
JUVENILE COURT OF CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA



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FISCAL YEAR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Fellow Citizens:

I am pleased to present to you Clayton County Juvenile Court's report for fiscal year 2013. We strongly believe the Citizens of Clayton County are entitled to be informed about the functioning of their Juvenile Court and trust that you will find this report useful and informative.



The latter half of 2012 and first part of 2013 have been significant for our court. We continue to implement reforms in anticipation of the first comprehensive re-write of Georgia's Juvenile Court since the 1970s. These reforms are complementary to our continued work with the [Annie E. Casey Foundation's](#) Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). In addition, construction of our new home, the Clayton County Youth Development and Justice Center was completed in August 2012. We moved in with much anticipation and fanfare in September and have very much enjoyed working in a facility that was designed around our philosophy and business practices. Several photos of the CCYDJC are included with this report.

As you will note from the charts contained in this report, the shifting of our workload from formal processing to informal processing continues the trend from the past few years. We are hopeful that with the support of the [Clayton County Board of Commissioners](#) as well as with internal operational changes spurred by innovative thinking, we will continue to be able to provide and expand evidence-based services to our community. We are certainly appreciative of the cooperation we receive from many agencies, including the [Clayton County Sheriff's Office](#), [Clayton County District Attorney's Office](#), [Clayton County Public Defender's Office](#), [Clayton County Police Department](#), [Clayton County Board of Education](#), as well as the municipal law enforcement agencies within the county. We also continue to maintain a strong working relationship with the [Division of Family and Children Services](#), [Department of Juvenile Justice](#), the [Criminal Justice Coordinating Council](#), and the [Governor's Office for Children and Families](#).

Our collaborative efforts remain focused on public safety, holding youth accountable for their behavior, youthful offender rehabilitation, the restoration of families, as well as services to victims.

I am proud of the national attention these efforts have received, including coverage in [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Nation](#), the [Atlanta Journal and Constitution](#), [CBS Evening News](#), as well as numerous other journals and periodicals.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Teske
Chief Judge

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JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

VISION AND MISSION OF THE JUVENILE COURT

The *VISION* of Clayton County Juvenile Court is a safe and secure community that utilizes prevention and treatment services in collaboration with families and other organizations to ensure the well-being of children.

The *MISSION* of Clayton County Juvenile Court is to endeavor to protect and restore the children of the county as secure and law-abiding members of society and to strengthen families and reduce the need for further intervention by the prompt treatment, rehabilitation, and supervision of delinquent and unruly children and decisive processing of dependency cases.

JURISDICTION OF THE JUVENILE COURT

Any child under the age of 17, who is a resident of Clayton County and is alleged to have committed a delinquent or unruly act as defined by the [Official Code of Georgia Annotated § 15-11-2](#), and any child who is under the age of 18, who is a resident of Clayton County and alleged to be deprived as defined by *OCGA* § 15-11-2, falls under the jurisdiction of the Clayton County Juvenile Court.

Georgia law requires that certain serious felony offenses be handled by the Superior Court if committed by a youth 13 to 17 years of age (*OCGA* § 15-11-28). Collectively known as the “Seven Deadly Sins,” these offenses include: murder, voluntary manslaughter, rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated child molestation, aggravated sexual battery, and armed robbery if committed with a firearm.

Number of Youth Served in Fiscal Year 2013: 3,114

The Juvenile Court receives referrals from more than ten local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, the Division of Family and Children Services, school officials, parents and other sources. These referrals are commonly called “complaints.”

There is no filing fee for submitting a complaint to the Juvenile Court, but there are fees associated with publication in certain deprivation matters, and supervision fees are often assessed in cases where a youth is placed on probation or under informal supervision. These fees may be used to purchase services such as counseling and educational services and for programs such mediation and community service (symbolic restitution) in accordance with *OCGA* § 15-11-71.

The primary source of funding for the Juvenile Court is the [Clayton County Board of Commissioners](#). We also receive fiscal support through grants from the state and federal governments as well as private foundations.

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

The following is a partial list of services provided by the Juvenile Court or its partnering community service providers:

- Crisis intervention and counseling
- Psychological assessment
- Home study and evaluation
- Probation
- Restitution and community service
- Resource coordination
- Informal adjustment of minor offenses; mediation and other alternative dispute resolution
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and guardian ad litem services
- Permanency planning in deprivation matters
- Surveillance of high-risk offenders; electronic monitoring
- Second Chance Court for designated felony offenders
- Drug testing for youth under the Juvenile Court's supervision

The Juvenile Court is a founding member of the Clayton County System of Care. The Juvenile Court also pursues the Balanced and Restorative Justice Model (www.ojjdp.gov) of juvenile justice and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (www.jdaihelpdesk.org) model of juvenile justice reform.

OPERATIONAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

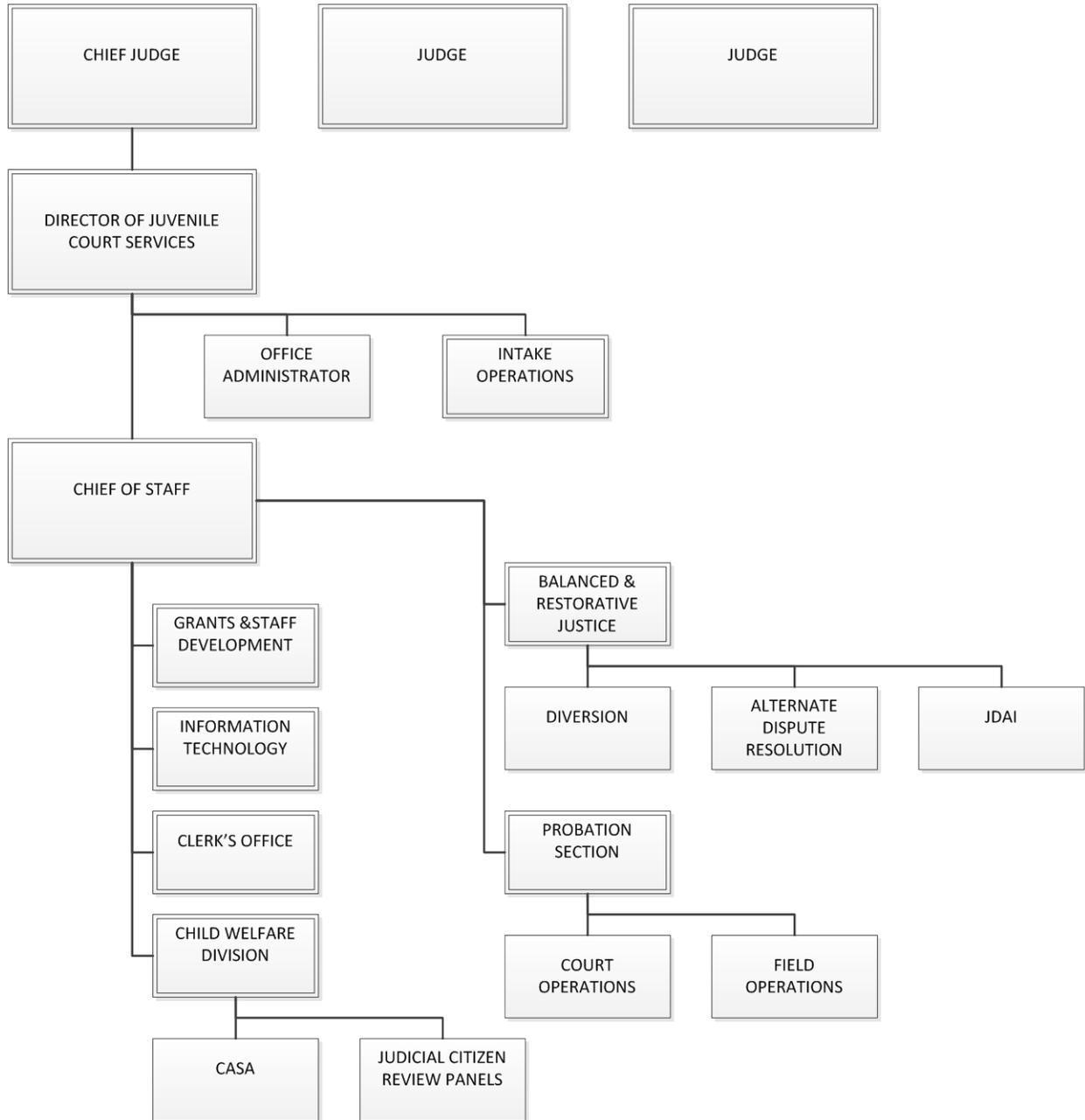
The Juvenile Court receives the vast majority of its funding from the Clayton County Board of Commissioners. More than half of that funding goes to support the salaries and benefits of the Juvenile Court's more than 70 full- and part-time employees. The remainder of the budget is devoted to supporting the Juvenile Court's operations and includes \$24,000 for direct services to the juveniles that fall under the Juvenile Court's jurisdiction.

