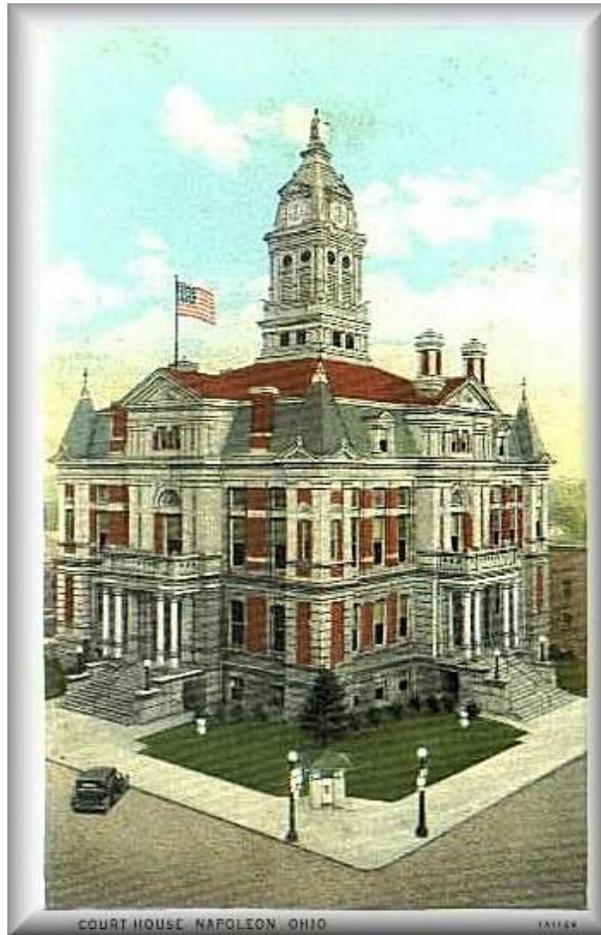


# HENRY COUNTY FAMILY COURT

2012 Annual Report



Judge Denise Herman McColley

660 N. Perry St., Suite 401  
Napoleon, OH 43545  
(419) 599-5951  
Court Fax: 419-599-0179  
Probation Fax: 419-592-5005

## **HENRY COUNTY FAMILY COURT**

The Courts of Common Pleas in Ohio have four divisions: general, domestic relations, juvenile, and probate. In the past, Henry County had one judge overseeing all four divisions, while most other counties had two or more judges in their Common Pleas Courts. Commencing January 1, 2005, the divisions were separated into General-Probate and Domestic Relations-Juvenile. This has resulted in two Common Pleas Judges, one for each of the newly defined divisions of the Court. Since 2005, Judge Denise Herman McColley has presided over the Family Court (Domestic Relations and Juvenile Divisions).

In Juvenile Division, delinquency, unruly child, juvenile traffic offender and juvenile tobacco offender proceedings take place. In addition, proceedings against adults for contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child or failure to send a child to school are heard. Juvenile cases include abuse, neglect and/ or dependency proceedings, as well as allocation of parental rights and responsibilities and child support proceedings for those parents who have not been married to one another.

In Domestic Relations Division, annulment, legal separation, divorce, and dissolution of marriage proceedings are heard. Post-divorce, dissolution and legal separation motions, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) proceedings, as well as civil domestic violence and conciliation proceedings also take place.

The Henry County Family Court works to bring about results that are fair, just, and in compliance with the law. The Court and its officers are committed to helping rehabilitate juvenile offenders as well as assist families in transition to resolve their disagreements about finances, property, and, especially, to resolve their disputes regarding children. The Court is committed to serving the best interests of families by creating solutions, resolving disputes and helping families transition smoothly into a new family situation.

## Family Court Judge & Magistrate



Judge McColley commenced her first term as Judge of the Henry County Family Court on January 1, 2005, where she is presently serving her second judicial term. Prior to her election, she was a magistrate of Henry County and Fulton County Common Pleas Courts for eight years. Before becoming Magistrate, she worked as a private practice attorney in the firm of Lankenau, Wesche & McColley for fifteen years. During that time, she also served as a mediator in private practice the last seven years. She is a past-president of the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts, was a member of the Ohio Task Force for Family Law and Children, is a past-president of the Henry County Bar Association, past-chair of the Continuing Legal Education and Public Education Subcommittee of Ohio State Bar Association Dispute Resolution Committee, and was a member of the American Bar Association Pro Bono Child Custody Project Advisory Committee, Ohio Lawyers' Assistance Program Judicial Advisory Group and the Ohio Judicial College Board of Trustees. She presently serves as a member of the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children, Families, and the Courts, the Ohio Judicial Conference Juvenile Law and Procedure Committee and Domestic Relations Law and Procedure Committee, and the Ohio Association of Domestic Relations Courts Judges Board of which She is presently serving as president. She is the author of Chapter 6 *Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution*, contained in Baldwin's Ohio Practice: Domestic Relations Law, Beatrice K. Sowald and Stanley Morganstern, editors. She was the recipient of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts John E. VanDuzer Distinguished Service Award (2008) and President's Award (1999), the Ohio State Bar Foundation Public or Government Service Award (2001) and the Ohio Association of Magistrates Judicial Award (2008). She is presently serving on the Henry County Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and the board of the Ohio State University Alumni Club of Northwest Ohio. Judge McColley received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Bowling Green State University and her Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University.



Since 2005, Richard L. Altman has been the Magistrate for the Court. From 1998 through 2004 he was the Mediation Coordinator of the Northwest Ohio Court Mediation Services. He has worked extensively as an attorney and mediator in the areas of Civil Law, Domestic Relations, Parenting Issues, and Criminal Matters. Magistrate Altman has been a frequent presenter for organizations such as the Ohio Supreme Court, The Ohio Judicial College, the Wisconsin Association of Mediators, and the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts as President-Elect. He is also a member of The American Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, where he has served as Chair of the Dispute Resolution Committee, and is a member of several local bar associations. Magistrate Altman received his Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Toledo, and was a Paul Harris Fellow studying at the University of Sydney Law School, Sydney Australia. In addition to his duties as Magistrate, Magistrate Altman teaches at Owens Community College and Northwest State Community College Police Officer Training Academies.

