



**Kent
County**

**2022 ANNUAL
REPORT**

**17th JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
COURT**





STATE OF MICHIGAN
17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT

MARK A. TRUSOCK
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

SUITE 11200 B
180 OTTAWA AVENUE NW
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503-2751

August 7, 2023

To the Citizens of Kent County,

On behalf of our judges and employees, we are pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report for the Circuit and Probate Court. The Annual Report is not only a mile-marker but serves as a reminder of where we have been and showcasing where we are headed. The report is intended to supply helpful information to better understand the judicial system and its operations.

To better assist the community we serve, we have developed and work with many specialty courts which include: Treatment and Support Court (mental health), Youthful Sex Offender Treatment Program, D.E.T.O.U.R.S Girls Program, Drug Court, Sobriety Court, Veteran's Court, Specialized Business Court, and Juvenile Mental Health Court.

The State of Michigan has long recognized the Kent County Courts as one of the top courts in the State. I have consistently observed that the work done by this Court is accomplished with integrity and fairness. The citizens of Kent County can truly be proud of the 17th Circuit and Probate Court.

I am proud to report that we remain united to provide a system of justice that assures equal access to the fair and timely resolutions of matters brought before the Court.

Respectfully,

Hon. Mark A. Trusock

17th Circuit Court Chief Judge

CIRCUIT COURT

VISION STATEMENT:

The 17th Circuit Court will achieve excellence and be recognized as a leader by providing an accessible, effective, efficient, and innovative court operation.



MISSION STATEMENT:

The 17th Circuit Court will provide a system of justice that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of matters brought before the Court.



CIRCUIT COURT

CIRCUIT COURT AUTHORITY/ADMINISTRATION:

The 17th Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Kent County and has county-wide jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court, including:

- Criminal matters in which the potential sentence is incarceration of more than one year
- Domestic relations matters
- Personal protection orders
- Juvenile matters pertaining to delinquency or criminal activity
- Child protective proceedings
- Parental consent waivers
- Adoptions
- Emancipations
- General civil actions involving claims of \$25,000 or more
- Cases appealed from another court by an administrative agency
- Superintending control over other courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court
- Final decisions of the Circuit Court may be appealed to the Court of Appeals

Administratively, each multi-judge circuit has a chief judge appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court. The chief judge is the presiding officer and director of administration for the court. With the assistance of the Court Administrator, the chief judge develops and implements policies of the court; supervises caseload management; directs assignment of the court's business; supervises performance of the court's personnel; manages the court's finances; effects compliance with court rules and provisions of law.

CIRCUIT COURT LOCATIONS:

*Court Administrator
Andrew Thalhammer*

COURTHOUSE
180 Ottawa Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

FRIEND OF THE COURT
82 Ionia Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

JUVENILE CENTER / DETENTION
1501 Cedar Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Court Website
www.accesskent.com

JUDGES



MARK A. TRUSOCK

CHIEF JUDGE

Judge Trusock graduated from Michigan Technological University (MTU) in 1974. After college, Judge Trusock worked for a large insurance company from 1975 to 1984. In 1983 he obtained a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) from the American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. In 1985 Judge Trusock graduated from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. For the next 21 years, he worked for the partnership of Lannen and Trusock. At Lannen and Trusock he worked with civil, criminal, family, juvenile and appellate cases in courts throughout the state of Michigan. Judge Trusock was elected in November of 2006 to fill a new judicial position. Judge Trusock is assigned to the Civil-Criminal Division of the Circuit Court.

Court Clerk - Renee Pegg
Court Clerk - Whitney Smith
Law Clerk - Julie Allen

Phone (616) 632-5008
Fax (616) 632-5023



KATHLEEN A. FEENEY

CHIEF JUDGE PRO TEMPORE

Judge Feeney is the Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Kent County Circuit Court and the first woman either appointed or elected to that bench. She graduated with high honors from Michigan State University's Honors College and was the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate from the University of Illinois College of Law. Judge Feeney worked for Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith P.C., and Mika, Meyers, Beckett & Jones as well as the Michigan Court of Appeals' as Judge Jane E. Markey's judicial counsel before being appointed to the bench in 2000. In 2016, Judge Feeney received the Justice Marilyn J. Kelly Award for Outstanding Judicial Service from the State Bar of Michigan Family Law Section and was recognized as a 2018 Leader in the Law from *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*. Judge Feeney is the Vice President of the Michigan Judges Association. She created the Truancy Court and helped establish the Courthouse Therapy Dog Program where comfort dogs are provided for children and vulnerable adults who are involved in criminal or domestic relations cases.

Court Clerk - Kate Lewis
Court Clerk - Elizabeth Shearer

Phone (616) 632-5087
Fax (616) 632-5096



DEBORAH L. MCNABB

PRESIDING JUDGE—FAMILY DIVISION

Judge McNabb was elected in November 2016 to fill a new judicial position. She received her BA from Alma College and her JD from DePaul University College of Law. Before being elected circuit judge, Judge McNabb served as a Circuit Court Referee in the Family Division for 25 years. Judge McNabb is assigned to the Family Division of the Circuit Court and was appointed Presiding Judge of the Family Division in January 2018. Judge McNabb also presides over the Kent County Juvenile Treatment and Support Court (JTASC). She serves on the Kent County Families and Children Coordinating Council, the Executive Board of the Michigan Judges Association (MJA) and, as co-chair of the MJA Family Division Committee. Judge McNabb is also a member of the Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Committee of the National Association of Women Judges and has been named a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation as well as of the American Bar Foundation.

Court Clerk - Lisa Gibson
Court Clerk - Tylaer Van Noller

Phone (616) 632-5219
Fax (616) 632-5105

JUDGES



T.J. Ackert

Judge Terence J. "T.J." Ackert took the bench on September 1, 2015. A graduate of the University of Michigan and University of Toledo College of Law, he served clients throughout Michigan and the Midwest for thirty one years. He was affiliated as a Shareholder with the firm Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge, P.C. from 1984 to 2007, and then as a Member of Miller Johnson Snell & Cummsiskey, PLLC from 2007 until 2015. For most of his private practice, Judge Ackert served as a business counsel and trial attorney advising closely held and family owned businesses in both transactional and litigation matters involving an array of industries including manufacturing, construction, technology, and start-ups. He received the distinction of being listed in Best Lawyers in America® for Business Organizations, Closely Held Companies and Family Business Law, Corporate Law and Mergers and Acquisitions Law. Judge Ackert has served on numerous business, civic and charitable boards, including President of the Grand Rapids Bar Association in 2013. Judge Ackert currently serves on the Tribal State Federal Judicial Forum, the Michigan Court Improvement Program Task Force and the Michigan Child Welfare Leadership Workgroup. Judge Ackert is assigned to the Family Division and the Specialized Business Docket of the Circuit Court.

Court Clerk - Sue Kuzee
Court Clerk - Courtney Bryant

Phone (616) 632-5091
Fax (616) 632-5092



CURT BENSON

Judge Benson was elected in Nov. 2018 and took the bench on January 1, 2019. Previously, Judge Benson was a litigator and a tenured professor of Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School where he taught Evidence, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Torts, and a LLM level insurance law course. Judge Benson retired from full time teaching and took the title Distinguished Professor Emeritus. In his 30 years as a litigator and educator, Judge Benson tried many criminal and civil jury trials throughout Michigan. He has argued cases before the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, circuit, probate, and district courts, federal district and bankruptcy courts, Worker's Compensation Bureau, American Arbitration Association, Driver's License Appeal Division, as well as FINRA securities arbitrations and mediations in New York and case evaluations in New Jersey. He is a published author of several law review articles and book chapters and a frequent speaker to local bar associations and social organizations explaining recent developments in the law and discussing topics ranging from legal history to preventing violence in public schools. He earned a B.A. from Western Michigan University and graduated from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Court Clerk - Nicole Minerick
Court Clerk - Keri Abraham

Phone (616) 632-5012
Fax (616) 632-5016



ALIDA J. BRYANT

Judge Bryant was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the 17th Circuit Court bench in July of 2022. Prior to that appointment, Judge Bryant was the District Court Chief in the Kent County Office of the Defenders, where she supervised six attorneys. In that capacity, Judge Bryant provided training, mentoring and dispute resolution in a holistic fashion. Supporting those who serve the community fosters a better relationship with the residents of Kent County. Judge Bryant also had the privilege of being a team member of the Circuit Court mental health court, (TASC), from its inception to her appointment to the bench. For over 27 years, Judge Bryant worked as both a staff attorney and as an Attorney III in the Defender's office, where advocacy was provided to those who were charged with criminal offenses from arraignment to the conclusion of the case. Judge Bryant obtained her law degree from Drake University Law School and her B.A. degree from Mt. St. Mary's College. Judge Bryant is a proud member of Dawn Damon Ministries, Grand Rapids Bar Association and the State Bar of Michigan.

Court Clerk - Claire Merino
Court Clerk - Molly Norton

Phone (616) 632-5026
Fax (616) 632-5212

JUDGES



PAUL J. DENENFELD

Judge Denenfeld took the bench on August 10, 2009. He received his BA degree from Western Michigan University and his JD from the University of Cincinnati. Before taking the bench, Judge Denenfeld was a partner in the law firm Yates, LaGrand & Denenfeld, PLLC. Prior to that, he was the senior litigator with the Federal Public Defender office in Grand Rapids, and was the chief of the special litigation division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. For nearly 10 years, he was a civil rights and civil liberties attorney in Detroit. Judge Denenfeld has also spent considerable time working on the rule of law in several former Soviet republics. Judge Denenfeld is assigned to the Civil/Criminal Division of the Circuit Court.

Court Clerk - Deb Morris

Phone (616) 632-5033

Court Clerk - Kathy Vazquez

Fax (616) 632-5036

Law Clerk - Nick McKee



CHRISTINA ELMORE

Judge Christina Elmore was elected to the 17th Circuit Court and began her term on January 1, 2019. She is currently assigned to the Civil/Criminal Division. Before she was elected to this court, she was a judge on the 61st District Court for the City of Grand Rapids. Judge Elmore began her legal career as an attorney for the United States Air Force, where she served both on active duty and in the reserves. Judge Elmore was also an assistant prosecutor for the Kent County Prosecutor's office briefly, before she became an Assistant Attorney General for the Michigan Department of Attorney General. Following her stint at the Attorney General's Office, Judge Elmore spent 8 years in private practice where she continued to prosecute individuals for failing to pay child support as a Special Assistant Attorney General and was defense counsel on felony and misdemeanor criminal cases, represented parents and children in child abuse and neglect cases, advocated for juveniles in delinquency cases, and assisted clients with various other legal matters. Judge Elmore earned her law degree from Tulane Law School and her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. She is also a proud alumnus of Ottawa Hills High School.

