there is no juvenile companion case, the adult case was referred to an Adult Truancy Conference, which is the adult diversion program.

In the **2023-2024 school year**, there were 73 Complaints against Adults for Contributing to the Delinquency of a Child by Failing to Send a Child to School. Of those cases, 22 were held in abeyance or sent to diversion prior to arraignment, representing 30% of the cases. After the changes were implemented for the 2024-2025 school year, all **28 cases** filed from August 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 were held in abeyance for the juvenile’s companion case to go through the A2A process.

PRE-DISPOSITIONAL SERVICES

Pre-dispositional Services (PDS) monitors youth in the community while awaiting their adjudication and/or disposition hearing(s) as an alternative to detention. This allows youth ages 10-19 to remain with their families, attend school, and receive necessary treatment.

In-Home Program

The Court may place non-adjudicated youth (ages 10-19) in the In-Home Program, which allows youth to remain in the community while being monitored by PDS Staff during the court process.

Each Program Consists of 3 Levels:

- Level 1: House Arrest with GPS
- Level 2: House Arrest without GPS
- Level 3: Reporting with a curfew

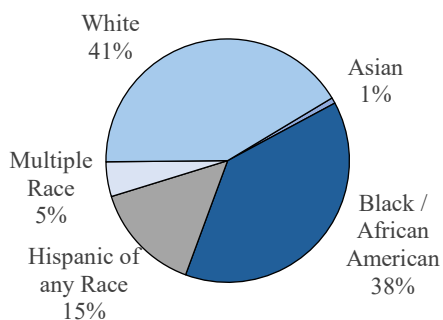
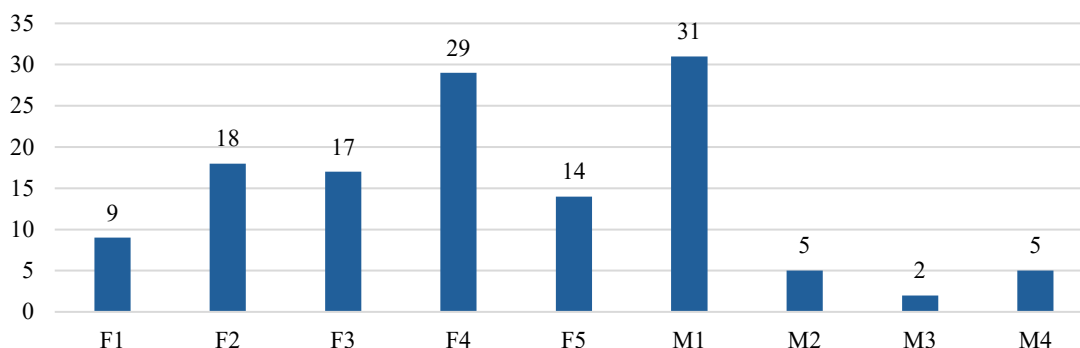
Temporary Orders Program

After a juvenile has been adjudicated but before disposition, the Court may place the youth in the Temporary Orders Program, which allows youth to remain in the community while being monitored by PDS staff until disposition.

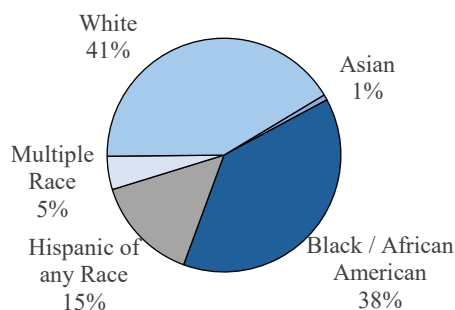
While in each Program, a juvenile may:

- Receive a GPS monitor
- Submit to Random Drug Screens
- Be subjected to daily or evening check-ins

In 2024, there were 130 juveniles placed on a PDS Program and 67 juveniles placed on a GPS monitor. The bar graph represents the highest offense level for each case requiring PDS Supervision in 2024, and the pie charts represent the demographic information for juveniles placed on a PDS Program and placed on a GPS monitor:



