

Report on the Business of the Court of Common Pleas  
of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

2021

Court of Common Pleas  
of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Prepared: May 23, 2022

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

President Judge: Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway  
Associate Judges: Honorable Christopher A. Feliciani  
Honorable Michele G. Bononi  
Honorable Chris Scherer  
Honorable Meagan Bilik-DeFazio  
Honorable Scott O. Mears, Jr.  
Honorable Harry F. Smail, Jr.  
Honorable Timothy A. Krieger  
Honorable Jim Silvis  
Honorable Michael J. Stewart, II  
Honorable Justin Walsh

Senior Judges: Honorable Richard E. McCormick, Jr.  
Honorable Anthony G. Marsili

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

District Court Administrator: Amy Mears DeMatt, Esq.  
Deputy Court Administrator: Pamela L. Neiderhiser, Esq.

MISSION STATEMENTS

COURTS

To provide judicial services to the citizens of Westmoreland County in all areas of the law including civil, criminal, family, juvenile, and orphans' court and to respond to changing societal needs by an appropriate allocation of resources.

COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

To support the Westmoreland County courts and court departments in all administrative areas, and to coordinate Judicial Branch operations in the Tenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

## TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

This report covers the operations of the Tenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, the local operation of the Unified Judicial System located in Westmoreland County consisting of:

1. The Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County with Eleven Court of Common Pleas Judges and Staff
2. Sixteen Magisterial District Courts and Judges
3. The Office of the Court Administrator
4. The Westmoreland County Adult Probation and Parole Department
5. The Westmoreland County Domestic Relations Section
6. The Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department
7. The Westmoreland County Citizens' Law Library

### CIVIL COURT

President Judge Rita Donovan Hathaway  
Judge Chris Scherer  
Judge Harry F. Smail, Jr.

Civil cases, estates, and guardianship cases are assigned on a rotational basis. Each judge maintains an individual calendar. The judge's personal staff schedules most case events; the Deputy Court Administrators schedule civil trials, estate audits, and arbitration; assist with the administration of all Orphans' Court matters; and purge civil cases. The following are key statistical indicators:

### CIVIL STATISTICS

CIVIL STATISTICS	2019	2020	2021
New Civil Cases Docketed	2145	1516	1740
Arbitration Awards	91	46	67
Beginning Year Balance of Civil Cases	2341	2719	2772
Civil Cases Disposed	1799	1485	2083
Total Civil Pending at End of Year	2687	2750	2413

In the spring of 2014, the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania asked Court Administrators across the state to review the pending civil caseload and conclude data clean-up efforts including administrative purges pursuant to Rule of Judicial Administration 1901 by June, 2014. The civil division of the Court Administrator's office continues to work diligently to review and dispose of civil cases due to inactivity. The new computer program developed to help track cases that are two years and older from the date of filing has assisted the Civil Judicial Law clerks in coordination with the Civil Court Administrator a monthly review of cases for inactivity. This process ensures that cases progress to their conclusion in a timely manner and that the pending

civil caseload is consistently less than the required 25%. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decrease in the number of new civil cases filed in 2020 and in the number of cases heard by arbitration in 2020. Both new case filings and cases heard by arbitration increased in 2021.

### ESTATE AND GUARDIANSHIP STATISTICS

ORPHANS' COURT ESTATES	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	103	99	99	50	36
New cases	188	175	157	108	153
Cases Disposed	192	175	227	122	147
End of Year Balance of Cases	99	99	29	36	42

ORPHANS' COURT GUARDIAN	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	54	51	21	18	21
New cases	80	90	98	116	96
Cases Disposed	83	120	103	113	97
End of Year Balance of Cases	51	21	16	21	20

The Estate and Guardianship statistics have remained fairly consistent over the past five years.

### CRIMINAL COURT

Judge Christopher A. Feliciani  
 Judge Meagan Bilik-DeFazio  
 Judge Scott O. Mears, Jr.  
 Judge Timothy A. Krieger

Judges assigned to hear criminal matters are scheduled cases geographically. Trial-ready cases are assigned from a pool of available cases. Homicides are assigned individually on a rotational basis. Court arraignments, fast track pleas and ARD's are scheduled by the magisterial district judges. Other events are scheduled by the court administrator. Since 2017, criminal court has utilized an individual trial calendar for scheduling. All cases assigned geographically to a judge are handled by that judge from receipt at Common Pleas level through trial.

## CRIMINAL COURT STATISTICS

CRIMINAL FILINGS	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New cases bound over to C.P.	5719	5316	5585	4,090	4,265
Fast Track Pleas and ARDs Disposed	4292	3927	4378	3776	2159
Fast Track DUIs Scheduled	625	774	594	593	463
Jury Trial	33	20	33	20	31
Non-Jury Trial	22	49	35	28	30
Guilty Plea	4400	3960	3961	2658	3415
Dismissal Rule 586	60	36	54	55	47
Dismissed	135	118	151	102	86
Dismissed Speedy Trial	1	3	2	5	5
Nolle Pros	246	215	139	154	277
ARD	868	875	784	591	577
Drug Court	38	90	110	89*	83
Veterans Court**	n/a	n/a	31	21	29
Declared Inactive	897	811	747	466	796
Other/Uncategorized Dispositions <sup>1</sup>	277	158	212	206	250
Summary Appeals Disposed	696	634	550	422	377
Total Cases Disposed	6059	5524	5474	3797	4762
End of Year Cases Pending	2807	2669	2865	3213	3070

The number of cases disposed by trial (including jury and non-jury trials) has increased since the inception of the individual calendar system. The number of total cases disposed has remained fairly consistent over the past three years.<sup>2</sup> *2020 statistics were affected by the COVID pandemic. There were periods where jury trials and other court proceedings were suspended which resulted in a reduction of filings and dispositions.*

*\*In the 2020 Annual Report, the Drug Court filings were erroneously reported as 170. The actual number has been amended with the 2021 Report.*

*\*\*Referrals to Veterans Court began in May 2019. The number of cases referred to Veterans Court declined in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic; however, the number of cases did increase in 2021.*

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<sup>1</sup> “Uncategorized” dispositions are cases that have been disposed where there has been a case processing error in categorizing the disposition. For report and caseload purposes, these cases are disposed and are no longer included in the pending Common Pleas criminal caseload.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 showed a larger number of cases disposed due to processing errors and declaration of inactivity.

## COLLECTIONS

The Clerk of Courts is responsible in Westmoreland County for collecting Restitution, Fines, Fees, Costs, and other revenues associated with criminal cases. The following table includes most collections by the Clerk of Courts in 2020 and 2021.

### CLERK OF COURTS' COLLECTIONS

	2020	2021
Restitution	\$1,284,644.64	\$1,698,039.74
Fines	\$442,194.62	\$555,403.84
Electronic Monitoring Fees	\$458,454.86	\$513,835.95
Supervision Fees (State)	\$513,945.89	\$571,431.11
Supervision Fees (County)	\$513,353.12	\$571,142.63
ARD Fees	\$158,494.80	\$161,533.02
Drug Education Fee	\$180,339.71	\$108,122.08
Sheriff Costs	\$38,615.00	\$46,042.35
MDJ Costs	\$36,435.31	\$77,236.80
Constable Costs	\$3,695.36	\$4,005.13
Appeals	\$14,989.66	\$31,236.35
Local Computer Surcharge Fee	\$13,097.63	\$13,820.00
Judgment Filing Fee	\$52,763.53	\$7,013.58
Expungements	\$33,068.66	\$37,401.66
Licenses	\$5,720.00	\$3,885.00
Pre-Trial Services Fees	\$12,517.40	\$17,609.29
Judgment Satisfactions	\$9,732.30	\$10,416.28
Extradition Fees	\$2,641.31	\$3,310.07
Juvenile EM Fees	\$3,221.89	\$1,744.91
District Attorney Costs	\$967.51	\$1,282.60
Witness Fees	\$1,478.00	\$1,539.13
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$3,675.19	\$5,041.29
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00
Record Checks	\$224.20	\$22.42
Domestic Violence Fee	\$9,764.16	\$3,809.24
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$3,794,034.75</b>	<b>\$4,444,924.47</b>

A Committee under the Criminal Justice Advisory Board recommended a program to improve collections. The increased emphasis on collection has resulted in a significant increase in overall collections; specifically, in the area of restitution.

## FAMILY COURT

Judge Michele G. Bononi  
Judge Jim Silvis  
Judge Michael J. Stewart, Jr.  
Judge Justin M. Walsh

The 2021 Family Court Assignments included the following: Judges Bononi and Stewart heard delinquency cases; Judge Silvis and Judge Walsh heard dependency, termination of parental rights, adoptions. Protection from Abuse matters were heard by Judge Silvis, Judge Walsh, and Judge Stewart. All Family Assignment Judges heard divorce, child custody, and child support matters. Westmoreland County employs a one-judge/one-family assignment system for divorce, child custody, and child support matters. Cases are assigned alphabetically based on the defendant's last name. Dependency cases heard by a Master are assigned to a judge based on the last name of the oldest child on the petition. The following was the alphabetical distributions for divorce, custody, support, and adoption matters:

A - Fa	Judge Stewart
Fb - K	Judge Bononi
L - Ri	Judge Silvis
Rj - Z	Judge Walsh

Family Court hearings are scheduled by a variety of departments: delinquency cases by the juvenile probation department; abuse, neglect, and juvenile status offenses by the Children's Bureau; termination of parental rights and adoptions by the Court Administrator; child support hearings by the Domestic Relations section and chambers; and custody hearings by the Court Administrator and judicial chambers. In addition to judges, the family court uses a variety of masters, hearing officers, and conciliators. The court also appoints private counsel as divorce masters when requested. The following are key family court statistics:

FAMILY COURT DELINQUENCY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	245	317	313	347	698
New cases	687	651	675	496	443
Cases Disposed	615	655	641	145	553
End of Year Balance of Cases	317	313	347	698	588

The delinquency caseload is managed through the state common pleas case management system (CPCMS) with a delinquency module that has been operational in Westmoreland County since 2016. This allows for standardized tracking and processing of the delinquency caseload.