## Family Court Staff



Katie Baden is the Court and Program Administrator for the Family Court. Katie began working for Henry County as the Family and Children First Council Coordinator in 2008. She came to the Court in April 2011. Katie is responsible for performing a variety of administrative duties relating to the Court, as well as fiscal and program management. Katie is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology, and is also a graduate of Bluffton University with a Masters of Business Administration.



Leigh Glick is the Assignment Commissioner for the Judge and Magistrate. Previously from Indiana, where she was an On-Site Manager for a telecommunications company, Leigh began with Family Court in September of 2010. Her responsibilities include a variety of clerical duties as well as docketing cases for the Judge and Magistrate. She also assists the Grant Administrator with maintaining ledgers for the Department of Youth Services Grant. Leigh attended Northwest State Community College along with Owens Community College.



Dawn Bischoff began with Henry County Juvenile Court in June of 1998 as Deputy Clerk. In 2005, Henry County added the Family Court, which is when Dawn became the Chief Deputy Clerk of the Juvenile Division. Dawn is responsible for any new filing of custody and dependent/neglect/abuse cases. Dawn also compiles the Supreme Court report, and is responsible for the general operations and functions of the Juvenile Clerks office. In the fall of 2011, Dawn earned her certificate of completion of the Ohio Supreme Court Management Program.



Marissa Shepard was hired in August 2011 as Juvenile Deputy Clerk. She is responsible for filing and docketing traffic, delinquent/unruly, adult contributing, paternity/child support, and failure to send children to school cases. She is also responsible for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles report which reports license suspensions to the BMV. Marissa has an Associate's Degree in Office Administration and in Medical Support from Northwest State Community College.

## Juvenile Probation Staff



Chief Probation Officer Joyce Beck has been employed with the Henry County Juvenile Probation Department since July 1985. Joyce is responsible for the management of the staff and operations of the Juvenile Probation Department. She is also the Grant Administrator for grants received from the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Joyce was previously employed at the Maumee Youth Center, a Department of Youth Services institution, as well as with Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission as a case worker. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowling Green State University majoring in Sociology and Psychology.



Probation Officer Elissa Carrizales has been with the Juvenile Probation Department since May 1995. Elissa came to the Court from Northwest Community Action Commission, Head Start Program, where she served as a Family Service Specialist. Elissa graduated from Northwest State Community College in 1994 with an Associate's Degree in Human Services. Elissa supervises a caseload of youth on probation in addition to attending Court hearings and conducting unofficial unruly conferences.



Probation Officer Ashley Rohrs came to the Juvenile Probation Department in September 2012. Ashley supervises a caseload of youth on probation. She is also responsible for conducting unruly conferences as well as attending Court hearings. Ashley came to the Family Court from the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center where she was a Lieutenant and served as Program Officer. Ashley attended Northwest State Community College taking continuing education courses in Criminal Justice and is a graduate of the University of Toledo with a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice.

# **JUVENILE COURT/PROBATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

## **Intake**

Upon the filing of a complaint by law enforcement, a determination is made as to whether the case should be scheduled for an Official Hearing before the Judge or Magistrate or scheduled for an Unofficial or Diversion Hearing. In general, first time offenders who have committed a misdemeanor offense may be eligible for an Unofficial Hearing. All felony offenses and drug-related offenses are scheduled for Official Hearings.

Other responsibilities required during the intake process include information gathering by contacting the schools for attendance, grades, and disciplinary reports, investigating the amount of restitution due to the victims, and referring the cases to the Victim Advocate when required.

## **Unofficial Hearings**

An Unofficial Hearing is scheduled for the youth and his/her parent(s) before the Magistrate of the Court. The youth must be willing to admit his/her involvement in the offense. Youth are given a variety of consequences which may include curfews, community service hours, Substance Abuse Education Program, Theft Offenders Program, apology letters, and operator's license suspensions. If the youth successfully completes his or her requirements, the case is closed and the youth is deemed not to have a formal juvenile record.

## **Official Probation**

One of the most common dispositions in the Juvenile Court is probation. In 2012, 114 juveniles were supervised on probation. Probation Officers attended a total of 424 Court hearings and 61 Probation Violations or Motions to Revoke were filed.

Probation Officers are responsible for supervising youth that are placed on probation by the Court and monitoring the youth's compliance with Court orders. Supervision is provided through home visits, school visits, and office visits. Officers also visit youth who are placed outside the home in foster care, residential placements, or incarcerated at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center. Probation Officers maintain regular contact with parents, school personnel, and service providers. Probation Officers attend Individual Education Plan (IEP) and other school meetings, as well as case planning and semi-annual review meetings with the Henry County Department of Job and Family Services.

A Probation Officer attends each scheduled Court hearing regarding a youth. They are responsible for providing the Court with recommendations regarding disposition as well as progress made by the youth. At the request of the Court, a pre-dispositional report will be completed by interviewing the parents, youth, school personnel, and other service providers. All three Probation Officers are certified in the Ohio Youth Assessment which was developed by the University of Cincinnati. This assessment determines the youth's risk level, areas needing treatment, and also measures progress. The assessment is completed on each youth placed on probation and can also be used as a pre-dispositional tool.

All probationers are subject to random drug screens. A positive rapid drug screen completed in the office is confirmed by laboratory analysis. Probation Officers may take a variety of actions as a result of a positive drug screen including referral for treatment or a probation violation being filed with the Court.

The Probation Department provides an on-call officer, available 24 hours a day, for law enforcement to contact when serious juvenile related matters occur. A Probation Officer can authorize a youth's incarceration at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center or assist in determining an alternative placement pending a Court hearing.

### Unruly Conferences

Probation Officers will also conduct an informal conference with an unruly juvenile at the request of parents, school officials, and law enforcement officers. Probation Officers advise the youth and parents of possible consequences should the undesirable behavior continue as well as make appropriate referrals for services that may be helpful to the youth and family.

## **OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS**

There are some youth in Henry County who require placement outside of their home either in a secure or non-secure facility. The decision to remove a child from his home is never taken lightly and is used as a last resort when community based services have been exhausted.

### Ohio Department of Youth Services

The Ohio Department of Youth Services is the state correctional system for juvenile offenders ages 10-18 who commit felony level offense. The commitments range from a minimum period of 6 months to a maximum period of the youth's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The Department provides treatment and educational programming to meet each youth's needs. A Parole Officer is assigned to the youth upon release to assist their transition from the institution back into the community. Henry County Juvenile Court committed three youth to the Department of Youth Services in 2012.

### Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio

The Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio located in Bowling Green, Ohio is a secure 42 bed treatment facility for male youth adjudicated of a felony offense. The Juvenile Residential Center is used as an alternative for youth who may have otherwise been placed at the Department of Youth Services. The facility offers numerous treatment options that are supported by research and practice. Individualized treatment is based upon a youth's specific needs and families are included in counseling sessions. The close proximity of the facility makes family involvement realistic. Three youth were placed at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Residential Center in 2012. There are similar facilities for female youth who have been adjudicated delinquent for committing what would be a felony if she were an adult, the closest being the Youth Treatment Center in Toledo, Ohio. In 2012, one youth was placed at the Youth Treatment Center.

## Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center

Henry County Juvenile Court utilizes the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training, and Rehabilitation Center located in Stryker, Ohio for short term incarceration of youth who have been adjudicated a delinquent child, youth in pre-trial status that are not safe to be released to the community pending adjudication, and youth awaiting transport to another facility. Henry County Juvenile Court contracts for 6 beds in the facility. In 2012, 45 different youth were placed at the detention center. However, 16 of those same youth were detained on more than one occasion.

Youth are provided with many services while incarcerated at the Juvenile Detention Center. Mental Health services and evaluations are provided to youth by Four County Family Center. Alcohol/drug assessments and treatment are provided by Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio. Many other groups such as Life Skills, Strategies for Anger Management, Conflict Resolution, Girls Circle, and Boys Council are facilitated by staff employed by the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention, Training, and Rehabilitation Center.

## Foster Care/Residential Treatment

The Court is occasionally faced with a youth on probation that for a variety of reasons cannot be maintained in his or her home, a secure facility is not appropriate or necessary, and community based and in-home services provided to the family have not been effective. In these cases, the Court places the youth in the custody of the Henry County Department of Job and Family Services for placement in a foster home, group home, or residential placement. The goal is continued involvement with the youth's family and eventual reunification or in the case of older youth, independent living. During 2012, five youth were in the Department of Job and Family Services' custody.

## Restitution and Community Service

In 2012, 61 youth were ordered to complete Community Service as a part of their disposition. A grant obtained from the Ohio Department of Youth Services enables the Probation Department to provide youth the opportunity to complete Community Service to pay restitution owed to a victim. A total of 5 youth were able to pay restitution to victims in the amount of \$768.98 through this program. Community Services is completed at public worksites such as the Henry County Humane Society, Henry County Landfill, schools, and area churches.

## **Court Provided Services**

- **Court Assessments**

In some cases, determining appropriate custody, placement and treatment can be a very difficult and complex task. A Court Evaluator is available to the Court through funding provided by the local Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board. A master level therapist gathers information and interviews all parties involved in the case before submitting a written recommendation to the Court.

- **Mediation Services**

Court Mediators are available to both parents and schools for truancy issues as well as to establish behavior contracts. In addition, the youth offender and victim may be referred to mediation to determine an appropriate amount of restitution to be paid.

- **S.T.A.R. Mentoring Program**

STAR (Supporting Teens to Achieve Results) is a mentoring program that connects high risk youth with positive adult role models. The program is funded by the Henry County Family Court and the local ADAMHs Board. The mission of the program is to create, nurture and support meaningful relationships between children and volunteers that will encourage each child to grow into an assertive, capable and compassionate adult. In 2012, six new mentors were trained, and there were ten mentor youth matches made.

- **Theft Offender Program**

The Theft Offender Program is a one-time class for youth adjudicated of a theft-related charge. A parent must attend the four hour session with the youth. Twenty six youth completed the program in 2012.

- **CARTEENS**

Northwest Ohio CARTEENS is a teen-facilitated traffic safety program for first time juvenile traffic offenders. The CARTEENS program topics include excessive speed, driving under the influence, seat belt safety use, consequences of unsafe decisions, dealing with peer pressure, understanding traffic laws, and recognizing and reacting to traffic signs and signals. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decrease the number of teen traffic offenders, and increase teen awareness of traffic/vehicular safety.

## REFERRAL AGENCIES

- **AJA Behavioral**

AJA Behavioral provides mental health counseling as well as alcohol/drug treatment to youth and their families. Numerous treatment modules are offered including Adolescent Correctional Counseling, Coping with Anger, Responsible Living, Rules are Made to be Followed, and Something for Nothing among others.

- **Center for Child and Family Advocacy**

The Center for Child and Family Advocacy is the area's leading agency in providing sex offender treatment. The agency also specializes in the treatment of victims of sexual and physical abuse. It also provides traditional individual and family counseling.

- **Four County Family Center**

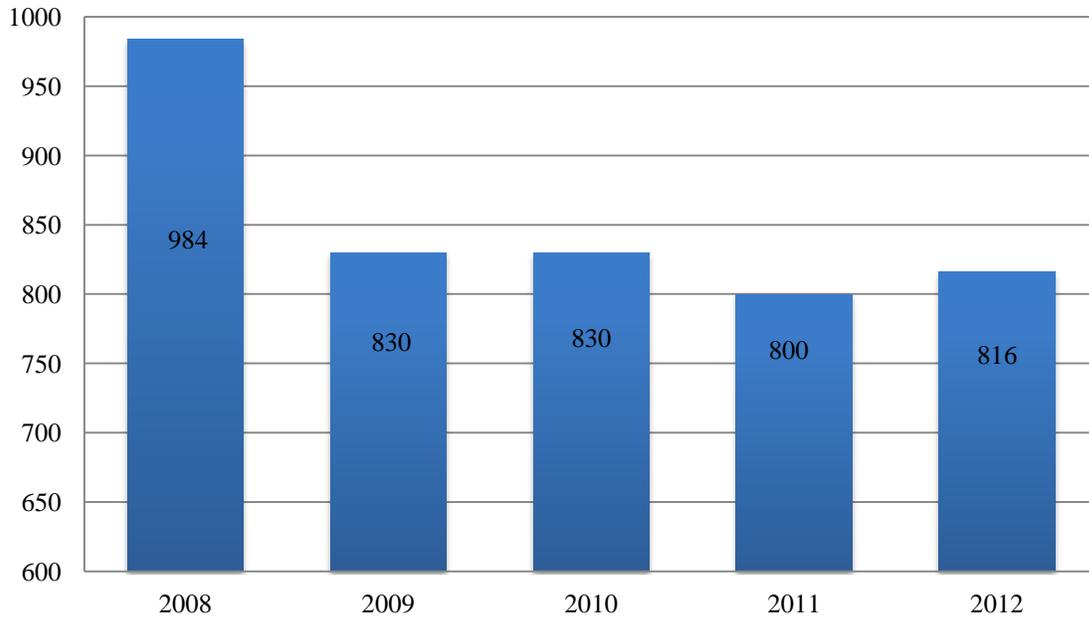
Four County Family Center provides many services to youth and their families. Pharmacological management provides psychiatric assessment and monitoring services for those requiring medication. Family Systems Therapy is home-based treatment that is designed to work with the family as a whole in order to decrease conflict and improve family communication. Intensive Home Based Treatment provides counseling within the youth's home to provide the structure to help the family function at their highest level of ability. Out-patient counseling is provided for individuals and families to decrease personal issues many youth face due to stress, conflict, or life changes.

