

# 17th Circuit Court

Kent County Courthouse  
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## Mission

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

## Overview

The Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan. It has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court.

The Circuit Court has original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000, in all criminal cases where the offense is a felony or a serious misdemeanor, all domestic relations cases, and all child abuse, neglect, and delinquency cases.

The Circuit Court also hears appeals from lower courts; appeals from local government boards such as zoning appeals; and appeals from some administrative agencies of state government (such as the Driver's License Appeal Division of the Secretary of State).

There are 13 judges currently sitting on the 17th Circuit Court. The Court's activities are divided into the following functions:

- Administration and Adjudication Support Services
- Circuit Court Services
- Circuit Court Probation
- Family Division Juvenile Programs
- Friend of the Court

## Strategic Goals

- Meet the case processing time guidelines as promulgated by the Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office (Efficient Use of Resources).
- Reduce further recidivism (Safe Community).
- Effectively and Efficiently collect court ordered financial sanctions (Stable Revenues).
- Maximize the effectiveness of existing staff and continue to provide a high level of service and programming (Efficient Use of Resources).



## Significant Accomplishments

- Implemented YLS risk assessment tool for juvenile offenders
- Received grant to test feasibility of Mental Health Court
- Paperless Specialized Business Docket.
- Maintained high standard and improved overall percentage of case completions within time guidelines as set by the State Court Administrator's Office
- Implemented Truancy Court and Girls' Court

**DEPARTMENT: 17TH CIRCUIT COURT**

**Department Mission Statement:**

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

**Service Area: Case Processing**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To provide an effective and efficient caseload management process to ensure that those coming to the attention of the court receive procedural due process and equal protection.*

**Goal**

- To expedite the disposal of cases in a manner consistent with fairness to all parties.

**Objectives**

- To meet case processing time guidelines as promulgated by the State Court Administrative Office.
- To attain 100% clearance rates on all major case types.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of civil cases disposed within 728 days	93.00%	95.00%/ 94.00%	95.00%/ 94.00%	95.00%
% of all felony cases disposed within 301 days	98.00%	98.00%/ 98.00%	98.00%/ 98.00%	98.00%
% of divorce cases without children disposed within 364 days	98.85%	98.00%/ 99.00%	98.00%/ 99.00%	98.00%
% of divorce cases with children disposed within 364 days	98.65%	95.00%/ 96.00%	95.00%/ 97.00%	95.00%
% of child protective cases (not in placement) disposed of within 210 days	97.26%	98.00%/ 98.00%	98.00%/ 97.00%	98.00%
% of delinquency cases (non-custody) disposed of within 210 days	97.31%	98.00%/ 96.00%	98.00%/ 97.00%	98.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Efficiencies</b>				
Criminal case clearance rate	107.32%	100.00%/ 103.40%	100.00%/ 101.00%	100.00%
Civil case clearance rate	103.82%	100.00%/ 98.51%	100.00%/ 108.00%	100.00%
Divorce with children case clearance rate.	106.07%	100.00%/ 115.85%	100.00%/ 105.00%	100.00%
Juvenile delinquency case clearance rate	112.57%	100.00%/ 112.18%	100.00%/ 107.00%	100.00%
Child protective case clearance rate.	96.47%	100.00%/ 103.17%	100.00%/ 97.00%	100.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of civil case filings	1,415	1,500/ 1,207	1,500/ 1,072	1,300
# of criminal case filings	3,168	3,200/ 3,193	3,250/ 3,278	3,250
# of appeal case filings.	221	200/ 232	250/ 222	250
# of domestic relations case filings.	5,047	5,000/ 4,813	5,000/ 4,650	5,000
# of delinquency/traffic case filings.	3,307	3,350/ 3,063	3,200/ 2,702	2,700
# of child protective case filings	1,160	1,000/ 1,009	1,050/ 1,034	1,000

**Service Area: Alternative Dispute Resolution**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To provide a process designed to resolve a legal dispute in the place of court adjudication.*

**Goals**

- To provide parties an alternative to settling disputes without costly litigation and court involvement.
- To assist parties in settling their disputes with a greater degree of satisfaction.