FAMILY COURT – DEPENDENCY (ABUSE & NEGLECT)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	217	245	244	229	266
New cases	139	145	124	138	108
Cases Disposed	111	146	139	101	123
End of Year Balance (cases)	245	244	229	266	251

FAMILY COURT – DEPENDENCY (STATUS OFFENSES <sup>3</sup> )	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	39	40	36	29	22
New cases	25	33	12	15	16
Cases Disposed	24	37	19	22	19
End of Year Balance of Cases	40	36	29	22	19

FAMILY COURT – DIVORCE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	2914	3021	3108	3180	2497
New cases	888	928	898	724	849
Cases Disposed	781	841	826	1462	834
End of Year Balance of Cases	3021	3108	3180	2442	2512

FAMILY COURT – CUSTODY	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	452	415	459	525	570
New cases	890	813	879	717	787
Cases Disposed	927	769	813	672	832
End of Year Balance of Cases	415	459	525	570	525

All disputed custody claims first pass through a custody conciliator who prepares either a consent or temporary order. Appeals are scheduled for a judicial conference. The assigned judge schedules any custody matter not resolved at the judicial conference for a bench trial. "Pro Se Days" are scheduled to screen and provide conciliation to self-represented litigants. Pro Se Day resolves cases proceeding without attorneys.

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<sup>3</sup> Status offenses include truancy and incorrigibility.



<b>FAMILY COURT – PROTECTION FROM ABUSE</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	116	125	161	117	138
New cases	752	853	831	850	910
Cases Disposed	743	817	875	829	880
End of Year Balance of Cases	125	161	117	138	168

Besides temporary orders, permanent orders, and indirect criminal contempt proceedings presided over by a common pleas judge, protection from abuse can also involve emergency action before a magisterial district judge. Protection from abuse cases were heard in 2020 by Judge Silvis, Judge Walsh, and Judge Stewart. There was a slight increase in new case filings in 2021. The AOPC PFA report generated by the Prothonotary's AMANDA computer system has resulted in greater accuracy in caseload statistics.

<b>ORPHANS' COURT – TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	56	110	102	121	97
New cases	214	214	206	149	212
Cases Disposed	160	222	185	173	183
End of Year Balance of Cases	110	102	123	97	126

<b>ORPHANS' COURT – ADOPTIONS</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Beginning Year Balance of Cases	16	15	57	11	11
New cases	123	140	86	83	134
Cases Disposed	124	98	106	83	130
End of Year Balance of Cases	15	57	37	11	15

## COURT AND COURT ADMINISTRATOR BUDGET

Most revenues generated by the court, such as fines, costs, and fees pass through and are accounted in the court's records offices. The following are the combined expenses and revenues attributable to the court and court administrator's office cost centers for the past five years.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
EXPENSES	5,995,704.55	6,021,201.64	\$5,816,817.03	\$5,944,946.85	\$6,613,783.26
REVENUES	918,786.23*	970,849.38*	\$859,292.83	\$829,973.06	\$946,248.69
NET COST	5,076,918.32	5,050,352.26	\$4,957,524.20	\$5,114,973.79	\$5,667,534.57

\*Since 2016, the Court Administrator's Grant from the state has been reduced which has adversely affected the Court revenue. Prior to 2016, the grant was \$750,000. In 2019 and 2020 the grant was \$501,042.00. In 2021 the grant was \$500,058.00.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

Chaired by Judge Michele G. Bononi in 2021, the Board membership includes each common pleas criminal and juvenile assignment judge, each county commissioner, the district attorney, the sheriff, the chair of the county's magisterial district judge association, the public defender, the district court administrator, the deputy court administrator, the special courts administrator, the chief probation officer, representatives of service providers, the president of the county's chief of police association, the JNET point of contact, county information representatives, service providers, representatives from the University of Pittsburgh (Greensburg), and various others. The CJAB operates under adopted bylaws, and maintains an operational plan. CJAB meets quarterly and operates through various subcommittees. CJAB has recently accomplished a goal of expanding electronic booking to transmit defendants' identification to the Pennsylvania State Police Central Repository. The committee's goal was to improve the identification process in order to increase officer safety and to ensure compliance with Pennsylvania law.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURTS  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

President Judge: Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway  
Magisterial District Judges: Kelly T. Hammers, Esq.  
Tamara J. Mahady, Esq.  
Scott A. Fanchalsky  
Rebecca C. Tyburski, Esq.  
Christiann O. Flanigan, Esq.  
Jason Buczak  
Charles M. Christner  
Charles R. Conway, Esq.  
Wayne P. Vlastic  
Joseph R. DeMarchis  
Mark S. Mansour, Esq.  
Charles D. Moore  
Frank J. Pallone, Jr., Esq.  
Cheryl Peck Yakopec, Esq.  
Denise Snyder Thiel, Esq.  
Wayne B. Gongaware, Esq.  
James Falcon, Esq., Sr. MDJ  
Douglas R. Weimer, Jr. Sr. MDJ  
Mark J. Bilik, Sr. MDJ  
Helen M. Kistler, Esq. Sr. MDJ  
Michael R. Mahady, Sr. MDJ

District Court Administrator: Amy M. DeMatt, Esq.  
Deputy Court Administrator: Christopher A. Haidze Esq.

The Magisterial District Courts are the initial level court of Pennsylvania’s Unified Judicial System. There are 16 magisterial district courts in Westmoreland County. Magisterial District Courts’ jurisdiction includes: summary offenses; ordinance cases; landlord-tenant actions; civil claims, except those involving title to real property or a claim against a Commonwealth party, of \$12,000.00 and under, issuing arrest, bench, and search warrants; setting bail; conducting arraignments; and presiding over preliminary hearings. Magisterial District Judges also administer oaths and affirmations, take acknowledgments, solemnize marriages, and preside over emergency protection from abuse matters.

Magisterial District Judges are assisted in their responsibilities by “Magisterial District Judge Secretaries.” The tenth judicial district employs 66 Magisterial District Judge Secretaries. In 2021, Magisterial District Judge Mark Bilik from Derry retired and was granted Senior Magisterial District Judge status. In Kelly T. Hammers was appointed and elected to fill the vacant seat at District Court 10-3-08 in Bradenville and she was sworn in on November 15, 2021 and January 3, 2022, respectively. Magisterial District Judge Helen Kistler from Harrison City retired and was granted Senior Magisterial District

Judge status. Rebecca C. Tyburski was elected to fill the vacant seat at District Court 10-2-03 in Harrison City and she was sworn in on January 3, 2022. Magisterial District Judge Michael Mahady from Latrobe retired and was granted Senior Magisterial District Judge status. Tamara Mahady was elected to fill the vacant seat at District Court 10-2-08 in Latrobe and she was sworn in on January 3, 2022. At the end of 2020, Magisterial District Judge Anthony Bompiani resigned. Senior Judge James Falcon filled in the entire year of 2021. Scott Fanchalsky was elected in 2021 to fill the vacant seat at 10-2-01 in Youngwood and he was sworn in on January 3, 2022.

In 2020, there were 42,779 cases filed in the Magisterial District Courts of Westmoreland County. In 2021, there were 47,709 cases filed in the Magisterial District Courts of Westmoreland County. The following chart shows case filings for 2021.

	Traffic	Summary	Criminal	Civil	Total
10-1-01 DeMarchis	2154	423	374	283	<b>3234</b>
10-1-03 Vlasic	1270	365	527	211	<b>2373</b>
10-1-04 Yakopec	1486	557	434	357	<b>2834</b>
10-1-05 Pallone	488	550	527	448	<b>2013</b>
10-2-01 Falcon/Fanchalsky	1941	369	375	392	<b>3077</b>
10-2-03 Kistler/Tyburski	667	190	196	230	<b>1283</b>
10-2-06 Christner	3051	366	345	290	<b>4052</b>
10-2-08 Mahady/Mahady	1226	304	505	314	<b>2349</b>
10-2-09 Gongaware	2124	191	589	347	<b>3251</b>
10-2-10 Flanigan	3757	559	475	255	<b>5046</b>
10-3-01 Mansour	3372	312	328	266	<b>4278</b>
10-3-02 Conway	1591	106	189	215	<b>2101</b>
10-3-05 Buczak	2921	238	293	177	<b>3629</b>
10-3-08 Bilik/Hammers	1062	497	154	218	<b>1931</b>
10-3-09 Thiel	1343	177	138	200	<b>1858</b>
10-3-10 Moore	2912	594	463	431	<b>4400</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>31365</b>	<b>5798</b>	<b>5912</b>	<b>4634</b>	<b>47709</b>

#### After Hours Coverage

The Tenth Judicial District uses web-based video conferencing to conduct preliminary arraignments, handle emergency protection from abuse petitions and orders, and issue arrest and search warrants. Web-based video conferencing equipment is located in each of the 16 magisterial district courts, 30 police departments, including the state police barracks, and the Westmoreland County District Attorney's office. The Westmoreland County Prison also has video conferencing units for preliminary arraignments. Preliminary arraignments are scheduled for the following day when arrests are made after night court closes, or as needed on weekends and holidays. Magisterial District Judges have access to multiple types of software to video conference, including Cisco WebEx, Microsoft Teams, Cisco Jabber, Zoom, Skype and FaceTime on their iPads and laptops.

Magisterial District Court Expenses & Revenues (2017 – 2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenue	1,346,115	1,240,930	1,202,757	738,500.29	814,117.58
Expense	4,531,672	4,954,709	5,140,693	3,442,896.96	3,683,065.20

\*\* The 2021 values are from the New World – Revenue Ledger Summary Listing and Expense Ledger Summary Listing reports

WESTMORELAND COUNTY ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENT  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

President Judge:	Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway
Administrative Judge:	Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway
Chief:	Eric R. Leydig
Deputy Chief:	Christy L. Scott

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Westmoreland County Adult Probation and Parole Department is a department of the County Court of Common Pleas (Tenth Judicial District). The Chief Probation Officer is appointed by and responsible to the President Judge, the Administrative Judge and the District Court Administrator. As Chief, he is charged with the operation of the department. The Deputy Chief and Supervisors help manage the operation and provide training to staff. Probation Officers have the responsibility of carrying out the day-to-day activities to meet the department's mission. Support staff provides clerical support for all activities. In 2021, the Westmoreland County Adult Probation/Parole Office consisted of eighty-five (85) full-time employees. More specifically, in addition to the Chief and Deputy Chief, there were nine (9) Supervisors, one (1) Office Supervisor, one (1) Fiscal Assistant, twenty-nine (29) Probation Officer II positions, twenty-four (24) Probation Officer I positions, twelve (12) Probation Officer Aides, five (5) Legal Secretaries and two (2) Department Clerks. As of December 31, 2021, the total number of offenders under the supervision of the Westmoreland County Adult Probation/Parole Office was 6,632. Of that total, 4,652 were male and 1,980 were female. Furthermore, as of December 31, 2021, there were an additional 174 defendants on Pretrial supervision. Of that total, 116 were male and 58 were female.