In addition to funding from the Board of Commissioners, the Juvenile Court also collects supervision fees from juveniles who are placed under informal and formal supervision by the Juvenile Court. The expenditure of these fees is limited by statute to providing assessments and evaluations; programs that are educational in nature; treatment services; and to support the supervision of youth under the Juvenile Court's supervision.

Finally, as in past years, the Juvenile Court was very successful in Fiscal Year 2013, in obtaining grants to help support our work. Please see the [Grants and Staff Development](#) section of this report for more detailed information on the work of this unit.

The operational budget of the Juvenile Court in Fiscal Year 2013 remained flat at \$4,114,582 (received from the Clayton County Board of Commissioners). This represents a nearly three percent reduction from the funding levels of 2011. The Juvenile Court collected \$16,054.14 in Supervision Fees and was awarded more than \$600,000 in grant funding during the fiscal year (grant award payments are generally staggered based on the length of grant agreement and are not usually received en masse by the Juvenile Court in the year we are awarded the grant).

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



JUDICIARY

The Juvenile Court is served by three full-time judges, with the Honorable Steven C. Teske serving as the Chief Judge since July 2011. The Juvenile Court Judges are appointed by the [Clayton County Superior Court](#) to four-year terms.

The judges in Juvenile Court hear all cases that come under its jurisdiction if formally processed. This includes the arraignment, adjudication and disposition hearings in matters of delinquency, unruliness, deprivation and traffic violations. Detention hearings, to determine whether or not a child must remain in a detention facility pending further court action, are another responsibility of the judges. The judges of Juvenile Court are responsible for issuing all orders of the Juvenile Court as well as bench warrants, pick-up orders, and ex parte orders.

In addition to these types of cases, the Juvenile Court judges are called on to hear a variety of special proceedings cases. These cases involve special circumstances such as permission to marry, extensions of custody, waiver of parental notification of abortion, expungement of a person's name from the state child abuse registry, and termination of parental rights. Juvenile Court judges may also serve as superior court judges when designated to do so.

Of the special proceedings, perhaps the most extreme is the termination of parental rights. These highly emotional and sensitive cases involve the severance of any and all relationship between a parent and child, opening the door to possible adoption of the child. During Fiscal Year 2013, there were **18** such cases filed in the Juvenile court; of those, **17** resulted in the severance of the parents' rights.

CHIEF JUDGE STEVEN C. TESKE

The Honorable Steven C. Teske was appointed associate judge with the Juvenile Court in July 1999, and was appointed judge in July 2003. With the retirement of the Honorable K. Van Banke in July 2011, Judge Teske was appointed Chief Judge of Clayton County Juvenile Court. While on the bench, he has received the Scales of Justice Award from the [National Association of Legal Professionals](#) for "conduct that exemplifies the hallmark of professionalism and ethical standards and inspires public confidence in the legal system;" the Judge Romae T. Powell Award from the [Juvenile Court Association of Georgia](#); the Community Service Award from the Clayton County Chapter of the [NAACP](#); the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) Hero of Open Government Award; and the International Humanitarian Hero Award by the [World Chamber of Commerce](#).

Judge Teske has served as the President of the [Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges](#). He has been appointed by the governor to serve on the [Children and Youth Coordinating Council](#); [Commission on Family Violence](#); Judiciary Advisory Council for the Department of Juvenile Justice; the Governor's Office for Children and Families; the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform; and the Federal Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice.

Judge Teske has written articles calling for reform in juvenile justice and child welfare that have been published in *Juvenile & Family Court Journal*, the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric*

Nursing, Juvenile & Family Justice Today, and the *Georgia Bar Journal*, among others. He has testified before several state legislatures and Congress on detention reform.

JUDGE DEITRA BURNEY-BUTLER

The Honorable Deitra Burney-Butler was appointed to the Juvenile Court bench in January 2009. Prior to being appointed, Judge Burney-Butler practiced law for several years as both an assistant district attorney with the Clayton County District Attorney's Office and in private practice where she practiced primarily in criminal defense and family law.

Judge Burney-Butler currently serves as the lead judge for the Juvenile Court's Deprivation Practices and Innovations Committee, where she has been instrumental in automating many of the systems, documents and orders pertaining to deprivation matters. In conjunction with the Deprivation Practices and Innovations Committee, Judge Burney-Butler serves as the chair of the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Committee and co-chair of the Truancy Protocol Committee of Clayton County.

Judge Burney-Butler is a 1994 graduate of the [University of Denver's College of Law](#) and is a member of both the Georgia and Colorado Bar Associations. Judge Burney-Butler is a member of the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#); the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges, where she serves on the Delinquency Improvement Initiative and Deprivation Improvement Initiative Committees; and the American Bar Association's Judicial Division. She is also a member of the [Clayton County Bar Association](#).

Judge Burney-Butler is the mother of one son and is involved in various capacities in many school and sports activities. Judge Burney-Butler is a member of a local church in addition to many other community and religious organizations.

JUDGE BOBBY D. SIMMONS

The Honorable Bobby D. Simmons was appointed as a judge to the Juvenile Court in July 2011. Prior to his appointment to the Juvenile Court he served as the Presiding Judge of the [Magistrate Court of Clayton County](#) since June 2006, and prior to that as a part-time municipal judge of [Forest Park, Georgia](#).

Judge Simmons is a 1986 graduate of the [Mississippi College of Law](#) with a Doctorate of Jurisprudence. He was sworn into the [Georgia Bar](#) in June of 1986. He is a 1979 graduate of the [University of Arkansas](#) for Medical Sciences with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Radiologic Technology, where he minored in business administration and computer sciences. Additionally, he is a 1974 graduate of the University of Arkansas Medical Center's College of Health Related Professions in Radiologic Technology.