2024 PDS Supervision by Race and Ethnicity



2024 GPS Placement by Race and Ethnicity

INVESTIGATION AND REFERRAL PROGRAM

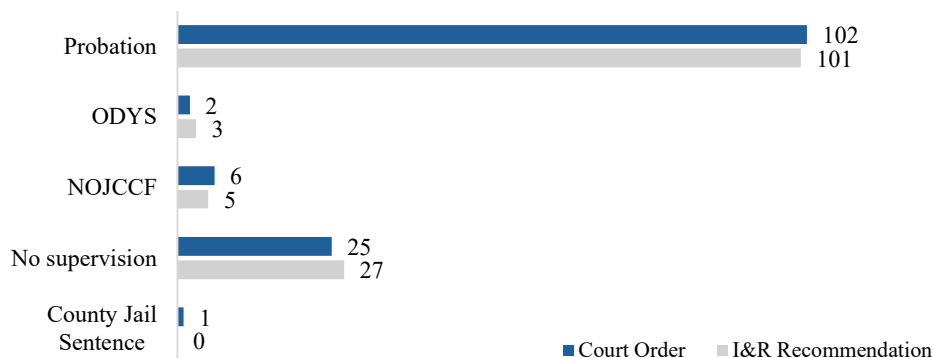
The purpose of the Investigation and Referral (I & R) Department is to conduct investigations and evaluate juvenile offenders who have been adjudicated delinquent. The Judge or Magistrate refers the case to I & R to determine the need for services after a formal court hearing.

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

Investigative Probation Officers also have the option to refer any youth who meets criteria for a comprehensive psychological evaluation through Bellefaire JCB’s *Juvenile Offender Program (JOP)*. This evaluation is considered if the youth has a qualifying offense and there is concern the youth may be suffering severe mental illness or may have been misdiagnosed in the past.

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

In 2024, 143 cases were referred to I & R, and all cases except for 35 were closed in 2024. There was a total of 136 cases closed in 2024, 28 of which were carried over from 2023. The data below represents the **136 Closed I & R cases in 2024**:



I&R Recommendations vs. Case Disposition

GENERAL PROBATION

General Probation serves youth typically assessed at moderate to high risk to re-offend and are more likely to benefit from individualized community-based services, rather than a specific program or intensive supervision. These youth are required to follow a case plan, which may include services such as mental health or substance use treatment, community service, mentoring, or other necessary interventions.

Each juvenile is assigned a Probation Officer who monitors their progress and reports to the Court. The Officer works to support behavioral change by building rapport and using evidence-based practices, such as motivational interviewing, Carey Guides, and community-based services. The Officer maintains regular contact with the juvenile, family members, school officials, service providers, and other key individuals in the juvenile's life.

Case plans are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to ensure they remain responsive to the changing needs of the youth and family. Probation Officers provide the Court with progress updates and address behavioral concerns as needed. They also administer appropriate incentives and sanctions based on the juvenile's behavior, goal progression, and overall performance.

General Probation also supervises youth involved in the Juvenile Offender Program (JOP). General Probation Officers also oversee youth placed in Community Correctional Facilities (CCF) and adults under supervision for offenses related to contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a minor.

A total of 163 juveniles were served on General Probation in 2024, including 68 carry-overs from 2021, 2022, and 2023. There were 65 youth released from General Probation in 2024, with 40 of those youth released successfully.

The demographic information for youth served on General Probation in 2024 is indicated below:

2024 General Probation Youth Demographics	White	Black	Mixed Race	Hispanic Any Race	Total
Carry Over from 2023	18	29	12	9	68
Placed on	35	43	5	12	95
Released	22	24	11	8	65
Carry Over into 2025	31	48	6	13	98

SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM

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

The Probation Officer, youth, and family develop a case plan with agreed-upon goals. Offenders receive sex offender-specific treatment through community providers or placement in a residential treatment facility. Offenders may be released from the program when the treatment is successfully completed.