Adult Probation Officers are responsible for the following:

- Supervising Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD), Probation Without Verdict (PWV), Probation, Probation with Restrictive Conditions, Parole and Pretrial cases.
- Conducting investigations and reports, such as: pre-sentence investigations, sentencing guideline computations, parole applications, Intermediate Punishment Program and Pretrial assessments, and violation reports.
- Providing information to assist with sentencing and release decisions.
- Issuing conditions of supervision.
- Conducting risk and needs assessments and developing case plans.
- Monitoring and facilitating compliance with the conditions of supervision.
- Making referrals for evaluation, treatment, employment, and education.
- Enforcing the collection of restitution, fees, fines, and costs.
- Providing for DNA and Megan's Law registration.
- Responding to complaints and requests for assistance and information.

SERVICES/SUPERVISION TYPES/PROGRAMS

1. Pre-sentence Investigations and Sentencing Guidelines
2. ARD, PWV, Probation and Parole Supervision
3. Administrative Cases
4. Intermediate Punishment Program (Probation with Restrictive Conditions including Electronic Monitoring)
5. Pretrial Services and Institutional Parole Program
6. Megan’s Law Registration
7. Drug Treatment Court
8. Veterans Court
9. Alcohol Highway Safety School (AHSS)
10. Reentry Program

PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATIONS AND SENTENCING GUIDELINES

A presentence investigation report (PSI) includes information regarding the circumstances of the offense, victim/restitution information, the defendant’s prior criminal history and sentencing guideline ranges. The Court can also request additional information including the following: the defendant’s family and marital history; education and employment information; drug and alcohol history; emotional and physical health status, and; financial information. Seventy-six (76) presentence investigations were ordered by the Court in 2021.

The sentencing judge is required to consider the sentencing guidelines in determining the appropriate sentence for offenders convicted of felonies and misdemeanors. During 2021, three thousand seventy-four (3,074) sentencing guideline requests were received from the District Attorney’s Office. All sentences were reported electronically to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing via SGS Web.

ARD, PWV, PROBATION AND PAROLE SUPERVISION

2021 STATISTICS

TYPES OF CASELOADS	NUMBER OF OFFENDERS
ARD/General Low	1,764
General Field – North Region	752
General Field – South Region	676
Sex Offenders	109
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENDERS</b>	<b>3,301</b>

As of December 31, 2021, there were 938 offenders in Bench Warrant status.

2021 OFFENDER REPORTING

Report Place	In Person	By Mail	Pretrial	TOTAL
Main Office	6,361	73	627	7,061
New Ken. Sub-Office	1,886	0	92	1,978
Monessen Sub-Office	892	0	64	956
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9,139</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>9,995</b>

2021 EXPUNGEMENTS

ARD	277
PWV	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343</b>

2021 EARLY RELEASES

ARD	135
PWV	6
IPP	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>164</b>



2021 DRUG TESTING

Location	Drug Tests Conducted
Field	1,326
Greensburg (Main Office)	4,495
Monessen Sub-Office	554
New Kensington Sub-Office	810
Westmoreland County Prison	18
Pretrial	938
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,141</b>

Adult Probation also conducted 344 drug tests for Family Court.

DNA TESTING

Offenders convicted of a felony offense, an offense requiring registration of sex offenders, or other specified offenses (specifically, Luring a Child into a Motor Vehicle and Indecent Assault or an attempt to commit such an offense) are required to provide a DNA sample prior to release from prison or county supervision.

Furthermore, offenders convicted of a Misdemeanor 1 and designated Misdemeanor 2 offenses on or after December 1, 2019 are also required to submit a DNA sample.

DNA Samples Drawn by Adult Probation Staff	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adult Probation Office	209	254	443	552
County Prison	92	71	38	21
Field	0	0	0	0
New Kensington Sub-office	0	0	6	0
Monessen Sub-office	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>573</b>

## ADMINISTRATIVE CASES

The administrative unit supervises offenders who are sentenced in Westmoreland County but reside in other counties or states. Felony and some misdemeanor cases may be transferred to other states through the interstate compact, but ARD cases cannot be transferred to another state. Felony and misdemeanor cases may be transferred to other counties through the inter-county transfer process with the approval of the receiving county. (ARD cases are not transferred to other counties.) The number of offenders with active administrative cases as of December 31, 2021 was 1,897.

### 2021 TRANSFER CASES

Number of Offenders whose Supervision was Transferred to County/State of Residence	469
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### 2021 CO-OP CASES

Requests Received to Supervise Offenders with Cases from Other Counties	261
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### COUNTIES MAKING THE MOST REQUESTS:

County of Conviction	Number of Offenders Supervised in Westmoreland County
Allegheny	51
Washington	30
Indiana	25
Armstrong	10
Butler	8

## INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT PROGRAM

Probation with Restrictive Conditions, an Intermediate Punishment Program, is a community-based sentencing alternative available to the court for eligible offenders who would otherwise be sentenced to confinement in a county correctional facility. Most offenders sentenced to Probation with Restrictive Conditions are ordered to serve a period of time on electronic monitoring. In 2021, the equipment used to monitor those offenders was leased through BI, Incorporated. The cost for electronic monitoring is \$12.00 per day per offender.

2021 INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY

Number of Offenders Placed on Electronic Monitoring as a Result of Sentences of Probation with Restrictive Conditions, Sentences of Intensive Supervision with Electronic Monitoring and Parole/Re-parole to Electronic Monitoring	683
Number of Offenders who were Ineligible for Probation with Restrictive Conditions	38
Average Number of Days on Electronic Monitoring	94
Number of Probation with Restrictive Conditions Cases Transferred to Other Counties for Supervision	99
Number of Offenders who Successfully Completed Electronic Monitoring	662
Number of Offenders who were Unsuccessfully Discharged from Electronic Monitoring	25
Total Jail Days Saved	57,856
Electronic Monitoring Fees Collected	\$564,954

INTERMEDIATE PUNISHMENT PROGRAM TRENDS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Pending	202	201	237	166	149
Average Number of Days on Electronic Monitoring	94	97	99	96	94
Number of Offenders Placed on Electronic Monitoring	687	707	811	575	683
Average Number of Offenders on EHM	243	264	297	227	227

**2021 OVERALL STATISTICS FOR NEW AND RELEASED OFFENDERS**

3,001 new offenders and 3,731 new cases were added to Adult Probation’s system during the 2021 calendar year. During that same time period, 3,216 offenders were released from supervision.

2021	NEW OFFENDERS	NEW CASES	CASE TYPE					RELEASED OFFENDERS
			ARD	INC	PAR	PRO**	PWV	
JAN	279	329	66	18	34	189	22	330
FEB	264	321	74	14	29	191	13	303
MAR	283	367	62	30	37	221	17	288
APR	230	278	39	18	42	162	17	242
MAY	176	231	30	21	23	150	7	236
JUN	265	322	68	28	27	185	14	224
JUL	252	315	62	29	39	172	13	307
AUG	290	361	79	12	30	224	16	232
SEP	239	296	52	20	26	178	20	271
OCT	234	294	66	20	29	166	13	301
NOV	243	308	63	25	35	172	13	256
DEC	246	309	66	20	27	177	19	226
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>2187</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>3,216</b>

**\*NOTE: Numbers reflected under Probation case type include sentences of Probation with Restrictive Conditions that include Home Electronic Monitoring.**

**VIOLATION PETITIONS FILED**

ARD Violation Petitions Filed	272
Probation, Parole and Probation with Restrictive Conditions Violation Petitions Filed	3,015
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,287</b>

**OFFENDER REFERRALS FOR TREATMENT**

Most referrals for treatment and human services are made to the following:

Referral Type	Number of Referrals in 2021
Drug and Alcohol	3001
Alcohol Highway Safety School	2321
Mental Health	818
Community Service	21

**PRETRIAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONAL PAROLE PROGRAM**

Pretrial cases involve defendants released on bond. The Westmoreland County Adult Probation and Parole Department has two Probation Officer IIs that supervise the defendants placed on Pretrial Services to ensure compliance with bond conditions.

The Westmoreland County Adult Probation and Parole Department has one Institutional Parole Officer who is responsible for verifying parole release plans, processing parole applications, investigating requests for re-parole, and coordinating the placement of inmates into inpatient drug and alcohol treatment. The Institutional Parole Officer also assists in the coordination of mental health evaluations for inmates.

**PRETRIAL SUMMARY**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Monthly Caseload – Non-Electronic Monitoring	156	158	163	164	140
Average Monthly Caseload – Electronic Monitoring	25	19	26	23	28
New Pretrial Cases Received – Electronic Monitoring and Non-Electronic Monitoring	209	230	240	153	168
Pretrial Electronic Monitoring Fees Collected	\$12,146	\$11,775	\$9,094	\$12,517	\$17,610

**INSTITUTIONAL PAROLE OFFICER STATISTICS**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Parole Applications Processed and Release Plans Verified	253	264	209	80	50
Re-Parole Investigations/Special Investigations	78	28	37	7	3
Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Evaluations and Treatment Coordination	351	225	269	228	343
Nominal Bond Investigations	86	83	118	84	78

DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION (DUS) STATISTICS

	2019	2020	2021
Number of Offenders Sentenced to Probation with Restrictive Conditions for DUS	211	168	142
Number of Offenders Placed on Electronic Monitoring for DUS	144	122	110
Number of Offenders found Ineligible	15	12	12
Number of Offenders on the Pending List as of the last day of the year	52	34	20

MEGAN'S LAW REGISTRATION

The Westmoreland County Adult Probation and Parole Office is an official Megan's Law registration site.

MEGAN'S LAW REGISTRATION STATISTICS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New Registrations	46	29	36	17	27
In Person Appearances to Update Information	148	130	161	67	134
In Person Appearances to Verify Information	207	146	143	87	112

Number of Active Megan's Law Offenders as of December 31, 2021	83
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WESTMORELAND COUNTY DRUG TREATMENT COURT

The Westmoreland County Drug Treatment Court began accepting referrals for the program on September 28, 2015. Drug Treatment Court is a twenty-four-month program during which time participants are involved with treatment professionals, undergo intensive supervision and attend bi-weekly court appearances before Drug Treatment Court Judge Meagan Bilik-DeFazio or Drug Treatment Court Judge Christopher A. Feliciani. There are three ways to enter Drug Treatment Court – Diversion, Probation with Restrictive Conditions or Reentry. One Supervisor in the Adult Probation Office performs the duties of Drug Treatment Court Coordinator and three Probation Officer IIs supervise the participants in Drug Treatment Court.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT STATISTICS

	2019	2020	2021
Number of Referrals	98	72	89
Total Number of Individuals Admitted to Drug Court	36	14	36
Number Admitted - Diversion	9	2	3
Number Admitted - Probation with Restrictive Conditions	14	0	11
Number Admitted - Reentry	4	6	10
Number Admitted - Combination of at least two of the following: Diversion, Probation with Restrictive Conditions, Reentry	9	6	12
Number of Individuals who graduated from Drug Treatment Court	5	13	9

Number of Participants as of the last day of the year (This number includes individuals who were admitted to Drug Treatment Court in the prior year.)	61 29 Males 32 Females	42 19 Males 23 Females	50 21 Males 29 Females
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### WESTMORELAND COUNTY VETERANS COURT

The Westmoreland County Veterans Court program began accepting referrals on May 23, 2019. The program, which is 6 to 23 months long, offers Diversionary and Guilty Plea tracks to eligible defendants. Participants are involved with treatment professionals, undergo intensive supervision and attend monthly Court appearances before Veterans Court Judge Timothy A. Krieger. One Probation Officer II in the Adult Probation Office performs the duties of Veterans Court Coordinator and provides supervision to all participants.