Court Clerk - Chnell Guydon

Phone (616) 632-5099

Court Clerk - Conni Mutchler

Fax (616) 632-5016

Law Clerk - Kirstie Zook



PATRICIA D. GARDNER

Judge Gardner received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1980. Thereafter, she attended University of Michigan Law School, graduating with a Juris Doctor Degree in 1983. Judge Gardner practiced general civil litigation from 1983-1988. Judge Gardner was a partner in a law firm, specializing in probate practice and family law from 1989-1996. She was appointed by Governor Engler to the Kent County Probate Court in January of 1997. Judge Gardner served as Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Circuit Court from 2010-2016 and Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Probate Court. Judge Gardner is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Grand Rapids Bar Association, Probate Judges Association, and Women Lawyers Association. Judge Gardner is active in the community serving on a number of non-profit boards.

Court Clerk - Shelley Hughston

Phone (616) 632-5070

Court Clerk - Renee Marzean

Fax (616) 632-5074

JUDGES



MAUREEN GOTTLIEB

Judge Maureen A. Gottlieb was elected in November 2020 to the Kent County Circuit Court and took the bench in January 2021. Prior to taking the bench, she was a Circuit Court Referee in the Family Division of the Kent County Circuit Court since January 2017. Almost her entire career before taking the bench in 2017 was spent with Legal Aid of Western Michigan. There, first as a staff attorney and then managing attorney, she represented low income and elderly clients pro bono in civil cases with a special focus on family law matters. Judge Gottlieb received her undergraduate degree cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. She went on to earn her law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. She grew up in Holland, Michigan and attended West Ottawa High School.

Court Clerk - Brenna Weber
Court Clerk - Tiffany Simpson

Phone (616) 632-5215
Fax (616) 632-5212



G. PATRICK HILLARY

Judge Hillary was elected in November of 2000 to fill the judicial position vacated by the retirement of Judge John P. Steketee, and started on the bench in January of 2001. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1979 and his Juris Doctorate in 1983. Judge Hillary practiced law since 1983 and was a sole practitioner prior to being elected Probate Judge. Judge Hillary's private practice included experience in the area of business, corporate, real estate, wills/trusts, estate planning and family law. He served as presiding judge of the Circuit Court Family Division from 2004-2009. Judge Hillary has served on numerous boards in the community and created the Parents and Children Section of the Grand Rapids Bar Association. He also taught as Adjunct Professor at Davenport College and Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Judge Hillary participated as a member of the National Child Welfare Advisory Board in Washington D.C. which assisted in the enactment of laws to protect children brought into the United States without any adult supervision.

Court Clerk - Nicole Ludge
Court Clerk - Dianne Hill

Phone (616) 632-5206
Fax (616) 632-5084



SCOTT A. NOTO

Judge Noto was elected to the Circuit Court in November 2020 and began his term on January 1, 2021. He received his BA from the University of Chicago and JD from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Prior to his election, he was in private practice, representing clients in civil and criminal matters. He has also served as a Judge Advocate on active duty in the US Army and the Army Reserve since 2009.

Court Clerk - Kristen Brink
Court Clerk - Angela Artale

Phone (616) 632-5203
Fax (616) 632-5212

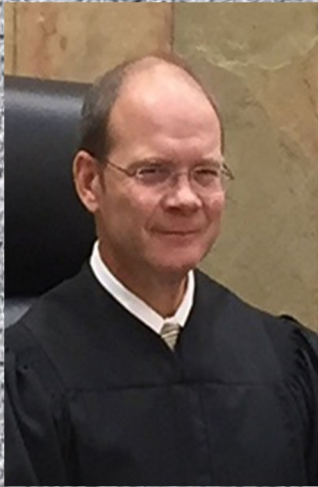
JUDGES



GEORGE J. QUIST

Judge Quist took the bench on January 23, 2012. He received his BA from Hope College and his JD from George Washington University. Before taking the bench, Judge Quist was a magistrate and administrative law judge with the State of Michigan. In addition to 12 years experience as an adjudicator before taking the bench, Judge Quist was a civil litigator for 9 years. From January 2012 through May 2015, Judge Quist was assigned to the Family Division of the Circuit Court. Since June 2015, Judge Quist has been assigned to the Civil/Criminal Division of the Circuit Court.

Court Clerk	- Stacy Dilworth	Phone (616) 632-5099
Court Clerk	- Marcedes Langlois	Fax (616) 632-5016
Law Clerk	- Betsi Bryker	



J. JOSEPH ROSSI

Judge Rossi was elected in November of 2016 and began judicial service on January 1, 2017. Judge Rossi attended the University of Notre Dame where he obtained a degree in English in 1988 and a Juris Doctorate in 1995. Between his undergraduate years and law school, Joe served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, including combat service in Operation Desert Storm and as a Special Operations instructor. Prior to his election he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for eight years in Grand Rapids, as well as working at the private law firms Smith Haughey Rice and Roegge and Drew Cooper and Anding. His legal experience includes appearances in many Michigan Courts, as well as Federal Courts in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Joe also continued to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve, where he was called to active duty twice in 2004 and 2007. His final tour was on the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, where he worked under the Director of Global Special Operations and Counterterrorism. Joe retired from military service in 2012 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Joe's community service includes his parish finance council and several veterans and military support organizations. Joe serves in the Circuit Court's Specialized Business docket and in the Court's Civil-Criminal division.

Court Clerk	- Lisa Baird	Phone (616) 632-5020
Court Clerk	- Wendy White	Fax (616) 632-5074

REFEREES

ADAM C. KOMAR
Clerk - Kiersten Chulski
Phone (616) 632-5170

LYNN PERRY
Clerk - Kelli Klein
Phone (616) 632-5148

MARIE E. KESSLER
Clerk - Jamie Gambee
(616) 632-5165

CRAIG FREDERICK
Clerk- Tracy Dewey
Phone (616) 632-5104

JOHN D. KMETZ
Clerk - Rebecca Levay
Phone (616) 632-5150

ARTHUR P. WINTHER
Clerk- Marie Bolen
Phone (616) 632-5147

Peter Kulas-Dominguez
Clerk- Julie Bailey
Phone (616) 632-5251

FINANCIAL REVIEW

CIRCUIT COURT BUDGET

UNAUDITED

	Appropriated	Expended
PERSONNEL COSTS	\$38,522,284	34,223,517
OPERATION COSTS	19,921,283	14,700,648
CAPITAL OUTLAY	120,479	80,105
TOTAL	\$58,564,046	\$49,004,270

2022 REVENUES COLLECTED BY THE CIRCUIT COURT AND ITS DIVISIONS

State Grants	\$15,234,456
Federal Grants	6,485,888
Other Grants	67,067
Medical & Medicaid	165,744
Board & Care	106,454
Court Costs	1,478,840
Service Fees	500,915
Filing Fees	324,009
Name Search and Motion Fees	98,005
Other Fees	208,359
Overseeing Fees	21,278
Jury Fees	178,746
Collection Fees	64,439
Bond Forfeitures	132,245
Other Reimbursements	399,899
Penal Fines	6,507
Refunds/Rebates	9,704
Total Revenues Collected	\$25,482,605
Total 2018 County Contributions	\$23,521,665
GRAND TOTAL	\$49,004,270

STATE COURT EQUITY FUND

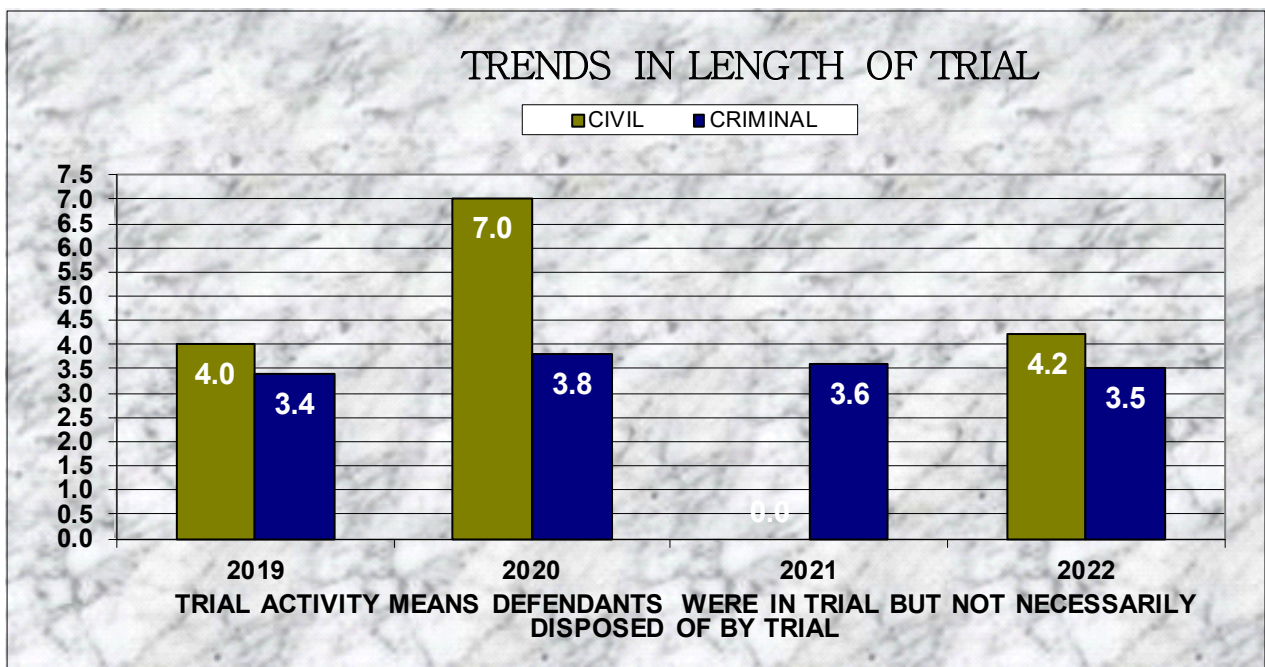
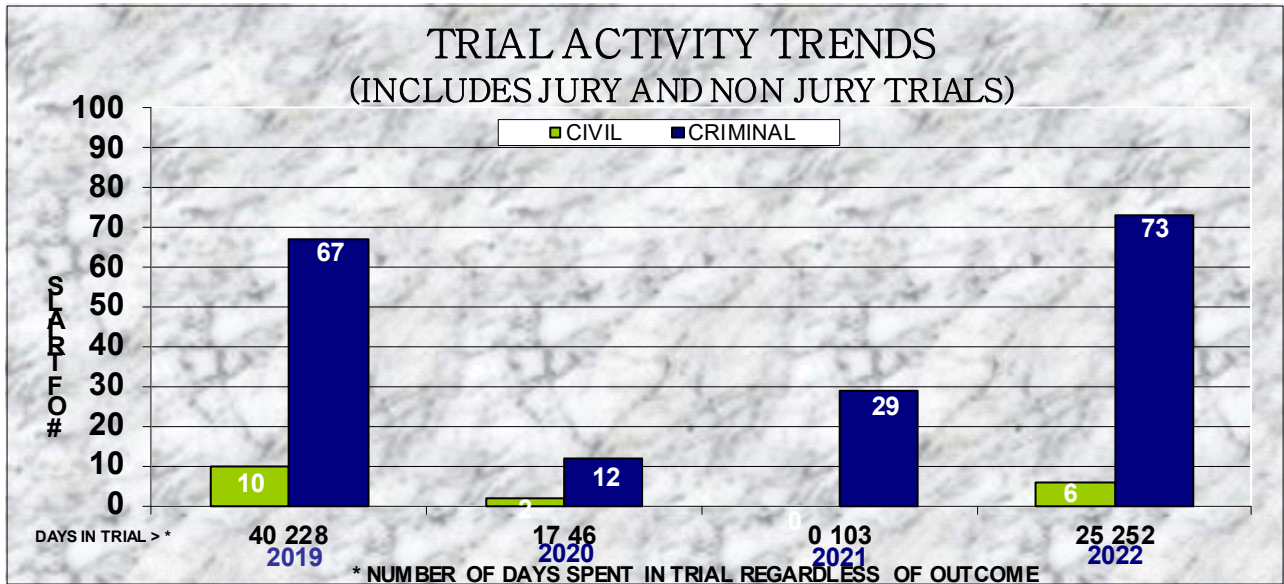
In addition to the above revenues, Kent County received \$2,501,159 during State Fiscal year 2021-2022 in Court Equity Fund monies. Pursuant to MCL 600.151(a) these funds are to be used for the operational expenses of the trial courts (Circuit, District, and Probate) and indigent legal assistance.