In 2024, 9 youth were placed on the Sex Offender Program with 12 carried over from prior years. Of the 9 juveniles placed on this program during the 2024 year, all identified as male. There were 12 youth released from the Sex Offender Program in 2024, with all 12 of those youth released successfully.

2024 Sex Offender Youth	Total
Prior Year Carry Over	12
Placed on	9
Released	12
Carry Over into 2025	9

SUCCESS FOR YOUTH PROGRAM

The Success for Youth Program offers specialized programming and skill-building for court-involved youth who may face additional barriers, such as mental health issues, substance use, and/or are lower functioning. In partnership with Catholic Charities of Lorain County, the program offers comprehensive services including case management, social skills training, career exploration, computer literacy, and practical job skills.

Youth attend group sessions twice weekly, which includes skill-building, field trips, and pro-social activities. The Probation Officer works closely with Catholic Charities staff and attends all group sessions.

In 2024, the Success for Youth Program received 7 cases, and 8 cases were carried over from 2023. Of the 7 new cases, all the youth identified as male. There were 9 cases closed in 2024, 5 successfully, 3 unsuccessfully, and 1 neutral where youth was transferred to another program

2024 Success for Youth	Total
Prior Year Carry Over	8
Placed on	7
Released	9
Carry Over into 2025	6

CROSSROADS EVENING REPORTING PROGRAM

The Crossroads Evening Reporting Program (“Crossroads”) serves moderate to high-risk juvenile offenders, ages 13-18, who are at risk of being removed from their homes due to the severity of their offense(s), history of delinquency, or risk to community. Crossroads provides evidence-based behavioral programming, with a focus on cognitive and pro-social skills designed to help youth make better decisions at home and in the community. Crossroads has two Phases: Reporting Phase and Aftercare Phase.

For most of 2024, Crossroads youth were placed in one of two tracks in the Reporting Phase: Track A or Track B. Both tracks were designed for those requiring a high level of intense supervision. Track A youth were not involved in extensive treatment services in the community, while Track B youth were participating in intensive services in the community.

Crossroads transitioned to the Cognitive Behavioral Interventions-Youth (“CBI-CY”) curriculum in 2024. This evidence-based approach aims to target moderate to high criminogenic risk factors. To maximize the effectiveness of the curriculum and provide more opportunities for youth to practice new skills, Track A and Track B were merged into one track and participation was increased from 3-4 days per week to 5 days per week.

The Reporting Phase is limited to 16 youth and follows a structured schedule, with youth reporting 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the school year, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in summer months. This phase includes a levels system, wherein youth can earn reduced reporting requirements. Staff facilitate the CBI-CY curriculum, and youth participate in independent living activities, life skills lessons, career exploration, and team-building tasks.

Following the Reporting Phase, youth enter the Aftercare Phase, which includes a 4-week minimum non-reporting monitoring to support ongoing therapeutic services and reinforce use of new skills in the community and home. During this phase, staff continue to conduct home visits to provide additional supervision and support. Youth are discharged from the Program upon successful completion of case plan goals.

In the beginning of 2024, there were 22 youth already in Crossroads, with an additional 20 being placed during 2024. Twenty (20) Crossroads cases were closed in 2024, seven (7) of which were terminated successfully.

