



PROBATE & JUVENILE
DIVISIONS

Union County Court of
Common Pleas

Hon. Rick Rodger

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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Letter from the Bench

To The Citizens of Union County, Ohio:

I remain honored to serve Union County, Ohio as Judge of the Union County Court of Common Pleas, Probate and Juvenile Divisions. I am grateful every day to work with individuals who strive to help children and families. The other judicial officers, probation officers, and various clerks are all professionals dedicated to making sure that each case is handled promptly and efficiently. I would be remiss if I failed to mention that we lost a long-time Magistrate with our Court due to retirement. Magistrate Louis P. Endres, III, retired in August 2025 after 23 years of service. Prior to coming to the Court, Lou was engaged in private practice. On behalf of the Court, we wish him well in his retirement.

We also have the opportunity to work with various Agencies in Union County, Ohio and without their cooperation, collaboration and dedication to families, we would have a much more difficult time working with and helping those individuals that come before us. We continue to be blessed to have so many caring individuals and Agencies working to maintain children with their families.

We continue in our efforts to become more efficient in what we do and to modernize our processes here. We are grateful to the Union County Commissioners who approved the purchase of our new recording system within our Courtrooms. Along with recording, the system permits us to share evidence on screens in front of the parties, attorneys and witnesses. We have also been able to provide case management software to our probation department, which permits them to be more efficient when working with juveniles.

We remain committed to serving the public in all we do. Thank you to all the people of Union County, Ohio for permitting me to continue serving as a Judge of the Union County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile and Probate Divisions.

Humbly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Rodger", is written above a solid horizontal line.

Judge Rick Rodger

Court Staff

Judicial Officers

- Rick Rodger, Judge
- Sharon Robinson-Walls, Chief Magistrate
- Louis P. Endres, III, Magistrate
- Victoria Stone-Moledor, Magistrate and Staff Attorney
- Adam Rinehart, Magistrate and Court Administrator

Administrative Staff

- Sue Chongson, Chief Financial Officer
- Julie Harvey, Administrative Assistant

Deputy Clerks

- Leigh Ann Moots, Chief Deputy Clerk – Juvenile
- Shae Adams-Hills, Deputy Clerk – Juvenile
- Jody Anderson, Deputy Clerk - Probate
- Eliza Greer, Deputy Clerk – Juvenile
- Christy Jackson, Deputy Clerk – Juvenile
- Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk – Probate
- Alicia Murphy, Deputy Clerk – Probate
- Pamela O'Brien, Deputy Clerk – Juvenile
- Jerika Risner, Deputy Clerk – Juvenile
- Carlee Rudasill, Deputy Clerk – Juvenile
- Pam Vance, Deputy Clerk – Juvenile

Juvenile Probation Officers

- Jenna Griffith, Court Administrator and Chief Probation Officer
- Joshua Levingston, Treatment Court Coordinator
- Olivia Boskello, Treatment Court Coordinator
- Alan Bryan, Probation Officer
- Doug Chapman, Probation Officer
- Lindsey Keller, Probation Officer
- Christian Parker, Probation Officer
- Nicole Ray, Treatment Court Case Manager/Probation Officer
- Abby Sullivan, Probation Officer

Probate Division

The Probate Division of the Court of Common Pleas assists citizens in navigating many aspects of their lives, exercising jurisdiction over several areas, including, but not limited to the following:

- Adoptions
- Civil Commitments
- Delayed Registrations, Corrections, and Conforming of Birth Records
- Decedent's Estates
- Guardianships of Minors and Adults
- Settlements of Claims for Personal Injuries for both Incompetent Adults and Minors
- Marriage Licenses

PROBATE DIVISION – NUMBER OF CASES FILED IN 2025	
Case Type	Number of Cases Filed
Adoptions	9
Changes of Name	50
Civil Actions	2
Conservatorships	0
Delayed Registration of Brith Record	0
Corrections of Birth Record	5
Estates	217
Guardianships (Adult)	26
Guardianship (Minor)	2
Minor's Settlement of Claim	8
Trusts	0
Wrongful Death	0
Other, Miscellaneous	5
Total New Cases Filed	326
Total Cases Closed	274
Cases Pending at Close of Year	455

In June of 2023, Judge Rodger began conducting wedding ceremonies at the Union County Courthouse pursuant to R.C. 2101.27, which allows the Probate Court Judge to solemnize marriages within the county.