ADMINISTERING COLLECTION OF PASS-THROUGH PAYMENTS

It should be noted that the 17th Circuit Court collects and accounts for victims' restitution. During the calendar year 2022, the Court collected \$1,512,274 in restitution. In addition to restitution, the Court assesses fines which, by law, are used to support local libraries. During the 2022 calendar year \$188,849 was collected. The Court also assesses Crime Victim Rights fees. These fees are collected for the State to help compensate and support victims of crime. In 2022, the Court collected \$224,008 in CVR Fees. The Court also collects State Minimum Costs which help the State with the costs of operating the Courts in the State of Michigan. During the calendar year the Court collected \$205,767 in State Minimum Costs.

CIRCUIT COURT

TRENDS



CIRCUIT COURT

NEW FILINGS

CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS						
CASE TYPE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
NON-CAPITAL OFFENSES	2886	3027	2881	2557	3139	2728
CAPITAL OFFENSES	134	162	143	111	163	149
FELONY JUVENILE	0	5	4	10	11	12
EXTRADITION	53	63	53	41	45	67
TOTAL OFFENSES	3074	3258	3081	2717	3358	2956

CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL FILINGS						
CASE TYPE CATEGORIES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CIVIL DAMAGE SUITS	469	492	578	452	551	696
OTHER CIVIL SUITS	654	799	707	591	566	570
TOTAL	1123	1291	1285	1043	1117	1266

CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS						
	2017	2028	2019	2020	2021	2022
APPEALS	208	171	185	137	151	121
MINOR GUARDIANSHIPS				239	284	248

FAMILY DIVISION FILINGS						
Case Type Categories	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Divorce w/o Children	1297	1249	1288	1087	1233	1239
Divorce w/ Children	1258	1211	1198	988	1112	1026
Paternity	767	792	814	599	738	741
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	85	47	39	55	34	23
Support	908	927	1010	791	882	982
PPOs/Stalking	699	556	553	488	735	1047
PPOs/Domestic Relations	1707	1469	1516	1311	1608	1855
Other Domestic*	369	304	341	273	353	369
Adoptions	317	257	232	227	182	170
Miscellaneous Family**	388	442	503	348	598	502
Delinquency	2441	1913	1959	1477	1534	2171
Designated	7	5	18	13	7	2
Traffic	73	71	54	29	12	11
Child Protective	919	960	676	436	485	525
Personal Protection Order involving minor	35	31	30	19	25	40
Totals	11,270	10,234	20,231	8141	9077	10,703

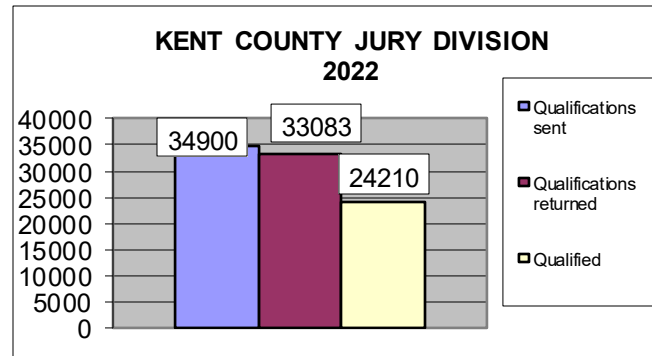
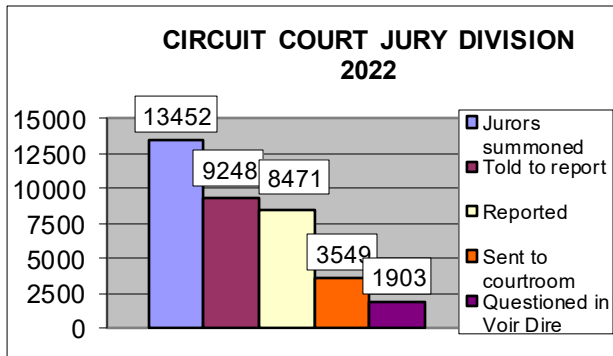
* Other domestic includes custody filings

** Miscellaneous family filings consist of name change, safe delivery, emancipation of minor, infectious disease, parental waiver, voluntary foster care, juvenile guardianships and violations of out-of-county PPOs

CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

JURY MANAGEMENT

Jury Service is one of the most important duties that members of a free society are called upon to perform. The jury is an expression of the democratic idea that authority can be exercised most equitably only if people participate. The Jury Division of the Circuit Court plays an important role in this process by summoning and qualifying prospective jurors for Kent County. In addition, all other aspects of the Circuit Court's jury system are handled through this division. Jurors summoned and qualified for Circuit Court jury service are on-call for a week, or for one trial. Jurors may go to the County website (www.accesskent.com) or call the Jury Information Line (866-215-3884) to determine whether or not they must serve on the week they are on call.



ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) offers the parties a timely and affordable alternative to settle disputes and, thereby, avoid costly litigation. Kent County started a formalized ADR program in 1990 with Civil Case Mediation, which later became known as Case Evaluation. Court rules allow for parties to be ordered into facilitative mediation. Kent County implemented its court-ordered domestic relations mediation and civil mediation programs in 2004.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- 60% of divorce mediations held will settle or settle in part.
- 60% of domestic mediations held will settle or settle in part.
- 70% of those completing a mediation evaluation form will indicate satisfaction with the mediation process.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- 367 of domestic mediations settled or settled in part.
- 165 of civil mediations settled or settled in part.
- 95% of those completing the domestic evaluation form indicated satisfaction with the process.
- 98% of those completing the civil evaluation form indicated satisfaction with the process.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 449 domestic mediations were held.
- 229 civil mediations were held.
- 147 case evaluation hearings were held. 28 cases had all parties accepting the award for a 19.0% settlement rate.

CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT

The Case Management Department reviews pending civil and domestic relations cases and sends a no progress dismissal notice to the attorneys and parties when the matter languishes for more than 91 days. If the parties take no action, the judge may enter an Order of Dismissal on the action.

COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

GOAL: To assist the local Criminal Justice System by providing alternatives to incarceration.

PRETRIAL SUPERVISED RELEASE

Pretrial supervised release is the supervision of defendants out on bond pending their court hearing. This also includes Maximum Supervision (electronic monitoring) of selected defendants.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- 77% of all defendants placed on pretrial supervised release will successfully complete program requirements.
- 80% of all defendants placed on Maximum Supervision will successfully complete program requirements.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- 74% of the defendants placed on pretrial supervised release successfully completed program requirements.
- 79% of the defendants placed on Maximum Supervision successfully completed program requirements.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 1800 defendants were placed on pretrial supervision.
- Approximately 173,000 jail bed days were saved by the use of pretrial supervision.
- 170 defendants were placed on Maximum Supervision.
- Approximately 21,000 jail bed days were saved by the use of Maximum Supervision.

COMMUNITY SERVICE—ADULT

Adult Community Service provides a community-based sentencing option in lieu of incarceration for the District and Circuit Courts of Kent County. The Juvenile Community Service Program provides a means for delinquent youth to make a form of reparation to the community for damages or injury inflicted as a result of their delinquency.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- 80% of all offenders placed on adult community service will successfully complete program requirements.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- 81% of the offenders placed on adult community service successfully completed program requirements.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 1445 offenders were placed on adult community service.
- 111,000 hours of community service were performed by adult offenders.

COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WORK CREW

Work Crew is a structured, labor-intensive form of community service for the more habitual, problematic adult offender, and participants are supervised by Court Services staff and perform group work projects primarily at Comp Renew.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 70% of all offenders placed on Work Crew will successfully complete program requirements.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

69% of the offenders placed on Work Crew successfully completed program requirements.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 192 offenders were placed on Work Crew.
- Offenders performed 10,645 Work Crew hours.

