

COURT STAFF

Judge Luann Cooperrider



A lifelong resident of Perry County, Judge Luann Cooperrider is a graduate of Sheridan High School and currently resides in Thornville with her son, Cooper. She received her undergraduate degree from Ohio State University and earned her law

degree from Capital University. She practiced law in Perry County before being elected in 1991 as the Probate/Juvenile Court Judge. Tom Walser serves as the magistrate for the juvenile court; and Lea Ann Wells serves as court administrator.

STATISTICS

NUMBER OF CASES

Annually, the Juvenile Court handles, on average: 280 delinquent cases; 45 unruly cases; 170 traffic cases; 400 custody/child support cases; and 45 abuse/neglect/dependent cases.

REVENUES

The Juvenile Court brings in approximately \$40,000 each year in court costs and fees.

GRANT FUNDS

The Court actively pursues grant funding for programming and services to offer youth with which it comes into contact. The Court's budget is 52-percent grant-funded. Some of the following programs benefit from such funding.

PROGRAMS

Youth who come before Judge Cooperrider can be ordered into various programs as part of their disposition. These programs are meant to serve as a positive means through which Court personnel (and others) can interact with youth. These programs include the following:

COMMUNITY SERVICE: This program puts youth to work at various work sites throughout the county and includes such activities as community-wide clean-ups, landscaping and painting, helping unload food trucks at pantries and more.

RESTITUTION RECOVERY: Youth who owe restitution to a victim can work these monies off via community service-type activities; youth accrue an hourly wage (set with the current rate of minimum wage) and the accrued wages go specifically to their victim.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT: Youth identified as needing alcohol or drug assessment or treatment are referred to Perry Behavioral Health Choices (PBHC); PBHC has partnered with the court to provide these much-needed services for local youth. If an initial assessment reveals a youth needs these services, they enter into the *CHOICES* program.

COUNSELING (FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL): The Court partners with Allwell, PBHC, Integrated Services, and PATH to provide counseling services; the Court also provides students at the ALPHA school with counseling services through MVESC and PBHC.

DIVERSION: Diversion is designed to reach first-time offenders who commit a minor offense and is coordinated with the Perry County Prosecutor's Office. If a youth fulfills all the obligations set forth by the prosecutor's office, no charges are filed.

CAR TEENS: Designed for first-time traffic offenders, this program is presented by the Ohio State Highway Patrol and is co-sponsored by the Perry County OSU Extension office. Cost is \$25.00.

REMEDIAL DRIVING COURSE: This state-mandated program is designed for second-time traffic offenders and must be completed for driver license reinstatement. It is taught by a state certified instructor.

PROBATION (INTENSIVE OR STANDARD): The Court's Probation Department works with youth and their families to make sure they are in compliance with all court orders. Juveniles personally sign documentation outlining probation rules; are subject to random drug screenings; and are required to make a mandated evening office visit the first Tuesday of every month accompanied by their legal guardian for a probation review. In addition, probation officers often check-in with youth at school and/or at home.

THEFT PROGRAM: The Court works in conjunction with the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention to implement the Youth Educational Shoplifting program. This is a take-home program which concludes with the youth being tested over materials learned. Cost is \$50.00.

INFORMATION AND AWARENESS: From 2008 to 2019, the Court offered free summertime "Movies in the Park." Located in parks throughout the county, this program was designed with the hope of inspiring increased quality family time for folks within our local communities.

ALPHA PROGRAM: ALPHA is an alternative school designed to service youth who fail to attend school regularly or who are disruptive at their home school. Youth ages 12 to 18 are eligible to attend. Tuition reimbursement comes from the home school. Educational services are provided by the Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center (ESC). Funding is also provided by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

PRINCIPALS' MEETINGS: Since April 1991, Judge Cooperrider has coordinated and continues to utilize bi-monthly principal meetings. At these meetings, administrators from Perry County schools, as well as staff from Muskingum Valley ESC, meet with Judge Cooperrider to discuss youth placed in the ALPHA program and in other Court programs.

FATHERHOOD GRANT: In 2012, the Court received a Fatherhood Grant purposed to provide events/programming which promote strong and healthy relationships between fathers and their children.

IN ADDITION, THE COURT ALSO OFFERS wrap-around services, respite placement, and alternatives to detention for youth.

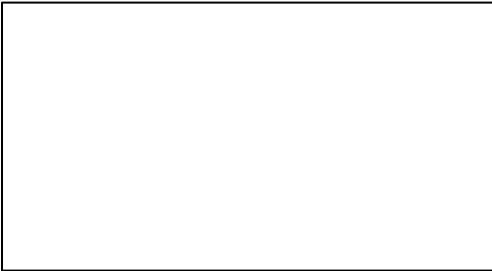
FACILITIES

PERRY MULTI-COUNTY JUVENILE FACILITY



The Perry Multi-County Juvenile Facility opened in 2002 and continues to be a strength of the Court. This facility, located in the Industrial Park in New Lexington, is a residential facility designed to house non-violent juvenile felony offenders from an eight-county region. This facility aims to rehabilitate offenders through various programs and counseling with a specialization in substance abuse counseling. This facility is funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

MULTI-COUNTY JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER



The Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center is located in Fairfield County. Perry County owns four of the 48 beds in this facility. The detention center accepts youth ages 12 to 18 years of age. This facility is a partnership between Fairfield, Hocking, Licking and Perry counties.

ALPHA ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL



FREE LEGAL CLINIC

In 2008, Judge Cooperrider and Perry County Judge Dean Wilson partnered with Legal Aid to offer a free legal clinic to income-eligible persons in Perry County. This clinic is held the first Tuesday of each month from 3:30pm to 5:00p.m. on the lower level of the Perry County Courthouse.

CONTACTS

Perry County Juvenile Court: 740.342.1118

Perry County Custody/Paternity: 740.342.5520

Court fax: 740.342.5524

Court e-mail: pcjuv@perrycountycourt.com

Court website:

perrycountycourt.com/JuvenileCourt/home/

ALPHA School: 740.342.4447

Perry County Sheriff's Office: 740.342.4123

**Perry County Prosecutor's Office:
740.342.3576**

**Perry County Commissioners' Office:
740.342.2045**

Mailing information:

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105 N. Main St. / PO BOX 167
New Lexington, OH 43764**

Perry County Juvenile Court



***Honorable Judge Luann Cooperrider
Common Pleas Court,
Juvenile/Probate Division***