- **Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio**

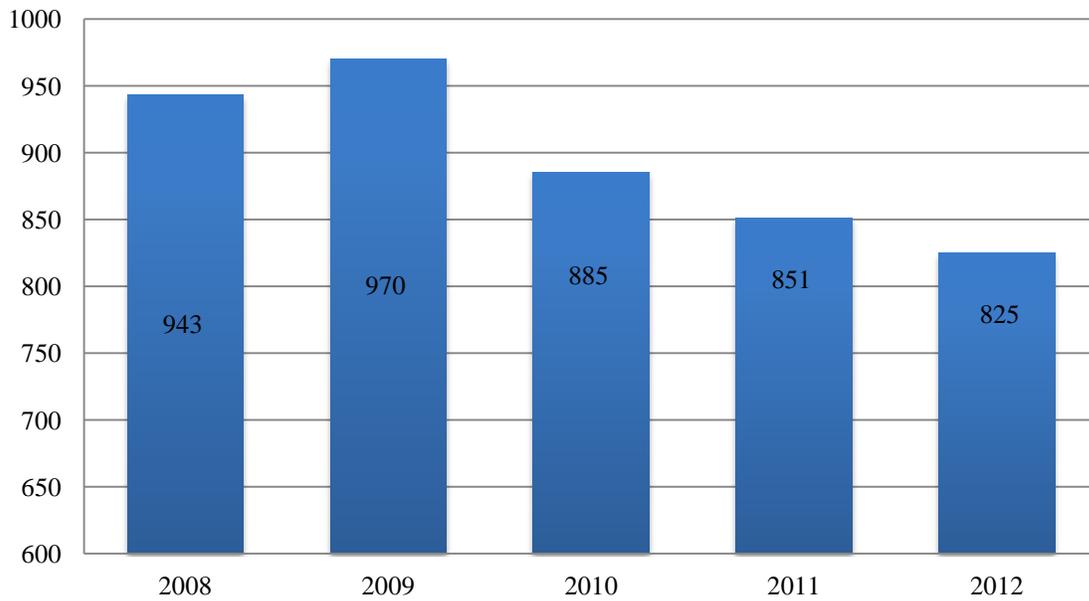
Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio provides counseling services to youth struggling with chemical dependency as well as prevention and education services. Youth who are charged with a first offense of Underage Consumption are referred to the Adolescent Education Program which is held weekly for four weeks. Parents are required to attend the final session.

Life Without Drugs Program is a 90 day treatment program provided by Recovery Services of Northwest Ohio and is housed at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Training and Rehabilitation Center. Youth are placed at the detention center during the treatment period. 8 youth were placed in Life Without Drugs Program in 2012.

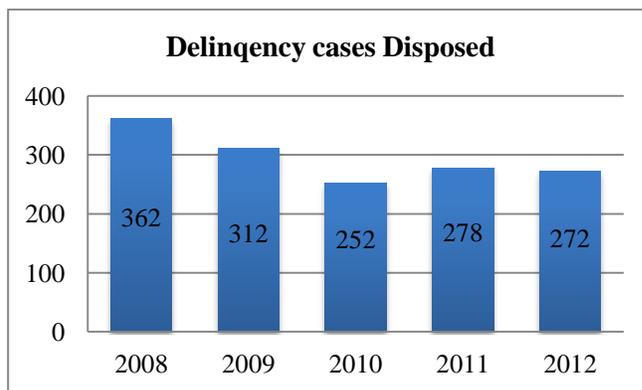
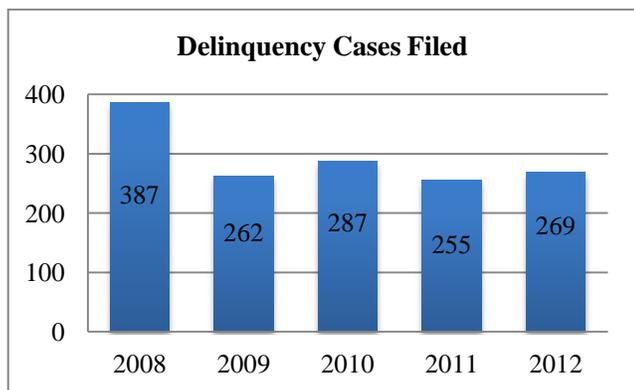
## Juvenile Court Cases Filed & Reactivated



## Juvenile Court Cases Disposed



## DELINQUENCY CASES 2012



2152.02 (F) “Delinquent Child” defined:

“Delinquent child” includes any of the following:

- 1) Any child, except a juvenile traffic offender, who violates any law of this state or the United States, or any ordinance of a political subdivision of the state that would be an offense if committed by an adult.
- 2) Any child who violates any lawful order of the Court made under this chapter or under Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code other than an order issued under section 2151.87 of the Revised Code.
- 3) Any child who violates divisions (C) of section 2907.39, division (A) of section 2923.211 or division (C)(1) or (D) of section 2925.55 of the Revised Code.
- 4) Any child who is a habitual truant and who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant.
- 5) Any child who is a chronic truant