### VETERANS COURT STATISTICS

	2019	2020	2021
Number of Referrals	25	15	16
Total Number of Individuals Admitted to Veterans Court	13	7	11
Number Admitted – Diversionary	2	1	1
Number Admitted – Diversionary and Guilty Plea/Probation Sentence	1	0	0
Number Admitted – Guilty Plea/Probation with Restrictive Conditions Sentence	7	6	7
Number Admitted – Guilty Plea/Probation Sentence	3	0	2
Number Admitted – Guilty Plea/Parole Sentence	0	1	2



Number of Individuals who graduated from Veterans Court	1	3	9
Number of Participants as of the last day of the year (12-31-21)	9 8 Males 1 Female	8 8 Males 0 Females	14 13 Males 1 Female

**ALCOHOL HIGHWAY SAFETY SCHOOL**

Since July 2013, Alcohol Highway Safety School (AHSS) has operated out of the Westmoreland County Adult Probation Office. The fee for each AHSS class cycle is \$300.00.

**AHSS SUMMARY**

	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of AHSS Class Cycles	47	47	32	47
Number of Offenders who Completed Classes	1,022	1,070	532	836
Total AHSS Fees Collected (this Includes Individuals who Paid in Advance and have yet to Enroll/Complete Classes)	\$274,720	\$258,860	\$188,764	\$221,950
Total Rescheduling Fees Collected (\$30.00 per rescheduled class) This fee started in 2017.	\$9,089	\$9,005	\$6,585	\$5,432
Instructor Wages Paid	\$46,534	\$46,500	\$32,875	\$46,860
Net Revenue	\$223,279	\$205,652	\$157,225	\$170,091

## REENTRY PROGRAM

The Westmoreland County Reentry Program provides services to prepare individuals for successful reentry back into the community from incarceration. One Probation Officer II, known as the Reentry Coordinator, provides incarcerated individuals a specific release plan focusing on personal and criminogenic needs identified through Evidenced-Based Practices.

### REENTRY PROGRAM STATISTICS

	2021
Total Number of Individuals Assessed	28
Number of Individuals who Refused Services	3
Number of Individuals that did not meet the Minimum Program Standards to Participate in the Program.	8
Total Number of Individuals who Participated in the Program	20
Number of Individuals Charged with Misconducts while Incarcerated	0
Number of Individuals Released from Incarceration with Reentry Services	9
Number of Individuals Violating Conditions of Supervision upon Release	0

## BUDGET EXPENSES AND REVENUES

### EXPENSES

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Personnel and Fringes	\$5,764,129	\$5,073,645*	\$6,045,430	\$5,957,813	\$6,191,482
Operating Expenses	\$921,425	\$967,914	\$1,149,558	\$963,598	\$873,973
Capital	\$19,830	\$4,846	\$4,182	\$4,012	\$7,582
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,705,384</b>	<b>\$6,046,405</b>	<b>\$7,199,170</b>	<b>\$6,925,423</b>	<b>\$7,073,037</b>

\*NOTE: This figure does not include retirement and health insurance totals.

### REVENUES

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Grant-In-Aid	\$515,000	\$511,361	\$512,269	\$513,190	\$513,190
Supervision Fees	\$1,114,492	\$1,079,871	\$1,042,012	\$1,027,299	\$1,142,574
Electronic Monitoring Fees	\$548,176	\$541,586	\$617,898	\$499,521	\$564,954
Intermediate Punishment Program Grant	\$220,776	\$201,170	\$208,375	\$167,083	\$172,485
ARD Administrative Fees	\$51,131	\$49,115	\$48,640	\$44,859	53,434
AHSS	\$250,777	\$223,279	\$205,652	\$157,225	\$221,950
Miscellaneous	\$1,000	0	\$41	\$244	\$1,531
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,701,352</b>	<b>\$2,606,382</b>	<b>\$2,634,887</b>	<b>\$2,409,421</b>	<b>\$2,670,118</b>

### ELECTRONIC MONITORING FEES

During the past 5 years, Adult Probation and Parole has collected and turned over to the county \$2,772,135 in electronic monitoring fees.

**SUPERVISION FEES**

Legislation requires 50% of the offender supervision fees to be deposited in a County Supervision Fee Fund under the control of the President Judge and 50% to be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. It has been the policy of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole to return to each county the exact amount that has been deposited in the State Supervision Fee Fund for that county. It has been the policy of the Westmoreland County Court to transfer all money under the control of the President Judge to the county’s general fund to offset the cost of running the department.

It should be noted that on May 1, 2013, offender supervision fees were increased from \$35.00 per month to \$40.00 per month. In January 2014, supervision fees were increased from \$40.00 per month to \$45.00 per month. In November 2019, supervision fees were increased from \$45.00 per month to the current rate of \$50.00 per month.

**5-YEAR SUMMARY OF SUPERVISION FEE COLLECTIONS AND DISBURSEMENT**

Total Supervision Fees Collected				
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
\$1,114,492	\$1,079,871	\$1,042,012	\$1,027,299	\$1,142,574

County Portion of Supervision Fees Transferred to County General Fund				
\$556,987	\$539,898	\$520,573	\$513,353	\$571,143

State Portion of Supervision Fees Returned to County General Fund				
\$557,505	\$539,973	\$521,439	\$513,946	\$571,431

In summary, during the past 5 years, \$5,406,248 in supervision fees were collected. During the same time period, the President Judge released \$2,701,954 to the county general fund and the state returned \$2,704,294 to the county general fund for a total of \$5,406,248 released to the general fund.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

President Judge:	Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway
Administrative Judge:	Honorable Michele G. Bononi
Director:	Norman E. Mueller, MS
Assistant Director:	Kristine M. Demnovich, MS

MISSION

*To provide supervision and rehabilitation to youth and families while providing Community Protection, Victim Restoration and Youth Redemption*

VISION

*We will strive to reduce harm and in doing so will continuously work to create safer and stronger communities, fewer victims, reduce delinquency rates, and improve confidence in the juvenile justice system. We will enhance our juvenile justice system by employing evidence-based practices, collecting and analyzing data to measure these efforts and using the data to continuously improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of the system.*

PENNSYLVANIA’S JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

The state’s Juvenile Justice System is governed in its operations by the “Balanced and Restorative Justice” (BARJ) principles adopted through Act 33. At the foundation of this philosophy is the concept that crime victims and the community, as well as juvenile offenders, should receive balanced attention and gain tangible benefits from their interactions with Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**COMMUNITY PROTECTION** refers to the right of all Pennsylvania citizens to be and feel safe from crime.

**ACCOUNTABILITY** emphasizes that, in Pennsylvania, a juvenile who commits a crime harms both the victim of the crime and the community, and thereby incurs an obligation to repair that harm to the greatest extent possible.

COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT embodies the belief that juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania have strengths, are capable of change, can earn redemption, and can become responsible and productive members of their communities.

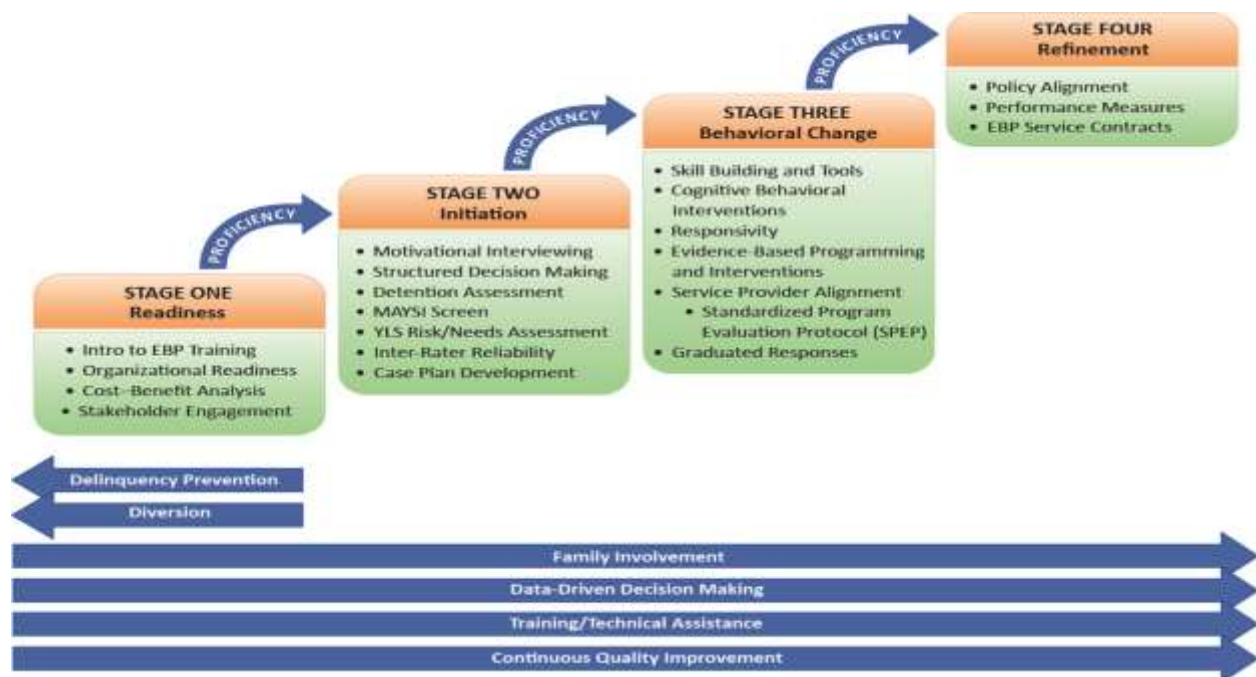
BALANCE as appropriate to each individual case, the juvenile justice system should provide balanced attention to the protection of the community, the imposition for accountability for offenses committed, and the development of competencies to enable juveniles to become responsible and productive members of their communities.

