

**LUCAS COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

Juvenile Division

Toledo, Ohio



Annual Report 1977

Andy Devine, Judge



Lucas County Board of Commissioners
Hon. James M. Holzemer, President
Hon. Max C. Reddish
Hon. Francis E. Szollosi

Citizens of Lucas County

On January 5, 1977, a new division of the Lucas County Common Pleas Court was formed - the Juvenile Division. This is the first Annual Report of that Court. Many changes have taken place since January 5, 1977, and most of them are contained in this document.

No court of law can operate in a vacuum. This is especially true of the Juvenile Court. Community support is absolutely essential, especially support from the institutions in the community - government, churches, schools, business, labor, news media.

We sincerely hope that the new format of this Annual Report will cause the reader to better understand the difficult problems confronting many young people today and will offer to help solve some of those problems.

Sincerely yours,

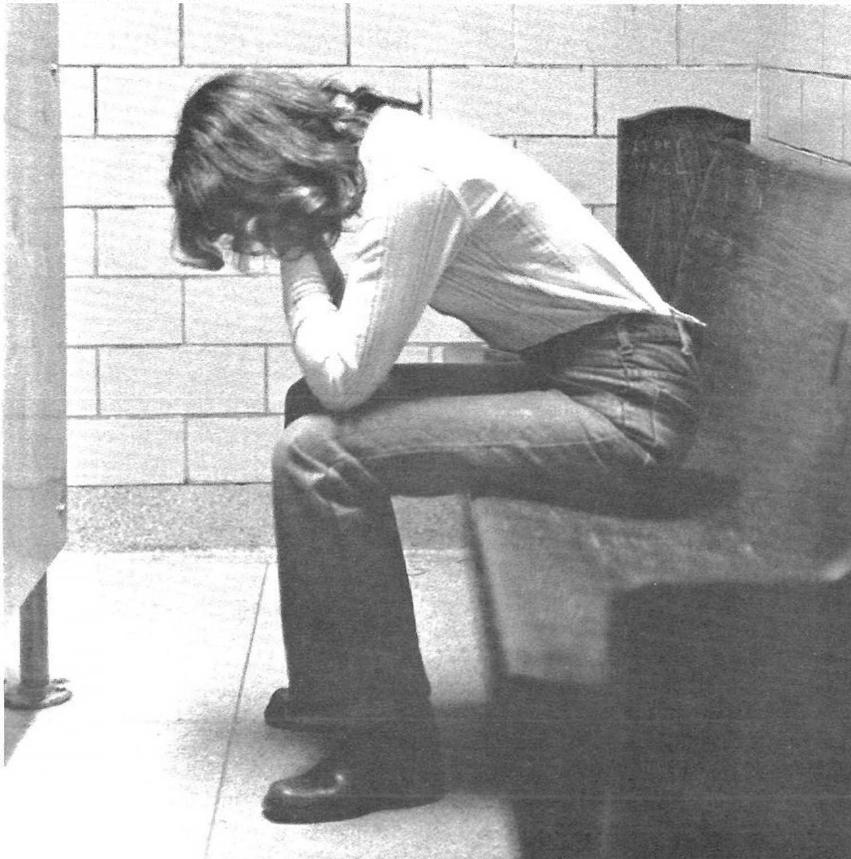


ANDY DEVINE, Judge

Table of Contents

	Page
LETTER	1
INTRODUCTION	
Statement of Purpose	3
Goal of the Juvenile Court	3
POLICY CHANGES FOR 1977	
Court Procedures Formalized	4
Increasing Delinquency Caseload	4
Status Offenders	4
Complaints	5
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	
Court Organizational Relationships	7
Referee Department	7
Probation Services	7
Child Study Institute	7
CSI Services	8
Business Office	8
Records and Statistics	8
THE HEARING PROCESS	
Changes for 1977	11
Arraignment/Detention	11
Pre-Trial Conference	11
Pre-Hearing Motions	11
Adjudicatory Hearing	11
Dispositional Hearing	11
Review Hearing	11
Certification	11
STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS	
1977 Delinquency	13
Juvenile Offender Profile	13
Offenses by Age	13
Offenses by Sex	13
Most Frequently Committed Offenses 1973-1977	14
Juvenile Offenses 1976-1977	14
Source of Referrals	15
Traffic Complaints	15
Other Cases	15
PLACEMENTS	
Residential Placements	17
Limited Alternatives	17
Foster Homes	17
Private Schools	17
Group Homes	18
Public Institutional Care	18
COMMITMENTS	
Commitments to Ohio Youth Commission	19
SPECIAL PROJECTS & EVENTS	
Restitution Program	21
Volunteer Services Program	21
Truancy Committee	21
Police Liaison Officer	22
Placement Review	22
Youth Worker's Seminar	22
Foster Care Seminar	22

INTRODUCTION



Alleged 16 Year Old Shoplifter – Parents Cannot Be Reached

January 5, 1977, marked the beginning of a new direction for the Lucas County Juvenile Court. Its formation into a separate Juvenile Division within the Court of Common Pleas permitted a comprehensive response to juvenile problems in Lucas County. As a result of organizational changes and prior Supreme Court decisions, the court has transformed itself from being primarily a social service agency to a more formal structure which still has concern for juveniles and their interests, but at the same time requires full due process and the respect of the juvenile for the law.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

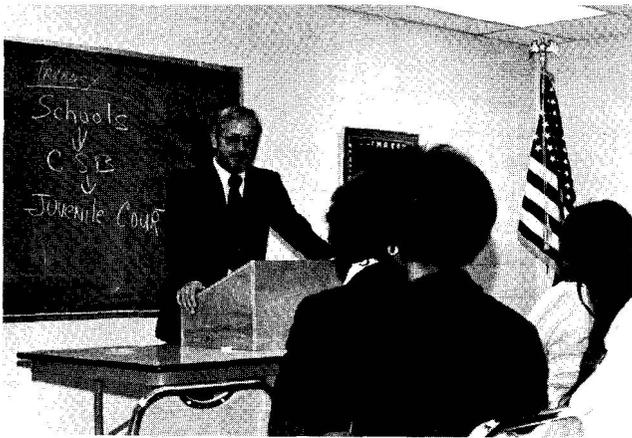
The purpose of the Lucas County Juvenile Court may seem obvious, but research has shown that methods vary from court to court regarding the complex task of responding to juvenile problems. Often the court is looked

upon by parents of problem children as a depository for their years of misguidance and neglect. They mistakenly expect that the court can successfully act as a surrogate parent, who can modify delinquent and unruly behavior that has germinated and grown in an unstable environment for many years. These expectations are unrealistic at best and must be tempered with the experiences of the real world.

Those who work within the court daily are witness to the constant domestic upheavals of a number of families. As a result of this experience one soon learns that if our community is to improve, each of us as citizens and all community institutions and services; churches, schools, social service and mental health agencies, must take responsibility for our actions. This is especially critical in the parent/child relationship. It is therefore important that the court's response to this situation be understood, and its purpose clearly stated.

The goal of the Juvenile Court is to effectively, efficiently, and equitably, administer justice in all matters brought before it. Due process and the responsible administration of the law are imperative. Humane consideration and social awareness are instrumental. The reasonable and responsible *balance* of society's just demands and the individual's rights is implicit.

POLICY CHANGES FOR 1977



Referee Frank Sidle Explains New Truancy Diversion Program to Citizens Group

NEW DIRECTIONS

National trends in juvenile justice and our own community's special emphasis have led to many changes concerning the types of cases filed, their numbers, and the policies and procedures used to conduct hearings in the Juvenile Court. Supreme Court decisions beginning with *In re Gault* (1967) have guided local Juvenile Courts in adopting increasingly formal procedures until today, with the exception of jury trial, all of the legal safeguards are provided as in adult courts.

COURT PROCEDURES FORMALIZED

In distinction from the past when many cases could be heard informally, it is now the policy of the Court to formally file complaints with the Clerk's office in all but relatively minor infractions of the law. The issuance of a formal complaint thus requires the presence of attorneys for the defense and prosecutors for the prosecution in most delinquency cases.

As attorneys become more involved in all phases of court proceedings, greater emphasis is placed on due process. As in adult courtroom proceedings, there is the confrontation of witnesses, cross examination, and findings of fact.

A measure of increased adversary proceedings is the number of cases marked off docket, dismissed, or continued to the call of the prosecutor.

	1976	1977	No. Change
Continued to call of Prosecutor	29	437	+408
Marked off Docket	236	341	+105
Dismissed	236	527	+291

Transition of the Juvenile Court caseload into one where adversary proceedings are prevalent, created the need for attorney referees. At present the majority of referees serving are practicing attorneys with specialized knowledge of Juvenile Law and the Rules Of Procedure.

INCREASING DELINQUENCY CASELOAD

In addition, a parallel phenomenon has taken place. In the last five years, the severity, the formality, and the sheer volume of cases have placed new demands upon the court. Delinquency offenses have increased substantially even though total court registrations have only gradually risen.

It is important to note from the preceding graph that the number of serious delinquent cases in 1977 is a much larger proportion of the court's caseload compared to previous years. The number of adjudicated delinquent cases increased by 42% between 1972 and 1977. During this same period the number of cases categorized as unruly (or status offenders) for the most part remained constant, but decreased in 1976 as a result of implementation of the Children Services Board/Juvenile Court Diversion Program. Although a number of less serious offenses are presently diverted from the formal court process, total registrations are once again rising and will surpass 1975's record high of 5,378 cases next year (based on a straight line projection of delinquent cases and assuming less serious offenses remain a constant 5.8% of total juvenile offender registrations — see graph opposite page).

STATUS OFFENDERS

Perhaps the most dramatic change that has been implemented in the court is the diversion of status offenders (runaway, truancy, incorrigibility, etc.) from the formal court system.