DIVERSION

The Diversion Program provides case management and supervision services for offenders who are referred from the Kent County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Upon successful completion of the Program, an offender will have the original charge dismissed.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 85% of all defendants placed on the Diversion Program will successfully complete program requirements.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 89% of the defendants placed on the Diversion Program successfully completed the program requirements.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 41 defendants were placed on the Diversion Program.
- \$13,179 was paid by defendants for restitution that was disbursed to victims.

JUVENILE ELECTRONIC HOME MONITORING

The Electronic Home Monitoring Program allows certain select juvenile offenders to be confined in their own home rather than in an out-of-home placement, by the use of electronic equipment such as a "tether anklet".

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 60% of juvenile offenders placed on Electronic Home Monitoring will successfully complete the program requirements.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 63% of the juvenile offenders placed on Electronic Home Monitoring successfully completed program requirements.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 207 juveniles were placed on Electronic Home Monitoring.

COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRETRIAL SCREENING / INVESTIGATION

In 2022, the Court Services Department continued to provide valuable information to the judiciary relative to release prior to the defendant's first court appearance. This information allows the judges to set a bond based on verified information about the defendant, while addressing important issues regarding risk of flight, safety to the community, prudent use of jail space, and early intervention concerning the problems of the defendant. During 2022, 4,100 bond reports were generated by the Pretrial Intake Investigation Unit.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

In 2022, the Court Services Department generated and distributed approximately 500 jail bed reports to Court Judges, State Probation/Parole, the Office of Community Corrections, the Kent County Correctional Facility, and the Grand Rapids Police Department. The dissemination of accurate information to the criminal justice system is essential, both to prevent cases from becoming "lost" in a very complex system, and to assist in the management of jail beds available to the Courts.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

GOAL: To support and expand the use of community sanctions in order to provide rehabilitation opportunities for Kent County felony offenders, to promote the efficient use of jail/prison beds while protecting the community, and to examine the causes of repeated criminal behavior while facilitating collaboration among stakeholders and service providers.

Public Act 511, the Community Corrections Act, was passed in 1988 primarily to divert eligible non-violent/low-risk offenders from prison by placing them in community programs which provide the courts with a continuum of sentencing options. A secondary goal is to divert offenders from jail in order to free up jail space for the more serious offenders diverted from prison. Kent County first received P.A. 511 funding in 1990 and administers these funds through the Kent County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Additionally, the Community Corrections Advisory Board, through the Office of Community Corrections, is responsible for the development and implementation of the local community corrections plan.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- Expend 100% of the Community Corrections grant.
- Maintain an overall program enrollment rate of 95% or greater.
- Maintain a 70% successful termination rate for all O.C.C. enrollees.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- Program enrollment rate was 96.6%.
- 78.3% of enrollees successfully completed their program.
- 97.1% of the Community Corrections grant was expended.

2022 SUMMARY:

- The OCC secured approximately \$1,357,795 in revenue through the County Jail Reimbursement Program.
- 260 offenders were served.

PERMANENCY PLANNING

Children under 18 years of age who are suspected of being abused by their parents are referred to the Family Division of the Circuit Court by the Child Protective Services Unit of the Kent County Department of Human Services (DHS). Protective Services investigates all complaints of abuse and/or neglect in the County and determines which cases require court action.

The Court's role in the child welfare system in Kent County is to provide the judicial authority necessary for legal wardship and treatment, and to provide leadership to ensure that the service delivery system continues to function well. Children found by the Court to be neglected or abused are usually made temporary wards of the Court and placed under the general supervision of the Kent County DHS. Direct casework services for neglected children and their families are provided by the DHS or one of the private agencies under contract with the DHS. The judges assess the progress of each case at regular review hearings, an integral part of the case management system.

CASA PROGRAM

GOAL: CASA of Kent County provides highly-trained volunteers to advocate in the best interest of abused and neglected children in family court proceedings.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) is a program using carefully screened and specially trained volunteers appointed by the Judge to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in child protective proceedings. The role of the CASA volunteer as an independent voice for the children is to investigate, facilitate, monitor and advocate on behalf of children until they are in a safe, permanent home. The CASA volunteer has only one case at a time and remains with the children throughout the case until it is discharged by the Court. In 2022, 91 CASA Volunteers advocated on behalf of 168 abused and neglected children living in foster care. Of those cases 50 closed: 25 children were adopted. 2 children were placed in guardianship. 18 children were reunified with their parent/s. 4 children aged out of the system.

*Individuals who are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer are encouraged to call
or visit our website:
(616) 632-5311
www.casakentco.org*

ADOPTION

ADOPTION DEPARTMENT

GOAL: To facilitate the legal process for children who need a permanent home and to streamline the adoption process for children and families.

The Adoption Department serves a diverse group of families and children who are in the process of an adoption or are seeking support and information concerning a completed adoption. Most of the children involved in these adoptions are either permanent wards of the court or are voluntarily released by their biological parents. Additional services are provided for adult adoptions and for children adopted in another country.

ADOPTIONS FINALIZED	2020	2021	2022
Adult Adoptions	15	14	9
Agency International Adoptions	0	0	0
Direct Placement Adoptions (voluntary consent to a specific family)	14	20	15
Relative Adoptions	6	8	11
Safe Delivery of Newborn Adoptions	5	1	7
Permanent Ward Adoptions	164	103	86
Non-Relative Guardian Adoptions	2	7	6
Agency Other Adoptions (voluntary release to private adoption agency)	0	0	1
Step-Parent Adoptions	21	30	35
Delayed Registration-Foreign Adoptions	12	9	11
TOTAL ADOPTIONS	239	192	181

DELINQUENCY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

INTAKE DEPARTMENT

The Intake Department plays a major role in the delinquency division of the Court. Intake decisions are the result of a process of assessment and information gathering. The Intake Department acquires its investigative authority from Section 11 of the Juvenile Code.

The intake process begins with a referral sent by a police agency to the Prosecutor's Office or City Attorney's Office. An assistant prosecuting attorney reviews the complaint for legal sufficiency, determines the precise charge, and then refers it to the Intake Department. The Intake Supervisor screens certain cases with subsequent diversion to other counties and to other agencies and programs that deal with certain types of delinquent activity, such as shoplifting, alcohol abuse, and family problems. Other cases receive a letter of warning from the Court. The majority of cases are assigned to Intake probation officers who contact the youth and parents for a preliminary inquiry and decide what type of response should be made to the referral. Intake probation officers assess the seriousness of the offense and the youth's prior court and/or police record. They review prior or present community agency involvement. A special emphasis is placed on evaluating home behavior, parental control and parent/child relationships. School matters such as performance and behavior are evaluated. On certain offenses, the Prosecutor's Office is contacted for case input. In addition, Intake probation officers evaluate damage and loss, and an appropriate court response to the victim of the law violation.

If formal court involvement is not necessary or required by law, the Intake probation officer has a number of options. A case may be diverted for counseling or special services related to the specific law violation (e.g. shoplifting, alcohol or drug use, or family problems). A case may be held in order to monitor the situation and reassess it at a later date. Certain stipulations may be required such as paying restitution to a victim or successfully completing a certain number of community service hours in the Court Work Program. The Intake probation officer may determine, after the preliminary inquiry, that the presenting problem of the law violation has been handled appropriately and no other services are necessary. These cases are termed "adjusted". A petition is authorized if the Intake probation officer determines that formal court action is necessary, or if specific intake guidelines or Michigan laws require it. The case is then transferred to the Probation Unit for assessment and intervention purposes, in preparation for a formal court hearing.

INTAKE STATISTICS	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Juveniles Referred	1450	1382	979	1087	1569
-Cases assigned to intake staff	857	870	762	727	1042
-Cases adjusted	410	375	225	180	196
-Cases to community probation	437	364	342	284	466
-Cases to consent calendar	103	92	73	57	73
-Cases transferred to county of residence	99	80	119	144	94
-Cases dismissed by prosecutor	95	39	40	25	46
-Diverted by Intake Supervisor	393	378	265	186	281
-Petitions received from other counties	140	85	126	110	142
Restitution Collected	\$7,584	\$14,403	\$9,857	\$13,609	\$5,877

DELINQUENCY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

GOAL: To prevent status offenders from being held in Detention without a court order, and to reduce the number of status offenders or youth involved in minor law violations from becoming court wards.

The Crisis Intervention Program is a short-term family counseling program for families with youth between the ages of 12-17 who have runaway from home, are truant from school or have other related school problems, are experiencing family conflicts due to adolescent development issues, are beyond parental control, and/or commit minor law violations.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- 90% of all status offenders admitted to Detention without a court order will be released within 6 hours of admission.
- 85% of all status offenders or juveniles involved in minor law violations who receive Crisis Intervention services will be diverted from formal court wardship for at least 120 days.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- 100% of all status offenders admitted to Detention without a court order were released from Detention within 6 hours of admission.
- 90% of all status offenders or juveniles involved with minor law violations who received Crisis Intervention services were diverted from court wardship for at least 120 days.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 317 juveniles and their families were served by the Crisis Intervention Program.
- 52 juveniles were released from Detention after Crisis Intervention involvement.
- 70 status offenders were diverted from formal court involvement.
- 2 status offender petitions were authorized for formal court involvement.

YOUNG DELINQUENT INTERVENTION PROGRAM (YDIP)

GOAL: To prevent further delinquency by intervening early with very young offenders.

The Young Delinquent Intervention Program is a home based service (including counseling, mentoring, and pro-social activities) to children and their parents of young offenders 11 years and younger who have broken the law. This program operates under the reality that the best indicator for future delinquent behavior is the age of onset for delinquency, and that the earlier the intervention in the lives of high-risk youth, then the greater the potential for preventing further acts of delinquency. The court contracts for the provision of these services with D.A. Blodgett for Children.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- 75% of all young offenders in treatment will successfully complete their treatment objectives.
- Less than 10% of all young offenders will have a new law violation while in treatment.
- Less than 5% of all young offenders who successfully complete treatment objectives will have a new law violation within 12 months of discharge from court wardship.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- 69% of all the young offenders in treatment successfully completed their treatment objectives.
- 23% of the young offenders in treatment had a new law violation while in treatment.
- 5% of all young offenders who successfully completed treatment objectives had a new law violation within 12 months of discharge from court wardship.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 16 young offenders were served.