## *Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES)*

**JJSES Statement of Purpose**

We dedicate ourselves to working in partnership to enhance the capacity of PA's JJ System to achieve its balanced & restorative justice mission by:

- ✓ Employing EBP practices, with fidelity, at every stage of the juvenile justice process;
- ✓ Collecting & analyzing the data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge;
- ✓ Striving to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs.



## 2021 OVERVIEW

### DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) accepts delinquent juvenile complaints, and works with juveniles between the ages of ten to eighteen years who are charged with committing a delinquent act.

Once a youth enters the juvenile system, the JPD may be involved with the juveniles until the age of twenty-one. While the court determines guilt or innocence and then establishes the sanction, it is the responsibility of the JPD to protect the community, develop the offender's competencies, and to assist the victim through the process of restoration. In Westmoreland County, the daily operation of the JPD includes Intake, traditional Probation, Community-Based Probation, Aftercare/Reintegration and the Youth Commission Program.

### REFERRALS TO JUVENILE COURT

The JPD is responsible for allegations of juvenile delinquency. Police, parents, juvenile probation officers, magisterial district judges, and other courts may file charges through the Intake Unit.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Referrals	687	651	675	496	443
Delinquency Placements	97	126	122	115	56
Total Placements	97	126	122	115	56
Total Dispositions	2129	2257	2009	1364	1106

### COURT ACTIVITY

A Juvenile Court Hearing Officer or Judge hears juvenile charges. The court adjudicates delinquency and orders the disposition. Court hearings are held each week either by a Hearing Officer at the juvenile center or by a judge at the courthouse.

When a youth is placed in the Juvenile Detention Center, the intake officer schedules a detention hearing within 72 hours. The youth may either remain in the detention center or be released. If the youth is detained, the officer must file a petition within twenty-four hours. After filing the petition, the case is assigned to a probation officer. The adjudication hearing must occur within ten days of the filing of the petition.

Once a delinquent complaint is filed on a juvenile that is not detained, a hearing is scheduled. A hearing is heard approximately 12 weeks from filing. If the youth is adjudicated "delinquent", the court determines the disposition.

## JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total No. of Hearings before Judges	835	812	728	620	564
Total No. of Hearings before Hearing Officers	947	988	963	738	670
TOTAL	1782	1800	1691	1358	1234

## SECURE JUVENILE DETENTION

When it is necessary to protect the community from the juvenile, the youth is placed in the Juvenile Detention Center. The JPD's intake staff is available twenty-four hours a day to accept youths referred to detention. 114 children were detained in the Juvenile Detention Center in 2021. The average length of stay was 21.4 days. The following is a breakdown by race, age and gender and a 10-year comparison of juveniles detained each year.

DETAINED IN 2021 BY RACE (114)													
WHITE		BLACK		HISPANIC		BIRACIAL		OTHER		NATIVE AMERICAN		ASIAN	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
43	15	23	9	0	0	20	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

DETAINED IN 2021 BY AGE (114)										
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	OTHER	
1	1	2	7	11	24	32	22	12	2	

10 YEAR COMPARISON									
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
208	196	202	152	116	173	173	167	134	114

The average length of stay was 21.4 days.

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

The Emergency Shelter is used as a least restrictive alternative to juvenile detention. The following is statistical information for 2021:

DETAINED IN 2021 BY RACE (47)													
WHITE		BLACK		HISPANIC		BIRACIAL		OTHER		NATIVE AMERICAN		ASIAN	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
16	13	6	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0



DETAINED IN 2021 BY AGE (47)									
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	OTHER
0	1	0	5	2	15	12	5	4	3

10 YEAR COMPARISON									
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
115	109	90	111	114	119	79	78	63	47

The average length of stay was 38.88 days.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE GOALS

1. **Community Protection**: refers to the right of all Pennsylvania citizens to be and feel safe from crime.

Of the cases closed in 2021:

- 92.3% of Juvenile Offenders Successfully Completed Supervision

2. **Accountability**: emphasizes that a delinquent harms both the victim and the community, and thereby incurs an obligation to repair that harm to the greatest extent possible.

Of the cases closed in 2021:

- 92.7 % of juveniles completed assigned community service obligations
- 5,693 hours of community service were completed
- \$51,561.52 of restitution was paid to victims
- 82% of juveniles made full restitution to their victim(s)

Advancing accountability requires purposeful attention to offender participation in a process whereby juvenile offenders understand and acknowledge:

- The wrongfulness of their actions
- The impact of the crime on the crime victim and the community
- Their responsibility for causing harm

In addition to helping juvenile offenders understand and take action to repair the harm, the JPD has responsibilities to victims including: upholding victims' rights, supplying accurate and timely information, and treating victims with dignity and respect.

- Victim Impact Statements and Victim/Community Awareness Curriculum are tools for increasing awareness and understanding.
- Juvenile offender apologies, crime victims' compensation fund, restitution, meaningful community service, and restorative justice practices are activities that repair harm.

3. **Competency Development**: embodies the belief that juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania have strengths, are capable of change, can earn redemption, and can become responsible and productive members of their communities.

Of the cases closed in 2021:

- 95.7% of juveniles were employed or in an educational or vocational activity.

## PROGRAMS

### COMMUNITY BASED MONITORING AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

The CBMR program has a capacity of 50 clients and is supervised by two juvenile probation officers. One officer is always on-call for immediate notifications of violations. Since the inception of the program, 1148 referrals have been made to the CBMR Program including 59 in 2020. Client referrals can be made at pre-adjudication, pre-disposition, or disposition stages.

Often, pre-adjudication referrals arise from a detention hearing. In that event, the clients are transported home from detention and placed on electronic monitoring until further hearing. Referrals can also be made between the adjudication and dispositional hearings. In those cases, the clients are placed on electronic monitoring pending final disposition. In these pre-dispositional cases, the case is usually shared between the CBMR and referring officers. Clients may also be referred as an alternative to detention (ATD) based on their score on the PaDRAI, which is a risk assessment tool administered when a new allegation is received by the juvenile probation office. In 2020, there were 14 clients who were placed on electronic monitoring as a result of an ATD or pre-disposition measure.

Clients who are ordered to complete CBMR as a condition of probation are all transferred to the CBMR caseload. They are all placed on electronic monitoring, and unless otherwise ordered by the Court, will remain on monitoring for a minimum of 60 days. CBMR officers make regular contacts to make sure the juveniles are being compliant with monitoring, and all other conditions of their court order. Drug testing is conducted frequently, and clients must pass drug screens to have the electronic monitor removed.

In 2016, juvenile probation entered into a separate contract with BI Incorporated. Prior to that year, all equipment was handled under an agreement with adult probation. This eases inventory issues and also has provided more equipment availability. At this time, juvenile probation is able to choose between three different home electronic monitoring systems. This allows equipment to be used that best meets the needs of the client.

Goals and objectives of the program include providing an alternative for disposition other than placement, reductions of clients in detention, cost reduction, improved academic performance, and an increase in employment.

## COMMUNITY-BASED PROBATION

Community-based probation services are intended to enhance the ability of the juvenile justice system to achieve its mission by establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with community members, agencies and social institutions for the benefit of victims and juveniles.

The Juvenile Court Judges Commission describes two models of community-based probation services; community supervision and community liaison.

In the community supervision model, the juvenile probation officer supervises a caseload of juveniles while developing effective working relationships in the community that provide natural support, as well as training and mentoring opportunities for juveniles under supervision. Presently, there are six probation officers working in this capacity. Four of these officers work within public schools and two are roaming officers meeting the fluctuating needs of the department. They act as department liaisons for our long-standing Youth Commission Program, which was designed to mentor and divert first-time offenders from the system. The community-based officers participate in Youth Commission proceedings in their assigned areas, they actively work to recruit new members, participate in training and offer technical assistance. There are countless other ways that these probation officers serve the community; they offer educational instruction to youth in the classroom on a variety of topics, including responsibility in social media, drug and alcohol prevention, and the law, to name a few. They serve as members of the Student Assistance Programs in their districts. They help youth to repair the harm that they have caused to the victim(s) and the community by working toward meaningful community service, training youth in victim awareness to achieve an appropriate apology, and seek community resources individualized to benefit the youth and family. They often can be found completing community service work with youth, like working on community Mural Arts Projects, or working at a local food pantry. They can also be found attending community-driven events such as Build a Better Block in New Kensington, and participating in National Night Out, a crime prevention program, in a number of communities. These probation officers continually work to develop relationships with community leaders, law enforcement, victim services, businesses, community agencies, churches and schools. They network with employers, educators and others who can provide youth with job skills and employment opportunities.

The second model of community-based probation is the community liaison model. The officer in this model is dedicated to developing and maintaining effective working relationships with community leaders, law enforcement, victim services, businesses, and community agencies. We have one officer assigned to this position. The community liaison operates from a bigger picture perspective; encouraging and supporting the community in delinquency prevention activities, and is dedicated to educating the public about the Juvenile Justice System. Traditionally the person occupying this position is active on a number of boards and committees, including local communities, countywide, and state. Following are some highlights of those in which the greatest responsibility is held.

Our Community Liaison is responsible for the department's Sexting Education Program. This program receives referrals from Magisterial District Judges and law enforcement for youth who have been charged with offenses under this statute. Referrals are also received from parents

and other probation officers. Participants' parents are provided with valuable tools to help them to talk to their children about the dangers of sexting. Further, the Community Liaison has conducted Sexting Education programming to local youth in school and community settings.

The Community Liaison is the chairperson for the Westmoreland County Child Death Review Team. This team meets regularly to review every Westmoreland County childhood (to the age of 21 years) death and to promote childhood death prevention efforts.

The Community Liaison is active on the Council of Substance Abuse and Youth, a coalition of the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission, conducts Circles (a group process that fosters listening and communication skills), attends CASSP meetings and conducts many different types of educational programming in local school districts and universities.

Each of these efforts, and every new endeavor, is conducted with the goal of reducing and repairing the harm in our communities, restoring victims, restoring youth and families, and reducing recidivism.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK**

Two Juvenile Probation Officers coordinate this program and provides juvenile offenders the opportunity to perform meaningful community service work for the benefit of their community, to hold the child accountable for their actions, and to increase competency development skills. The program provides needed services to 100 non-profit organizations and local governmental agencies where the juvenile lives and commits the offense. It furnishes a tangible consequence to probation, and a possible alternative to restitution and fines. Juveniles are ordered into this program.