On October 1, 1976, the court initiated a Status Offender Program designed to insure more community and social service for status offenders and less formal involvement on the part of the court. This program was possible after a year of meetings, discussion of alternatives, and much debate regarding the care and treatment of status offenders. Major participants were the Court, the Children Services Board, the Regional Youth Services Bureau, and the local Regional Planning Unit.

The decision was reached that the Children Services Board was the most appropriate resource to have primary responsibility for status offenders. The Board was already providing residential and community outreach for children who are dependent, neglected, or abused; it is supported by local public funds, and therefore not dependent on less secure federal monies; and the Board's service is family oriented, not just client oriented, which is an important factor in the resolution of status offender problems.

The diversion procedure is this: Children who are involved in status offenses are not immediately referred to the court and may not be detained in the court's detention facility. Rather, status offenders are referred to the Intake Department of the Children Services Board. Trained workers there make the decision as to whether residential services are necessary, or if home treatment is the better method of dealing with the case.

The diversion program has not totally ended court referrals however. The program, as established, retains the court and its power to detain as the 'last resort'. This results

in the detention of some status offenders in cases where authorities feel it necessary and appropriate and where problems continued even after the intervention of the Children Services Board.

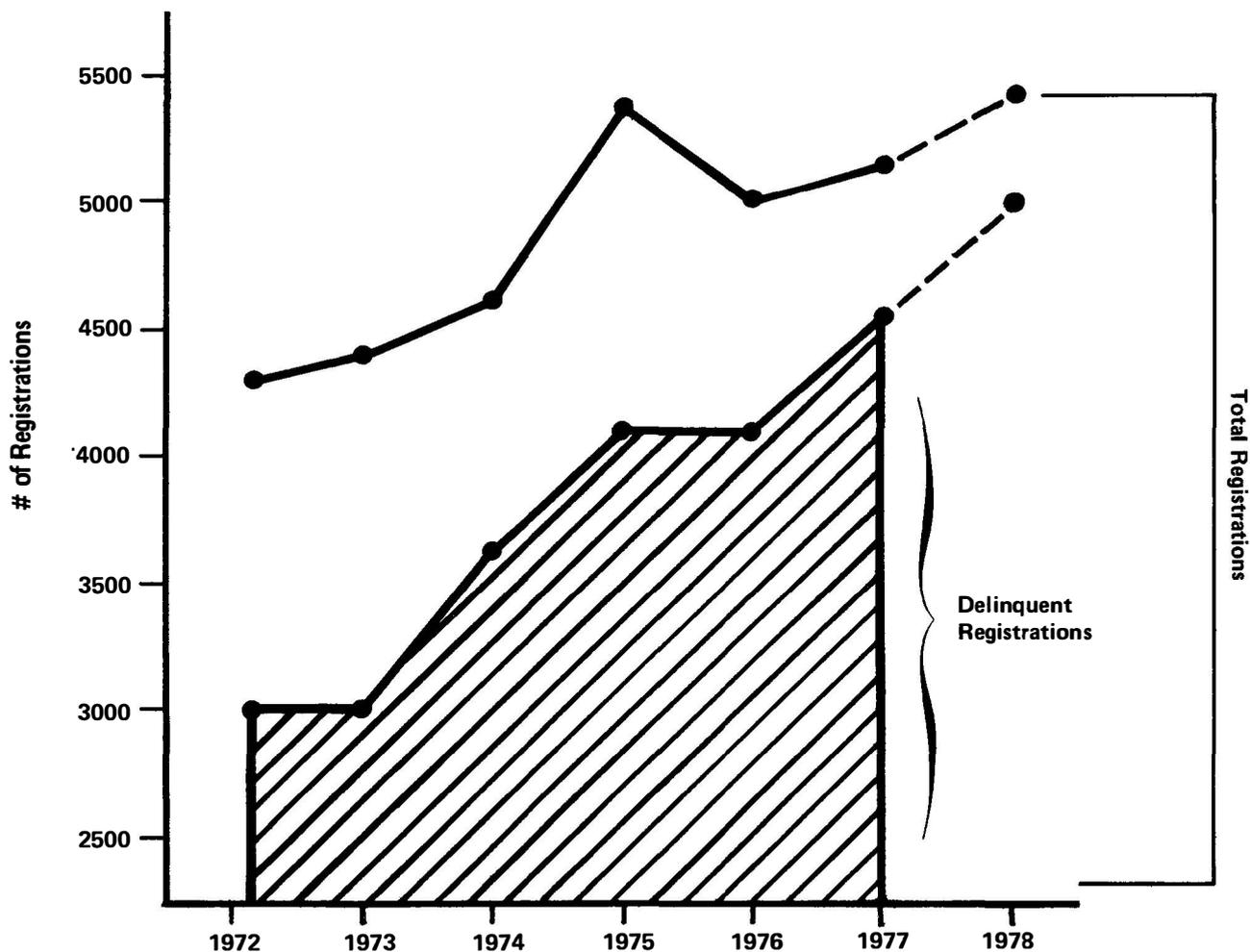
COMPLAINTS

Prior to 1977, delays were experienced before an arraignment hearing could be held for youths cited into court. The system then used for processing complaints accounted for this situation.

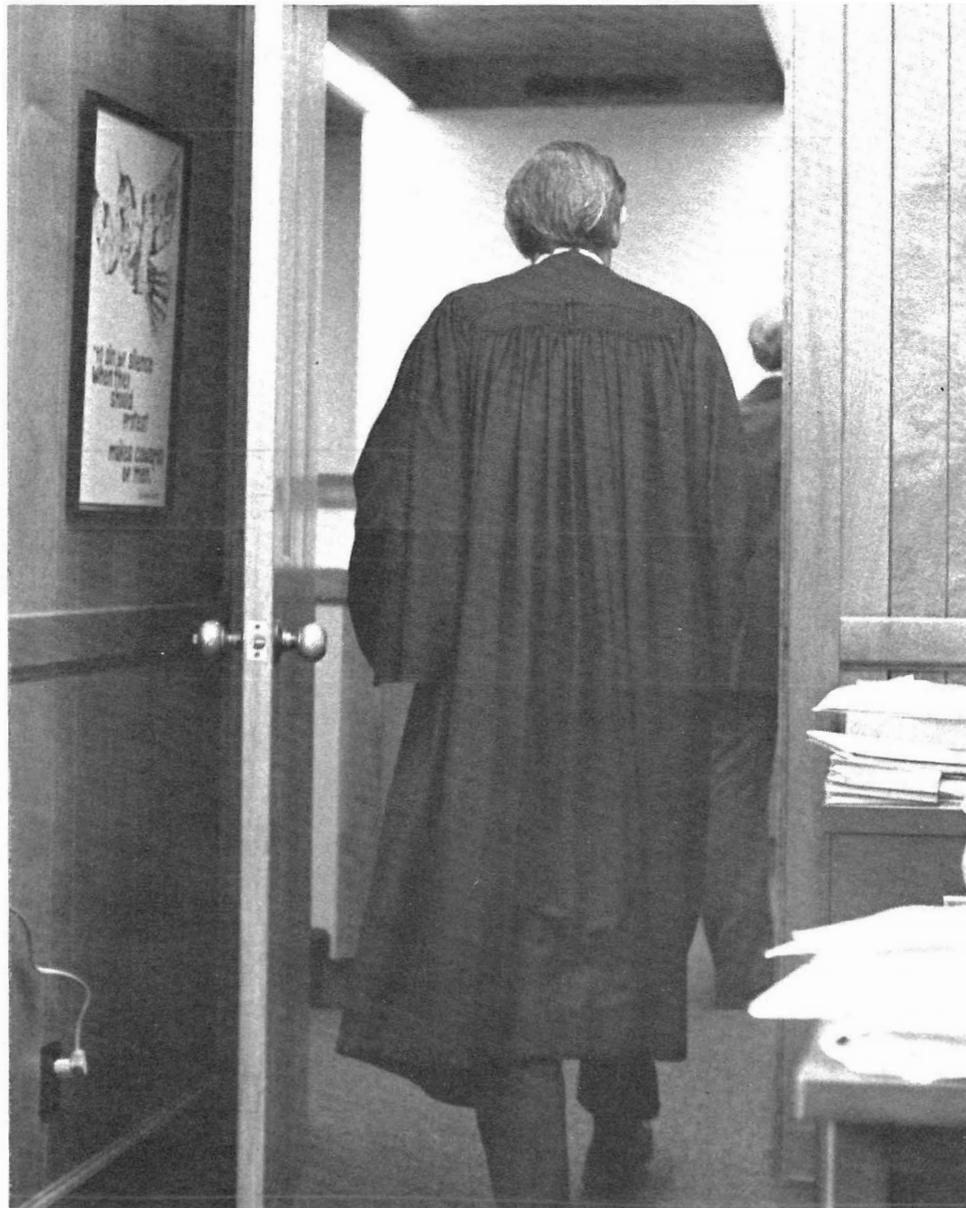
A new system, developed in conjunction with the police and in cooperation with the County Prosecutor's office, changes the procedures by which a juvenile may enter the court system. Using established guidelines, most non-serious

cases are diverted from the formal system, but if a decision is made by the police to file a formal complaint, the court is then provided with a sworn complaint from the police. In addition, a notice of hearing is automatically given to the juvenile's parents. This notice provides a record for the police, the court, and the accused, of the date of arraignment, and it spells out the charge for which the juvenile is being brought to court. This new system has eliminated paperwork and has shortened the time between arrest and arraignment from approximately a month or more down to a week in some cases. In order to facilitate and expedite all matters, the Toledo Police Department has provided the court with the services of a court/police liaison officer.

