

# 40th Annual InterCourt Conference



## Session 2E: Warren County Youth Court Program

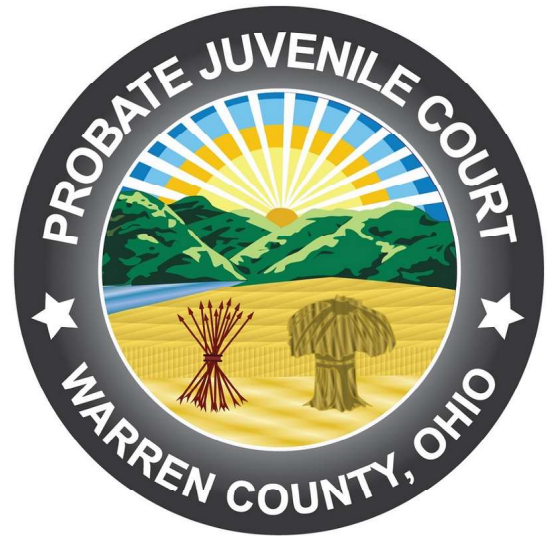
Presenters: *Charlie Gillespie &  
Jessica Coffey*

March 14, 2024  
1:15 - 2:45 p.m.



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

# Warren County Juvenile Court Youth Court



Charlie Gillespie, Probation Manager  
Jessica Coffey, Youth Court Coordinator  
Lucas, Youth Court Respondent  
Sam, Youth Court Participant

# What is Youth Court?

An alternate approach to juvenile justice in which juvenile offenders are sentenced by a jury of their peers. These programs simultaneously offer education and “hands-on” experience in the legal system to the many community youth who volunteer.

Warren County sessions are held twice a month from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm during the school year.

## Participant Recruiting Process

Every spring, presentations are made to all of the local high school government classes.

Students are given credit for community service that can go toward graduation requirements.

Volunteers are required to undergo mandatory training each year to participate.

# Youth Court Participants

Youth role players consist of:

Judge

Bailiff

Prosecutor

Defense Attorney

Jurors

Each youth participant is supervised by an adult professional who guides them through the judicial process.

# Youth Court Respondents

Complaints are screened by the Probation Manager to determine eligibility. Warren County only accepts first-time offenders.

If there is a victim, they must also agree to the respondent's case being sent to Youth Court.

In order to participate, respondents must admit to the charge. Youth Court sessions are solely for disposition.

# Potential Offenses

Each Court has the discretion to determine the criteria for acceptable cases.

Examples of offenses allowed are:

Possession of Marijuana

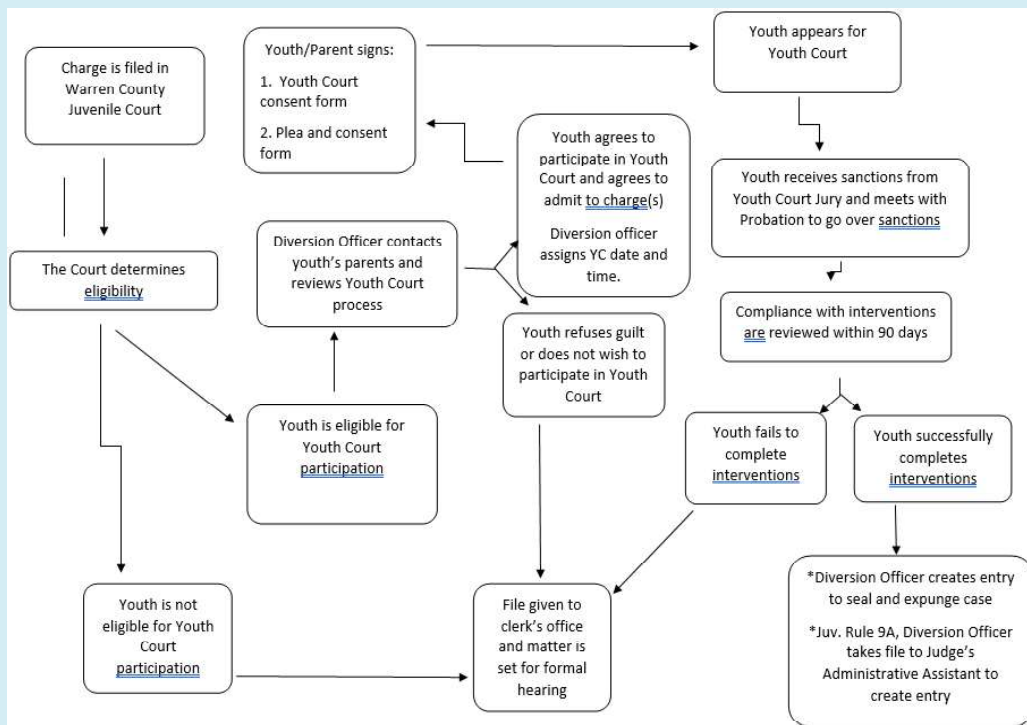
Theft (misdemeanor)