Community Service Work Data					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Male Youth Assigned Community Service Work	190	226	247	234	181
Female Youth Assigned Community Service Work	67	75	68	79	62
Total Assigned	257	301	315	313	243

Total Hours Worked in Communities		
Total Hours Worked in Communities	Year	Hours
	2017	6,864
	2018	7,611
	2019	6,862
	2020	6,175
	2021	4,985
Total		32,497

**VICTIM SERVICES**

2021 came with a few more challenges and changes. April 2021, Nicole Seese moved on from the position of Victim Witness Advocate in Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation and Michaella Mowers assumed the role of Victim Witness Advocate in Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation. Since the pandemic was still occurring, Michaella was tasked with hosting the 2021 National Crime Victims' Rights Week online. She sent out emails every day with various topics and informational trainings that probation could complete throughout the week to gain a greater awareness of victim's rights. The week was filled with opportunities for staff to support victims of crime, building trust with victims, and engaging communities to help victims of crime.

Michaella also became a member of Juvenile Court Judge's Commission victim services sub-committee. Michaella continued to attend quarterly meetings regarding victim services within juvenile probation. Michaella also completed Foundational Academy, which was held in person July 2021. The Foundational Academy is a required training that assists victim service professional by outlining what their responsibilities and roles are to victims that are being provided funding through the RASA/VOJO grant. She continued to complete all of her online victim training needed to understand the position. Michaella completed a total of 156.75 hours of training. The training completed encompassed many victim oriented trainings but also probation officer trainings as well.

While 2021 continued to be a year with no normalcy, victim's needs were still met. In 2021, a total of 259 victims were served. The victim awareness curriculum began with being held virtually and then transitioned to small in person groups. The victim witness advocate was able to navigate how to address the changing environment with the pandemic to continue to meet the needs of victims by having the juveniles continue to complete the victim awareness curriculum as designed.

The year of 2021 appeared as a success and the hope is that the year of 2022 will continue to find greater ways to meet victim's needs!

## YOUTH COMMISSIONS

Mission - *Our mission is to connect youth and family to community.*

Vision - *We envision a community where all children and youth have good mentors at every stage of development.*

In the 1960s, the first Youth Commission was established in Pennsylvania by the Westmoreland County Juvenile Court. Its original purpose was to allow first time youthful offenders the opportunity to avoid a juvenile court record and encourage community involvement. Based upon the long-term success of these efforts, and our commitment to restorative practices, we have expanded the program to include a reintegration component in which the community is instrumental in aiding a youth's successful transition from placement to home, or giving that extra support to a probationer who needs it. We recognize the importance of assisting victims, individuals, and families within their own communities as when the system is gone; community is still present to provide support and direction.

The Youth Commission is comprised of dedicated community volunteers who provide new and better opportunities for youth to learn, readjust, and conform to the laws of our society. It also is charged with helping the youth take responsibility for his/her actions and repair the harm caused to the victims and/or community.

There are currently six Youth Commissions in Westmoreland County, 2 of which we have merged several commissions together with a total of 31 members. Those Youth Commissions are Franklin,” Greensburg, Hempfield and Jeannette as one”, Latrobe and Derry as one, Monessen, Norwin, and Penn Trafford. In the calendar year 2021 a total of 14 cases were heard by the Youth Commissions. The COVID 19 Pandemic continued to play a major role during 2021 as it pertains to the commissions meeting and the total referrals. We are seeing an increase in those referrals in 2022. Our mission and vision will remain the same.

### DIVERSION CASES

Youth Commission Volunteers comprise a local diversionary program that is able to closely supervise a first time offender and allow him or her to repair the harms to a victim and community locally while also providing youth the opportunity to avoid fines and a permanent court record.

*Crime creates social and spiritual separation from the community. For youth who have created harm in the community, mentoring helps them repair the harm and gain or regain a sense of self-worth and acceptance that allows them to be fully reintegrated into the community.*

Referral Source: Juvenile Court ONLY

- ❖ Juvenile Probation Office.
- ❖ MDJ
- ❖ School Resource Officers

### REINTEGRATION CASES

Youth Commission volunteers will assist the youth in pursuing employments, recreation, and other positive community based activities.

Crime creates social and spiritual separation from the community. For youth who have created harm in the community, mentoring helps them repair the harm and gain or regain a sense of self-worth and acceptance that allows them to be fully reintegrated into the community. This applies to both first time offenders and repeat offenders. In most instances, youth remain in the community; however, in a small percentage of cases, it is necessary to place youth outside of the home. Placement creates physical separation of youth from her or his family, school, and community. For youth returning from placement meaningful connections to unpaid community members provides a critical link that allows youth the opportunity to gain trust, understanding, and redemption. The Commission is also positioned to assist families dealing with the struggles associated with a youth's return home. The ultimate goal is to provide the youth and their families

a level of service, care, compassion and connection to the community that is conducive to success. This dramatically decreases the opportunities for re-arrest. In the calendar year of 2018, there were two Reintegration cases.

Referral Source: Juvenile Court ONLY

- ❖ The Juvenile Court Judge may refer a youth at any time.
- ❖ A Probation Officer may refer a youth at any time after disposition of the case following approval by a Probation Supervisor.

PENNSYLVANIA’S POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) PROJECT

Westmoreland County continues to be the permanent home to Pennsylvania’s PTSD Project. The program includes the provision of training to therapists statewide on the Residential Treatment Curriculum (RTC), specialized PTSD Aftercare services, and a variety of one-day interactive trainings for professionals that work with youth in any manner.

The RTC training is a twelve-session treatment curriculum to help youth that have been traumatized. The PA PTSD Project, in conjunction with Adelphoi Village, provided the 40-hour training to certify therapists in the RTC in October 2021 and certified 15 staff members from various facilities around the state.

The PTSD Project also provides monthly training opportunities at the Juvenile Service Center in Greensburg, and on-site training for many placement agencies, juvenile detention centers, other probation offices, schools, Children and Youth agencies, and community organizations. Due to COVID-19, our face-to-face trainings were postponed for a period of time, restarting in October 2021. The PTSD Project took that time to update the manuals, visuals and curriculum of the six existing trainings and prepared the PTSD Website to provide online training. Like the RTC, all of the one-day trainings have been updated to reflect the most current research in the field of trauma.

Trainings provided include PTSD Signs and Symptoms, Mental Health in Adolescence, PTSD in Special Populations, Developmental Trauma Disorder, Urban Violence Traumatic Response Syndrome, Stress in Adolescence and Stress Less.

Our monthly meetings with Adelphoi Village Therapists who work directly with our court ordered at-risk youth and their families have returned to face-to-face sessions in June 2021. This allowed additional contact between Adelphoi Village therapists and juvenile probation officers to discuss any concerns and progress in their caseloads.

Members of the PTSD Project are significantly involved in the Southwest Regional Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), which is a group that provides 40 hours of training in crisis intervention and mental health issues for local police officers, probation and parole officers, security personnel, and corrections officers. The Southwest Regional CIT was able to successfully certify over 70 individuals over four separate weeklong trainings in 2021.

The PTSD Project Coordinator serves on the steering committee for CIT and the Ray of

Hope, which is a task force that works to prevent suicides in Westmoreland County. The Coordinator is also a member of Council on Substance Abuse and Youth (CSAY), which is committed to the prevention and reduction of substance abuse in the community. The Coordinator was certified a facilitator for training entitled “Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice” (MHT-JJ) through National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (NCYOJ). MHT-JJ was developed to increase staff capacity to work with adolescents experiencing behavioral health conditions. She continuously attends trainings/workshops in regards to trauma-informed care.

#### **FUTURE GOALS FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA PTSD PROJECT INCLUDE:**

- *Launch of a website that will be home to a distance learning program where people can participate in all of our trainings online*
- *Develop additional trainings to expand the knowledge*
- *Continue to certify therapists statewide in the Residential Treatment Curriculum (RTC)*
- *Continue to provide Booster Trainings on the updated version of the RTC*
- *Continue to provide regular trainings for professionals and paraprofessionals that serve youth in any capacity*
- *Continue outreach to community groups and organizations*
- *Research the outcomes of the RTC and PTSD Aftercare*
- *Utilize trauma informed care to enhance the services that are available to the youth of Westmoreland County*

#### **DANGERS OF SEXTING DIVERSION PROGRAM**

In 2021, The Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation Office received four referrals to the Dangers of Sexting Diversion program. Due to the ongoing issues surrounding the recent pandemic, there were no “in person” classes conducted. For the four referred cases, the Juvenile Probation staff implemented the use of Google Classroom and a PowerPoint presentation to engage the clients, as well as their families, from the safety of their own homes, while still insuring that they were able to receive the pertinent information in regards to Internet Safety.

Four juveniles completed the diversion class using the virtual presentation. All referrals were deemed successful, as the students completed and successfully returned a GOOGLE document demonstrating their participation and understanding of the information presented.

Of the four participants, all were males, ranging in ages from 15 to 18 years old, and from grades 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, all of the referrals came from the Juvenile Probation Department as a condition of probation and to provide educational opportunity to the youth.

### **2021 HIGHLIGHTS**

*A Message from the Director:*



*The Juvenile Probation Department of Westmoreland County has the unique and critical responsibility of shaping young lives as well as addressing and serving the needs of victim's and communities. Our goal is to reduce the juvenile's risk to reoffend as well as change long-term behavior. Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation is committed to using evidence based practices and the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice with fidelity at every level of our system.*

*This report gives us an opportunity to share the exciting and innovative work that has been accomplished by our group of dedicated probation officers and support staff in the last year.*

We continue to strive toward implementing and utilizing evidence-based practices to enhance Westmoreland County's Juvenile Justice System. During the last twelve years, we have worked to reduce the risk juvenile offenders post to the community.

Through legislation, the purpose clause of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act contains language that requires employing evidence-based practices with fidelity at every stage of the Juvenile Justice Process. Evidence-based practice simply means, "Applying what we know in terms of research to what we do in our work with juveniles, their families, and the communities in which we live." As a result, we focus our efforts and collect and analyze data necessary to measure the results of these efforts; and, with this knowledge, we strive to continuously improve the quality of our decisions, services and programs. This use of research and our outcomes will allow our juvenile justice system to achieve and confirm the effectiveness of our Balanced and Restorative Justice Mission. Prior to this, Act 33 of 1995 amended the purpose clause of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Act to establish "Balanced and Restorative Justice" as the philosophical and theoretical framework for the juvenile justice system. The statute clearly defined three goals for our system: 1) The protection of the community, 2) The imposition of accountability for offenses committed and 3) the development of competencies to enable juveniles to become responsible and productive members of the community.