DELINQUENCY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit processes misdemeanor juvenile traffic offenses that are committed in Kent County, as well as those committed by Kent County residents in other counties. Most juveniles are required to appear in person to respond to the charge(s). A small number are given the option to respond via mail. When the traffic violation is for a juvenile who already is on probation, the Traffic Referee coordinates traffic actions with the juvenile's probation officer. In 2022, the juveniles (and adults responding to their juvenile tickets) paid \$11,952 in fines and fees.

CONSENT CALENDAR

GOAL: To reduce recidivism by diverting low risk juvenile offenders from the formal court docket.

The Consent Calendar is a diversion program provided by court rule that allows for the informal processing of appropriate cases. Consent calendar cases are typically placed under informal supervision of the Court for approximately 90 days. No case may be placed on the Consent Calendar unless the juvenile and the parent agrees to this decision. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Consent Calendar or subsequent law violations most often result in the juvenile's transfer to the formal calendar. If the juvenile successfully completes the Consent Calendar, the court may then destroy all records of the proceedings.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 80% of all juveniles placed on the Consent Calendar will successfully complete the requirements of the program.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 86% of all the juveniles placed on the Consent Calendar successfully completed the requirements of the program.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 73 juveniles and families were served.
- Juveniles were on the Consent Calendar an average of 152 days.
- \$200.00 was collected from juveniles on the Consent Calendar and paid directly to victims.

ADOLESCENT SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAM (ASOTP)

GOAL: To prevent further sexual victimization

The Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Program provides assessment and treatment services to juvenile sex offenders, ages 8-17.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- 75% of all the juvenile sex offenders in treatment will complete treatment objectives.
- Less than 10% of all the juvenile sex offenders in treatment will re-offend sexually while in treatment.
- Less than 5 juvenile offenders who complete their treatment objectives will re-offend sexually within one year of treatment completion.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- 31 of 33 youth accepted into treatment completed their treatment objectives (94%).
- No juvenile sex offenders re-offended sexually while in treatment.
- 1 juvenile sex offenders re-offended sexually within 1 year of completion of their treatment objectives.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 91 juvenile sex offenders were referred to the program.
- 75 assessments were completed.
- 33 juvenile sex offenders completed treatment.
- 42 youth completed short-term counseling pertaining to healthy sexual boundaries and the law.

DELINQUENCY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY PROBATION

GOAL: To reduce further delinquency.

Description:

Community probation is a unique and non-traditional way of providing decentralized and personalized court supervision to juveniles and their families that reside in a specific sector of the city (or metropolitan area) served by community policing.

Program Goals:

- Reduce further delinquency and protect the community.
- Develop cooperative and coordinated relationships with area police.

Program Objectives:

- Less than 10% of the cases assigned to community probation will be involved in a new felony offense this year while on community probation.
- Less than 15% of the cases assigned to community probation will be involved in a new misdemeanor offense this year while on community probation.
- Community probation officers will have at least 18,000 face-to-face contacts this year. Community probation officers will work at least 4,500 non-traditional hours this year.
- Community probation officers will have at least 2,000 contacts working directly with community police this year (including police ride-a-longs).

2022 Indicators	Annual Totals
#/% of youth assigned to community probation who are referred for one or more felony law violations.	78/795 (9.8%)
#/% of youth assigned to community probation who are referred for one or more misdemeanor law violations.	77/795 (9.7%)
# of face-to-face contacts made with youth by community probation officers.	27,316
# of non-traditional hours worked by community probation officers.	2,521
# of contacts made with community police officers by community probation officers (includes ride-a-longs).	193

Total # of youth served on Community Probation for 2022: 795
(Add FCA's for the year to Baseline # to get this total)

* Of the 78 youths who were referred for a felony law violation, and the 77 youths referred for a misdemeanor law violation, there were 70 who had two or more referrals for felony and/or misdemeanor law violations. The highest number of referrals for a youth being 11 (10 felonies and 1 misdemeanors).

** 126 youth committed 309 new law violations in 2022 (189 felonies and 119 misdemeanors).

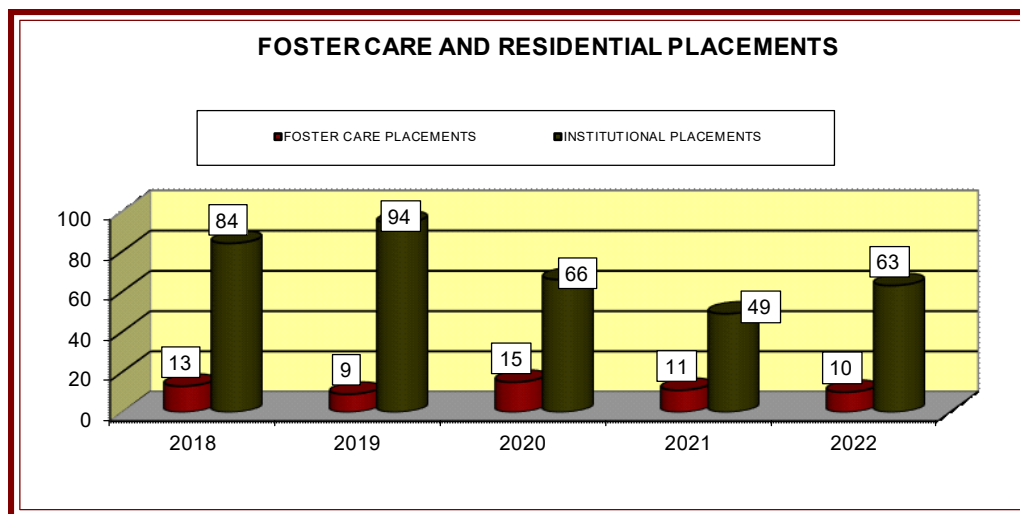
*** 15.8% of the youth served on community probation committed a new law violation in 2022.

DELINQUENCY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENT

FOSTER CARE AND INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT

Even though the Court places a high priority on working with juvenile offenders in their own homes, some situations require the Court to order the juvenile placed in either foster care or residential institutional placement. Foster care more closely reflects a family home setting, while institutional placement is more restrictive and provides a specific type of treatment modality. The average per diem cost of foster care is approximately \$110. Institutional placement is much more expensive and depending on the type of institution averages about \$275 per day.



DELINQUENCY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

GOAL: To provide a safe and secure environment for juveniles admitted to Detention.

The function of Detention is to provide temporary care for youth requiring secure custody pending court evaluation and disposition or pending transfer to another jurisdiction or agency. Detained youth are those whose offenses are so serious that release would endanger public safety or the welfare of the child. The Detention Facility, which has a bed capacity of 98, currently employs 125 staff (including school, medical, mental health personnel, etc.) with the majority of that workforce being Youth Specialists.

The Facility's staff training/orientation program is extensive in its coverage of training issues and, in addition to its own staff, offers training to other court staff and County employees. The State's Division of Child Welfare Licensing mandates training in 9 specific areas and requires at least 24 hours of training annually for each Detention Youth Specialist employee. Kent County Juvenile Detention met these requirements in 2022.

The Detention Center provides a cognitive behavioral training (CBT) concept for its behavioral management for our residents. This cognitive learning model is designed to change adolescent's value and belief systems by getting them to examine their thinking before making choices. The goal is to help reduce recidivism by teaching residents to make rational choices and maintain this thinking ability after they leave Detention.

Although Detention is not a treatment facility, two of the nine units within this facility are utilized as short-term residential programs for Kent County residents who have been ordered to an institutional placement. The Delta and Pride residential programs are currently in operation. Programs are staffed by the Detention Youth Specialists to provide services offered to the Detention residents and include off-site activities with the primary focus of productive reintegration into the community.

The facility continues to offer a year-round school program. The Lighthouse Academy provides classes Monday through Thursday. Community consultants as well as Detention staff provide Friday classes which include topic areas such as Youth Empowerment, Therapeutic Communication, Physical Education, Yoga, Art Therapy, Health Education (Public topics and AIDS, safety, sexual awareness), Life and Social Skills. These Friday classes offer residents a chance to deal with issues that contributed to their coming to the facility, as well as teaching them skills that will help them make better decisions.

DELINQUENCY SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

DETENTION FACILITY STATISTICS

	Males			Females			Totals		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Admissions	283	356	536	136	159	222	419	515	758
Releases	293	349	508	142	149	223	435	498	731

DAYS OF CARE PROVIDED

	Days of Care			Average Daily Census		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Totals	14,422	18,504	24,671	40	51	68

PER DIEM COST OF CARE

2020	2021	2022
\$534	\$412	\$334.65

FRIEND OF THE COURT

FRIEND OF THE COURT— TRACI SCHENKEL

MISSION: TO SERVE THE COURT AND THE FAMILIES OF KENT COUNTY TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE SUPPORTED, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

As set forth in the 1998 Child Support Performance and Incentive Act, state child support enforcement programs are measured in five key areas: Collections on Arrears, Total Collections, *Paternity Establishment, Cost Effectiveness and *Order Establishment.

*Note that performance in these areas are not controlled by the Kent County Friend of the Court office.

The areas that are controlled by the Friend of the Court office are: Collections on Arrears and Collections on Current. The following rankings represent how the Kent County Friend of the Court measured in 2022 against the eleven (11) largest counties in Michigan, excluding Wayne County:

	<u>KENT COUNTY RANKING</u>
• COLECTIONS ON ARREARS	#1
• COLLECTIONS ON CURRENT	#2

COLLECTION ON CURRENT SUPPORT (Child, Spousal, Medical and Birthing Expenses):

The Friend of the Court (FOC) employs a wide range of enforcement remedies and innovative strategies to improve the reliability of child support payments. Emphasis is placed on having realistic child support orders, reducing unpayable child support debt and intervening early when parents begin to struggle to make payments.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- Collect 80% of total court ordered child support that was charged.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 71% of court ordered child support charged was collected.

2022 SUMMARY:

- \$72,822,516 (Total current support distributed)
- \$100,212,419 (Total support charged)
- \$96,943,566 (Total collections including current and arrears)

FRIEND OF THE COURT

INCOME WITHHOLDING

With income withholding, payments are deducted from the payer's check and sent to the Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU) in Lansing. When a payer changes jobs and/or fails to advise the FOC of new employment, the computer system checks the state Data Warehouse and automatically sends an Income Withholding Notice (IWN) to the source of income.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- Collect 75% of child support collections by withholding order.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 73% was collected via income withholding order.

2022 SUMMARY:

- \$70,353,122 was collected via income withholding.