### Ages

Official Cases Filed	165
Unofficial Cases Filed	40
Motions to Revoke	64
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>269</b>
Official Cases Disposed	175
Unofficial Cases Disposed	39
Motions to Revoke	58
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>272</b>
<b>Total Felony Offenses Filed</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total Felony Adjudications</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total Commitments to DYS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Commitments to Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio</b>	<b>4</b>

Nine	1
Ten	1
Eleven	4
Twelve	2
Thirteen	19
Fourteen	29
Fifteen	34
Sixteen	75
Seventeen	88
Eighteen	12
Nineteen	4
Male	211
Female	58

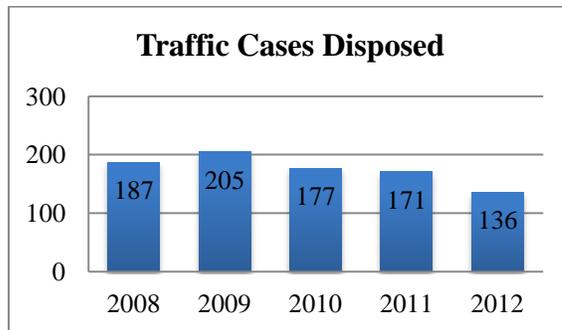
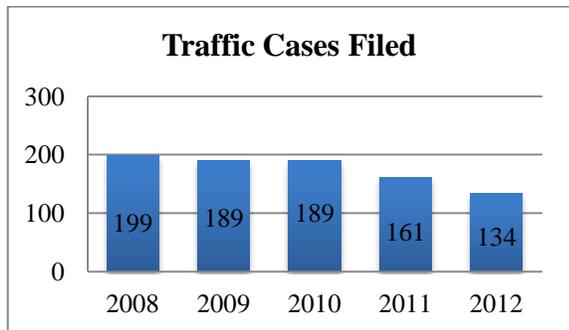
## TYPES OF DELINQUENCY OFFENSES

Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	1	Incite to Violence	1
Aggravated Arson	6	Gross Sexual Imposition	1
Aggravated Menacing	2	Menacing	1
Assault (Felony)	3	Menace by Stalking	1
Assault (Misdemeanor)	7	Motion to Revoke	51
Attempted Sexual Imposition	1	Obstructing Justice	1
Breaking and Entering	5	Obstructing Official Business	5
Burglary	2	Offenses Involving Underage	22
Chronic Truant	7	Parole Violation	3
Complicity to Assault	1	Possession of Weapon at School	4
Contributing to Unruliness or Delinquency of Minor	6	Probation Violation	10
Criminal Damaging	11	Public Indecency	2
Criminal Mischief	4	Rape	4
Criminal Trespassing	5	Resisting Arrest	2
Disorderly Conduct	17	Receiving Stolen Property	3
Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juveniles	1	Tampering with Evidence	1
Domestic Violence (Misdemeanor)	5	Telecommunication Harassment	2
Drug Paraphernalia	18	Theft (Felony)	3
Drug Possession	17	Theft (Misdemeanor)	19
Drug Trafficking	9	Unauthorized use of Property	1
Escape	1	Unlawful Restraint	1
Falsification	1	Vandalism	1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>

## **TYPES OF DELINQUENCY DISPOSITIONS**

DYS Commitment	3
DYS Commitment Suspended	8
Juvenile Residential Center of N/W Ohio	4
Probation	70
Detention/Jail	68
Detention/Jail Suspended	76
House Arrest/Electronic Monitoring	18
Curfew	49
Apology Letter	25
Community Service	60
Out of Home Placement	2
Custody Change to Relative/Other	1
Individual/Family Counseling	66
Alcohol/Drug Assessment & Treatment	63
Residential Drug Treatment	9
Fire Education Program	1
Parenting Education Program	1
Sex Offender Treatment	2
Theft Offender Program	28
Operator's License Suspension	28
Operator's License Suspension w/Privileges	11
Restitution	23
Fine/Costs	106
Certified to Another County	26
Dismissed	53
Withdrawn	1
Miscellaneous Dispositions	1

## TRAFFIC CASES 2012



2152.02(N) “Juvenile Traffic Offender” defined:

Any child who violates any traffic law, traffic ordinance, or traffic regulation of this state, the United States, or any political subdivision of this state, other than a resolution, ordinance, or regulation of a political subdivision of this state the violation of which is required to be handled by a parking violations bureau or a joint parking violations bureau pursuant to Chapter 4521. of the Revised Code.

Official Cases Filed	134
Unofficial Cases Filed	0
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>134</b>
Official Cases Disposed	136
Unofficial Cases Disposed	0
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>136</b>

<b>Ages</b>	
Fourteen	1
Fifteen	3
Sixteen	33
Seventeen	95
Eighteen	2
Male	80
Female	54

## TYPES OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES

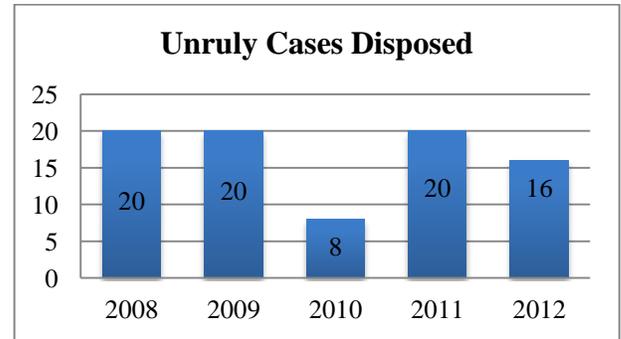
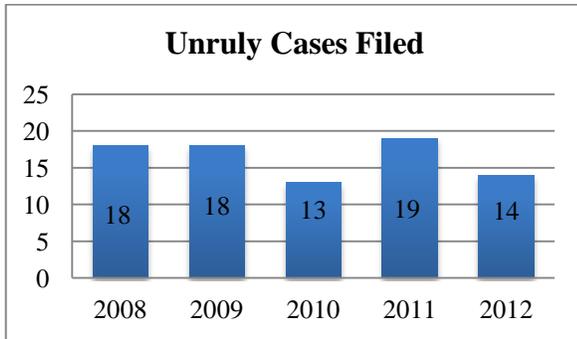
Assured Clear Distance	11	No Operators License	4
Driving Under Suspension	3	OVI	2
Driving on a Closed Hwy	1	Parking on a Public Highway	1
Failure to Control	6	Permit – No Adult	1
Failure to Yield	3	Probationary License Violation	9
Following too Close	3	RR Crossing Violation	1
Headlight Violation	1	Red Light	1
Improper Backing	2	Seat Belt (Passenger)	5
Left of Center	1	Seat Belt (Driver)	3
Littering from a Moving Veh.	1	Speed	60
Marked Lanes	2	Stop Sign	11
No Brake Light	1		
No Eye Protection	1		