MARRIAGES AND WEDDINGS	2025
Marriage Licenses Issued	381
Wedding Ceremonies Performed at the Courthouse	43

Juvenile Division

Juvenile Clerk's Office

The Union County Juvenile Court is focused on children and promoting their best interests. The Court seeks to rehabilitate and hold children accountable for criminal activity, address circumstances in a family's life to protect children from abuse, neglect and dependency, and determine and enforce orders of custody, visitation and financial support.

JUVENILE DIVISION – NUMBER OF CASES FILED IN 2025	
Case Type	Number of Cases Filed
Delinquency	100
Youths Adjudicated of a Felony*	73
Youths Adjudicated of a Misdemeanor	12
Unruly	28
Juvenile Traffic	220
Juvenile Traffic Violations Bureau	49
Abuse/Neglect/Dependency	25
Permanent Custody	1
Custody/Visitation	86
Parentage	0
Child Support Enforcement/Modification	294
UIFSA	3
Adult Criminal	15
Other	10
Total New Cases Filed	
	782
Total Cases Terminated	
	786
Cases Pending at Close of Year	
	192

ANNUAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (R.C. 2152.71(B) AND (C))	Number of Cases Filed
Delinquency complaints filed in which the victim was 65 years or older or permanently and totally disabled	1
Juvenile was adjudicated	
Juvenile was adjudicated	1
Property damage/theft offense	1
Restitution ordered	1
Offense of violence if committed by an adult	0
Juvenile committed to any facility for delinquent children	1
Case transferred to adult court for criminal prosecution	0

Juvenile Probation

The Union County Juvenile Court has prioritized the use of DYS funding to build a highly trained staff of probation officers who can provide individualized interventions to youth of all risk levels. Union County’s Juvenile Probation Officers approach all youth with a strength based, family-centered mindset, bolstered by ongoing training in multiple disciplines, including motivational interviewing and the targeted use of evidence-based interventions. The primary goal is to guide youth to lasting behavioral changes.

JUVENILE PROBATION & COMMUNITY CONTROL – YOUTH SUPERVISION IN 2025	
Continuing Youth (from previous year)	91
New Youth	59
Total Youth Supervised	150
Successful Completions	69
Unsuccessful Completions	7
Neutral Completions	5
Of the neutral completions, number that were transferred	1
Total Youth Completions	81

The Probation office utilizes the following screenings, assessments, and interventions to better serve our youth and families:

- Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) Assessments
- The Carey Guides for Youth
- Brief Intervention Tools for Youth (BITS)
- Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions Group for Youth
- The Parent Project® Group for Parents
- OhioGuidestone FFT-Informed Services for Youth and Families
- Diversion Accountability Program

SPECIALIZED INTERVENTIONS 2025	2025
Specialized Assessments	12

Juvenile delinquency or unruly behavior cases originate with the filing of a complaint by the Union County Prosecuting Attorney. Complaints are reviewed and selected if they appear appropriate for diversion based upon criteria established by the Court. Typically, youth who have no prior official or unofficial record (first-time offenders) and who are alleged to have committed status (unruly, truancy, or curfew violations) or misdemeanor-level, non-violent offenses are eligible for diversion.

DIVERSION – ALTERNATIVES TO ADJUDICATION (R.C. 2151.27)	2025
Youth Referred for Assessment	13
Delinquency Matters	7
Unruly Matters	3
Unruly – Tobacco Matters	1
Youth Ineligible to Participate	2
Case Dismissed	0
Total Youth Eligible for Diversion	11
Successful Completions*	13
Unsuccessful Completions*	0
Continuing in Diversion at the end of 2025	1

*Includes youth who began Diversion during the prior year.

Truancy

The Union County Juvenile Court began aggressively targeting truancy in 1998 with the implementation of its Mediation Program. Mediation successfully aids many schools and families in correcting truancy and behavioral issues that would otherwise have been subject of a complaint. The Court's mediator is available to mediate between schools and families when students are not making satisfactory progress to improve their attendance and when students remain at risk of becoming both habitually truant and chronically absent.