SHOW-CAUSE HEARINGS AND BENCH WARRANTS

When payments are not made regularly and the payer does not work with us to make payments or remedy his or her inability to pay, we may schedule a show cause contempt hearing. At the hearing, case managers attempt to resolve the non-payment or present the case before the Court for a determination of contempt. If a person does not appear for the hearing, a Bench Warrant may issue.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 80% of those ordered to jail as a result of a contempt hearing will pay out within two weeks.
- 85% of the bench warrants handled by FOC deputies will be resolved without arrest.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 63% of those who were ordered to jail as a result of a contempt hearing paid and were released within two weeks.
- 99% of the bench warrants handled by FOC deputies were resolved without arrest.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 16 payers were found in contempt and ordered to jail.
- 1,385 warrants were resolved by FOC deputies without arrest.

TAX OFFSET

A commonly used enforcement remedy is the interception of a payer's state and federal tax refunds.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 90% of cases qualifying for a tax offset are submitted.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 100% of cases qualified for a tax intercept were submitted.

2022 SUMMARY:

- \$5,118,100 was collected from the Federal tax offset program.
- \$515,616 was collected from the State tax offset program.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

LEINS AND GARNISHMENTS

The law allows the FOC to place a lien against property owned by the payer of support when an arrearage has accrued. Garnishments may also be served against a delinquent payer's inheritance.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 80% of cases submitted for a lien or garnishment are ordered or perfected.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 100% of cases submitted for a lien or garnishment received one.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 8 real estate liens was placed for a potential future collection and \$9,456 was collected.
- 39 liens/garnishments were placed against inheritances and \$231,800 was collected.
- 0 liens were placed against settlements and \$0 was collected.
- 3 claims were filed against decedent obligor's estate with \$20,502 collected.

HEALTH CARE

The Health Care Unit has two main objectives. One is to enforce court orders to maintain health care insurance. The other is to enforce court orders related to uninsured health care expenses.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- 65% of cases have orders with health care provisions.
- 90% of cases with health care reimbursement accounts received payment.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES-2022:

- 94% of cases with orders have health care provisions.
- 97% of cases with health care reimbursement accounts received payment.

2022SUMMARY:

- 22,195 orders have a health care provision included.
- 664 cases with health care reimbursement accounts received payment.

PARENTING TIME

The primary function and statutory duty of the Parenting Time Unit is to secure compliance with parenting time and physical custody orders. This is accomplished through education, assisting parents with modification of their orders, or helping in other ways to prevent future violations. Also, the FOC continues to manage the Access and Visitation Grant that allows payment for supervised parenting time and for therapeutic reintroduction on specific cases through the contract agencies.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 90% of parenting time complaints resolved prior to a contempt hearing.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 79% of parenting time complaints were resolved prior to a contempt hearing.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 2,029 formal written parenting time complaints were received.
- 86 hearings were scheduled on parenting time violations.
- 27 families were afforded parenting time through the Access and Visitation Grant.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

SUPPORT REVIEW

Support reviews are commenced when a client submits a written request and is eligible for a review (every three years or if there has been a significant change in circumstances), by court order or upon FOC's own initiative. Friend of the Court is statutorily required to complete support reviews within 120 days after notice of the review is sent, but it is Kent County's goal to complete all support reviews within 90 days.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 90% of all support reviews will be completed within 90 days.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 92% of all support reviews were completed in 90 days.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 2,093 support reviews were completed.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS PROGRAM

The Resources for Parents Program (FKA Responsible Parent Program) was established in 2016. Case Managers in this program actively partner with potential employers and placement agencies to assist payers who struggle to comply with their support order. They also conduct outreaches within the community to help payers who are often reluctant to engage with the FOC. Once a payer is referred to the program, the case manager schedules an appointment with the payer to identify any barriers that make it difficult to comply with the child support order. Once identified, the case manager can make appropriate referrals for job placements and searches, determine whether a case qualifies for a support review to ensure that charges are based on ability to pay, and/or provide information about parenting time issues and services.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 90% of the eligible payers who are referred to the program will be scheduled for a first appointment within 14 days.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 100% were scheduled for a first appointment within 14 days of the referral.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 113 payers were scheduled for a first appointment within 14 days of the referral.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Early Engagement Program was created in June of 2017. The goal of this program is to provide information about the Friend of the Court to clients who have not had contact with the office previously to:

- A. Break down barriers to communication.
- B. Provide accurate information and clarify expectations.
- C. Provide early access to the Responsible Parent Program.
- D. Provide information about the availability of facilitated parenting time when appropriate.
- E. Ensure that all provisions of the support order are understood.

We do this by reaching out to parents with a new case at the Friend of the Court by phone within two weeks of processing the initial order. We review the order prior to contacting them and answer any questions they may have about their order or the information that was included in the new case packet. If we are not able to reach the clients by phone, we send an email or letter providing information on ways to contact the Friend of the Court office to let them know we are available to answer questions they may have.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- Make contact in 90% of new cases.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- Contact was made with one or both parties in 92% of the new cases.

2022 SUMMARY:

- Contact was made in 1,619 new cases.

CLIENT COMMUNICATION

It is important that clients are able to communicate effectively with us. During 2022, we received 60,071 phone calls with 75% of those calls being answered in 5 minutes or less. We also received 116,182 letters, faxes and emails. The State of Michigan maintains a website that is easily accessed 24 hours a day by cell phone, computer or other device to find case information including payments and balances. In addition, clients may also schedule an appointment to receive a phone call back from their caseworker.

It is also important to provide clients with important case information and to anticipate questions. With this in mind, we email clients reminders about court dates, provide information about updated processes, and inform them of job opportunities and other events in the community.

EDUCATION

We provide the parties in all new cases basic information about the Friend of the Court. This information includes contact information and general information about child support, parenting time and health care. We continue to update and enhance our website (at accesskent.com/courts/foc). We also maintain forms and other information on our website and in our lobby.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

CUSTODY/PARENTING TIME EVALUATIONS

Custody and parenting time evaluations are initiated after a written order is received from the Court. The purpose of an evaluation is to gather information regarding the best interests of the children as defined in the (12) best interest factors of the Michigan Child Custody Act and to complete a written report and recommendation for the Court.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 90% of all Court requested custody and parenting time evaluations will be completed within 90 days from the date the Court ordered the referral.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 96% of all Court requested custody and parenting time evaluations were completed within 90 days of the date the Court ordered the referral.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 615 total evaluations completed in 2022.

MEDIATION AND CONCILIATIONS

Mediations are conducted on request of the parties, by court order, or on scheduled walk-in days. The mediator helps the parents reach agreements on the issues of custody and parenting time. If the parties reach an agreement during mediation, they may sign an agreement prepared by the mediator, which is then entered as an order by the Court.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE:

- 90% of mediations and conciliations will be scheduled within 60 days of being requested.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOME-2022:

- 100% of mediations and conciliations were scheduled within 60 days.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 191 mediations and conciliations scheduled in 2022.

FRIEND OF THE COURT

GRIEVANCES

In an effort to assure that the FOC is responsive to the concerns of clients, the FOC Act provides a grievance procedure for complaints about FOC operations or employees. A grievance may not be used to change or object to a FOC recommendation, or to disagree with a referee's recommendation or a judge's decision. Once a grievance has been received, the FOC must investigate and respond within 30 days or issue a statement explaining why a response is not possible within that timeframe. The Kent County FOC has always been receptive of these types of formal complaints. Rather than being considered a negative reflection of office performance, it is a good way to measure customer satisfaction and help improve services where necessary.

2022 SUMMARY:

- 14 grievances were received in 2022.
- 100% were responded to within 30 days of receipt.

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was created by the legislature to assist citizens and the FOC office with issues concerning office operations and employees. Although having a CAC was initially mandatory, the legislature eliminated this requirement and currently only two counties statewide have one, Macomb and Kent. Minutes from its meetings are submitted to the County Board, while sub-committees review actual grievances. There were no grievances filed directly with the CAC in 2022; however, all 14 grievances received by the FOC were forwarded to the CAC for their review. Of note, the CAC agreed fully with the responses on 100% of the grievances received in 2022.

CLERK'S OFFICE / CIRCUIT COURT DIVISION



LISA POSTHUMUS LYONS - COUNTY CLERK, CLERK OF THE COURT
AMY DOERING- CHIEF DEPUTY CIRCUIT COURT CLERK

The Circuit Court Division of the Kent County Clerk's Office is located on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse. With a staff of 24.5, the office opens, maintains, tracks, and stores all cases filed in the civil, criminal, and family divisions of the Circuit Court. Court files are open to the public and may be viewed in the Clerk's Office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Our office collects and distributes state mandated costs, court-ordered fines, costs, restitution, crime victim rights fee, and other assessments. In 2022, we collected over \$3,500,000.00 for Kent County. In addition, the Clerk's Office handles bonds posted in criminal cases, which often can be applied against court-ordered assessments at the conclusion of the case, thereby increasing the Clerk's collection activities.

Throughout 2022, the Clerk's Office managed the receipt and filing of 12,016 new cases. The Clerk's Office continues to maintain responsibility for all minor guardianship cases including closed, active, and new filings. Additionally, all formal juvenile delinquency and neglect/abuse cases are processed through our office. The Clerk's Office continues to provide e-filing in lieu of traditional mail or hand delivery to the Clerk's Office for cases assigned to the Court's Specialized Business Docket. The Community Archive Center (CARC) continues to provide much needed storage space for approximately 40+ years' worth of the Circuit Court's oldest civil, domestic, and criminal case files. This offsite storage includes microfilm duplicates, steno notes and docket books from as far back as the 1800's. The most recent files reside within the Kent County Courthouse. In 2022, Clerk's Office retired the use of microfilm and is utilizing OnBase to store digital copies of all dispositive orders.