The following represents the demographic information for youth placed on and discharged from Crossroads in 2024:

2024 Crossroads Youth Demographics	White	Black	Mixed Race	Hispanic Any Race	Total
Prior Year Carry Over	4	11	2	5	22
Placed on	0	15	3	2	20
Released	4	10	2	4	20
Carry Over into 2025	0	16	3	3	22

SUPPLEMENTAL DIVERSION AND COURT-SPONSORED PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Psycho-educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factors associated with criminal behavior. The following represent interventions supported by the Court:

Eduvention	ReNOUNce DeNOUNce	Keeping Your Cool (KYC)
A low intensity, education-based program delivered by Riveon, which provides education and skills aimed to address and prevent substance use.	A program that serves moderate to high-risk youth offenders through cognitive behavioral interventions aimed at reducing violence. It includes 10-week sessions and up to 6 months of aftercare.	Keeping Your Cool teaches anger control and thinking skills in 10 sessions, provided by the Nord Center.
REI Mentoring	PREP-MPC	YES Program
Mentoring groups serve high-risk youth and improve outcomes through equity-focused support. Youth are matched with local organizations based on their needs, interests, and risk factors.	PREP-MPC teaches life skills and sex education to youth, combining Making Proud Choices modules on relationships, finances, and careers to reduce risks and prepare youth for adulthood.	The Youth Education Shoplifting Program is an educational, rehabilitative program offered for first-time, petty theft/shoplifting offenses, which may be for official or unofficial cases.

The following represents the number of cases in 2024 and case outcomes:

Program	2024 Referrals	Successful	Neutral / Transfer	Unsuccessful / Did Not Start
EDUVENTION	43	25	0	18
ReNOUNce DeNOUNce	19	15	3	1
Keeping Your Cool (KYC)	34	3	2	29
PREP-MC	11	6	1	4
Race, Equity & Inclusion Youth Mentoring (REI)	202	110	8 *62 in program	12

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 of 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 further sanctions if efforts towards payment are not being made. 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 2024, \$19,271.86 in restitution payments were collected and distributed to victims. Of that amount, \$12,447.23 was earned through the Court's PayBack Program.

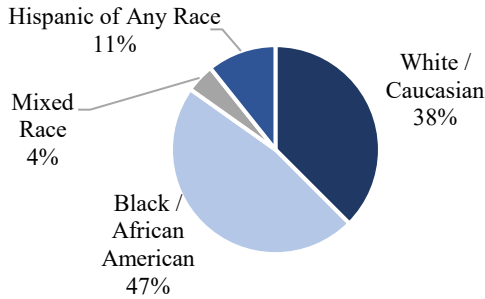
COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Judge or Magistrate may order community service hours as a means of "giving back" to the community. Youth are provided a list of approved community service sites in Lorain County and must complete their hours in a timely manner. Juveniles may also purchase and donate non-perishable items that are then distributed to various approved organizations throughout the County, if approved by the jurist. **In 2024, 1,985 hours of community service were completed.**

SUPERVISION PLACEMENT & RELEASE STATISTICS

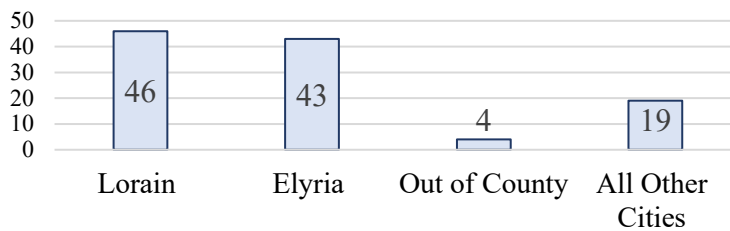
ALL PROBATION PLACEMENTS IN 2024

In 2024, **112 youth** were placed on a form of Probation. Youth can be placed on any of the four probation programs, and they can transfer between probation programs, but the following represents initial placements only:



2024 Placement by Program	
General Probation	86
Success for Youth	9
Sex Offender	7
Crossroads Program	10

Youth's City of Residence at the Time the Youth is placed on Probation in 2024:



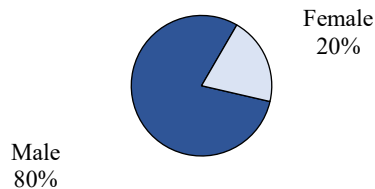
The following cities are included in "All Other Cities":

- Amherst (4)
- Vermilion (4)
- Avon (3)
- Sheffield Lake (2)
- Lagrange (2)
- Avon Lake (2)
- Columbia (1)
- Oberlin (1)