**Total Traffic Offenses            134**

## TYPES OF TRAFFIC DISPOSTIONS

Alcohol/Drug Assessment & Treatment	1	Fine/Cost	80
Northwest Ohio CARTEENS	49	Certified to Another County	40
Operator's License Suspension	29	Dismissed	16
Operator's License Suspension w/ Privileges	22		

## UNRULY CASES 2012



2151.022 “Unruly Child” defined:

As used in this chapter, “unruly child” includes any of the following:

- A) Any child who does not submit to the reasonable control of the child’s parents, teachers, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient.
- B) Any child who is an habitual truant from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant.
- C) Any child who behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger the child’s own health or morals or the health or morals of others.
- D) Any child who violates a law, other than division (C) of section 2907.39, division (A) of section 2923.211, division (C)(1) or (D) of section 2925.55, or section 2151.87 of the Revised Code, that is applicable only to a child.

## UNRULY CASES 2012

Official Cases Filed	13		
Unofficial Cases Filed	1	Male	7
		Female	7
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>14</b>		
<b>Ages:</b>			
Official Cases Disposed	15	Eleven	1
Unofficial Cases Disposed	1	Fifteen	5
		Sixteen	5
		Seventeen	3
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>16</b>		
<b>Charges Filed By</b>			
School	4		
Parents	3		
Law Enforcement	7		

## TYPES OF UNRULY OFFENSES

Curfew	2
School Truancy	4
Tobacco Offenses	3
Unruly Incurrigible	5

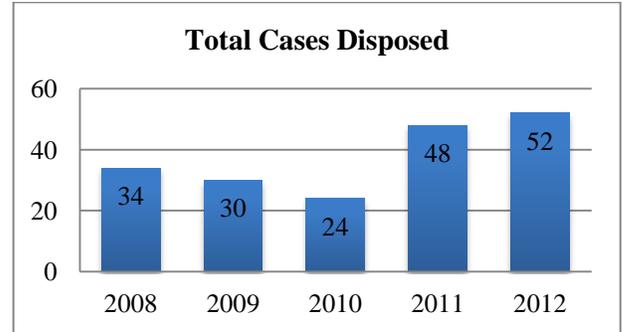
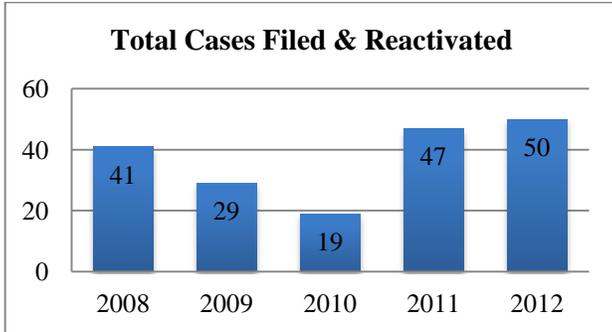
## TYPES OF UNRULY DISPOSITIONS

Probation	6	Individual/Family Counseling	6
House Arrest	1	Alcohol/Drug Assessment & Treatment	5
Curfew	4	Operator's License Suspension	1
Apology Letter	2	Fines/Costs	4
Community Service	1	Certified to Another County	2
		Dismissed	5

## CONFERENCES BY PROBATION OFFICERS

Truancy	5
Unruly	10

## ABUSE/DEPENDENT/NEGLECT & PERMANENT CUSTODY



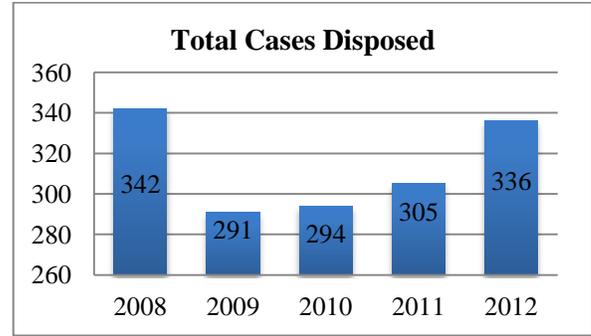
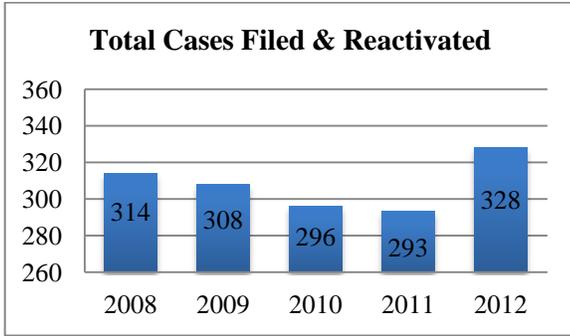
### Types of Cases Filed

	<u>New Cases Filed</u>	<u>Reactivated</u>
Abuse/Dependent/Neglect	25	15
Permanent Custody	1	9
	<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>Total Cases Reactivated</b>	<b>24</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

### Types of Cases Disposed

Abuse/Dependent/Neglect	42	
Permanent Custody	10	
	<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>52</b>