DELINQUENCY REGISTRATIONS/TOTAL REGISTRATIONS
(Excluding Traffic)



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



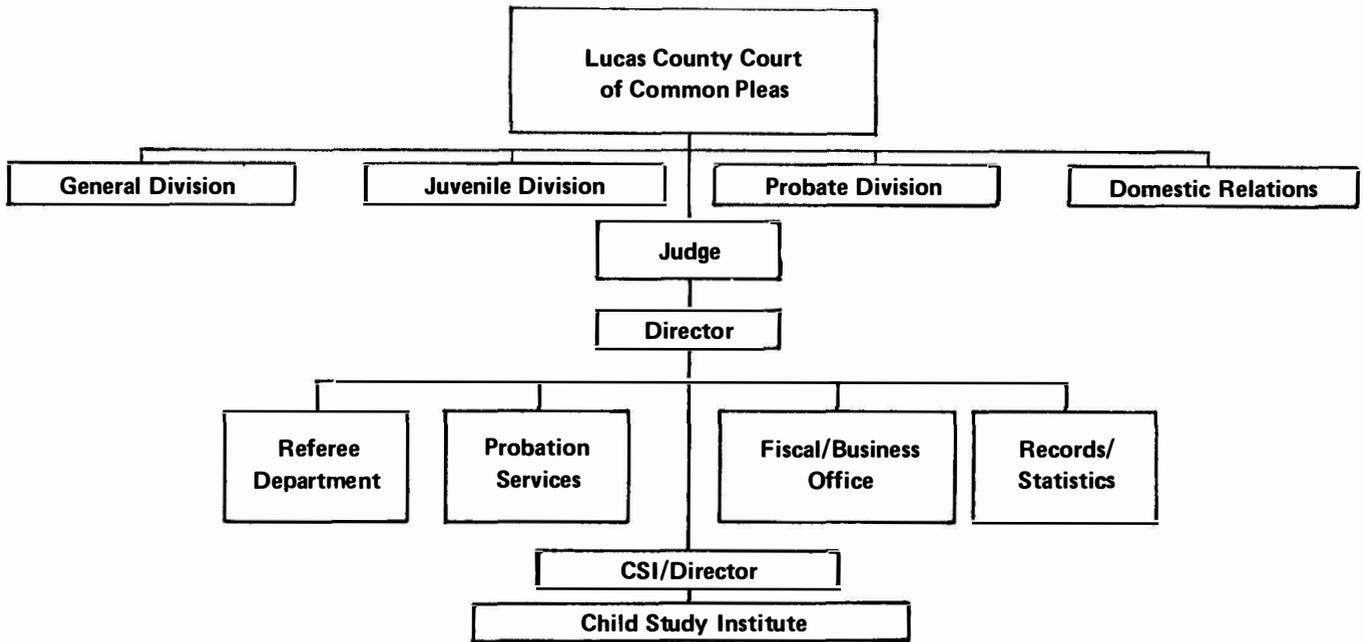
COURT ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Beginning January 5, 1977, the Family Court was formally divided into two separate divisions within the Court of Common Pleas. This new arrangement enables a greater emphasis on juvenile matters. Specialization in this area is needed as the court finds itself involved increasingly in

complex special and legal juvenile problems.

The Lucas County Juvenile Court is divided functionally into four departments: Referee Department, Probation Services, Fiscal/Business Office, and Records and Statistics. The Child Study Institute is also under the administrative control of Juvenile Court.

DIVISIONAL RELATIONSHIPS



REFEREE DEPARTMENT

Although all cases registered at the Juvenile Court are legally assigned to the judge, direct responsibility for each case is delegated by the judge to referees. The chief referee manages the caseload and matches each case according to the type of offense, with the appropriate referee.

Certain serious offenses are reserved for the judge alone. The decisions of the referees are reviewed by the judge who is ultimately responsible for each case. Certification hearings to determine if a juvenile is to be tried as an adult are held by the judge.

The screening of cases formerly performed by an intake referee is now performed by an attorney/referee and a prosecutor.

submitted by each counselor to probation supervisors, and the referees assigned to the case make final decisions regarding the continuation or termination of probation.

Probation Services began the year with 1130 active supervision cases, up 5% from 1976 and closed the year with 931 active cases, down 17% from 1976. A total of 993 cases were successfully terminated in 1977, a reduction of 5% from the previous year. The average probation caseload was 44 for the boys' counselors and 30 for girls' counselors. The average length of probation in 1977 was 11 months, compared to 10 months in 1976. Although most juveniles are placed on probation at home, some for serious reasons are unable to remain at home and are placed in foster homes, group homes, private schools, psychiatric hospitals, and other alternative treatment centers.

PROBATION SERVICES

Probation Services is responsible for two basic functions within the court: investigations and supervision/counseling. Investigations are made at the order of the court prior to disposition hearing. The facts from these investigations are documented into reports, and along with recommendations from the probation staff form the basis from which dispositions are made.

If a period of probation is the disposition of the referee or judge, each youth placed on probation is assigned a probation counselor. Periodic home visits and meetings are held throughout the probation period between the counselor, child, and the family. Progress reports are

CHILD STUDY INSTITUTE

The Child Study Institute (CSI) provides temporary detention for children between the ages of 8-18. The function of the CSI is twofold: (1) to provide temporary secure detention for children under the jurisdiction of the court who need this type of control pending disposition; (2) to conduct psychological and psychiatric evaluations of children in order to help and advise the court regarding the best treatment plan for each child. CSI is one of the few detention facilities in the country which has this dual function.

While the original structure was built in 1953, the facility was expanded in 1962. The capacity of this facility

is 76; single-bed rooms are available for 47 boys and 29 girls. Detainees are classified according to sex and whether they are first time or repeat offenders. Children under the influence of drugs or alcohol are not accepted for detention; they are placed in local hospitals.

The following table presents data relevant to the children detained at CSI in 1976 and 1977

<u>AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION</u>			
	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Boys	37	31	-16%
Girls	31	9	-71%
Total	68	40	-41%

As a result of the Status Offender Program referred to previously, the average daily population and the annual population figures for CSI are down significantly despite a 7% increase in the detention of serious male offenders. It is anticipated that it will be possible to close an entire section due primarily to the reduction of female population. The average daily population did not exceed capacity in 1977.

<u>ANNUAL POPULATION (Registered)</u>						
	<u>Status Offender</u>		<u>Delinquent</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Boys	320	220	1430	1533	1750	1753
Girls	450	315	307	276	757	591
	TOTAL		TOTAL		2507	2344

The marked decrease in the average daily population can also be attributed to new policies adopted by the court regarding the length of the court hearing process. The average length of stay in 1977 for all CSI residents (actually detained) was 16.08 days.

Ninety-six percent of CSI residents in 1977 were thirteen years of age or older. The median age was 15.4 years for boys and 15.3 years for girls.

CSI Services

Children placed in CSI are given a physical examination on admission. Health records are kept on each child. Medical care is available as needed; dental care is provided by the Toledo Dental Dispensary; gynecological services are provided by the Toledo Health Department and private physicians.

The children attend schools within the confines of CSI five days a week. This is an accredited school staffed by the Toledo system and is administered in conjunction with the Juvenile Court. Library books are also made available.

Catholic services are held on Saturday, Protestant services on Sunday, and Jewish services when needed. Gym and playground activities are available to all who are approved by the medical clinic. Ceramic classes are held twice a week, in addition, CSI staff are trained to organize a variety of games and craft projects within the section.

The CSI is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visitations with CSI residents are strictly limited to the natural parents or legal guardians of the child. Visitation hours are Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays 1-3:00 p.m.

BUSINESS/FISCAL OFFICE

The responsibility of the Business Office includes several areas: annual budget preparation and control, financial

reports and records for federally subsidized projects, support, collections, building maintenance, procurement of supplies and building security.

Budget preparation and control are the chief responsibilities of the Business Office. The budget must be prepared annually and approved by the County Commissioners by March 30th of each calendar year. Subsequent to its approval, funds are budgeted separately for Juvenile Court and the Child Study Institute. These expenditures must conform to various appropriations and is constantly monitored by the Business Office.

JUVENILE COURT EXPENDITURES 1977

Salaries	\$1,200,904.32
Travel	3,581.28
Equipment	9,823.52
Supplies (office)	7,309.41
Contractual	5,104.62
Other expenses	99,531.94
Child support	163,897.35
TOTAL	\$1,490,152.44

CHILD STUDY INSTITUTE

Salaries	\$ 715,241.79
Supplies (food, clothing, bedding, building maintenance)	74,800.16
Equipment	16,669.42
Contractual	8,897.63
Medical	3,200.26
Other expenses	30,143.47
TOTAL	\$ 848,952.73

JUVENILE COURT COLLECTIONS FOR 1977

Support of children, wards of the Court maintained in private residential treatment centers, foster homes and group homes (Juvenile Court)	\$ 36,922.26
Monies collected under the Uniform Reciprocal Support Act	237,085.86
Restitution paid by children for damage or loss and fines	12,049.12
Poundage and/or service fees	3,459.53
State subsidy for education	3,670.11
State subsidy for foster home care	11,234.44
Juvenile traffic fines (collected by Juvenile Clerk's Office)	87,077.46
Juvenile traffic court costs (collect by Juvenile Clerk's Office)	34,220.64
Domestic relations and juvenile fines (Juvenile Clerk's Office)	15,548.04
Reimbursement for court-appointed attorneys	4,666.83
Probation Development Subsidy	20,200.00
Miscellaneous:	
Medical, conveyance, coin machines, phones, etc.	389.64
United States Department of Agriculture School Lunch Subsidy	8,058.85
Ohio Youth Commission Group Homes	16,777.08
TOTAL	\$491,359.86

RECORD/STATISTICS

Records/Statistics Department includes the Registrars Office, Statistics and the File Room. These offices are under the supervision of the Director and are the means by which the court internally compiles and stores social/demographic client information. All information is held strictly confidential, conforming to all Ohio Revised Code statutes.