Judge Simmons' entire life has been about service to his fellow man, whether as a technologist, radiology department manager, lawyer, judge, Sunday School teacher, deacon, or Gideon Board Member. Judge Simmons is a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges, where he serves on the Bench Book Committee, Technology Committee, and Court Improvement Initiative Committees. He is a member of the Clayton County Bar Association, having served as President for the 2011-2012 term, and he has

served as an officer in all other capacities. He is a faithful member of the [First Baptist Church of Jonesboro](#), where he serves as deacon, Choir & Praise Team member, Sunday School teacher and Faith Team member, as well as a representative to Gideons International, serving as vice president of the Fayetteville East Camp. He is also a member of the [Board of Clayton County Community Services Authority](#). Judge Simmons believes, “ignorance is simply not knowing; stupidity is having the opportunity to ‘know’ and refusing to take it.”

ADMINISTRATION

The daily operations of the Juvenile Court are administered by the Director of Juvenile Court Services, John P. Johnson, III. With more than 20 years of service to the Juvenile Court, Mr. Johnson oversees the operations of the Juvenile Court and its more than 70 employees. He and Chief of Staff Colin Slay were instrumental in the design and construction of the Juvenile Court's new facility, the Clayton County Youth Development and Justice Center, and are both active members of the [Georgia Council of Court Administrators](#).

Also included in the administrative section of the Juvenile Court are Chief of Staff Colin Slay, a 2011 graduate of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's [Applied Leadership Network](#); Office Administrator Janice Wilson; the Coordinator of Grants and Staff Development; and the Juvenile Court Information Technology Coordinator Cassandra Watson.

GRANTS AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Our Grants and Staff Development Unit is staffed by a Coordinator and a part-time program assistant. The unit is responsible for researching and writing for grants in support of our programs. The unit also manages grant awards by compiling statistical and financial reports and coordinating grant activities with partnering agencies.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the Juvenile Court applied for eleven grants, with a total potential award of \$2,255,825. Of those, four were awarded, totaling \$607,140, in revenue to support our Second Chance Court, System of Care and CASA program. Pre-existing grants and newly awarded grants funded a total of eleven positions during the course of the year. Two grants were denied for a total of \$757,500. Five grants are still pending an award decision as of the writing of this report, for a total of \$891,185. This represented about 1,320 hours of work.

Additionally the Grants and Staff Development Unit managed and closed out the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice grant totaling \$670,806 over a three year period. The grant close-out resulted in the loss of one full-time employee and six part-time employees.

The unit is also responsible for coordinating and providing training and development opportunities for Juvenile Court staff, including orientation training for new employees. The training comes in a number of formats, including free web-based seminars, review of emerging juvenile justice research, on-site classes and coordination with partners such as [Riverwoods Behavioral Health](#), who provides professional development opportunities for staff. Many Juvenile Court staff are also members of the [Juvenile Court Association of Georgia](#) and attend their annual conference, which offers two-and-a-half days of seminars and other educational opportunities.

For Fiscal Year 2013, Juvenile Court staff participated in 16 training opportunities. The coordinator also developed a Train-the-Trainers curriculum to better enable unit supervisors to provide technical training to their unit members on an ad hoc basis.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

The Clerk of the Juvenile Court, Robin Austin, oversees a staff consisting of the Juvenile Court’s receptionist, an assistant clerk, and eight deputy clerks who perform a wide variety of important duties. The Clerk has the responsibility for the maintenance of all juvenile records. All cases coming before the Juvenile Court are processed through the Clerk’s Office and files are forwarded to the appropriate division.

The Clerk’s Office is responsible for recording all traffic citations, complaints, petitions, motions and orders filed in the Juvenile Court. The tasks of typing delinquent and unruly petitions, assigning court-appointed attorneys, scheduling hearings, issuing summons, notifying attorneys, scheduling interpreters, preparing court dockets, and recording case dispositions are also the responsibilities of the Clerk’s Office. In Fiscal Year 2013, **3,114** complaints were filed, **1,803** petitions were processed, **3,810** hearings were scheduled, and **4,033** dispositions were entered.

The Clerk is responsible for the receipt and disbursement of monies for all court-ordered payments. These payments include restitution, child support, translator reimbursements, traffic fines, attorney fees, publication fees, copy fees and supervision fees. Table 1 lists the monies collected and disbursed by the Juvenile Court during Fiscal Year 2013.

TABLE 1

TYPE	COLLECTED	DISBURSED
Publication	\$1,090.00	\$930.00
Restitution	\$8,742.14	\$12,290.85
Supervision fees	\$16,054.14	\$15,646.00
Traffic fines	\$3,534.00	\$4,075.00
Translator reimbursements	\$32.50	\$32.50
Copy fees	\$1,275.50	\$1,708.45
Guardian Ad Litem fees	0	0
TOTALS	\$30,255.14	\$34,682.80

Note: Amounts disbursed may not equal amounts collected. This occurs because some funds collected during the prior fiscal year were not paid out during the same fiscal year. Fees for publication are not disbursed until the completion of the publication and the invoices are received. Copy fees are disbursed at the close of the fiscal year.

The Clerk’s Office prepares records when cases are transferred to another court and prepares transcripts for appeals as required. The confidentiality of Juvenile Court records is maintained through this office. The Clerk’s Office also holds the responsibility for sealing the records in compliance with the policy of the Juvenile Court and *OCGA* § 15-11-79.2.

INTAKE OPERATIONS

Intake Operations is responsible for receiving referrals from law enforcement officers, parents, school officials, and private citizens on children alleged to be delinquent, unruly, deprived, or who have been cited for traffic violations. Intake Operations is led by Intake Supervisor Catherine Slay and a staff of three full-time court officers, two part-time court officers, and an intake assistant.

DELINQUENT AND UNRULY CASE PROCESSING

When a private citizen files a complaint alleging that a child has committed a delinquent or unruly act as defined by *OCGA* § 15-11-2, the intake officer prepares the case paperwork for the assistant district attorney assigned to Juvenile Court, who investigates and determines if there is probable cause to believe the child committed the act. Juveniles are generally not detained on private citizen complaints. When a child is charged by the police with a delinquent act, the police officer is responsible for conducting the investigation. After a child is charged by the police, the intake officer assesses the information to determine how the case should proceed. This assessment includes obtaining police reports, staffing cases with probation officers, the assistant district attorney, and other pertinent individuals. Under *OCGA* § 15-11-68 and 15-11-69, an intake officer may divert cases to informal processes such as mediation, counseling, informal adjustments, or may set the case for court to be heard by a judge.

In Fiscal Year 2013, Intake Operations received 1,945 cases alleging delinquency or unruliness.

If a child is charged with a delinquent offense and taken into custody by the police, the information is immediately processed, and the intake officer makes a decision whether or not to detain or release the child. Intake officers utilize a Detention Assessment Instrument to guide these decisions. If a child is detained for a delinquent offense, an informal detention hearing will be scheduled within 48 hours. These informal hearings are held by a judge for the purpose of officially making a decision on probable cause, further execution of the case, and to determine if detention of the child is warranted pending the next phase in the process. When the detention occurs over the weekend or during holidays, where an informal hearing cannot be set within 48 hours, an informal staffing is conducted by an intake officer with a judge to determine if there is probable cause to hold the child in detention until the hearing can be held.

In Fiscal Year 2013, Intake Operations made 638 detention decisions. Of those, Intake Operations released 416 and detained 222 juveniles.

DEPRIVATION CASE PROCESSING

In addition to handling delinquent and unruly complaints, intake officers routinely handle cases alleging deprivation. According to *OCGA* § 15-11-2, a deprived child is defined as a child who is without proper parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his or her physical, mental, or emotional health or morals; has been placed for care or adoption in violation of the law; has been abandoned by his parents or other legal

custodian; or is without a parent, guardian, or custodian. These cases primarily come from three sources: the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), law enforcement, and private citizens.