In order to enhance and support these efforts, we are emphasizing the use of research-based evidence to guide our development of policy and practice in all aspects of Balanced and Restorative Justice and the application of evidence-based research to protect the community from further harm by reducing rearrests and recidivism rates for juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system through the process of behavioral change.

- ❖ In order to fulfill our mission "*to provide supervision and rehabilitation to juveniles and families while providing Community Protection, Victim Restoration and Youth Redemption*" our department continues to implement programs and protocols that move us in that direction.
- ❖ **Family Involvement/Community Involvement:** We have continued to work toward engaging families whose children are involved in Juvenile Court in a much more meaningful way. When children are involved in our system, involving families in case planning and goal setting and in all phases of the juvenile system are critical to a successful outcome for that child. We have made a commitment to continue our pledge and partner with communities to improve prevention and

diversion services. Our Community Based Officers continue to seek ways to partner and expand the concepts and principles of a Balanced & Restorative Justice System in communities and develop strategies that will increase positive outcomes for all those involved. They are continually exploring avenues in which our department may reach people in communities in positive ways.

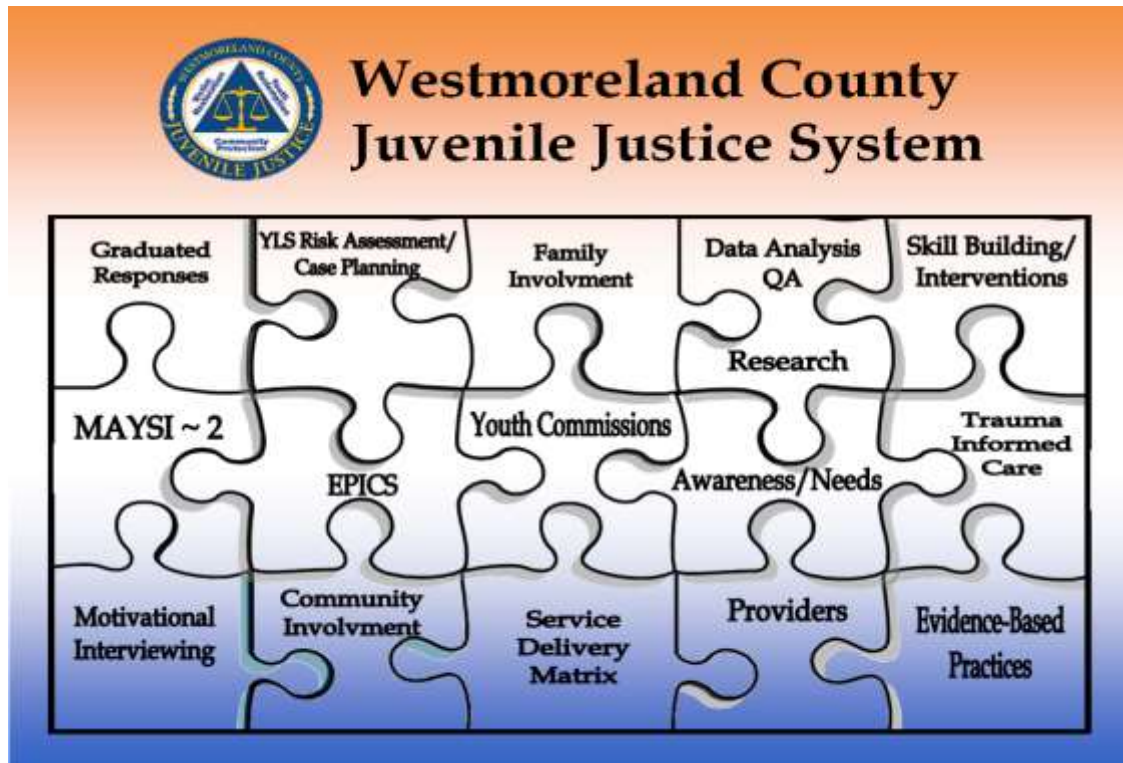
- ❖ We continue to use a validated instrument, the **Youth Level of Service Risk/Needs Assessment (YLS)**, prior to filing a delinquency petition for all juveniles who enter the Westmoreland County's Juvenile Justice System. It is designed to assist our officers in making structured and consistent decisions. The results are used to develop a more comprehensive case plan for juveniles that focus on reducing identified risk factors and emphasizing youth's strengths. Research shows that youth whose services are matched with the correct interventions based on their needs assessment will have better outcomes and the recidivism rate of that juveniles will decrease. The Department has four YLS Master Trainers who train local staff to administer the YLS.
- ❖ Except during the COVID pandemic, our **Juvenile Probation sub-office** in New Kensington, PA continues in full operation. Intakes for families in that part of the county are regularly conducted at that office. This provides a convenience to families and communities in the northern part of the county who no longer need to travel to the county seat in Greensburg to meet with a probation officer.
- ❖ Our staff continues to conduct youth groups as an educational component to assist in their understanding as well as the consequences of Sexting/Technology and Sexual Violence. These youths consist of those involved in the juvenile justice system or who appear before the Magisterial District Court on a sexting summary offense. Our goal is to share this with parents and community members as an awareness and preventative method as well.
- ❖ **Motivational Interviewing:** Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a communication skill that helps probation officers resolve their client's ambivalence to change. It also changes and strengthens their relationship with their probationers to one of a guide and helper. It is used for strengthening motivation and commitment to change originally developed for the addictions field and has been adopted for use by probation officers to facilitate behavioral changes in juvenile offenders. It is a key part of professional alliance and has been implemented throughout our department. All probation officers in our department have been trained in MI and produce audio recordings of their meetings with clients on a quarterly basis. These recordings are coded by MI Coaches and feedback is given by them to each officer as Quality Assurance. Currently there are six Motivational Interviewing Coaches within the department.
- ❖ **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Project:** We continue to offer a variety of trainings in this area for law-enforcement, probation officers, mental health workers, school teachers and administrators, juvenile detention and shelter personnel, children & youth caseworkers, private providers and others across the state of Pennsylvania. We continue to promote the importance of recognizing signs and symptoms of PTSD and the need to address trauma in youth.

- ❖ **Juvenile Court Week:** Each year in early October, the governor declares Juvenile Court Week in Pennsylvania. A Proclamation was presented by the County Commissioners to the Honorable Michele Bononi, Juvenile Court Administrative Judge, to kick off the week. In addition, we hold a very successful Fall Family Fun Night for the general public at Twin Lakes Park. It is a nice opportunity to promote family and community engagement. We encouraged local families to attend and participate in the family-friendly-free activities. Local agencies and businesses also attended and provided information about services they offer. Local coalitions were present and shared information and awareness about their foundations.
  
- ❖ **Youth Commissions and Reintegration:** We worked diligently to expand our Youth Commission Program during the year. In the last few years, volunteers have worked with juveniles as mentors in the community and not just to divert juveniles from the system. Our commissions were assigned juveniles throughout the year and it was a positive experience. Many juveniles lack community support from their parents, families, neighbors, etc. The goal is to establish an on-going relationship between a juvenile and a commission member, connect the juvenile to his/her community and give him/her the skills to become a responsible, law abiding citizen after the case is closed in Juvenile Court.
  
- ❖ **Pennsylvania Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (PaDRAI):** In January 2017, the department began using this assessment tool. It is a validated static risk instrument to help probation decide which juveniles should be securely detained and which should be released to an alternative to secure detention pending a formal hearing. This is based on their risk to reoffend and their likelihood to appear for Court. The tool accurately predicts these risk factors at rate of over 90%. This instrument assists probation officers to use objective criteria through the use of this validated assessment tool. We use this tool to improve upon something we already do. It increases objectivity & consistency in the detention decision-making process, to properly identify juveniles who pose the greatest risk for re-offending or failing to appear, it encourages the proper use of alternatives to detention. More importantly, this instrument is intended to ensure Fundamental Fairness in the detention decision-making process. This tool is designed to measure risk to re-offend and/or fail to appear during the specific time period while the juvenile is awaiting his/her first Juvenile Court hearing. The underlying principles of the PaDRAI are Objectivity (to reduce the inherent biases), Uniformity (use the same rules for everyone), and Risk-based (use actuarial science to evaluate/measure only proven risk factors).
  
- ❖ **Graduated Responses:** The Department has established a range of graduated responses/sanctions to help juveniles become law abiding and productive citizens. We have been working on developing rewards as well since research indicates that the reward/sanction ratio of 4:1 can be an effective tool in positively shaping a juvenile's behavior.

2021 was productive as we moved even further into the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Through on-going training, our probation officers are developing and mastering skills in evidence based practices. Through JJSES, we will achieve our Balanced & Restorative Justice Mission, which is Community Protection, Victim Restoration and Youth Redemption.

REVENUES AND EXPENSES

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
EXPENSES	\$7,394,467.00	\$7,691,415.00	\$8,014,422.31	\$6,767,123.26	\$6,991,892
REVENUES	\$3,259,463.00	\$3,929,204.00	\$3,441,660.66	\$4,082,180.05	\$2,232,481



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS SECTION  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

President Judge: Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway  
 Administrative Judge: Honorable Michael J. Stewart  
 Department Head: Terence O'Halloran, Esquire

**2021 PERFORMANCE**

**INCENTIVE MEASURES:**

Westmoreland County and Pennsylvania again met the minimum 80% compliance requirements for all 6 of the categories monitored for federal Incentive Funding for FFY 2021.

The following chart reflects the results for Westmoreland County and the Commonwealth for 2021 fiscal year. There continues to be no statistical difference over the recent years so Westmoreland County retains its relatively strong position in the establishment, collection and enforcement of child support and medical support orders.