# CUSTODY/VISITATION/PATERNITY & SUPPORT



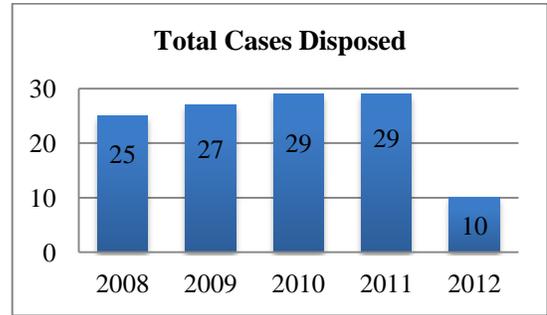
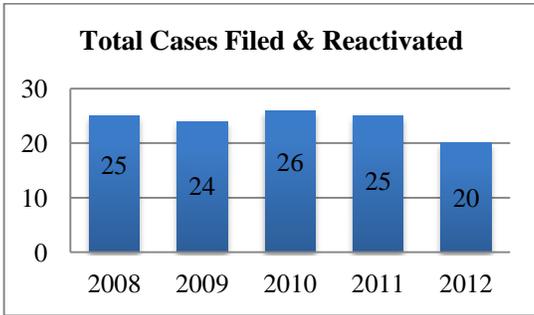
## Types of Cases Filed

	<u>New Cases Filed</u>	<u>Reactivated</u>
Custody/Visitation	15	56
Support	33	160
Paternity	57	7
	<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>105</b>
	<b>Total Cases Reactivated</b>	<b>223</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>328</b>

## Types of Cases Disposed

Custody/Visitation	67
Support	209
Paternity	60
	<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>
	<b>336</b>

## ADULT CASES



### Types of Cases Filed

	<u>New Cases Filed</u>	<u>Reactivated</u>	
Failure to Send	13	1	
Contribute to Minor	6		
		<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>19</b>
		<b>Total Cases Reactivated</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

### Types of Cases Disposed

Failure to Send	4	
Contribute to Minor	6	
		<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>
		<b>10</b>

## **DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

All cases of divorce, dissolution, legal separation, annulment and the issuance of civil protection orders arising out of domestic violence are heard in the Domestic Relations division of the Court. The Court also hears all matters associated with these cases such as determining parental rights and responsibilities or custody, child support, spousal support or alimony, property division and debt allocation. Cases filed under the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act are also heard in the Domestic Relations Division. These involve actions started in another state but enforced in Ohio when the support is owed by an Ohio resident.

### **TERMINATION OF MARRIAGE**

Ohio residents have the option of terminating their marriages either (a) by agreement through dissolution or (b) by filing a divorce action. In addition, the spouses may want to remain married but formalize their rights and duties through a court-ordered legal separation.

#### **A. Dissolution**

In a dissolution, spouses end their marriage by agreement without stating why they want the marriage ended. They must agree to all matters – including property and debt division, parental rights and duties, and spousal support (if any) – which are set out in a written contract or separation agreement.

#### **B. Divorce**

In a divorce, one party files against the other. There are several grounds for divorce under Ohio Revised Code section 3105.01. The most commonly cited are: incompatibility, living separate and apart for more than one year without cohabitation, adultery, extreme cruelty, and gross neglect of duty. Couples may also be granted a divorce for bigamy, fraudulent contract, habitual drunkenness, or imprisonment for a felony. If grounds are proven, the Court then grants the divorce and makes orders regarding property and debt division, allocation of parental rights and responsibilities and spousal support.

#### **C. Annulment**

While divorce and dissolution end a valid marriage, annulment declares that a marriage is not valid. In Ohio, grounds for annulment exist when the party seeking the annulment was under age at the time of marriage; a former marriage of either party was and still is valid (bigamy); either party was mentally incompetent; the consent of either party to the marriage was obtained by fraud; the consent of either party was obtained by force; and, even though the marriage was otherwise valid, the parties never consummated the marriage. Bigamy is the only ground that makes the marriage void ab initio (invalid from the start). The other grounds must be asserted within a specified time.

#### **D. Legal Separation**

In a legal separation, a couple remains legally married, but most aspects of the marital relationship are terminated. The grounds for legal separation are virtually the same as the grounds for divorce with one exception: “Procurement of a divorce outside Ohio” a ground for divorce, is not a ground for legal separation. Even if one spouse files for legal separation, the other spouse still may seek a divorce or annulment.

### **E. Post-Decree Motions**

After a divorce, dissolution, or legal separation proceeding is final, other disputes may arise between the parties. The Court has the authority to modify the orders related to any minor children, if certain requirements are met, and to enforce all orders issued by the Court. Parties to the case bring those matters to the Court's attention through a written motion or request for additional orders. These motions are called "post-decree motions" because they are filed after the final decree of divorce, dissolution or legal separation. The filing of such a motion reopens the original divorce or dissolution case.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **Civil Protection Orders (CPOs)**

The Domestic Relations Court hears cases involving requests for civil protection orders (CPOs). A CPO is an order that prohibits a person from contacting or coming near another person; it may also remove a person from a shared home. In addition, the Court may issue orders regarding the parties' minor children within the CPO. A CPO may be issued as a Domestic Violence CPO, where the parties are related to one another in certain ways, or as a Stalking or Sexually Oriented Offense CPO, where there may be no family or intimate relationship between the parties but one party is stalking or has sexually assaulted the other. The person filing the petition for a CPO is called the "petitioner," while the person against whom the order is sought is the "respondent." The stalking or sexually oriented offense CPO is issued through the General Division of the Court, while a domestic violence CPO is issued through the Domestic Relations division of the Court. A similar procedure also exists in the Juvenile Division of the Court for filings against respondents who are minors.

If the Court issues an emergency CPO against the respondent, the CPO will be delivered to the respondent by the Sheriff of the County where the respondent lives and a full hearing, or trial, will be scheduled within the next 7 to 10 Court days. If the parties agree that a CPO should be issued, they can both sign a Consent Agreement for a CPO and give it to the Court to approve. If the parties do not agree, the Court will issue a decision about whether the CPO should be granted.