THE HEARING PROCESS



Chief Referee, Lou Fulop, Conducting Adjudicatory Hearing

JUVENILE COURT HEARING PROCESS

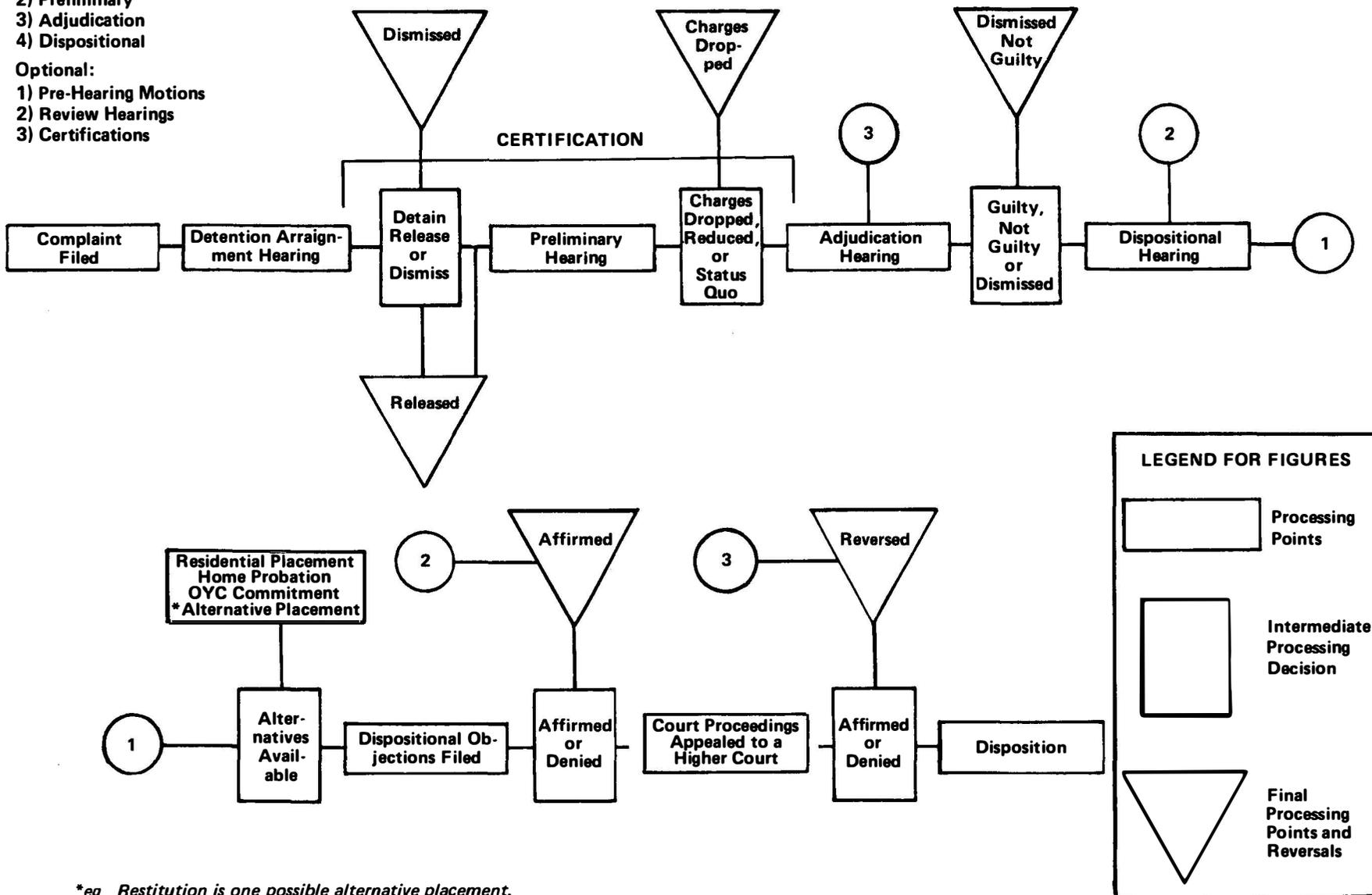
HEARINGS

Mandatory:

- 1) Arraignment/Detention
- 2) Preliminary
- 3) Adjudication
- 4) Dispositional

Optional:

- 1) Pre-Hearing Motions
- 2) Review Hearings
- 3) Certifications



**eg, Restitution is one possible alternative placement.*

1977 SYSTEM CHANGES

The hearing process has undergone change in 1977, the purpose of which has been to expedite matters and make them more efficient, and to afford each juvenile due process of law.

1. The length of the hearing process has been shortened to approximately 30 days.
2. All cases that are filed with the court are now handled officially, though the judge or assigned referee does have the option to hear the matter unofficially once it has come before the court via formal citation.

ARRAIGNMENT/DETENTION HEARING

When a juvenile has been charged with an illegal act the child appears before a referee with a parent or guardian for arraignment. The referee examines the evidence and determines if the matter should be handled officially, unofficially, or should be dismissed for good cause.

If the decision is to continue with the official hearing process, the youth's constitutional rights are explained and an admission or denial is entered. If an admission is made, knowingly and voluntarily, the referee may either refer the matter to a court counselor for pre-disposition report or proceed to disposition immediately. A determination whether to detain the child is also made. If the child has no place to live, might abscond, or might be a threat to himself or the community the child may be detained.

If a denial is entered, the juvenile may be detained and the case set for trial within 10 days. If the youth is not detained, a pre-trial conference is scheduled.

PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE

The pre-trial conference is a meeting between the prosecutor, defense attorney and the complainant (usually the police). This is basically a plea bargaining process where the evidence is reviewed and negotiations conducted as to whether to proceed to trial or whether a new plea will be entered. If an admission is entered, the referee handles the case essentially as in the arraignment. If a denial is entered, an adjudicatory hearing is then scheduled.

PRE-HEARING MOTIONS

A series of motions may be heard by the Court before the adjudicatory hearing takes place regarding defects in a complaint, or the institution of proceedings. Motions may also be heard to suppress evidence.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

This is a closed, non-jury hearing before the judge or a referee. It is essentially the same as a trial in adult court, but without a jury. The standard of proof in delinquency cases requires the State to prove the juvenile guilty of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt. Rules of Evidence and Procedure are followed in a juvenile trial.

DISPOSITION HEARING

After a finding of delinquency, the court then moves on to disposition. Prior to this disposition, a social investigation is conducted by the probation staff, and from its recommendations the court renders a decision regarding the treatment plan for the child. This disposition recommendation for the child may include several elements, such as counseling, foster care, restitution, etc. In serious cases commitment to the Ohio Youth Commission may be recommended.

REVIEW HEARING

If a child or guardian wishes to object to a decision of a referee, he/she may do so within 14 days. All objections to hearings are heard immediately, if possible, by the judge. They may either concern the findings of fact or of disposition. Rehearings may be heard on appeal to a higher court, either involving evidence of the case or prior court proceedings.

CERTIFICATION

This is a determination whether Juvenile Court will relinquish jurisdiction to the Adult Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

Certification involves the establishment by the prosecution of:

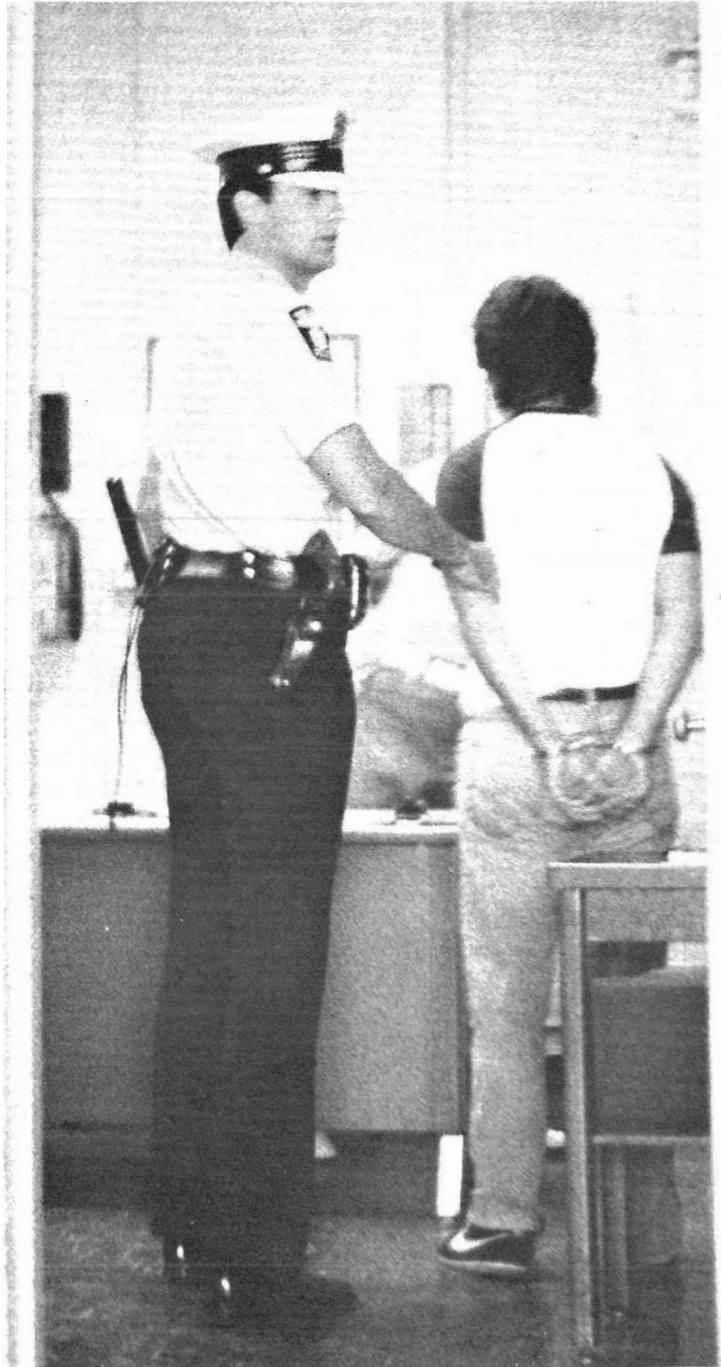
1. Probable cause that the juvenile committed the offense.
2. Whether the juvenile is amenable to treatment within the juvenile system.
3. Whether the community safety requires his prolonged incarceration.