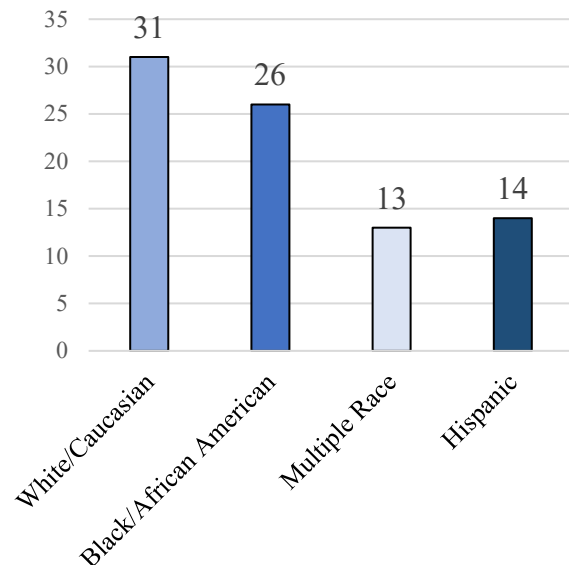
ALL PROBATION RELEASES IN 2024 BY OUTCOME

In 2024, **84 juveniles** were released from Probation, which also includes youth placed on Probation prior to 2024.

Successful Releases	64
Neutral	2
Unsuccessful	18
Total	84



Youth Released in 2024 by Gender



DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

David Lucey, Director

LORAIN COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION HOME

9967 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

The Lorain County Detention Home is a 24-hour secure facility housing juvenile offenders up to age 21. Licensed by the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Detention Home operates under the Ohio Administrative Code and Ohio Supreme Court standards. Judges and Magistrates determine if secure detention is appropriate by using a screening tool that assesses offense severity, court history, community risk, and flight risk. Youth may be held in detention up to 90 days for each charge.

The Detention Home has 44 beds, with 28 for males and 16 for females in individual rooms. The facility has indoor and outdoor recreational areas, a meal service program, two classrooms, and a medical team. The Detention Home employs 35 staff, as well as relief workers. Full-time employees includes a Director, Superintendent, 4 Shift Supervisors, 4 Control Room Clerks, 20 Juvenile Detention Officers, 2 Nurses, 1 Maintenance Supervisor, 1 Maintenance Worker, and 1 Intake Specialist. The minimum staff to youth ratios are 12:1 during daytime hours and 25:1 during nighttime hours.

Admission Process

During admission, youth undergo a mental health screening, watch a PREA video, receive orientation, and are given a 10-minute phone call to their parent/custodian.

Medical Services

The Detention Home has a contracted Medical Director, employs nursing staff, provides physical exams for admitted youth, and continues with prescribed medications.

Mental Health Services

The Court contracts with Applewood Centers for crisis and ongoing mental health care with 24/7 access. Staff transport youth to outside appointments as recommended.

Educational Services

The Court contracts with Lorain County ESC to provide 2 full-time educators, with a focus on state proficiency testing. There are 25 individual computers to support youth learning.

Religious Services/Group Programming

Non-denominational services are offered weekly. Voluntary therapeutic and community group sessions are provided for youth.

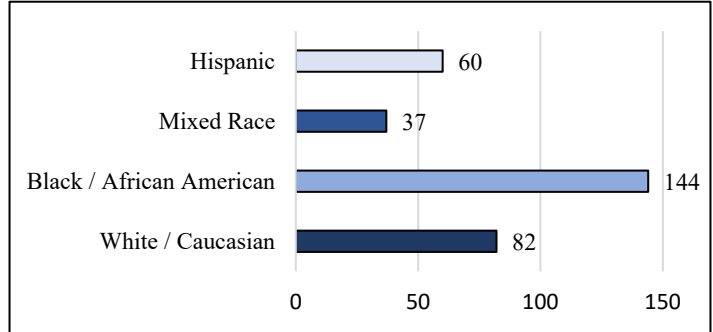
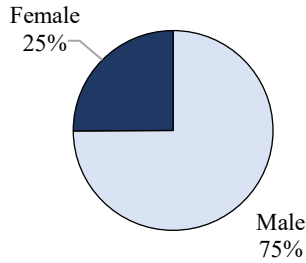
Visitation

Youth are offered visitation with parents/custodians via in-person, video, and phone. Attorneys and service providers can visit youth during normal business hours.

