

## ***THE COURT***

The Montgomery County Juvenile Court is a division of the Court of Common Pleas. It is a court civil in nature that handles family law and juvenile cases.

The Juvenile Court division has two Judges and their bailiffs, court reporters, case management specialists, 13 magistrates, judicial support technicians, the Court Administrator and court administration staff. Court administration includes Legal Services, which provides support services to the Court in maintaining case flow and the daily judicial processing of cases; the Clerk Office; Finance; Human Resources; Data Processing Operations; Case-flow Management; Grants Management; Psychological Services; Reclaiming Futures; Adult Probation; the Citizens Review Board, which monitors permanency planning efforts for children in out-of-home placements and under ordered protective supervision by the Court; and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program, which provides volunteer Guardians Ad-Litem for neglected, dependent and abused children; the Start Right Program and the Drug Court Program. Court Administration is also responsible for overseeing the operation of the 5 major departments (highlighted in bold). The cases and motions in Juvenile Court often involve complicated legal issues. The laws and rules under which the Court must operate continually change. Everyone appearing in the Court is urged to hire an attorney who is familiar with juvenile and or family law to represent him or her.

### ***"Do I Need A Lawyer?"***

As with any court, citizens are not required to have an attorney, and therefore may represent themselves if they choose. Any person who chooses to represent himself or herself will be held to the same standards, and must meet the same legal requirements with respect to any of their paperwork and evidence as an attorney must meet.

Employees of the Court nor the Clerk of Courts can provide any legal advice. Several organizations are available to assist when an attorney cannot be afforded. These include the Volunteers Lawyers' Project through the Dayton Bar Association (937) 461-3857, the Legal Aid Society of Dayton (937) 228-8104 and the University of Dayton Law Clinic (937) 229-3817. If a case involves a possible finding of contempt, or cases that could result in incarceration, then the Court can appoint the Public Defender (937) 225-4652 for those who meet the financial qualifications set forth by that office.

### ***"How Do I Communicate With The Court?"***

Requests to the Court must be in formal writings called complaints, petitions and/or motions. All paperwork must be filed with the Clerk of Courts and served on the other party if a final order has been issued, or to the party's attorney if the case is still open. The Court will rule on all complaints, petitions and/or motions. In some cases a hearing is required, in others the Court can rule based upon the written paperwork.

The opposing party must be notified of the hearing date so that he or she can respond to all filings. **The Judges or Magistrates cannot discuss any case with a party in the absence of the opposing party.**

In 2004, the Juvenile Court received over twenty thousand referrals on juveniles. Montgomery County Court hears the following case types:

Abortion By-Pass

Abuse

Dependency

Neglect

Custody

Child Support Establishment & Enforcement

Parentage

Delinquency

Unruly

Tobacco

UIFSA