Four factors regarding the youth are considered:

1. Child's age (15 years or over), and mental and physical health.
2. Prior efforts made to treat or rehabilitate.
3. Family environment.
4. Prior juvenile record.

For a further explanation, see Section 2151.26 of the Ohio Revised Code.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS



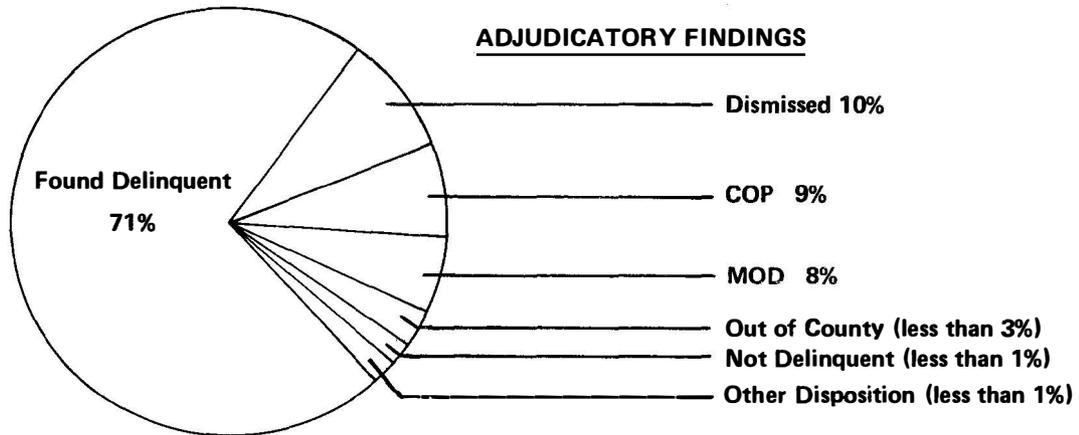
CSI Intake

1977 DELINQUENCY

Even though the Juvenile Court has instituted the policy of diverting status offenders and other less serious offenders away from the court, this year the total offenses registered totaled 5,052 an *increase* of 86 cases (or 1.7%) from 1976. Of these registrations 437 were continued to the call of the Prosecutor, 527 dismissed, 341 marked 'off docket', 40

were found not delinquent, 8 not guilty and 138 were 'out-of-county' runaways. There were 3,561 findings of delinquency entered. See figure below.

The sizeable ratio of delinquent findings (71%) in part can be attributed to the high priority placed upon screening cases by both the Toledo Police Juvenile Bureau, the Prosecutor's office, and the Referee Division.



JUVENILE OFFENDER PROFILE

The typical juvenile offender is white male, age 15, and has been before the court on a previous occasion. Of 5,052 cases registered, 77% involved boys and 23% involved girls. This is an increase of 4% for the boys and a decrease of 4% for the girls compared to the previous year. The recidivism rate for boys in 1977 was 44% and for the girls 29%.

INDIVIDUAL OFFENDERS BY SEX

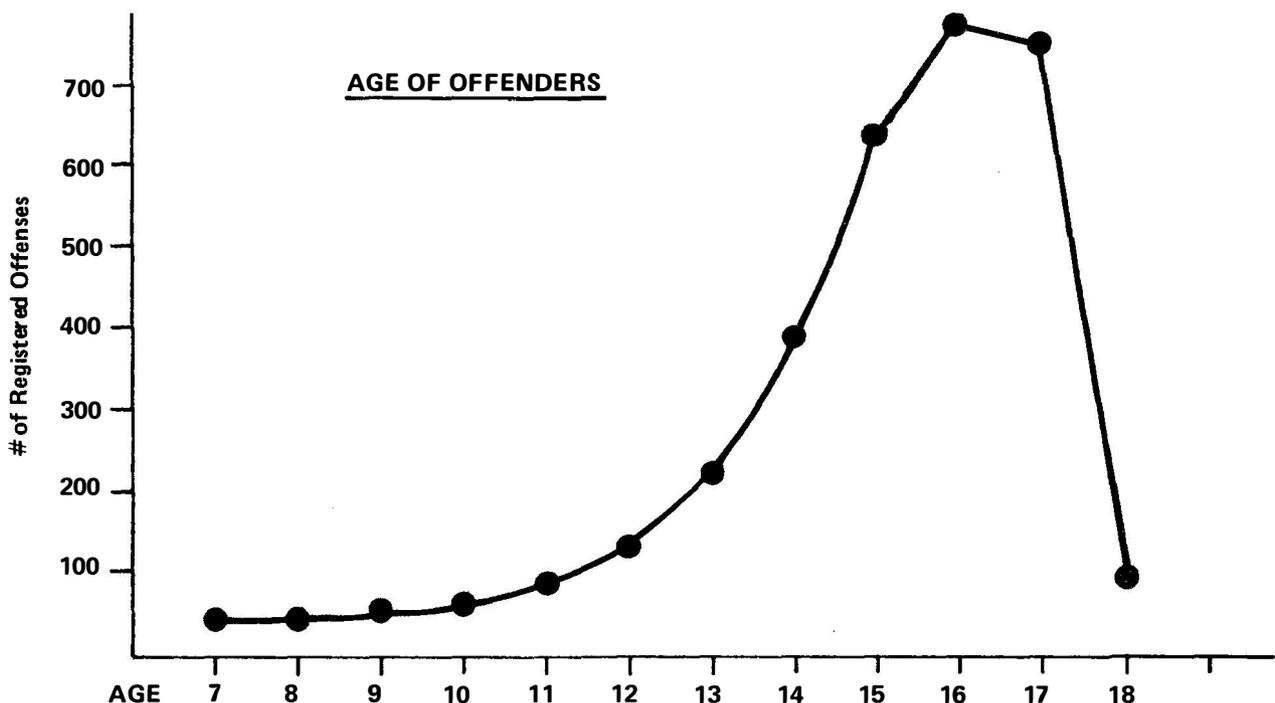
	PART I		PART II		STATUS		TOTAL	
		%		%		%		%
MALE	1325	48.1	1321	47.9	111	4	2757	100
FEMALE	438	53.9	245	30.2	129	15.9	812	100
TOTALS	1763	49.4	1566	43.9	240	6.8	3569	100

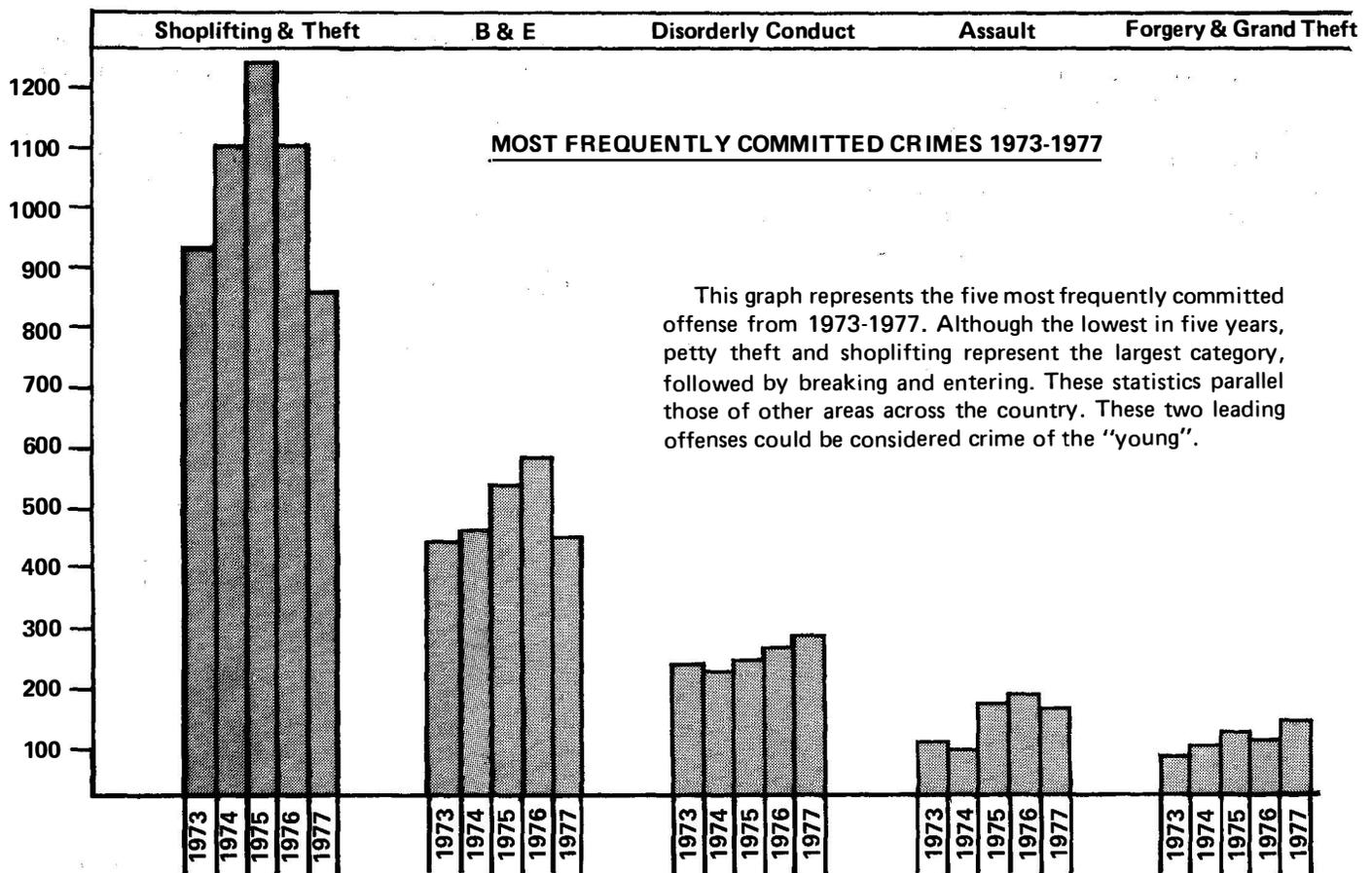
TOTAL % OF TOTAL OFF.: Male, 77.2 - Female, 22.7 - Total, 100

OFFENSES BY AGE

The median age of boys in 1977 was 15 years and 1 month and for girls, 14 years and 9 months. As can be seen by the figure below, children with behavioral problems serious enough for the court's attention most likely will become involved in the hearing process at some point during the 'mid-teen' years.