**Objectives**

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

	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of divorce mediations settled or settled in part	79.00%	75.00%/ 77.70%	70.00%/ 79.70%	>75.00%
% of civil mediations settled or settled in part	65.00%	60.00%/ 67.00%	60.00%/ 61.20%	>60.00%
% satisfied with domestic mediation results	99.00%	80.00%/ 92.00%	90.00%/ 83.00%	>85.00%
% satisfied with civil mediation results	100.00%	85.00%/ 93.00%	90.00%/ 90.00%	>85.00%

	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of domestic mediations	396	350/ 425	350/ 399	>350
# of civil mediations	74	80/ 109	90/ 98	>90

**Service Area: Detention**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To provide short-term pre and post dispositional safe and secure custody for juveniles who can not be placed in a less restrictive setting and who have violated the law, violated court orders and stipulations of probation, and/or are waiting court-ordered placement.*

**Goal**

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

**Objectives**

- No residents will escape from Detention.
- Maintain a daily census of 69 residents or less.
- 100% of newly hired youth specialists will receive a minimum of 80 hours of training within 45 days of hire.
- Less than 50 incidences of residents assaulting residents will be documented per year.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
# of successful escapes from Detention	0	0/ 0	0/ 0	0
# of days over capacity	0	0/ 0	0/ 0	0
% of staff who complete 24 hours of training	100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%
% of new staff who complete 80 hours of training within 45 days of hire	100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of admissions to Detention	1,379	1,500/ 1,282	1,500/ 1,015	1,400

**Service Area: Crisis Intervention Program**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

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

**Goal**

- To prevent status offenders or youth involved in minor law violations from becoming court wards.

**Objectives**

- 85% of all status offenders who receive Crisis Intervention Program services will be diverted from court wardship for 120 days.
- 90% of youth will remain in their own home while services are being provided and upon case closing.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of youth residing in their own homes at the time of service closure	95.00%	90.00%/ 93.00%	90.00%/ 91.00%	>90.00%
% of status offenders released from Detention within 6 hours of admission to Detention	100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%/ 100.00%	100.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of families served	381	400/ 284	400/ 286	>280

**Service Area: Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Program**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To provide in-home assessment and treatment services to juvenile sex offenders, ages 8 - 17.*

**Goal**

- To prevent further sexual victimization

**Objectives**

- Less than 10% of juvenile sex offenders will reoffend sexually during treatment.
- Less than 5 juvenile sex offenders will reoffend sexually within 1 year of treatment completion.
- 75% of all juvenile sex offenders in treatment will complete treatment objectives.
- 80% of juvenile sex offenders will reside in their own home during treatment.

	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of youth in their own homes during treatment	89.00%	85.00%/71.00%	80.00%/81.00%	<80.00%
% of youth completing treatment objectives	93.00%	80.00%/92.00%	85.00%/91.00%	>85.00%
% of youth reoffending during treatment	0.00%	<8.00%/0.00%	<8.00%/0.00%	<8.00%
# of youth sexually reoffending within 1 year from completion of treatment objectives	1	<5/2	5/0	<4

	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of youth accepted into treatment	31	50/31	50/32	>35

**Service Area: Young Delinquent Intervention Program**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To provide home-based services to children and their parents of youth 11 years old and younger who have broken the law.*

**Goal**

- To prevent further delinquency by intervening early with very young offenders (11 years old and younger)

**Objectives**

- 75% of all young offenders in treatment will complete their treatment objectives
- Less than 10% of young offenders will have a new law violation while in treatment.
- 90% of Family Closure surveys returned will have an average score of 3 or higher.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% who complete treatment objectives	76.00%	75.00%/ 75.00%	75.00%/ 86.00%	>80.00%
% who are placed in foster care	0.00%	<15.00%/ 11.00%	<15.00%/ 0.00%	<15.00%
% who have a new law violation while in treatment	0.00%	<10.00%/ 5.00%	<10.00%/ 0.00%	<10.00%
% who reoffend within 12 months of discharge from wardship	5.00%	<5.00%/ 8.00%	<5.00%/ 3.00%	<3.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of young offenders served	21	25/ 28	25/ 32	30



**Service Area: Community Probation**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*Community probation is a unique and non-traditional way of providing decentralized and personalized court supervision to juveniles and their families that reside in a specific sector of the city or metro area.*

**Goal**

- To reduce further delinquency in the targeted population.