MEASURES as values	Westmoreland	Pennsylvania
Line 01 - Count of Open IV-D Cases	6,957	313,711
Line 02 - Count of IV-D Cases with Support Order Established	6,651	284,586
Support Ratio (Line 2 / Line 1)	95.60%	90.72%
Line 5 - Count of Children Born Out of Wedlock	4,689	245,637
Line 6 - Count of Children with Paternity Established	5,160	262,667
Paternity Ratio (Line 6 / Line 5)	110.04%	106.93%
Line 24 - Amount of Current Support Owed	\$29,751,666	\$1,163,530,665
Line 25 - Amount of Current Support Disbursed	\$25,624,004	\$981,202,378
Current Support Ratio (Line 25 / Line 24)	86.13%	84.33%
Line 28 - Count of Cases with Arrears Owed	5,757	218,599
Line 29 - Count of Cases with Disbursements toward Arrears	4,989	188,725
Arrears Ratio (Line 29 / Line 28)	86.66%	86.33%
Line 2e - Count of Arrears-Only IV-D Cases with Orders Established	695	32,293

Line 21 - Count of IV-D Cases with Medical Support Ordered	5,733	234,001
Line 21a - Count of IV-D Cases with Medical Support Ordered and Provided	5,541	220,222
Medical Support Establishment Ratio (Line 21 / (Line 02 - Line 2e))	96.26%	92.75%
Medical Support Enforcement Ratio (Line 21a / Line 21)	96.65%	94.11%

## CASELOAD

Again this year, the caseload decreased in 2021, this time by 495 cases. The breakdown is as follows:

2017 – 2021 Caseload Comparisons								
Year	SSI	Federal Foster Care	General Assistance	Medical Only	Non-Federal Foster Care	Non-TANF	TANF	Total
2017	1	385	0	5	91	7889	503	8,874
2018	1	383	3	4	135	7652	474	8,652
2019	1	348	0	3	144	7351	464	8,311
2020	1	339	0	5	76	6990	354	7,765
2021	1	277	0	7	55	6633	297	7,270

## 2021 CASE PROCESSING ACTIVITY

Year	Paternity Estab.	Paternity Excluded	Complaints Processed	Modifications Processed	Conference Conducted	Record Hearings	Contempt Hearings
2017	75	15	1728	2766	4079	211	3758
2018	76	30	1605	2747	3955	126	3585
2019	65	24	1534	2655	3833	185	3595
2020	38	11	1067	2365	3133	153	2550
2021	55	12	1141	2312	3019	206	2785

## COLLECTIONS COMPARISONS

The collection per case increased slightly in 2021 and Westmoreland continues to perform well above the federal minimums. In addition to Total and Per Case collections, the other important performance factor is effective enforcement of established obligations.

## CASELOAD/COLLECTION TREND

(We rank #5 out of 12 counties listed as 3<sup>rd</sup> class in dollars collected per case)

Westmoreland Collections per Case Trend			
Year Ending	Caseload	Collections	Per Case
12/31/2017	8,874	\$37,283,516.36	\$4,201.43
12/31/2018	8,652	\$37,038,156.86	\$4,280.88
12/31/2019	8,311	\$36,629,947.22	\$4,407.41
12/31/2020	7,765	\$37,001,914.12	\$4,765.22
12/31/2021	7,270	\$35,011,682.46	\$4,815.91

## DRS TITLE IV-D FUND BALANCES:

DRS maintains four (4) distinct fund sub-accounts within the IV-D Fund account:

Checking – all income and expense passes through this account.

Program income is deposited here. Transfers are made to and from the county, and in and out of the investment accounts. More money is kept in cash to help offset overall banking fees. Transfers out of the investments are used to cover weekly expenditures.

PLGIT Trust – a short-term investment account which includes interest income from the Invesco AIM account. In the past, Investments were used to increase cash balances through interest earnings; however, with interest rates so low, less money is in investments.

PA Treasurer's Money Market – a short-term investment account which contains deposits similar to those in the PLGIT. This account is managed by the County Fiscal Department, making transfers in and out of the checking account, as necessary. Restrictive incentives are deposited here and then transferred to the Invesco AIM account.

Invesco AIM – an investment account established for the sole purpose of separating Title IV-D earned incentive dollars. This was necessitated by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA).

(The Title IV-D Account Statement for the year ended 12/31/21 is attached to the end of this report)

## WHERE SUPPORT DOLLARS COME FROM?

Seventy-one percent of support dollars are collected through wage withholding. Cash and Checks, including contempt purge payments and relatively few payers with

wage withholding waivers, make up another 15%. The balance consists of payments received from other states, Unemployment Compensation attachments, and federal tax offsets. 95% of payments to recipients are paperless. The two paperless options for support recipients are direct deposit into a checking or savings account or deposit into a stored value debit card with the acronym Eppi Card.

**2021 Disbursement Types**

Direct Deposit	57.06%	\$20,073,862.51
Eppi Card (stored value)	37.99%	\$13,366,657.58
Check	4.95%	\$ 1,740,018.86

**COUNTY SHARE OF COSTS**

Local government is responsible for providing the non-Federal share (approximately 34%) of the cost of DRS operations. 2011 represented the first year Westmoreland County had to pay that percentage as a result of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. The detailed explanation of the change was provided in prior year’s Domestic Relations Report to the Court.

As a result of the 34 percent reimbursement requirement, the court’s share of 2021 costs of this office’s operations is as follows:

DRS total budgeted expenditures for 2021:	\$ 4,281,833
County Shared Calculation Includes:	
34% shared Direct Expenditures:	1,204,953
Plus Unallowable costs:	128,861
Plus 100% workers comp. Medical & Ind.	<u>0</u>
Total County Contributions:	1,333,814

These figures compare to a 2020 DRS budget of \$4,380,319 with the county budgeted to have paid \$1,351,589 towards that amount.

It should be noted here that the Federal Standard for Cost Effectiveness for DRS offices is \$5 collected per \$1 expended.

The DRS continues to use restricted Incentive dollars to fund capital improvements, a portion of non-union salaries, and training, completely releasing the County from those costs.

**CURRENT DRS BUSINESS PLAN**

2021 again saw a gradual decrease in the number of support cases and dollar amounts collected. There is no denying the fact that fewer people live in this county and



the ones who remain are not having as many children or are having them later in life for whatever reason. That is reflected in the gradual decline in the figures over the years.

In spite of that gradual decline, which is a state-wide phenomenon, Westmoreland continues to perform above the state average in cost effectiveness in its operations, receiving \$8.57 in child support for every dollar we spend to collect it. That's far above the above mentioned \$5.00 level the federal government requires for maximum reimbursement of our expenditures.

There continues to be pressure on the state level to reduce expenditures which will result in a slowing down of technical innovation rolling out from the state. The expense of making changes to the current state-wide computer system is staggering but Westmoreland County is still well positioned to adapt to any changes that will come from state directives in the future.

Westmoreland DRO has made several adaptations to pandemic procedures which remain in effect, from overseeing self-administered DNA testing in our office to promoting phone conferences rather than in-person meetings. With the coming changes in the state Supreme Court Rules governing remote conferences and hearings, we will be formalizing the changes which result in higher compliance ratings and higher satisfaction from our clientele.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY LAW LIBRARY  
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

President Judge:                   Honorable Rita Donovan Hathaway  
Law Librarian:                   Elizabeth Ward, MLS

ORGANIZATION

Betty Ward; Law Librarian, Master of Library Science, Univ. of Pittsburgh  
Pamela Snyder; Library Assistant, Assoc. of Applied Science, Legal Assisting, WCCC

SERVICES

The Law Library provides:

- A collection of approximately 25,000 law books, 40 CD's and flash drives, and a variety of online resources, with a strong emphasis on Pennsylvania practice materials. Attorneys and courthouse personnel may borrow materials for a one-week period; the public must use materials on-site. Most online resources can be emailed.
- Five public access computers used to search licensed online legal information, such as, Westlaw, Lexis, Shepard's, HeinOnline, etc. Information can be printed or emailed. The computers are also used to access the internet, court and county information, records, forms, and the library's CD collection. In addition, the public and attorneys regularly use the computers to type and prepare legal documents.
- Trained library staff to maintain the library and assist users in locating information and materials appropriate to their needs.
- A quiet, comfortable setting for people to study and conduct their research.
- A small meeting room for attorneys, clients and courthouse personnel to discuss legal matters in a private setting.
- Equipment including: computers, copier, fax, scanner, and printer, available to library users for a nominal fee.
- Wireless Internet Access (Wi-Fi) available for those with laptops and other devices.
- Interlibrary loan and document delivery services to provide materials not available in the library.
- Customized "in-house" databases and guides created to make our various collections more accessible and user friendly. Guides created for: local municipal ordinances, PBI collection, Pathfinder series (research guides), and local court opinions.
- Extended hours and borrowing privileges available for Westmoreland Bar Association members. The Library's Collection includes over 2,000 Pa. Bar Institute CLE books (the "Yellow Books".)

## 2021 Updates

- The Law Library continues providing library services based on changing needs, due to pandemic, illness, construction projects, or whatever.
- Law Library staff saw an uptick in phone and email requests and have adapted to providing more information and documents by electronic means. Our extensive collection of online materials has proven invaluable in providing these materials.
- Publishers are still working to resolve problems that resulted with printing, missing issues, and disruptions in deliveries., that have occurred in recent years. Sorely missed have been the usual flow of PBI books. Last year the library received only three monthly shipments, instead of the usual ten to twelve.
- The Westlaw plan and Lexis Advance plan were upgraded to provide additional materials and enhancements. More titles were added to the Lexis EBook Collection, and HeinOnline, which are accessible through our county law library membership to Jenkins Law Library.
- The Law Library's Computers were used to conduct 7,401 Westlaw transactions. They were also used for thousands of other searches using various forms databases, the internet, and our other licensed products.
- The Pa. Lexis Advance plan was used for 3,604 transactions. Our online patron access plan is enhanced to include 27 Pa. specific treatises and practice guides, and Shepard's Citations. New analytic features were incorporated into our plan, as well.
- Referrals of self-represented litigants from Family Court, the Prothonotary's Office, and the Pro Bono Office, occur on a daily basis, with the self-represented needing to obtain legal information or print court forms.
- Other offices regularly refer people to the library to use equipment – computers, copier, scanner, printer, or FAX. They are used to obtain and print bank statements, pay stubs, tax returns, or other records. Others visit to complete or make copies of their legal documents.
- Through our associate county law library membership to the Jenkins Law Library in Philadelphia, our Law Library offers access to over 22 licensed online databases. Having access to their Pa. Common Pleas Opinions database (85,000+) and Gale Pa. Legal Forms are especially useful. The Lexis and Law Journal Press E-Book collections, supplement our book collection.
- Library staff participated in online training and continuing education webinars offered by the Western Pa. Law Library Association, Westlaw, Lexis, and the American Association of Law Libraries.
- 42 customized "Pathfinder" research guides, on frequently requested topics, were updated to assist our users in identifying and locating information available in our own library.
- The "in-house" directories and databases of local municipal ordinances, Pa Bar Institute publications, and local court opinions were updated.

## 2021 Statistics

Total Visits/Contacts by those using the Law Library:	7,018
Attorneys	3,518
Court & County	814
Public	2,686

Materials Circulated: (Books, CD's, and Document Delivery) 4,126

Online Research Transactions – Licensed Products:

Westlaw	7,401
Lexis	3,604
Other licensed databases	514

Local Ordinances Filed: (proposed, enacted, revised) 151

Printers: 5,612

Copier/Scanner/Fax: 12,384