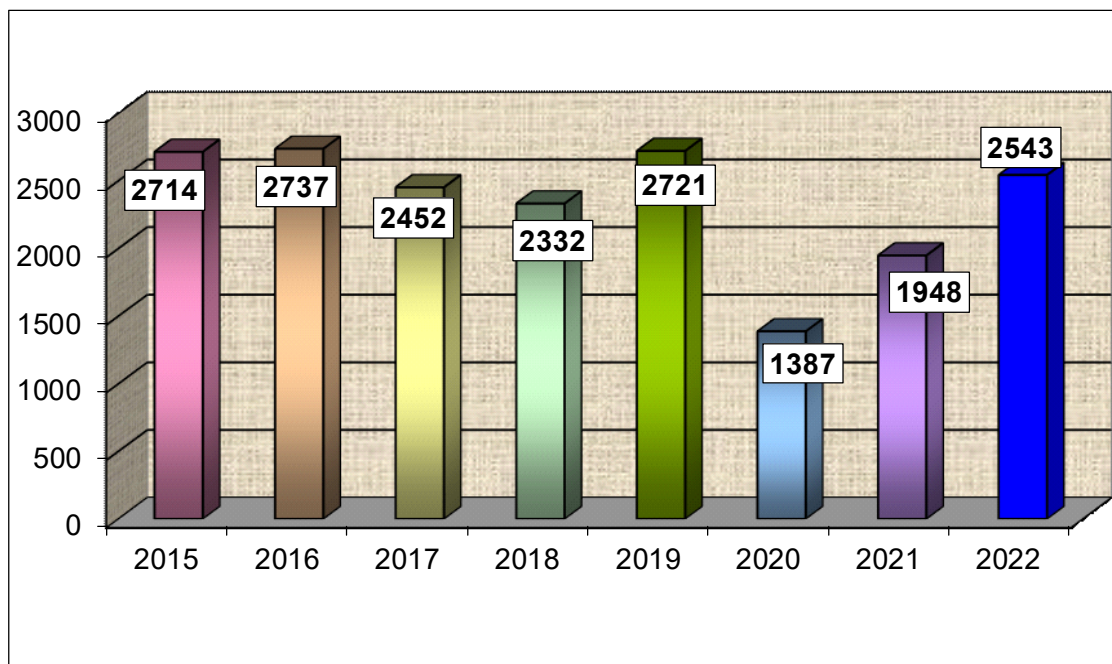
The County Clerk remains committed to providing access for the public and attorneys to these records and services through a technology initiative that began with the Register of Deeds and Vital Records Divisions in 2003. The Clerk's Office-Courtside currently offers online services to request certified divorce decrees and motion calendars for scheduling pro confesso hearings with referees and motion hearings with all judges. This year, a date calculator was added to the pro confesso calendar to assist litigants with scheduling hearings in a timely manner.

Lisa Posthumus Lyons has served the residents of Kent County as the County Clerk/Register of Deeds since January 1, 2017. As the Clerk/Register, she is committed to continually updating office technologies and procedures so that services can be most efficiently and accurately provided.

CIRCUIT COURT PROBATION

Jon Timmers, Area Manager
Tom Halsted, Program Manager

The Michigan Department of Corrections - Kent County Probation Office is the second largest probation office in the State of Michigan. The office is located at 82 Ionia Avenue, Suite 100. There are 33 probation agents who supervised the 1,837 felony probationers in Kent County. In addition to the agents, four supervisors and seven support staff ensure that the needs of the Court are met. Agents are responsible for providing presentence investigations to the Court, and supervising probationers to ensure the orders of the Court are followed and rehabilitative goals are achieved.



PRESENTENCE REPORTS COMPLETED

The chart shows the number of presentence investigation reports completed each year from 2015 through 2022. The number of probationers and PSI's completed in 2020 and 2021 have been down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, numbers are expected to return to historical averages. The office uses specialized caseloads to serve various populations, including: sex offender, electronic monitoring, SAI (boot camp), Veterans Treatment Court, Drug & Sobriety Court, Treatment and Support Court (TASC), telephone reporting, and interstate caseloads. The Michigan Department of Corrections continues to be national leader in corrections and follow evidence based practices with supervision so agents will complete a COMPAS risk assessments to ensure probationers are supervised according to their risks and needs. They utilize community resources such as substance abuse treatment, CBT programming, vocational and educational programs, electronic monitoring, psychological counseling, and community service/work crew to promote the success of their caseloads.



KENT COUNTY PROBATE COURT

2022 ANNUAL
REPORT



STATE OF MICHIGAN
KENT COUNTY PROBATE COURT

DAVID M. MURKOWSKI
CHIEF JUDGE

SUITE 9500 C
180 OTTAWA AVENUE NW
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503-2751

To the Citizens of Kent County:

On behalf of the administrators and employees of the Kent County Probate Court, I am proud to submit for your review our annual report for 2022. The report contains pertinent information regarding the jurisdiction, responsibilities, performance, and achievements of the Probate Court. With this report, we take the opportunity to examine our collective work in the last year and to identify our needs and plan our strategic goals for the next year.

Our successes and accomplishments are rooted in our skilled and dedicated employees who continue to maintain, improve, and deliver quality services to the public in the face of continued docket growth, and I remain most proud of every employee of the Probate Court.

The Court experienced an increase in new probate case filings of 11% over a 10-year period and a 33 % increase since 2008, with nearly 5,000 new filings accepted, and over 3,500 hearings conducted in 2022. To address this burgeoning need of our citizens, the Michigan Legislature, Governor Whitmer, and the Kent County Board of Commissioners approved the creation of a new probate judgeship for Kent County. On November 8, 2022, Kent County voters overwhelmingly elected Avery D. Rose as our newest probate judge.

Judge Avery Rose is a proud graduate of Michigan State University and Wayne State University, possessing both a Juris Doctorate degree and a Master in Information Science. Judge Rose is no stranger to Kent County. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Rose served with distinction as the Probate Register and Court Administrator for the Kent County Probate Court. He is a man of integrity, intellect, and faith, and there is no doubt Judge Rose will effectively serve our community with dignity and strength of character. On behalf of the entire Kent County judiciary, we welcome Judge Rose to the Kent County Probate bench.

It is an honor serving you as the Chief Judge of the Kent County Probate Court. We pledge our best effort to deliver services to you with both integrity and efficiency in a person-centered venue. I thank you, the citizens of Kent County, for your continued trust and confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David M. Murkowski", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David M. Murkowski
Chief Judge, Kent County Probate Court

DMM/bms

CHIEF PROBATE JUDGE DAVID M. MURKOWSKI

Judge David M. Murkowski was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Judge Murkowski graduated from Marquette University High School in 1975, where he was elected senior class president. In 1979, he graduated cum laude from Marquette University where he was awarded the University's Outstanding Student Service Award and the Polanki College Achievement Scholarship. In 1979, Judge Murkowski was also inducted into the National Jesuit Honor Society. He attended Western Michigan University's Thomas M. Cooley Law School and was an honor roll graduate in 1983.



Judge Murkowski served as law clerk to the Michigan House of Representatives Civil Rights Committee, and worked as a solo practitioner in Grand Rapids until 1993 when he joined the law firm of Dilley & Dilley. There, he specialized in criminal defense, juvenile neglect and delinquency, and probate law. He served as managing partner of Dilley, Dilley, Murkowski & Goller until 2006, when he was appointed to the Kent County Probate bench to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Janet A. Haynes.

In December 2007, the Michigan Supreme Court appointed Judge Murkowski to serve as the Chief Judge of the Kent County Probate Court, commencing January 1, 2008. Judge Murkowski served as President of the Michigan Probate Judges Association (MPJA) in 2017. He served 6 years as Council Member of the Probate and Estate Planning Section of the State Bar of Michigan and served as a member and judicial representative of the Michigan Trust Code Committee, the body tasked with the drafting and enactment of the 2010 Michigan Trust Code. Through the Probate and Estate Section, he also initiated the complete restructuring of the appellate process for probate appeals. Judge Murkowski has also served as a member of the Governor's Mental Health Task Force Subcommittee on Legislation, and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council. Currently, Judge Murkowski serves as Chair of the Judicial Council of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Michigan and as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University. Judge Murkowski has lectured for the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI), ICLE's Probate and Estate Planning Institute, the American Geriatric Society (AGS), the Michigan Probate Judges Association (MPJA), the Western Michigan Estate Planning Council, and the Grand Rapids Bar Association, and provides semi-annual Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement agencies throughout Kent County.

Recently, Judge Murkowski was invited by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) and the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) to assist in the development of jurisdiction-specific (Michigan) probate content for use with the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE). Judge Murkowski is also a chapter author of Michigan Probate Litigation: A Guide to Contested Litigation, 2nd Ed., a contributor to the Michigan Probate Benchbook, and an associate editor of Inter-Com, a publication of the Michigan Probate Judges Association.

Contact Information: Cindy Hornbrook
Judicial Clerk
616-632-5428

Sarah Lewis
Judicial Clerk
616-632-5424

PROBATE JUDGE AVERY D. ROSE



Pictured: The Investiture Ceremony for Judge Rose on February 3, 2023.

Judge Avery D. Rose took the bench on January 1, 2023. He was raised in Coldwater, Michigan, and earned his Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Michigan State University, where he had the opportunity to study international security and comparative systems of governance in Istanbul, Turkey and Brussels, Belgium. Judge Rose earned his Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School and obtained a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Wayne State University.

Following his graduation from law school Judge Rose served as a law clerk at the 48th Circuit Court, in Allegan County. In 2015 Judge Rose was named as the Probate Register at the Allegan County Probate Court, where he also served as an Attorney/Referee. During his tenure in Allegan County, Judge Rose also served as the President of the Allegan County Bar Association, participated in the Allegan County Community Corrections Advisory Board, served as board member for the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center and represented the 48th Circuit as a Representative on the Representative Assembly of the State Bar of Michigan.

In 2019 Judge Rose was appointed by the Chief Probate Judge David M. Murkowski to serve as the Probate Register for Kent County, where he oversaw the administration of the Probate Court and the Kent County Guardianship Program. Judge Rose has been invited to speak on probate-related issues at the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Michigan Probate Registers and Juvenile Registers Association annual conference, The Institute of Continuing Legal Education, and to several other community organizations.

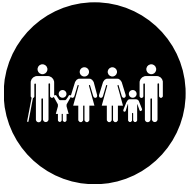
Contact Information: Courtney Zylstra
Judicial Clerk
616-632-5421

Dakota Smith
Judicial Clerk
616-632-5127

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Kent County Probate Court is to provide an accessible and person-centered venue to secure the peaceful, sound, and efficient resolution of matters, where every individual is treated with dignity and respect.

Operational Goals



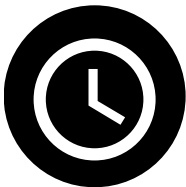
No. 01 – Customer Service

To provide excellent customer service to all those with business before the Court.