In Fiscal Year 2013, Intake Operations received 966 complaints alleging deprivation.

DFCS is often the complainant. The intake officer facilitates the processing of the petition from DFCS and plays a coordinating role to some extent in efforts made by the agencies involved in the placement of the child into shelter care or with a relative. The intake officer schedules these cases for their first appearance before a judge, which occurs within 72 hours of the removal of the child from his or her parents or legal custodian.

If a police officer encounters a situation in which there is probable cause to believe a child is deprived and in danger from his or her immediate surroundings, the officer may take the child into protective custody and deliver him or her to the Juvenile Court. In this instance, the intake officer is responsible for contacting DFCS to investigate relative placement of the child. If there is no appropriate relative, the child will be placed into shelter care with DFCS pending court action. The intake officer is also responsible for scheduling these cases for their initial appearance before a Juvenile Court judge.

Frequently, an allegation of deprivation is made by a private citizen or family member, such as a grandparent. These types of allegations are outlined in a pre-screening form that is forwarded to DFCS for investigation. If substantiated, DFCS will file the petition seeking custody on behalf of the complainant. In the course of the investigation, an evaluation will be made of the situation of the current legal custodian as well as the appropriateness of the home of the complainant if requesting custody. Upon the completion of the investigation, a hearing is scheduled and the investigative report is presented to the Juvenile Court judge for consideration and a determination of the most suitable placement of the child.

In Fiscal Year 2013, there were 872 petitions alleging deprivation filed in the Juvenile Court. Of this number, 542 petitions were filed by DFCS, 77 petitions were filed by law enforcement officers, and 219 were filed by private citizens or relatives. The remaining 43 petitions were filed by other persons such as school officials, probation officers, or attorneys.

BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (BARJ) DIVISION

The BARJ Division is an important facet of the Juvenile Court. Research indicates that juveniles who commit minor offenses are most often better served and have better outcomes from informal processing when compared to minor offenders placed into the formal juvenile justice system. Further, delinquent juveniles who are detained are far more likely to reoffend than their peers who are not detained.¹

The BARJ Division is serviced by two Coordinators, Tabatha Barker (Diversion) and Shelia Key (Alternative Dispute Resolution), five full time court officers, one part-time court officer, two part-time program assistants and a part-time transportation aide.

DIVERSION AND INFORMAL ADJUSTMENTS

Informal adjustments and diversion programs are authorized by *OCGA* § 15-11-68 and 15-11-69, and are appropriate for complaints filed by law enforcement or other individuals in which the juvenile is alleged to have committed a delinquent or unruly act that is not of serious nature and where the juvenile appears amenable to informal handling.

Program data for Fiscal Year 2013, indicates there were 699 cases referred for screening for informal processes and more than 255 informal contracts were initiated and monitored for a period of 90-180 days.

DIVERSION & INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT SCREENING PROCESS

Delinquent and unruly complaints referred to BARJ are screened towards first seeking an informal adjustment of the matter where it is in the best interest of the child and the community. The juvenile complaint is examined to determine if the child is eligible for diversion/informal adjustment or mediation and is based on the totality of the child's circumstances, which may include the child's age at the time of the offense, nature of the act, ability of the parents to correct and provide treatment for the child, resources available in the community to provide treatment, correction or discipline already provided by the parent or school system, the child's level of remorse and the parents' understanding the child's need for correction. After considering these circumstances, the court officer may recommend dismissal, refer the child/family to another agency for services, informally adjust the case, file a petition or take other appropriate action.

MEETING THE CRITERIA

In order to qualify for an informal adjustment, the following criteria must take place: the admitted facts must bring the child within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court; it must be determined that counsel and advice without an adjudication would be in the best interest of the public and child, the child and child's parents or custodian must consent to the informal adjustment with knowledge that consent is not obligatory; and if the child is alleged to have committed a designated felony act as

¹ In their report, [No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration](#), the Annie E. Casey Foundation cites multiple studies documenting the dangers associated with using detention, particularly when there are more effective, less costly alternatives available.

defined by *OCGA* § 15-11-63, the case shall not be subject to informal adjustment, counsel, or advice without the prior written notification of the assistant district attorney.

INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT AGREEMENTS

If it is determined that the child shall be placed on an informal adjustment agreement, the agreement will be monitored by a court officer for a period not to exceed three months. A judge may extend the informal adjustment agreement for an additional three months. Conditions of the informal adjustment agreement may include an apology letter, essay, report, study logs, volunteer work with a community service organization, counseling, random drug/alcohol screening, child/parent participation in court programs and activities, a supervision fee, electronic monitoring, a curfew or house arrest. Failure to comply with the agreement may result in the filing of a formal petition on the complaint.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

Program Services staff coordinates the programming that is delivered to youth who come to the attention of the Juvenile Court. The Juvenile Court places an emphasis on utilizing programs and services that have demonstrated successful outcomes or have been proven by research to be effective at reducing recidivism. Often referred to as Promising Practices and Evidence Based Practices respectively, the Juvenile Court actively seeks community-based service providers who adhere to the federal [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's \(OJJDP\) Model Programs Guide](#).² Youth who are on probation, as well as those who are supervised under informal adjustment agreements are referred to these programs by their supervising court officers. First-time offenders are sometimes given an opportunity to have their charge dismissed by completing a workshop or program.

Most programs offered by the Juvenile Court or its community partners require parental participation, which empowers the parent to reinforce the information at home, thereby increasing the Juvenile Court's effectiveness with their children. Our programs require a referral from the child's court officer, probation officer, school resource officer or school administrator.

For more information about our programs, or to inquire about becoming a preferred program provider, please contact Court Officer [Keshia Johnson](#) at (770) 477-5964.

² Under the Department of Justice, OJJDP provides guidance for juvenile justice practitioners for the implementation of Promising Practices and Evidence Based Practices. Clayton County Juvenile Court is currently engaged with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's [Evidence2Success](#) program in developing a needs profile of the juveniles that come before the Juvenile Court. Once completed, this needs assessment will be used to drive the development of treatment programs for children that fall under the Juvenile Court's jurisdiction.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

For up-to-date scheduling information for recurring Juvenile Court programs and events, please visit our [Facebook](#) page.

PROJECT HIP

Project HIP is a collaborative effort between [Hearts to Nourish Hope](#), the [Riverdale Police Department](#), and the Juvenile Court. This program gives youth a true picture of prison and gang life as told by young adults and provides interactive panels for parents and teens with school personnel, law enforcement and community service providers. It also offers opportunities for making community connections to resources that may be helpful for participants and their families. The program is generally held one Wednesday a month, from 6:30-8:30 PM, at Hearts to Nourish Hope in Riverdale.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Conflict Resolution is a workshop aimed at developing problem solving and conflict resolution strategies, whether the conflict occurs in a classroom, at home or results from an ongoing emotional issue. This program includes real-life simulation exercises that promote positive resolution of issues, working collaboratively to solicit responses and solutions, and teaches skills that can be applied in other settings through cognitive restructuring techniques. The workshop is held one Thursday a month from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Clayton County Youth Development and Justice Center in Jonesboro.

PERSONAL SPACE

The Personal Space workshop is an eight-hour session that occurs on a Saturday, requiring youth and parents to participate in discussion that explore personal boundaries, effective communication, and making good choices. The workshop is scheduled based on referral needs and is held at the Clayton County Youth Development Center in Jonesboro.