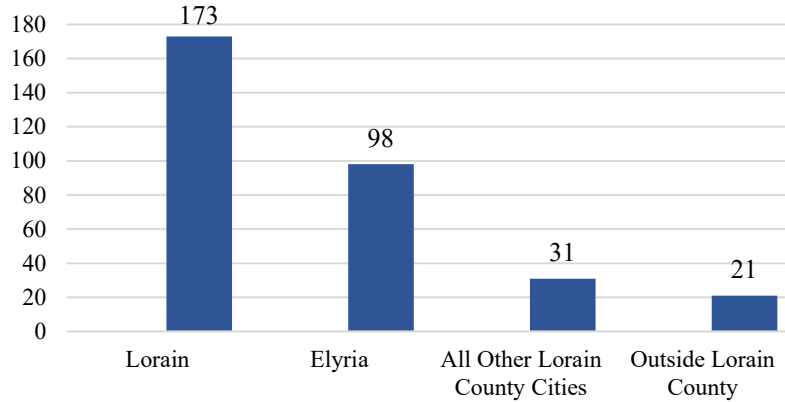
2024 DETENTION HOME ADMISSIONS

In 2024, there were **323 admissions** to the Detention Home with an average length of stay of 30 days. Anytime a youth is admitted more than once, it represents a new admission.

2024 DETENTION ADMISSIONS DEMOGRAPHICS



2024 DETENTION ADMISSIONS BY CITY OF RESIDENCE

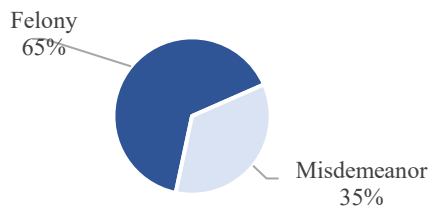
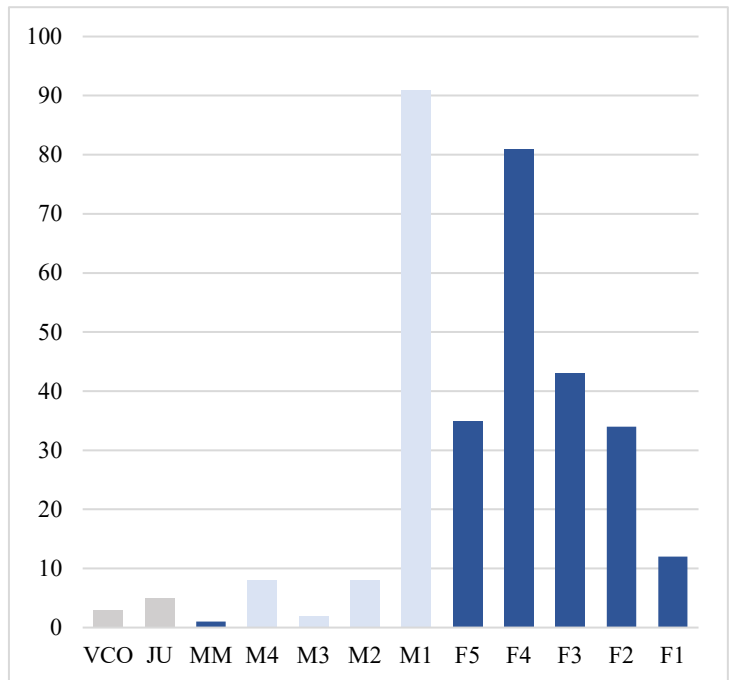