Disorderly Conduct

Criminal Trespass

Criminal Damaging

## Youth Court Flow Chart



# Session Process

Participants and the respondent are asked to arrive 15 minutes early to meet with their adult professional. The adult provides guidance through the process.

The session proceeds as a normal court hearing. The jury imposes sanctions which then become diversion orders to be supervised by the Probation Manager.

# Video

Sam, Youth Participant  
Lucas, Youth Respondent

## Success Rate

Over the last 2 years, 33 out of 35 respondents have not had any further contact with the court.

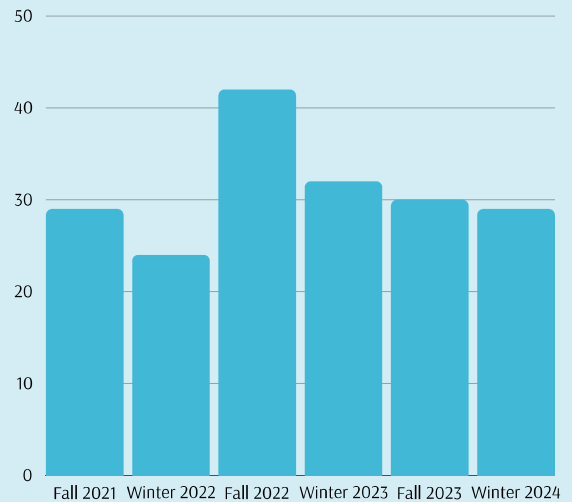


# Number of Participants

Since Fall 2021, there have been a total of 186 participants.

Of those 186, 29 students have come back for a second session.

Out of 29 students, 11 students have done at least three sessions.



## Why Choose Youth Court?

Allows youth who would not have any experience in the judicial system to gain civic knowledge and explore potential career paths

Enhances community relations and collaborative efforts with local school districts

Gives students a voice to help their peers, fostering an understanding that they can be influential in solving problems



# Questions

## Contact Information

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Jessica.Coffey@co.warren.oh.us  
513-695-2686

# YOUTH COURT

OPEN TO GRADES 9–12

APPLY NOW FOR FALL 2023

## REQUIREMENTS:

- Youth Court is held on Thursday's (5pm-7pm) twice a month. Sessions will be from August 31st - November 16th
- No minimum participation requirement
- Open to all students who live in Warren County
- Attend one-time MANDATORY training on August 17th

## YOUTH COURT IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE A:

JUDGE

BAILIFF

PROSECUTOR

DEFENSE LAWYER

JUROR

APPLY HERE



## BENEFITS / OUTCOMES:

HEAR REAL CASES  
BUILD YOUR COLLEGE RESUME  
LEARN ABOUT THE LAW  
EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT  
EXPLORE PUBLIC SERVICE OCCUPATIONS



## Warren County Juvenile Court

Held at:  
900 Memorial Drive  
Lebanon, Ohio