CHOICES

The CHOICES program is a collaboration between the Juvenile Court and Clayton County Public Schools. It meets for four consecutive evenings (Monday-Thursday) from 6:30-8:30 PM, and addresses making good choices and issues associated with the use of illegal substances. Referrals are school-based.

THEFT PREVENTION WORKSHOP

The Theft Prevention Workshop requires youth and parents to participate in eight hours of discussions that explore the reasons for and the consequences associated with stealing as well as effective communication and making good choices. Scheduling is based on referral need.

INTRODUCTION TO JUVENILE COURT

Introduction to Juvenile Court is a workshop designed to educate court-involved youth and their families with an overview of the policies, terminology and processes of the juvenile justice system.

The workshop is held one Tuesday a month, from 7:00-8:00 PM, at the Clayton County Youth Development and Justice Center in Jonesboro.

BABY THINK IT OVER

Baby Think it Over is a program that focuses on court-involved teenagers that are sexually active and/or curious regarding sexual activity. The program teaches juveniles the consequences of having unprotected sex, which can result in STDs, HIV, and unwanted pregnancies. The program demonstrates what it is like to care for an infant through a weekend-long simulation with a life-like baby simulator. Participants are required to attend a debriefing session on the Monday following the simulation. The program is scheduled based on need and is held at the Clayton County Youth Development and Justice Center in Jonesboro.

SCHOOL REFERRAL REDUCTION PROGRAM

Through a cooperative agreement with Clayton County Public Schools and local law enforcement, the School Referral Reduction Program allows school resource officers to refer students to workshops such as “Conflict Resolution” or mediation for certain offenses without filing a complaint for the delinquent act. The goal is to expose the students to information that can help them avoid further conflict without formal involvement with the juvenile justice system. In addition, school administrators can refer students to other workshops such as “Project HIP” and “CHOICES” as an alternative to out-of-school suspension.

The School Referral Reduction Program has been the source of much national attention for its innovative approach to dealing with school discipline issues and minor school offenses. The [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), [MacArthur Foundation](#), and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and other organizations have identified the Clayton County model as promising approach to dismantling what is commonly referred to as the School-to-Prison Pipeline.³ A team that includes key staff from Clayton County Juvenile Court, Clayton County Public Schools, Clayton County Police Department, Clayton County Sheriff’s Office and the [Clayton County Juvenile Justice Fund, Inc.](#) have provided technical assistance to jurisdictions as diverse as Wichita, Kansas; Connecticut; Los Angeles; Kentucky; South Dakota; Florida; Alabama; South Carolina; Arkansas; and North Carolina, among others.

EVENING REPORTING CENTER

The Evening Reporting Center (ERC) is an alternative to detention for juveniles who violate probation or who are awaiting adjudication on moderate-level offenses. Youth referred to the ERC meet from 4:00-8:00 PM, Monday through Friday. During the school year, youth are picked up from school. Participants receive assistance with school work, participate in life skills exercises, and participate in recreational activities.

³ Clayton County’s School Referral Reduction Program has been featured in the work of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Models for Change initiative, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has currently engaged Clayton County Juvenile Court in developing a practice guide for the replication of its model in jurisdictions across the nation.

SECOND CHANCE COURT

Second Chance Court is an alternative to incarceration for high-risk designated felony offenders. Participants and their parents have to agree to the terms of the program and adherence is strictly monitored by a team of two probation officers. Participants undergo routine substance abuse screening, are electronically monitored and participate in Cognitive Behavioral Restructuring therapy and family counseling. The program is based on OJJDP's accountability court model, and there are heavy penalties for failure, which include incarceration of up to five years in a juvenile prison. Second Chance Court is a collaborative effort between the Juvenile Court and [Grace Harbour](#) and is largely supported by a grant from the Governor's Office for Children and Families.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a term that describes a number of processes used to resolve disputes as an alternative to formal processing of complaints. These informal processes include negotiation, conciliation, mediation and arbitration. ADR processes provide a less formal, less adversarial and less expensive method of addressing disputes, and research shows that participants are often far more satisfied with the experience than those whose cases are formally processed.⁴ Courts have increasingly utilized these methods as tools to alleviate crowded court calendars and to produce more meaningful results.

In the fall of 1986, the Juvenile Court implemented its first mediation program. This action was taken to supplement the Juvenile Court's existing restitution effort. That program eventually evolved into our current ADR program that extends beyond traditional mediation to include several programs. In addition to the Juvenile Court staff in the BARJ Division assigned to ADR, the Juvenile Court contracts with several mediators who are selected from the community with various backgrounds, who are registered with the [Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution](#), and who have completed a juvenile mediation training curriculum. ADR's goal is to assist youth in successfully closing their cases while providing education about the law and promoting accountability for the offender and restoration to the victim.

In Fiscal Year 2013, there were over 505 cases assigned to ADR for screening and processing. Of those cases, 229 youth were monitored for a period of 90-180 days under an informal mediation agreement.

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is an informal process in which the parties involved are empowered to resolve their own differences with the assistance of a neutral third party, the mediator. Mediation is a voluntary process as the parties agree to work together to resolve their differences. The parties may solicit legal representation, but it is neither necessary nor mandatory in this setting. The main focus of mediation is not to prove guilt or innocence, but rather to address the charge, identify the conflict, clear up any misunderstandings, and attain a resolution that is workable for all parties involved. Furthermore, mediation creates a forum for accountability and provides the respondents with an educational awareness about the law as it relates to juveniles. Mediation can open the door to bridging and nurturing broken relationships while creating new alliances.

⁴ Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, v62, pp. 124-29, Feb. 1994.

THE MEDIATION PROCESS

Complaints received by the Juvenile Court are first screened by Intake Operations. Those that are deemed appropriate for mediation are forwarded to ADR for further review. In most instances, the cases involve property damage, loss of property, school or family issues. ADR also mediates deprivation matters as directed by a judge, particularly those involving the of custody of children. Once a case has been identified as appropriate for mediation, the victim is contacted and invited, but never coerced, to seek a mediated solution. If the victim agrees, a mediation hearing is scheduled.

The goal of each session is to produce an agreement that is acceptable to all parties. During the mediation hearing the juvenile is encouraged to be accountable for his or her actions. Secondly, the objective is for the juvenile to gain a perspective that will assist in altering his or her thought process, thus preventing him or her from reoffending. The juvenile and victim also participate in a “brainstorming” process facilitated by the mediator to determine possible resolutions. In many cases, the agreement will consist of restitution to the victim and participation of the youth in a workshop or other program to help address his or her behavior. Failure to comply with the mediation agreement may result in the matter being set for a formal hearing before a judge.

The mediation program has successfully addressed shoplifting cases involving merchants in the community and property damage cases involving private citizens. Additionally, the program has been effective in handling school-related conflicts prior to the student receiving a formal charge, as part of the Clayton County System of Care. ADR also creates a forum in which school related offenses can be mediated for students receiving citations via a Uniform Notice of Offense as a part of the School Referral Reduction Program. Lastly, ADR provides mediation services to assist in resolving family and neighborhood disputes resulting in juvenile complaints.

JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE

The [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative](#) (JDAI) is a 20-year-old project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF). According to AECF, “JDAI is one of the nation’s most effective, influential, and widespread juvenile justice reform initiatives.” JDAI is primarily focused on the use of detention by the juvenile justice system; over the past three decades, a large body of research has documented the dangers of using detention inappropriately. AECF contends that “youth are often unnecessarily or inappropriately detained at great expense, with long-lasting negative consequences for both public safety and youth development.”⁵ For more information, please visit the [JDAI Help Desk](#).