Other Lorain County Cities include:

- Amherst (7)
- Avon (6)
- Avon Lake (3)
- Columbia Station (5)
- North Ridgeville (1)
- Oberlin (4)
- Sheffield Lake (4)
- Wellington (1)

2024 DETENTION ADMISSIONS BY OFFENSE

Offense	Number
F1	12
F2	34
F3	43
F4	81
F5	35
M1	91
M2	8
M3	2
M4	8
MM	1
VCO	3
JU	5



TURNING POINT SHELTER

1076 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Turning Point Shelter (Turning Point) is an ODJFS-licensed, co-ed, short-term facility for abused, dependent or neglected children as well as domestic violence and human trafficking victims. On May 11, 2024, Turning Point received a 3-year accreditation as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) under the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

In fulfilling a broader role, Turning Point is also used for children with mental health issues, 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 of 13 days.

The Court collaborates with Lorain County Children Services (LCCS) to use Turning Point to help stabilize youth of Lorain County. While youth are at Turning Point, LCCS can identify an appropriate relative or link the parent or guardian with services so that the child may safely return home.

Turning Point employs trained Child Care Workers who provide 24/7 supervision and receive annual training to ensure the safety and well-being of residents. Nursing staff are also available around the clock, with access to a physician for non-emergency medical consultations. While at Turning Point, youth receive educational services through the ESC of Lorain County and can continue any ongoing support services.

Turning Point has a Social Worker on staff who works with each admitted youth and their family to create a service plan to allow for a safe transition into the home and community. Upon admission to Turning Point, the Social Worker completes several assessments, which include: a psychosocial, Trust Survey, GAINS assessment, and Human Trafficking questionnaire. The Social Worker may make referrals to community-based services for youth, and 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.

In 2024, there were a total of **161 youth placements at Turning Point**. After youth are discharged from Turning Point, they may be eligible for readmission again, which is counted as a new placement. In 2024, 37% of the placements were at the request of LCCS. The average length of stay for non-LCCS youth placed during 2024 was 5.9 days while the average length of stay for a LCCS-placed youth was slightly longer at 8.8 days

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 approximately 160 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 2024, the department processed over \$1,163,239 of state reimbursement requests for court appointed counsel, which was an increase of 28% from 2023. The department is also responsible for the financial management, reporting, and auditing of all state and federal grants.

GRANTS AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Grants Manager researches grant opportunities available through state, federal, and local agencies, writes grant proposals, and maintains reporting requirements of grant awards. In 2024, one grant from the prior year was carried over and the Grants Manager applied for six grants with a potential award of \$1,507,452.57, based on eligibility criteria. There were five grants awarded in the amount of \$1,330,404.77. Grant awards included funds for Youths in Probation and Diversion to pay restitution through completion of community service hours, replacement of the Detention Home control board and security doors, behavioral mental health services for court involved youths, and various juvenile services. One grant is pending for the implementation of the evidence-based interventions, Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) and Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions – Core Youth (CBI-CY), in the Juvenile Probation Department to reduce youth recidivism rates.

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

SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

The Systems Department provides network and desktop support to approximately 160 Court employees located at the Lorain County Justice Center, Detention Home, Turning Point Shelter, Crossroads Program, and the Assessment and Resource Center. Systems is responsible for the Court's computer hardware, software, intranet, Court website, and other related systems. The Court's case management system, CourtView, maintains the docketing, imaging, and judicial and probation management systems. The department also manages the high-resolution video security system located at the Lorain County Detention Home and Facilities Complex that allows for remote monitoring and archiving 160 days of security camera data. The video security system provides comprehensive monitoring capabilities and a heightened level of safety and security for the juveniles and staff.