Although females committed only 22.7% of all offenses committed; 53.9% of the offenses committed by girls were Part I crimes, (i.e., serious crimes as defined by the Uniform Crime Code: assault, burglary, auto theft, larceny, robbery, murder, etc.). Boys committed 48.1% of Part I crimes. Girls were involved in more status offenses than boys.





JUVENILE OFFENSES 1976-1977

Category	Type	1976			1977			Total 1976	Total 1977	% change	*	-
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total					
Robbery/Theft	Auto Theft	83	7	90	44	1	45	90	45	-50		45
	Unauth. Use of Motor Vehicle	109	14	123	139	10	149	123	149	+21.13	26	
	Aggravated Robbery	43	1	44	29	2	31	44	31	-29.54		13
	Robbery	70	5	75	46	3	49	75	49	-34.66		26
	Aggravated Burglary	167	9	176	145	8	153	176	153	-13.06		23
	Burglary	399	19	418	300	13	313	418	313	-25.12		105
	Theft	830	435	1265	736	388	1124	1265	1124	-11.14		141
Status	Truancy	88	72	160	70	47	117	160	117	-26.87		43
	Runaway	51	153	204	28	80	108	204	108	-47.05		96
	Ungovernable	103	189	292	11	2	13	292	13	-95.54		279
	Other	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	N/A	2	
Sex	Rape	10		10	12		12	10	12	+20	2	
	Other Sex Offenses	27	11	38	22	28	50	38	50	+31.57	12	
Injury to Person	Murder	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	-100		1
	Attempted Murder	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	-100		1
	Aggravated Assault/Assault	135	43	178	122	35	157	178	157	-11.79		21
	Vehicular Homicide	3	0	3	6	0	6	3	6	+100	3	
	Other Injury to Person	38	5	43	45	2	47	43	47	+ 9.30	4	
Carelessness/Mischief	Arson	15	1	16	10	0	10	16	10	-37.5		6
	Carrying Concealed Weapon	28	4	32	25	2	27	32	27	-15.62		5
	Disorderly Conduct	217	55	272	254	56	310	272	310	+13.97	38	
	Trespassing	186	14	200	188	12	200	200	200	0.00		
	Other Carelessness/Mischief	89	4	93	79	7	86	93	86	- 7.52		7
	Criminal Damage	133	4	137	118	10	128	137	128	- 6.56		9
Drug Offenses	Possession of Drugs	100	21	121	19	10	29	121	29	-76.03		92
	Other Drug Offenses	46	14	60	48	9	57	60	57	-5		3
Alcohol Offenses	Drinking/Intoxication	29	0	29	15	0	15	29	15	-48.27		14
	Other Alcohol Offenses	4	6	10	4	6	10	10	10	0.00		
Delinquency	Violation of Court Order	5	23	28	29	12	41	28	41	+46.42	13	
	Other Delinquent Offenses	155	54	209	211	69	280	209	280	-40.19		84
GRAND TOTAL:		3165	1163	4328	2757	812	3569	4328	3569	-17.53		759

**SOURCE OF REFERRALS –
ALL CHILDREN’S OFFENSES
(except “Out-of-County” Runaways)**

Referrals to the Juvenile Court can come from a number of different sources, but the primary source of referrals remains the 11 police departments in Lucas County.

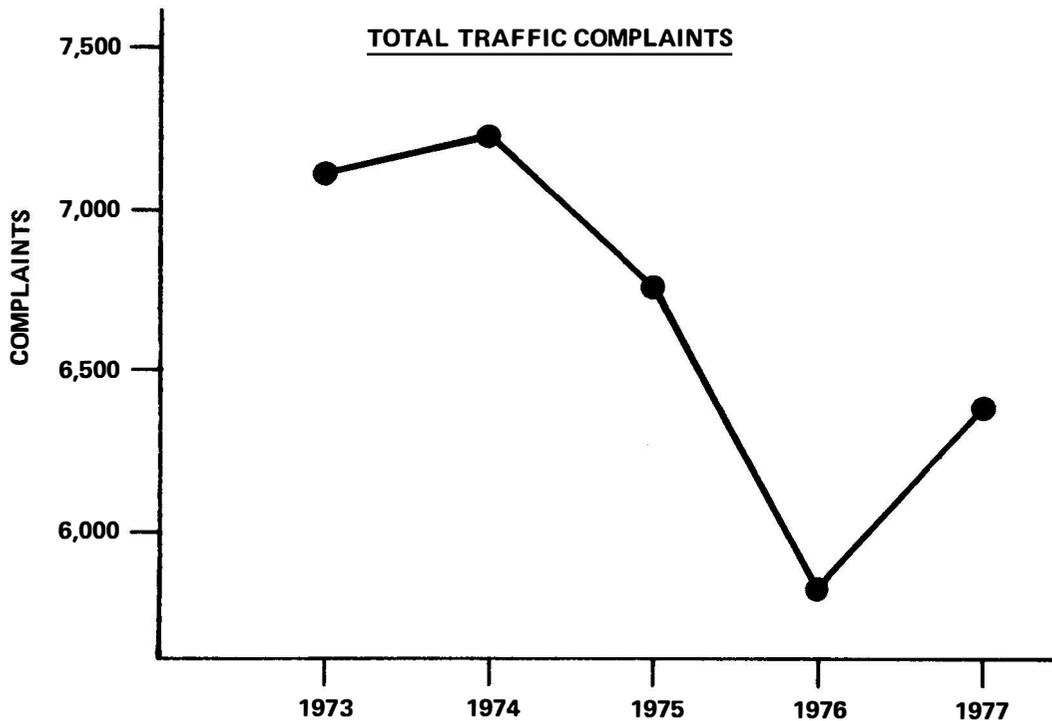
	<u>SOURCE OF REFERRAL</u>		
	1976	1977	No. Change
Law Enforcement Officer	4297	4579	+282
Parents or Relative	275	42	-233
Probation Counselor	62	115	+53
School Department	138	96	-42
Other Source	37	45	+8
Other Court	22	17	-5
Social Agency	24	20	-4
		Net Change	+59

1977 marked the status offender diversion program’s first full year of service. With the installation of this system, referrals previously made directly by parents, and/or school officials, for various forms of unruly behavior, had diminished this year by 85% and 42% respectively,

compared to 1976. Of the total referrals to the court, including those from other police jurisdictions, Toledo Police Department accounts for approximately 80%. Referrals from all 11 police departments within the county increased 282 cases, this is a 6% increase.

TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS

Traffic offenses represent the largest volume of cases handled by the court. A total of 6,433 traffic complaints were filed, an increase of 659 cases (or 11.2%) over 1976. The total number of individual traffic offenders increased for both boys and girls, 3,674 and 967 respectively, an increase of 517 children (or 11.2%). Those cases in which the youth had a previous traffic record also increased. 1,561 boys repeated in 1977 (or 37.7%) compared to 35.9% in 1976, 154 girls repeated in 1977 (or 15.3%) compared to 14.5% in 1976. As seen below, total traffic complaints had been steadily declining until this year. In 1977 traffic complaints were 9% below the 1974 record high of 7,162 cases.



A juvenile who commits a traffic offense (a moving violation) must appear before the court with a parent. All non-first offenders and serious cases must appear before a referee for a formal hearing. The first offense traffic offenders and non-moving violations may pay standard fines similar to adults. However, they must appear at court with a parent when doing so.

OTHER CASES

In addition to delinquency and traffic cases, the court also has jurisdiction over other family matters such as dependency, neglect, child abuse, paternity, and consent to marry. There were 1,878 of these types of cases registered in 1977.

1977 MISCELLANEOUS CASES

**Breakdown of Cases by Type 1973-1978
(excluding traffic and delinquency complaints)**

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Dependency	237	276	283	267	350
Custody/Visitation	249	182	311	278	323
Consent to Marry	54	73	41	31	28
Illegal Placement	27	23	40	29	15
Out of Town Invest.	12	16	9	15	24
Child Abuse/Neglect	2	46	32	64	160
Special Services	218	318	137	60	34
Contributing to Del.	43	31	19	27	47
Paternity	241	245	320	580	897
Show Cause	—	24	11	84	—

PLACEMENTS



Probation Counselor, Ann Langenderfer, Interviews Delinquent For Possible Foster Care Placement.

RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT

Although the goal of Probation Services is to provide guidance and counseling to juveniles in their own homes, in some cases this may not be the best method of correcting behavioral problems. In a number of cases a child's misbehavior can be correlated to an inadequate home environment where supervision is lacking and other problems exist. These situations may call for the temporary removal of the child from his/her home into an alternative living arrangement until matters can be corrected.