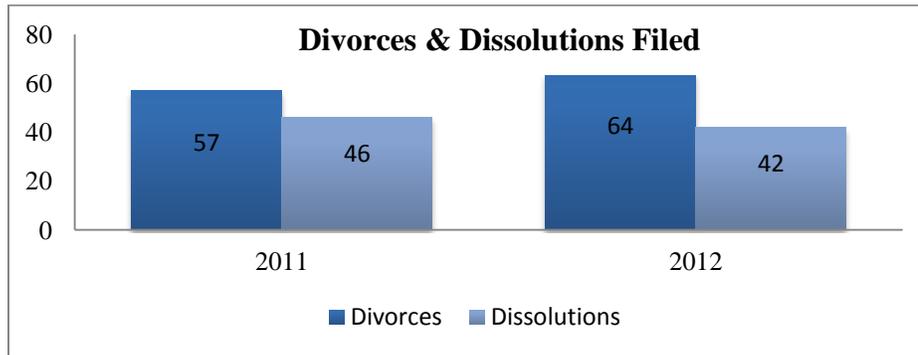
A respondent may be arrested and convicted of a criminal offense for violating a CPO if the respondent has been served with the CPO and as long as that CPO is in effect. Even if the petitioner gives the respondent permission to violate the order, the respondent may be charged with a criminal offense. It is the respondent's responsibility to follow the order. If either party believes the order should be changed, that party can file a motion to modify the CPO. The Court will schedule a hearing to decide if the CPO should be modified. The issuance of a CPO may affect a respondent's rights to have a firearm or to hold certain employment positions, so a respondent should contact an attorney regarding the effects of a CPO.

## **Court Ordered Services**

- **A-OK**  
A-OK is a mandatory parenting class for divorcing couples with minor children. In the class, divorcing parents are taught how to maintain an appropriate parenting relationship outside of a marriage by developing communication skills and respect.
- **What About Me?**  
“What About Me?” is a program designed for children of divorcing parents. In class, various issues facing children during this difficult time are addressed. For ages 5-17, this course helps children learn how to cope with the changes and how to communicate better with their parents. The class is broken down into three age groups (5-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, and teenagers) so that discussion may be age appropriate. Classes are on the same evenings as A-OK.
- **Partnerships in Parenting**  
Partnerships in Parenting is a seminar for planning and communicating for never married parents. The program is a one-time, 2 1/2 hour session that is facilitated by a “parenting coach”. Participants will receive handouts and learn new ways to enhance their ability to minimize conflict with their child’s other parent
- **How to Raise the Best Child Possible**  
How to Raise the Best Children Possible is a six-week parenting class for divorcing parents who are experiencing some degree of conflict or special circumstances. Parents may be ordered to take this class if there are serious ongoing disagreements on parenting, there is a history of conflict, the parents have very young children, the parents have children with medical or psychological conditions or disabilities, or if one or both parents suffer from mental or psychological conditions or disabilities.
- **Our Family Wizard**  
Our Family Wizard is a website that provides a neutral zone for parent communication to help manage the challenges of shared parenting with a former spouse or partner.
- **Northwest Ohio Court Mediation Services**  
Mediation provides disputing parties with an opportunity to settle their differences outside of the traditional Courtroom setting. In mediation, the parties have the opportunity to decide the outcome, rather than having a judge or jury decide for them. The mediator is not a judge, but rather a trained individual employed by the Court. The mediator is there solely to assist the parties in exploring possible solutions to the problem, not to decide the case. For Domestic Relations cases, mediation can be used to settle disputes about custody, support, parenting time, or any other dispute between separating parties. Through Mediation Services, Parenting Coordination, Early Neutral Evaluation, and Arbitration may also be offered.

# DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES 2012

## Divorces, Legal Separations, Annulments and Dissolutions – New Filings



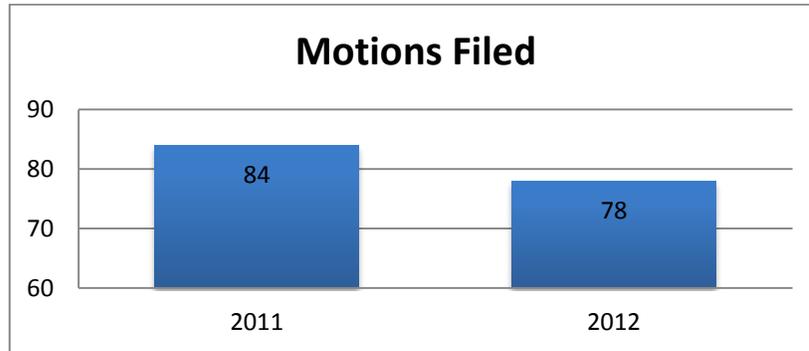
### Types of Cases Filed

<b>Divorces, Legal Separations, Annulments Filed</b>		<b>Dissolutions Filed</b>	
With Children	36	With Children	21
Without Children	28	Without Children	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>		<b>42</b>
<b>Total Divorce &amp; Dissolution Filings</b>		<b>106</b>	

### Types of Cases Disposed

<b>Divorces, Legal Separations, Annulments Disposed</b>		<b>Dissolutions Disposed</b>	
With Children	31	With Children	24
Without Children	30	Without Children	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>48</b>
<b>Total Divorce &amp; Dissolutions Disposed</b>		<b>109</b>	

## Post-Decree Motions



### Motions

#### Post-Decree Motions Filed

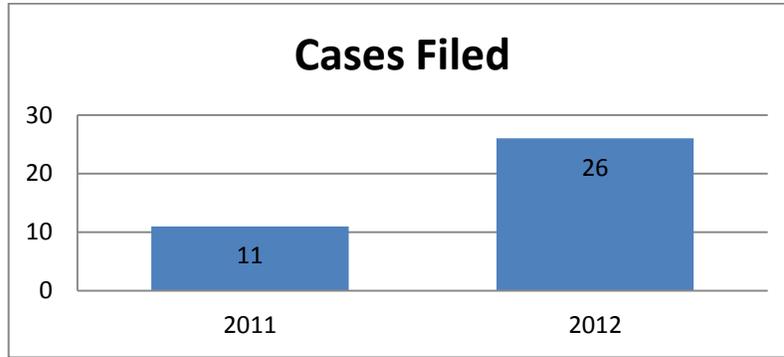
Change in Custody	0
Visitation Modification	12
Support Modification	51
Parentage	10
All Other	5
<b>Total Post-Decree Motions</b>	<b>78</b>

### Disposed

#### Post-Decree Motions Disposed

Change in Custody	13
Visitation Modification	19
Support Modification	45
Parentage	11
All Other	4
<b>Total Post-Decree Motions Dispose</b>	<b>92</b>

## Domestic Violence



Civil Protection Orders Filed	<u>New Cases Filed</u>	<u>Reactivated</u>	
	25	1	
		<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>25</b>
		<b>Total Cases Reactivated</b>	<b>1</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

## Cases Disposed

Civil Protection Orders Disposed	20	
		<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>
		<b>20</b>