Clayton County became a JDAI replication site in 2003, as a response to tremendous stress on our juvenile justice system. Extremely high referral rates, primarily the result of minor school offenses, led to all-time high probation caseloads and recidivism rates. Graduation rates were also at an all-time low. Since 2002, our JDAI programs have had a profound impact on outcomes for youth involved with the Juvenile Court:

- **The average daily population in detention has decreased by more than 70%;**

⁵ In their report, [No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration](#), the Annie E. Casey Foundation cites multiple studies documenting the dangers associated with using detention, particularly when there are more effective, less costly alternatives available.

- **The average daily population in detention for youth of color has decreased by more than 63%;**
- **The average length of stay for juveniles who are detained has fallen by 43%, translating to a reduction of nearly two weeks;**
- **The commitment rate for all youth has dropped by more than 43%, and the commitment rate for youth of color has fallen by nearly 41%.**
- **Less than 1% of juveniles released on alternatives to detention are re-arrested before their disposition; and**
- **Juvenile petition filings have decreased by more than 67% since 2002.⁶**

JDAI Coordinator Shannon Howard manages two of the most important JDAI programs in Clayton County, the award-winning⁷ Finding Alternatives for Safety and Treatment (FAST) Panel and the Clayton County Collaborative Child Study Team (Quad-C ST).

F.A.S.T. PANEL

The FAST (Finding Alternatives for Safety and Treatment) Panel is a multi-disciplinary detention review committee that meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to review the cases of youth who have been detained. The objective of the panel is to identify resources that might enable the youth to be *safely* released from detention pending the final disposition of the youth's case. The committee is made up of trained community volunteers, community-based service providers, probation officers, and agency representatives from our collaborative partners. For more information on becoming a FAST Panel Volunteer, please contact the [JDAI Coordinator](#) at (770) 472-8138.

In Fiscal Year 2013, 100 of 205 juveniles (48%) successfully completed alternative to detention programs recommended by the FAST Panel. More importantly, the pre-disposition re-arrest rate for youth released on detention alternatives was less than one percent.

QUAD-C ST

The Quad-C ST is another multi-disciplinary panel composed of community-based service providers and the agency representatives of our collaborative partners that serve as a single point-of-entry for access to available resources. Partnering with Clayton County Public Schools, the Quad-C ST serves as the primary review committee for the Clayton County System of Care, staffing the cases of students exhibiting at-risk behaviors, with the goal of providing services that might prevent the student from becoming formally involved with the juvenile justice system.

⁶ This data is provided by Canyon Solutions of Phoenix Arizona and was reported in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2012 JDAI Annual Results Report.

⁷ Clayton County Juvenile Court's FAST Panel was awarded the American Probation and Parole Association's President Award in 2006.

PROBATION SECTION

The Probation Section of the Juvenile Court is divided into two types of functional units, Court Operations and Field Operations.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the Probation Section processed approximately 44 cases a month; of those, 72% were placed under an order of probation and most were determined to be at moderate- or high-risk for re-offense. The remainder of the cases presented a low-risk for re-offense and were dismissed, held in abeyance, or placed under a suspended order of probation.

COURT OPERATIONS

The Court Operations Unit is headed by supervisor Victoria Berry and consists of three court officers. The unit's primary function is conducting pre-disposition investigations and preparing social history reports for the disposition of delinquency cases that have come before the Juvenile Court for formal processing. In addition to investigating and writing reports, the court officers assigned to Court Operations also supervise youth who have been placed under Community Detention Orders pending the final disposition of their cases.

During Fiscal Year 2013, the Court Operations Unit had 283 cases assigned to its members.

FIELD OPERATIONS

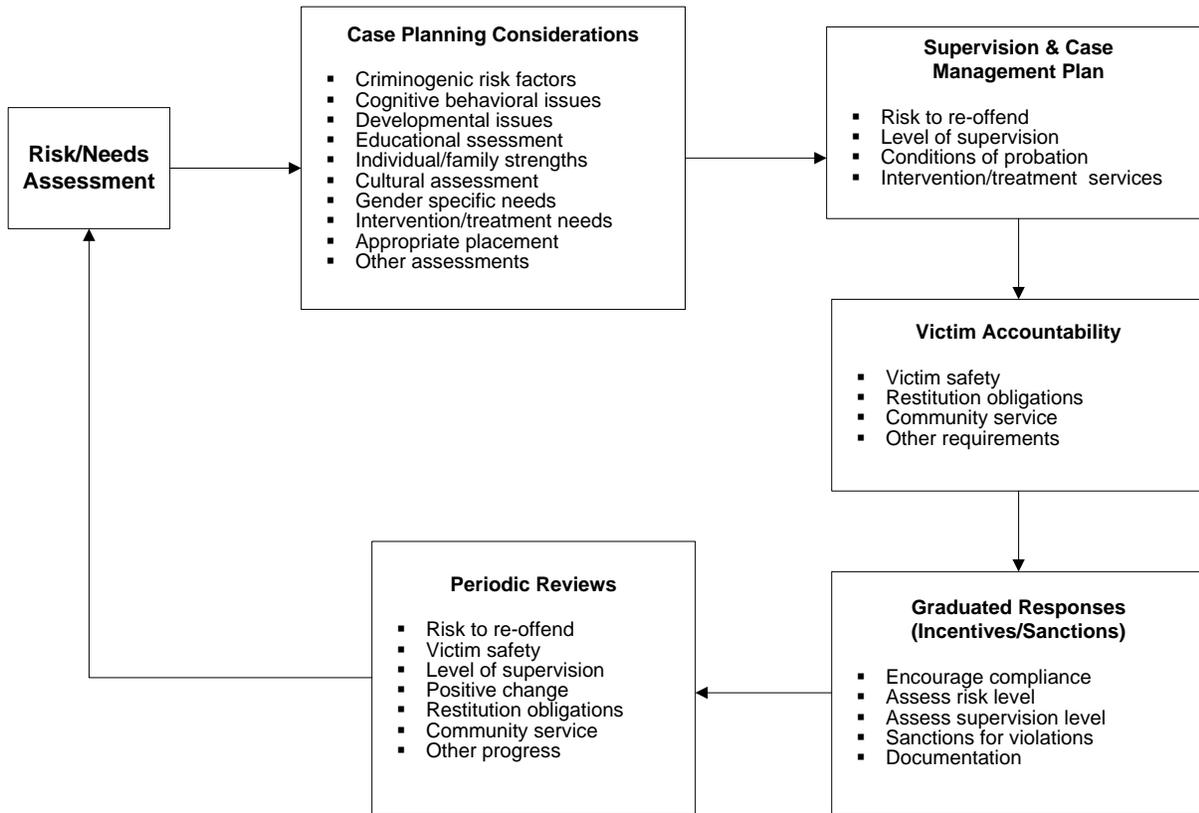
There are two Field Operations units, led by supervisors Stacy Weaver and Kendra Stevens, who supervise eleven field-based court officers and a surveillance officer. Field officers conduct risk classification and needs assessment and write individualized treatment plans for all youth placed on an order of probation using the Juvenile Assessment and Risk Instrument System (JARIS). Field officers also provide ongoing supervision to those youth placed on probation by the Juvenile Court. Figure 1 provides an illustration of the case planning process.