1977 JUVENILES PLACED IN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS AND INSTITUTIONS

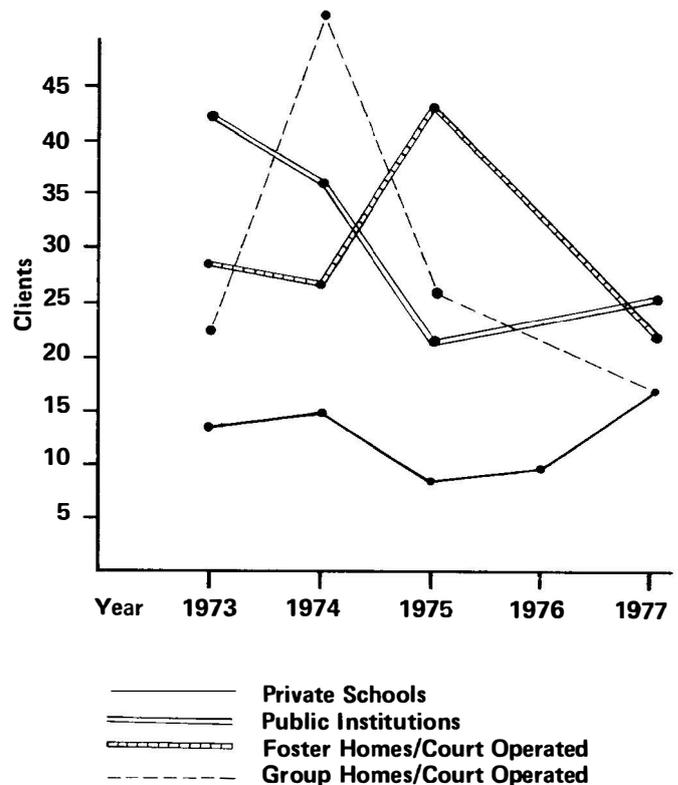
Foster Homes (Court Operated)	
Foster Care	43
Private Schools or Group Facilities	
Boys	
Boy's Town, Nebraska	9
Buckeye Boy's Ranch	1
Harbour House, Sandusky, Ohio	2
Nazareth Hall	1
Osterline School	1
Starr Commonwealth	2
Syntaxis	2
Wernle Children's Home	1
White's Institute	1
Y.M.C.A.	3
TOTAL	23
Girls	
Florence Crittenton Home	2
Cummings	8
Mary Crest School	2
Y.W.C.A. (Project Transition)	4
Miami Children's Center	1
TOTAL	17
Group Homes (Court Operated)	
Boys	
Lincoln	9
Girls	
Sibley	9
TOTAL	18
Public institutions (medical, psychiatric, psychological)	
Boys	
Columbus State Institute	1
Dayton Children's Psychiatric	1
Toledo Mental Health Center	1
TOTAL	3
Girls	
None	

Due to the spiraling expense of residential placement, their use (excluding OYC commitments) accounted for less than 4% (or 104) of the total dispositions. Although 4% is a small segment, this group represents cases that are very difficult to resolve.

LIMITED ALTERNATIVES FOR PLACEMENT

There are limited alternatives available in Lucas County for the placement of children who are wards of the court. If placement is ordered, the possibilities are: foster homes, private schools, group homes, and public institutions (i.e., Dayton Children's Psychiatric Hospital, Toledo Mental Health Center, etc.).

RESIDENTIAL ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT TRENDS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS



Foster Homes

In Lucas County, foster homes have proven to be the most viable way of addressing the alternative placement problem. In terms of cost it is the least expensive way of caring for a child. Cost per child is \$7.14 per day. Assuming a successful match has been made between foster child and parent, the foster home environment is more able to simulate a natural home and is able to give more individualized attention to the child.

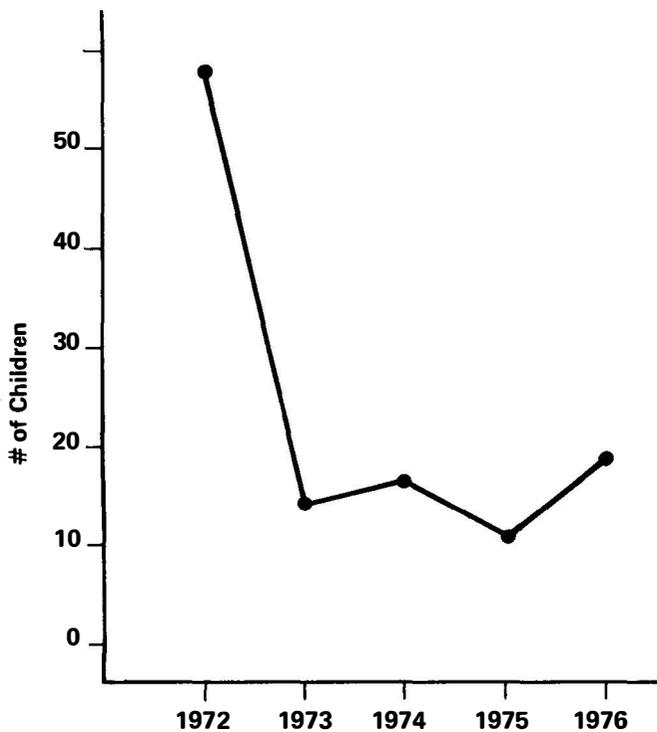
Standard 24.4 of the National Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, states that of all the possible facilities, the quality foster home represents the placement that has the greatest potential to provide the parent-child relationship that most youngsters need to experience.

The foster home program is a unit within Probation Services that is responsible for the recruitment and certification of foster homes. In 1977, 43 children were serviced; 20 delinquent boys, 10 delinquent girls, 3 status offender boys, and 10 status offender girls. The average length of stay was 7 months. As of 12-31-77, 20 children were in foster homes, 11 boys and 9 girls. Their average age was 15.5 years.

Private Schools

Private schools have had an excellent record of changing anti-social behavior, and at one time were relied upon extensively as an alternative choice for placement. However, since the beginning of this decade the use of these facilities has fallen off dramatically.

PRIVATE SCHOOL PLACEMENT OF DELINQUENT AND STATUS OFFENDER CHILDREN FROM LUCAS COUNTY



Cost is the main constraint preventing the court from placing in this type of care. Present fees charged by private schools range from \$35.00 to \$60.00 per day, per youth. Based on a \$50.00 per day rate, it would cost the court \$18,250 to place one youth one year in a private school.

Group Homes

The court presently operates two group homes, one for boys and one for girls. Each home is staffed with a husband and wife who act as house parents. The children attend local schools. Volunteers are utilized in the areas of tutoring and recreation. A group home counselor from the probation staff is provided.

Sibley Group Home

Sibley was established in 1973 as a group home for girls aged 12-18. Emphasis is placed on developing personal responsibility, learning living skills pertaining to home and family, and of obtaining a satisfactory school adjustment. Capacity of the home is 6. During 1977, 14 girls were admitted into the home. The average length of stay was 9 months. The average age of the girls was 15 years; the average daily population, 4.

The court would like to thank the Toledo League of City Mothers who aided this program by donating games, puzzles, books, clothing, and other articles for the home.

Lincoln Group Home

Lincoln Group Home is a residential treatment center for boys between the ages of 10-17. Lincoln first opened in 1973. In December 1976, the facility moved to a new location, providing a better residential setting and consolidating the operation of 2 boys' group homes. Lincoln provides residential care, supervision, and therapy. Capacity of the home is 9. In 1977 a total of 6 boys were placed into the program; the average daily population was 8. The average length of stay per child was 11 months and the average age of the boys was 13.5 years.

Of the 9 boys who resided in the home from September 1977 to December 1977, all were functioning either at or above their grade expectancy in school. Prior to their placement at Lincoln, all of the 9 displayed chronic truancy and behavior problems. It seems doubtful that they would have done as well had they remained in their own homes.

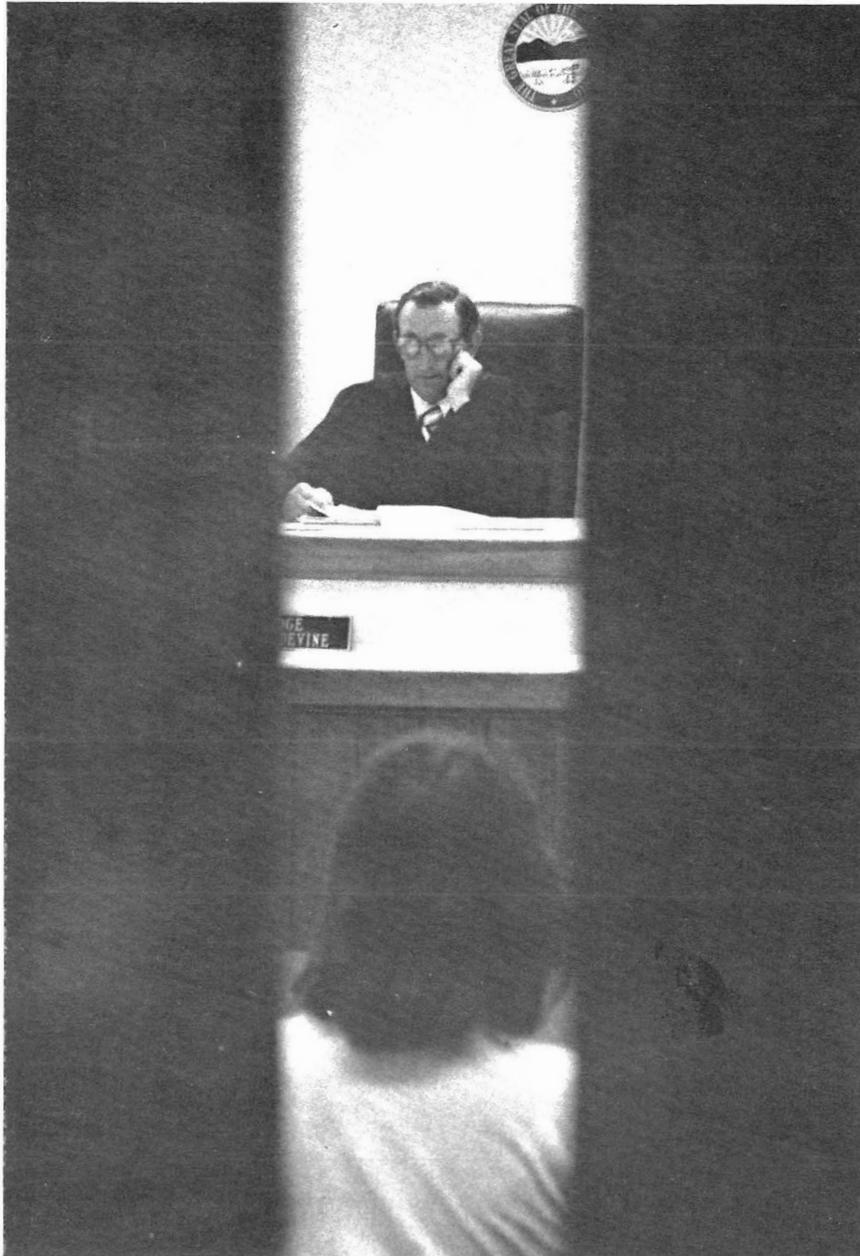
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONAL CARE