In 2024, the Court began the case management system upgrade in the Clerk of Court's Office. The Court also expanded the use of e-filing in the Juvenile Clerk's Office for designated case types. Goals for 2025 include the launch of the Virtual Self-Help Center (VSHC) website through the collaboration of Ohio Legal Help. The VSHC will assist self-represented individuals navigate the Court system and provide the tools necessary to file legal documents without leaving their home. The goal of the Court is to become paperless with electronic access to the public, staff, and attorneys.

2024 Expenditures	Salaries	Fringe Benefits	Operating Costs	Equipment and Leases	Total General Fund	Total Grants
Administration and Elected Officials	2,562,700.52	366,356.09	144,954.06	10,392.83	3,084,403.50	
Juvenile Services	2,488,731.18	357,842.53	175,500.96	15,543.94	3,037,618.61	
Domestic Support/ IV-D	597,368.27	243,334.40	34,477.95	7,180.34	882,360.96	
Detention Services	1,967,608.86	279,100.38	400,957.58	23,926.40	2,671,593.22	
Pathways	-	-	4,105.44	-	4,105.44	
Turning Point	507,236.01	73,594.76	12,959.93	927.37	594,718.07	
Multipurpose Building	-	-	12,954.31	-	12,954.31	
Specialized Dockets	-	215.00	-	-		215.00
Help Center	78,624.00	23,849.63	35,366.50	-		137,840.13
RECLAIM	568,410.18	93,491.78	369,751.53	906.00		1,032,559.49
Targeted RECLAIM	-	-	91,170.52	-		91,170.52
IV-E	46,268.80	8,088.63	166.67	70,729.17		125,253.27
VOCA	64,682.40	30,757.36	-	-		95,449.76
Other Grants	302,649.73	62,269.04	234,989.20	24,182.25		624,090.22
Total	9,184,279.95	1,538,899.60	1,517,354.65	153,788.30	10,287,754.11	2,106,578.39

2024 Revenue	Refunds, Reimbursements	Fines, Fees	Federal and State Reimbursements	Agency Contributions, Donations	Total General Fund Revenue	All Other Revenue
Administration and Elected Officials	1,100.75	307.10	-	-	1,407.85	
Juvenile Services	51.56	99,739.64	-	-	99,791.20	
Domestic Support/ IV-D	450.00	-	606,130.97	-	606,580.97	
Detention Services	5,785.18	-	86,384.53	-	92,169.71	
Pathways	-	-	-	-	-	
Turning Point	-	-	-	130,000.00	130,000.00	
Multipurpose	-	-	-	-	-	
Specialized Dockets	-	-	-	-		-
Help Center	-	-	-	-		-
RECLAIM	-	-	959,502.64	-		959,502.64
Targeted RECLAIM	-	-	128,000.00	-		128,000.00
IV-E	43,537.65	-	-	-		43,537.65
VOCA	-	-	98,326.35	-		98,326.35
Other Grants	46,540.07	90,117.32	72,067.27	810.00		209,534.66
Total	255,622.83	266,326.41	2,361,638.83	292,447.38	929,949.73	1,438,901.30

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

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

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

Domestic Relations Court Contact Information

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Judge Sherry Glass	440-328-2201	440-328-2211
Judge Frank Janik	440-329-5365	440-328-2258
Judge Lisa Swenski	440-329-5357	440-329-5438
Administration.....	440-329-5360	440-329-5232
Juvenile Clerk.....	440-329-5187	440-329-5271
Court Services	440-326-4846	440-326-4844
Juvenile Probation	440-326-4880	440-326-4896
Domestic Support	440-326-4835	440-326-4844
 Assignment Commissioners:		
Domestic Relations.....		440-329-5368
Domestic Relations.....		440-329-5362
Domestic Relations.....		440-329-5369
Juvenile.....		440-328-2200
Fax		440-329-5436

Lorain County Court of Common Pleas
 Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch
 Lorain County Justice Center
 225 Court Street
 Elyria, Ohio 44035

Emily Kirsch, Court Administrator

5 Copies @ \$36.48 each