In 2007, the Field Operations units moved to a school-based probation program in cooperation with Clayton County Public Schools; field officers are assigned to each middle and high school in the system. Research has shown that school-based probation allows for more frequent and better quality contacts between the child and probation officer that result in closer and more effective supervision of probated youth in addition to improved academic performance.⁸

Field officers use a system of graduated responses to ensure compliance with court-ordered conditions and treatment plan goals. Sanctions range from verbal warnings to formal violations of probation that may result in the child being placed into detention. Sanctions are based on the severity, nature and frequency of the violation, relative to the risk level of the probationer. If it is determined that all appropriate community-based treatment options have been exhausted, the field officer may recommend that the child be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) if the child presents a risk to the community and meets the statutory requirements for commitment. Commitment is generally considered an option of last resort.

⁸ [School-Based Probation in Pennsylvania, Final Report](#)

FIGURE 1



In Fiscal Year 2013, 3,117 counts of delinquency or unruliness were filed against 1,945 children, and only 33 juveniles were committed to DJJ.

In addition to monitoring compliance, field officers coordinate rehabilitative and treatment services for probationers and their families. These services are based on the needs identified by the child’s JARIS. Field officers evaluate the juvenile’s progress toward achieving his or her probation goals and recommend termination of probation at the appropriate time.

In Fiscal Year 2013, 551 juveniles were assigned to Field Operations; the average probation caseload was 15, consisting mostly of moderate- and high-risk offenders. Field officers initiated 3,781 face-to-face contacts with these offenders, most of which occurred in the juvenile’s community. Field officers also participated in 11,601 collateral contacts, which consist of an array of educational, community service, treatment and family interactions.

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

The Child Welfare Division of the Juvenile Court is headed by Child Welfare Coordinator Carol Gossett. She is assisted in her duties by Citizen Review Panel Coordinator Concilia Chilumuna. The division is staffed by a CASA support services supervisor, four full-time CASA volunteer supervisors, a part-time CASA volunteer supervisor, a CASA training supervisor, a part-time program assistant, and a Citizen Review Panel assistant.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

The Clayton County Court Appointed Advocates (CASA) program provides essential, high-quality advocacy, intervention and support to children who have been the victims of abuse and neglect in Clayton County, who are in the care and custody of relatives, or are involved in custody dispute cases. Statistical evidence shows that as numbers of substantiated child abuse and neglect cases rise, so does the need for effective intervention and expansion of current program capability.⁹

CASA programs represent a well-documented and nationally recognized response to this growing need. CASA volunteers, serving as the child's own special advocate or Guardian Ad Litem, develop relationships with assigned children and families, enabling them to be a powerful voice and presence throughout the Juvenile Court and Superior Court processes.

Trained CASA volunteers working in concert with the Juvenile Court, Superior Court, the Division of Family and Children Services, and others from the community, provide support services and bring relevant information, resources, and recommendations to the courts in the best interests of children. Clayton County CASA is also affiliated with [National CASA](#), [Georgia CASA](#) and [Metro Atlanta CASA](#). For more information on becoming a volunteer with the Clayton County CASA program, please contact CASA Training Supervisor [Becky Galbreath](#) at (678) 610-1061.

In Fiscal Year 2013, 86 Clayton County CASA Volunteers advocated for more than 312 children.

CASA MISSION STATEMENT

The Clayton County CASA program provides advocacy and intervention to abused and neglected children and Guardian Ad Litem services to children involved in custody disputes through commitment to the following program values:

- Competent, professional staff;
- Supportive environment for recruitment, training, and retention of qualified volunteers;
- Opportunities for volunteers to form caring, committed relationships with child victims and their families; and
- Provision of concise, meaningful reports containing thoughtful, well-reasoned recommendations that assist the court in meeting the needs of the child.

Clayton County CASA is committed to these values equally in order to achieve its goal of providing a meaningful and effective volunteer for every child found to be deprived in Clayton County.

⁹ [National CASA](#)

CLAYTON COUNTY CASA'S AFFILIATED VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FRIENDS OF CLAYTON COUNTY CASA, INC.

[Friends of Clayton County CASA](#) is an advisory board that advocates for the Clayton County CASA program by increasing public awareness, recruiting, and supporting volunteers, identifying individual and community resources and identifying professionals to serve on the board.

AMBASSADORS BEHIND CASA (A.B.C.)

[Ambassadors Behind CASA](#) (ABCs) is a membership organization of volunteers whose purpose is to provide service to the Clayton County CASA program as a partner to the Friends of Clayton County CASA by increasing community awareness of CASA, supporting, developing and implementing fundraising initiatives, and sponsoring activities for the children advocated for by Clayton County CASA.

THE DARLIN' DUCK DERBY

The [Darlin' Duck Derby](#) is an annual event held at the Clayton County Historic Courthouse and is filled with music, games, contests, food and fun for children and families. It is the primary fundraiser for the Friends of Clayton County CASA.

JUDICIAL CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

The Judicial Citizen Review Panel (JCRP) is a program of the [Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges](#). Its purpose is to assist judges in determining the most appropriate permanency plan for children in foster care. Clayton County Juvenile Court started using Judicial Citizen Review Panels in 1986.

The JCRPs consist of a cross-section of volunteers from the community, who undergo two days of specialized training from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges to acquaint them with the process of foster care review. Upon completion of the training, the volunteers are sworn in as officers of the court, to act in the best interest of the child.

Panel volunteers (known as panel members), serve on one of nine panels, who meet one day a month to review cases of children placed in foster care by the Juvenile Court. The Panel's ultimate task is to see that the children are in a permanent home as soon as safely possible. Panel hearings are conducted with panel members meeting with Division of Family and Children Services case workers, parents, the children, other family members, foster parents, service providers, and CASA to review the progress of the parent or custodian, to ensure compliance with the court ordered case plan, and to make sure that all necessary services are being provided to the family, as well as monitoring the welfare of the children. Panel members then make recommendations to the judge on what should happen next in the case. The judge has final authority in all matters that appear before the JCRP.

During Fiscal Year 2013, the Judicial Citizen Review Panels conducted 208 panels and volunteered 301 hours, helping to achieve permanency by closing 56 foster care cases

by either reunifying the children with parents, relative placements, adoption or independent living.

For more information about the Judicial Citizen Review Panel program, please call Citizen Review Panel Coordinator [Concilia Chilumuna](#) at (770) 473-5961.

THE CLAYTON COUNTY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & JUSTICE CENTER



Construction of the Clayton County Youth Development and Justice Center, the new home of Clayton County Juvenile Court, was completed in the summer of 2012. The building was dedicated during a ceremony on September 25, 2012. This building demonstrates Clayton County's commitment to restoration and preservation of healthy children and families. The approximately 68,000 square foot building was completed on time and under budget. The \$15,000,000 project was funded by a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Clayton County Juvenile Court would like to thank its primary partners and their subcontractors for their tireless efforts to make this important project a success:



- Project Management, [Carter Goble Lee](#)
- Architecture, [KSGW Architects](#)
- Construction, [The Potts Company](#)

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN DESCRIPTION

While many buildings are ostensibly designed with the organization's mission in mind, the conceptual design of the Clayton County Youth Development and Justice Center was developed after several months of meetings and an in-depth study of the Juvenile Court's business practices, organizational structure, and philosophy.