No. 02 – Ensure Compliance

To ensure the compliance of Court-appointed fiduciaries through statutes and court rules in order to safeguard protected individuals and their property.



No. 03 – Efficiency

To efficiently process and adjudicate all matters before the Court.



PROBATE COURT JURISDICTION

The probate court is a constitutionally mandated court under Article VI Section 15 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. Deriving its authority from statutory enactment, the subject matter jurisdiction of the probate court is provided in the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC), the Revised Judicature Act, the Mental Health Code, the Election Code, and other acts. The probate court also has authority in drain appeals.

The Chief Judge of Probate also serves as the Chair of the Kent County Election Commission, receiving and safeguarding official election results in state and federal elections and presiding over recall petition hearings for elected officials.

700.1302 Exclusive subject matter jurisdiction.

The court has exclusive legal and equitable jurisdiction of all of the following:

(a) A matter that relates to the settlement of a deceased individual's estate, whether testate or intestate, who was at the time of death domiciled in the county or was at the time of death domiciled out of state leaving an estate within the county to be administered, including, but not limited to, all of the following proceedings:

- (i) The internal affairs of the estate.
- (ii) Estate administration, settlement, and distribution.
- (iii) Declaration of rights that involve an estate, devisee, heir, or fiduciary.
- (iv) Construction of a will.
- (v) Determination of heirs.
- (vi) Determination of death of an accident or disaster victim under section 1208.

(b) A proceeding that concerns the validity, internal affairs, or settlement of a trust; the administration, distribution, modification, reformation, or termination of a trust; or the declaration of rights that involve a trust, trustee, or trust beneficiary, including, but not limited to, proceedings to do all of the following:

- (i) Appoint or remove a trustee.
- (ii) Review the fees of a trustee.
- (iii) Require, hear, and settle interim or final accounts.
- (iv) Ascertain beneficiaries.
- (v) Determine a question that arises in the administration or distribution of a trust, including a question of construction of a will or trust.
- (vi) Instruct a trustee and determine relative to a trustee the existence or nonexistence of an immunity, power, privilege, duty, or right.
- (vii) Release registration of a trust.
- (viii) Determine an action or proceeding that involves settlement of an irrevocable trust.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in section 1021 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.1021, a proceeding that concerns a guardianship, conservatorship, or protective proceeding.

(d) A proceeding to require, hear, or settle the accounts of a fiduciary and to order, upon request of an interested person, instructions or directions to a fiduciary that concern an estate within the court's jurisdiction.

700.1303 Concurrent jurisdiction; removal; purpose and policy.

(1) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred by section 1302 and other laws, the court has concurrent legal and equitable jurisdiction to do all of the following in regard to an estate of a decedent, protected individual, ward, or trust:

- (a) Determine a property right or interest.
- (b) Authorize partition of property.
- (c) Authorize or compel specific performance of a contract in a joint or mutual will or of a contract to leave property by will.
- (d) Ascertain if individuals have survived as provided in this act.
- (e) Determine cy pres or a gift, grant, bequest, or devise in trust or otherwise as provided in 1915 PA 280, MCL 554.351 to 554.353.
- (f) Hear and decide an action or proceeding against a distributee of a fiduciary of the estate to enforce liability that arises because the estate was liable upon some claim or demand before distribution of the estate.
- (g) Impose a constructive trust.
- (h) Hear and decide a claim by or against a fiduciary or trustee for the return of property.
- (i) Hear and decide a contract proceeding or action by or against an estate, trust, or ward.
- (j) Require, hear, or settle an accounting of an agent under a power of attorney.

Funding and Human Resources

The 2022 budget of the Kent County Probate Court was \$1,726,893.18. The court is staffed with 16 dedicated full time team members.



CASELOAD AND CASEFLOW

The Court experienced an increase in new probate case filings of 11% over a 10-year period and a 33% increase since 2008, with over nearly 5,000 new filings processed, and over 3,500 hearings conducted in 2022.

New Case Filings	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Estates	776	813	821	785	842	878	909	818	1072	1130
Small Estates	416	408	402	344	381	382	392	345	425	352
Trusts & Protective Orders	87	99	85	89	99	93	90	81	78	69
Civil Actions	16	13	14	15	14	16	10	7	11	12
Micellaneous	30	33	35	38	34	40	45	40	64	52
Name Changes	199	232	241	234	268	288	333	211	461	370
Conservatorships	186	177	247	229	276	224	249	212	461	370
DD Guardianships	110	138	149	160	193	156	154	111	200	171
Adult Guardianships	383	388	478	486	505	480	625	515	570	563
Minor Guardianships	214	219	189	198	233	214	291	0	0	0
Mental Commitments	1836	2013	2184	2183	2200	1980	2114	1967	1885	1614
Pick Up Orders	216	227	255	270	292	264	345	328	459	406
TOTALS	4469	4760	5100	5031	5337	5015	5557	4635	5489	4978

A majority of new filings handled by the Kent County Probate Court were comprised of mental health proceedings and pick up orders (2,020), deceased estates (1,130), adult guardianships (563), and small estates (352). In the last 10 years:

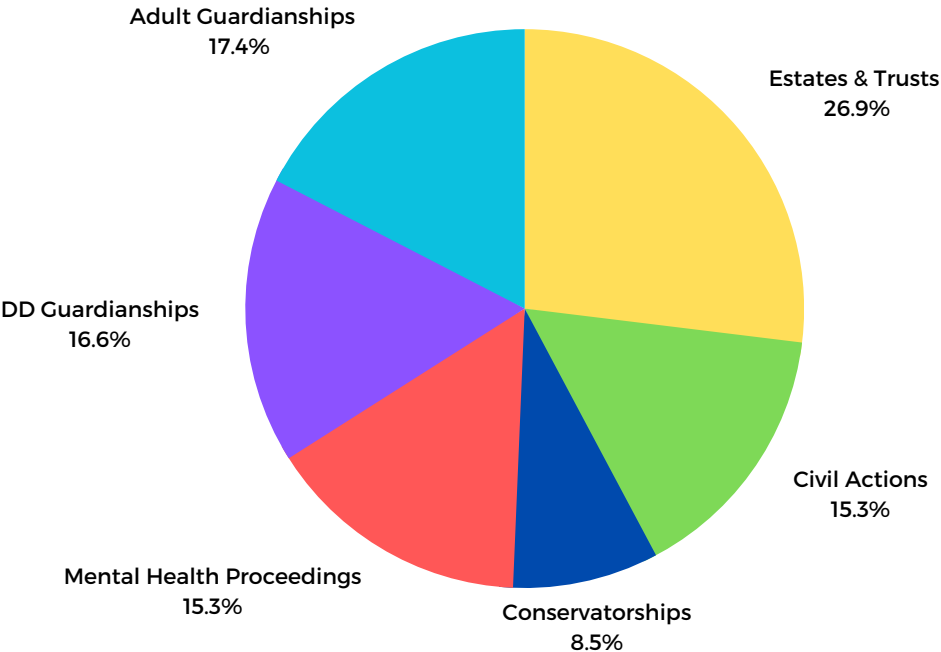
- New Adult Guardianship Cases have increased by 47%
- Name Changes have increased by 86%
- Guardianships for Developmentally Disabled Individuals have increased by 55%

88% Within the last ten years, requests for mental health pickup orders have increased by 88%.

Cases involving mental health treatment represent a significant portion of the docket of the Probate Court. Kent County has developed into a regional psychiatric treatment center, providing over 360 adult inpatient beds. Residents of other counties are frequently hospitalized in Kent County and the Probate Court arranges for and conducts the necessary hearings for these individuals. Over the last three years alone, the Court has handled an average of more than 1,600 out-of-county mental health cases on assignment for other probate courts.

Caseload Trends

2022 Active Filings



4978
New Filings in 2022

13,080
Active Cases in 2022

BEYOND THE DOCKET

The work of the Kent County Probate Court does not end at the steps of the courthouse. In 2022, Judge Murkowski and Judge Rose provided more than two dozen lectures, in-service trainings, and resource materials to a variety of groups and organizations including Pine Rest Mental Health Services, Spectrum/Corewell Health, Holland Home, Rotary International, the Institute of Continuing Education (ICLE), The Grand Rapids Bar Association, the Oakland County Bar Association, the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI), Foreign Language Interpreters, and law enforcement. Twice yearly you can find Judge Murkowski providing instruction in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to police officers from throughout Kent County. The weeklong educational program provides law enforcement the tools and training necessary to productively and safely engage those who suffer with mental illness in our community. Judge Rose provides monthly in-service training regarding the responsibilities and filing requirements for guardians and conservators to both individual fiduciaries assisting a loved one and professional guardians who serve through the Kent County Guardianship Program. Every holiday season, Judge Murkowski sponsors a Toys for Tots drive through the Probate Clerk's office. We remain committed to providing education on important probate related matters and giving back to our community beyond the docket.

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



No. 01 – **New Probate Judgeship**

No. 02 – **Streamlined Processes**

No. 03 – **Technology Improvements**

THE KENT COUNTY GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM

Kent County is extremely fortunate to have the Kent County Guardianship Program to provide guardianship and conservatorship services for adult residents of Kent County who have no one else to serve them in a fiduciary capacity.

"My Guardian has made a huge difference in my life. I am hoping soon to return to productive employment.

***Guardianship was a godsend to me." - Debbie,
Guarded Individual***

Demand for the Program continues to remain strong. In 2022 the Program:

- Received 225 requests for public guardians
- Managed an average of 542 indigent cases per month

Funding for the Program came from four sources in 2022:

- Kent County (\$242,000)
- Kent County Senior Millage (\$259,402)
- State of Michigan (\$65,913)
- Trinity Health (\$75,000)
- Corewell Health (\$75,000)

Annual Number of Indigent Cases:

- Senior Millage: 221 cases per month, 2649 cases per year.
- State of Michigan: 65 cases per month, 727 cases per year.
- Kent County: 255 cases per month, 3063 cases per year.

The Guardianship Program is grateful to Kent County, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Trinity Health, Corewell Health, and the State of Michigan for their support. The Program is also grateful to the 40 public guardians who perform challenging and exceptional work for the residents of Kent County.

ANNUAL REPORT

KENT COUNTY PROBATE COURT



Contact

Kent County Probate Court

180 Ottawa Ave. NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616-632-5440

www.accesskent.com/Courts/Probate

probatecourt@kentcountymi.gov