TRUANCY COMPLAINTS AND DISPOSITIONS (R.C. 2151.27(A)(2))	2025
Unruly Complaints*	12
Average School Hours Missed (alleged)	238.55
Entered Diversion	0
Dismissed	1
Transferred for Adjudication	0
Hold Open	0
Adjudicated	11
Disposition – Probation	11
Disposition – Transferred	0

*Complaints alleging Habitual Truancy (R.C. 2151.022(B)). In 2025, no complaints were filed alleging delinquency for violation court orders regarding a prior unruly (habitual truant) adjudication (R.C. 2152.02(E)(2)).

In addition to overseeing cases of truancy by juveniles, the Juvenile Division oversees adult cases where the parent has not ensured that the child has attended school. Complaints regarding the parent's role in truancy are filed as Failure to Send Child to School (R.C. 3321.38(A) or Contributing to the Delinquency/Unruly of a Child (R.C. 2919.24(2)).

ADULT COMPLAINTS FILED REGARDING TRUANCY	2025
Total Cases filed	15
Failure to Send Child to School (R.C. 3321.38(A)	1

Chronic Absence (R.C. 3321.191(A))	0
Contributing to the Delinquency/Unruly of a Child (R.C. 2919.24(B)(2))	14
Amended to Failure to Send	1
Cases Dismissed	6
Disposition – Jail	7
Disposition – Probation	7
Disposition - Fine	5
Disposition – Bond	2
Disposition – Transferred	0

Mediation

The Juvenile Division's Mediation Program has served the families and local school districts of Union County since 1998. The Court estimates that hundreds of children and their families have been diverted from Juvenile Court because of the Court's Mediation program.

MEDIATION – NUMBER OF MEDIATIONS CONDUCTED IN 2025	
Mediation Type	Number Conducted
Unruly – School Truancy	6
Unruly – Disobedience	0
Custody – Private	3
Probate - Civil	0
Total Mediations in 2025	9

Specialized Dockets

The Family Treatment Court (FTC) was established in November 2007 and manages adult participants whose children have open abuse, neglect, or dependency cases before the Court. The FTC functions as a collaboration of multiple systems: the court, child welfare, substance use disorder and mental health treatment providers, and community partners.

The Juvenile Treatment Court (JTC) was established in 2010 for high-risk, high-need youth whose drug and alcohol abuse issues continue without abatement on regular probation. A youth's family is expected to participate in parent education and to assist the Court in monitoring and holding the youth accountable.

Family Treatment Court

FTC STATISTICS FOR 2025	
Number of Parents Referred	10
Number of Parents Admitted	4
Number of Children of Admitted Parents	3
Number of Participants Graduated	0
Number of Participants Unsuccessfully Terminated	0
Number of Participants Neutrally Terminated	0

Juvenile Treatment Court

JTC STATISTICS FOR 2025	
Number of Juveniles Referred	14
Number of Juveniles Admitted	9
Number of Participants Graduated	6
Number of Participants Unsuccessfully Terminated	3
Number of Participants Neutrally Terminated	2

CASA Program

The CASA Program for Union and Delaware Counties manages many volunteer Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), many of whom serve children in both counties.

CASA VOLUNTEER STATISTICS FOR DELAWARE & UNION COUNTIES COMBINED IN 2025	
Number of Volunteer CASA Advocates	54
Number of Volunteer Total Case Hours	6,000
Miles Driven by Volunteers for Casework	55,000

CASA CASE STATISTICS FOR DELAWARE & UNION COUNTIES COMBINED IN 2025	
Number of Children Served	173
Gender of Children Served	
Female	77
Male	96
Age Range of Children Served	
0-5 years	66
6-11 years	45
12-15 years	29
16-17 years	25
18+ years	8

CASA OUTCOME STATISTICS FOR DELAWARE & UNION COUNTIES COMBINED IN 2025	
Reunification achieved	21
Adopted	5
Legal Custody (relative)	31
Child turned 18/21 years	5
Other, including case transferred, removed from docket, etc, legal custody to non-relative, or remained in home	19

Central Ohio Youth Center (COYC)

Located at 18100 State Rt. 4, just north of Marysville, the Central Ohio Youth Center primarily serves detained youth from five counties: Union, Champaign, Logan, Madison and Delaware. COYC also operates the Community Residential Center (CRC), is a 90-day program for adjudicated juvenile offenders.

COYC DETENTION USE IN 2025	
Number of youth detained	138
Total days of detainment	1177.5
Percentage of use of COYC by Union County	13.81%
Number of youths in the Community Residential Center	1