**Objectives**

- Less than 10% of the cases assigned to community probation will be referred by the police for a new felony offense while on community probation.
- Less than 10% of intake cases closed at intake will return again to intake with a new law violation committed within 12 months of closure at intake
- 80% of parents surveyed immediately after their child is discharged from probation will indicate satisfaction with the work of the probation officer assigned.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of juveniles successfully discharged from probation and referred again to the court for a new law violation.	20.30%	<20.00%/ 21.00%	<20.00%/ 16.00%	<20.00%
% of juveniles on community probation who are referred by the police for a felony law violation.	8.80%	<10.00%/ 7.30%	<10.00%/ 7.90%	<10.00%
% of parents satisfied with the work of the community probation officer.	94.90%	90.00%/ 97.00%	90.00%/ 94.00%	>90.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of juveniles placed on community probation.	465	450/ 449	450/ 407	450

**Service Area: Finance & Collections**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To enforce court financial sanctions and enhance the court's integrity and credibility while providing funds to assure victims are made whole and support law enforcement, libraries, the crime victim's rights fund, and local government.*

**Goals**

- To effectively and efficiently collect court ordered financial sanctions.
- To hold parties accountable and enforce court ordered financial sanctions.

**Objectives**

No objective information has been entered

	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of parties with ordered sanctions sent a monthly statement within 60 days of the account being established and an verified address is present.	83.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%
% of parties presenting to the Finance Department from the courtroom who complete a financial assessment and are set up with a payment plan.	100.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%/100.00%	100.00%
% of accounts with payment plans that are monitored for compliance within 3 days of the first payment date.	96.00%	98.00%/99.00%	100.00%/89.00%	100.00%

	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Efficiencies</b>				
Collections to cost rate (dollar collected/dollar spent).	0.18	0.18/0.18	0.18/0.18	0.18

	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Outputs</b>				
Amount of revenue collected.	3,553,539	3,500,000/3,604,576	3,600,000/3,662,120	3,600,000

**Service Area: Court Services**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To plan, develop, and administer quality, cost-effective alternatives to incarceration for appropriate defendants/offenders, which enhance the effectiveness of the local criminal justice system, and thereby serve the needs of the courts and the residents of Kent County.*

**Goal**

- To assist the local criminal justice system by providing alternatives to incarceration/Detention.

**Objectives**

- 85% of defendants placed on supervised release will successfully complete the program.
- Less than 6% of cases on pretrial supervision will fail to appear (FTA)
- 85% of defendants placed on diversion will successfully complete all diversion requirements

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of supervised pretrial release cases that FTA	4.00%	<5.00%/ 6.00%	<6.00%/ 6.00%	<6.00%
% of successfully closed supervised release cases	88.00%	85.00%/ 88.00%	85.00%/ 84.00%	85.00%
The average number of days from plea to sentence for presumed prison-bound cases.	28	30/ 26	30/ 27	30
% of Maximum Supervision (tether) cases that are closed successfully.	88.00%	85.00%/ 98.00%	85.00%/ 0.93%	85.00%
% of adult community service cases closed successfully	80.00%	80.00%/ 80.00%	80.00%/ 80.00%	80.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Efficiencies</b>				
# of jail beds saved by pretrial supervision	110,389	100,000/ 120,197	110,000/ 121,000	110,000

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of adult defendants placed on community service	2,223	2,500/ 2,567	2,500/ 2,500	2,500
# of defendants placed on Work Crew	671	550/ 396	500/ 738	500
# of defendants enrolled in Maximum Supervision (tether)	35	30/ 47	35/ 69	40

**Service Area: Office of Community Corrections (OCC)**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To support and expand the use of community sanctions and promote the efficient use of jail/prison beds while protecting public safety.*

**Goal**

- To promote the use of community-based sanctions as a sentencing option for prison and/or jail bound offenders.

**Objectives**

- Expend 100% of the Michigan Department of Community Corrections service grant.
- Maintain an overall program enrollment rate of 95% or greater.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
% of program enrollment	111.60%	95.00%/ 117.50%	95.00%/ 111.00%	95.00%
% of successful terminations	84.00%	70.00%/ 67.00%	70.00%/ 69.00%	70.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Efficiencies</b>				
Jail beds saved (includes community service/work crew and pretrial supervision)	99,245	95,000/ 120,197	95,000/ 101,000	95,000

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
# of eligible OCC offenders served.	2,749	2,500/ 1,792	2,500/ 1,731	1,700