Public institutions are those facilities located around the state which provide specialized services for individuals in need of psychological, psychiatric and medical treatment. The need for this type of care far outweighs the availability of service. Lucas County must vie with 87 other counties for these services. In 1977, only 3 youths could be placed in this type of care for lack of available bed space.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Columbus State Institute	1
Dayton Children's Psychiatric	1
Toledo Mental Health Center	1
TOTAL	3

COMMITMENTS



Commitment Hearing

COMMITMENTS TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION

The mission of the Ohio Youth Commission (OYC) is to provide and support state-wide services for delinquent youth who are committed to the state by the courts. These services include 11 maximum and medium security institutions that furnish custody and rehabilitative services. In addition, OYC operates a number of community based group and foster homes. In Lucas County, OYC presently has 21 licensed foster homes and 1 group home for boys.

1977 OHIO YOUTH COMMISSION – COMMITMENTS

Boys	
Committed to OYC	119
Recommitted	43
Maximum Security Institution	22
Armstrong House	1
	TOTAL 185
Girls	
Committed to OYC	30
Recommitted	2
	TOTAL 32

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS



Restitution Program Youth-Working To Repay Their Victims

RESTITUTION PROGRAM

Prior to April 1977, few juvenile offenders who had committed acts against property or person were paying restitution to their victims. Often they were unable to pay because of lack of employment, or parental inability to pay.

In an effort to remedy this, the Juvenile Court Restitution Program was begun. This program stresses the concept that restitution is a tool to enable a youth to develop a sense of responsibility and to be accountable for destructive behavior.

Since May 1977, 235 cases have been serviced. The total amount of restitution paid to victims is \$7,743,66. In addition, 10,000 has already been scheduled for payment during the coming year. A total of 124 juveniles have completed payment to their victims; the average payment owed was \$200.

A primary need of the Restitution Program is support from private business. The program was begun on the theory that if it is to become a positive factor force within the community, it must work together with private business to develop jobs for youths assigned to it. In this way the people of Lucas County will be assured of the continuation of the Restitution Program after federal assistance has been discontinued.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES PROGRAM

Volunteer Probation Counselors serve in a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" capacity, spending a minimum of 3 hours a week with their probationers on a one-to-one basis. They engage in constructive activities with the goal of helping each child to cope with his/her problems at home, in

school, and in the community. Volunteer workers also aid the court as: tutors; counselor aides; clerical aides. Volunteers gave over 20,000 hours of service in 1977.

The efforts of volunteers have a twofold benefit: 1) These efforts help reduce recidivism, and 2) help reduce the caseloads of (paid) probation counselors. Eighty-five youths were assisted by this program in 1977. The recidivism rate for boys was 13.0% and for girls 11.5%.

There is a growing need for men as Volunteer Probation Counselors because more boys than girls enter the court as first offenders. We ask everyone to help us recruit men willing to work with a youngster who needs an example to follow and an ear to listen.

TRUANCY COMMITTEE

In 1976 the Lucas County Task Force on truancy was formed by Judge Devine in conjunction with representatives from schools, the police, the Children Services Board, other community services agencies, and interested private citizens. The purpose of the Task Force was to attempt to identify and correct truant behavior before the pattern developed into serious problems later in a child's life.

Monthly meetings provided a forum for members to discuss problems and work together in search of solutions. As a result of this effort, policies and procedures were developed outlining a plan of action for a consistent community response to truancy. The court serves as the ultimate authority to be used by this system only when other avenues have been exhausted. The total number of cases registered in court for truancy action in 1977 was 119, compared to 160 the previous year; a 26% decrease.



Monthly Truancy Committee Meeting

POLICE LIAISON OFFICER

The position of Police/Court Liaison Officer was established by the Toledo Police Department at the request of the court in 1977 in an effort to better coordinate activities between the court and the police.

Sgt. William Case was appointed to this position and is responsible for the coordination of information, reports, and the scheduling of Police Officers for court hearings.

PLACEMENT REVIEW

Effective January 1, 1977, State House Bill 156 directs each public and private agency having custody of children to conduct an Annual Report of the status of each child. The review must be made whether the custody be permanent or temporary, and it must be made known to the Juvenile Court which authorized the placement.

Local agencies which have had custody are presently complying with the law and are submitting investigation reports to the court. However, there are still a number of children who were not placed with a licensed social agency but were directly given to the care of individuals. Most of these cases, approximately 150, are the result of the court granting custody to a relative or friends of a troubled family who were willing to accept the temporary responsibility of the child.

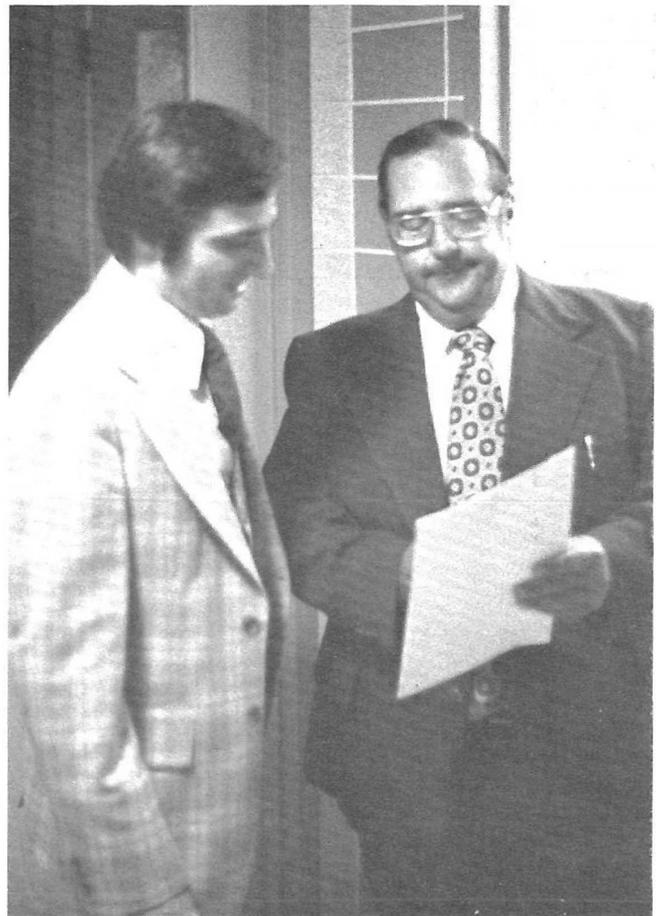
To insure that these and all cases are reviewed on a timely basis, the court has appointed a referee to coordinate judicial review of all dependency, neglect, and child abuse cases, including those directly placed by the court. From this effort decisions are to be made regarding the future of each child currently in placement.

It is important for the court to establish a 'plan' that will either return a child to biological parents, or if that is not possible, search for the best alternative placement. The establishment of a plan for each child will insure that the child's welfare is accounted for and will prevent the child from drifting in a 'limbo' state of existence within the community.

YOUTH WORKER'S SEMINAR

On December 16, 1977, the court in conjunction with the Regional Youth Services Bureau and the Regional Planning Unit conducted a question and answer session for area youth workers. The purpose was to provide an overview of Juvenile Court Procedures. Representatives from numerous youth serving agencies were present.

A panel including representatives from the court, Probation Services, the Police Department, the Child Study Institute and the County Prosecutor's office gave brief overviews of their functions and then answered questions from the audience.



Police Liaison Officer, William Case (right), Coordinates Daily Activities With Assistant Prosecutor, Perry Driscoll.

THIRD ANNUAL FOSTER CARE TRAINING SEMINAR

In September 1977, the Foster Home Department in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Training & Education Center, held a training seminar for foster parents and agency workers involved in foster care and placement. Sessions on Parent Effectiveness Training (P.E.T.) and problem adolescents were held. Also, an address by Judge John Steketee from Grand Rapids, Michigan emphasized the need for review and permanence in dealing with foster care placement. Judge Steketee is renown for instituting the Children in Placement Program which emphasis the concept of review and permanence.

STAFF OF FAMILY COURT

DECEMBER, 1977

ANDY DEVINE, Judge

Lawrence Murphy Acting Director
Charles Hinkelman Acting Administrator, CSI
Frank Landry Business Manager
Paul R. Sullivan Administrator, Probation Services

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W. Johnson L. Moree G. Stamos
E. Kass H. Norwood M. Turner

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C. Mossman, *Casework Supervisor*

COMMUNITY BASED GROUP HOMES

Lincoln

Boyd & Anise Burton, *Houseparents*

Sibley

William & Joyce Zunk, *Houseparents*
Sandra Strong, *Counselor*

ASSIGNMENT COMMISSIONER

M. Beazley

STATISTICIAN

R. Fleck

SUPPORT OFFICER

W. Zunk

BALIFFS

N. Cassidy G. Waggoner

FOSTER HOME RECRUITERS

A. Langenderfer D. Usher

UNRULY COORDINATOR

D. Rublaitus

CUSTODY INVESTIGATORS

M. Berta B. Smith

RESTITUTION PROGRAM

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B. Bethany

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A. Fall	M. Klein	H. Twiss
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