HENRY WALKER MULTI-AGENCY ROOM

Much of our work entails collaborative interaction with the children and families we serve as well as with our partnering agencies and the community as a whole. As a



CHIEF DARRELL PARTAIN READING ROOM

result, many of the most prominent spaces of our building were designed to hold face-to-face interaction with families and collaborative meetings with our partners. In fact, the majority of the first floor is a conduit for these all-important meetings. We have several spaces set aside for meeting with children and families, centralized multi-disciplinary panel meeting spaces, and a resource center that includes a law library and training rooms that are open for use by the court and our community partners. Our staff members are housed in the "back of the house" and meet our clients in a more

neutral setting, again an intentional design feature.

Beyond the first floor, our building continues to encompass our core philosophy and practice. Intake and informal processes are handled in spaces easily accessible by the public (primarily on the first floor), while the detention holding area and formal processes are more difficult to access. The courtrooms are located on the third and fourth floors, while the detention center is accessible only by escort of the Sheriff's Office. In essence, the deeper one penetrates the juvenile justice system, the deeper one will find him- or herself in the building.



LUVENIA JACKSON RESOURCE CENTER

As collaboration is a key component of the Juvenile's Court's mission, the Youth Development and Justice Center also has workspace for our partners in the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Division of Family and Children Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Clayton County System of Care.



COURTROOM

STATISTICAL REPORTS FOR FYE 2013

The following charts provide a statistical depiction of the work during Fiscal Year 2013:

DELINQUENT FILINGS: Those charges that if committed by an adult, would be considered criminal offenses; examples include aggravated assault, burglary, possession of illegal substances, and theft.

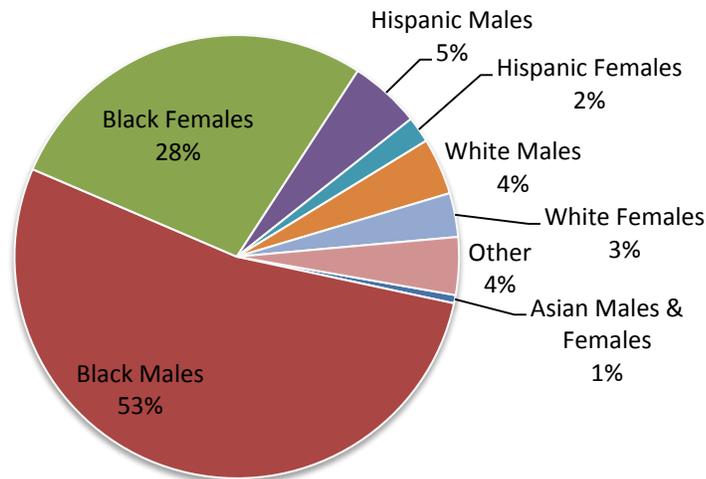
UNRULY FILINGS: Those charges that are a violation of law solely because of the child's age; often referred to as "status offenses," these include truancy, runaway, and curfew violations.

DEPRIVED FILINGS: Those cases that relate to the abuse, neglect, mistreatment or abandonment of a child.

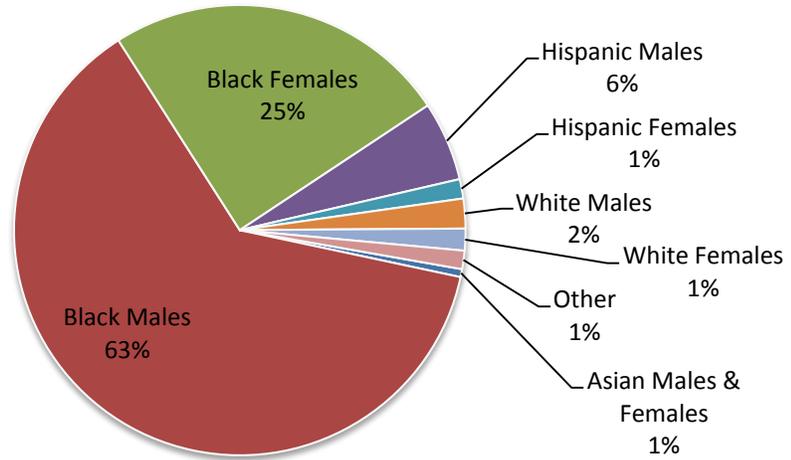
TRAFFIC FILINGS: Those charges relating to violations of the traffic code by persons under 17 years of age.

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS: Those cases which fall outside of the above categories, including termination of parental rights, extension or modification of custody, the sealing of records, waiver of parental notification of abortion, release from custody, Superior Court custody investigations, etc.

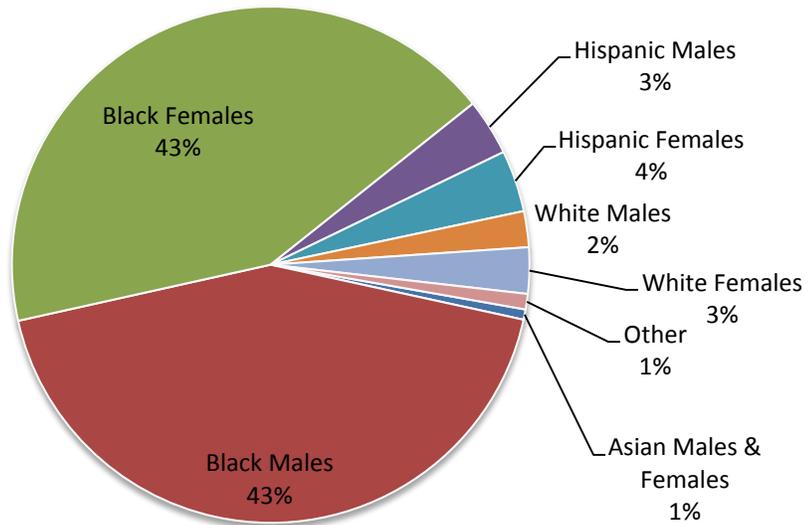
FY 2013 Total Filings - 4,497 Counts



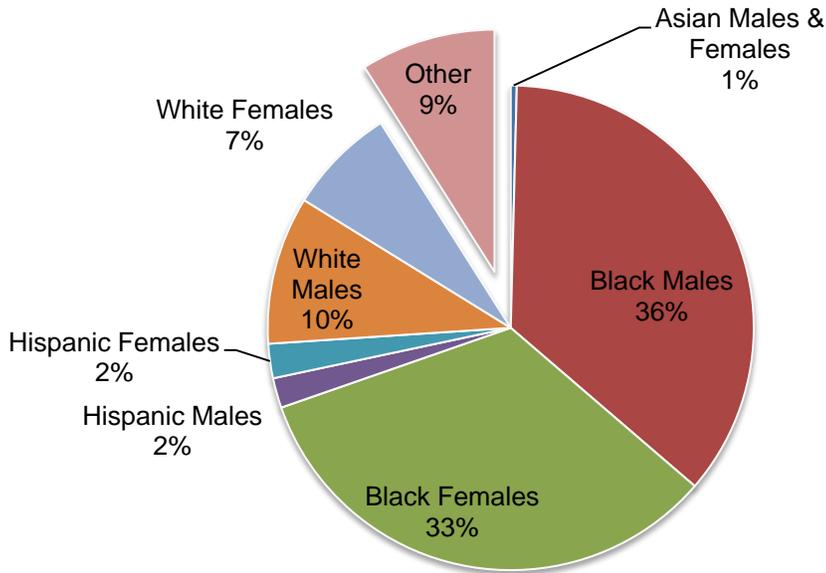
FY 2013 Delinquent Filings - 2,806 Counts



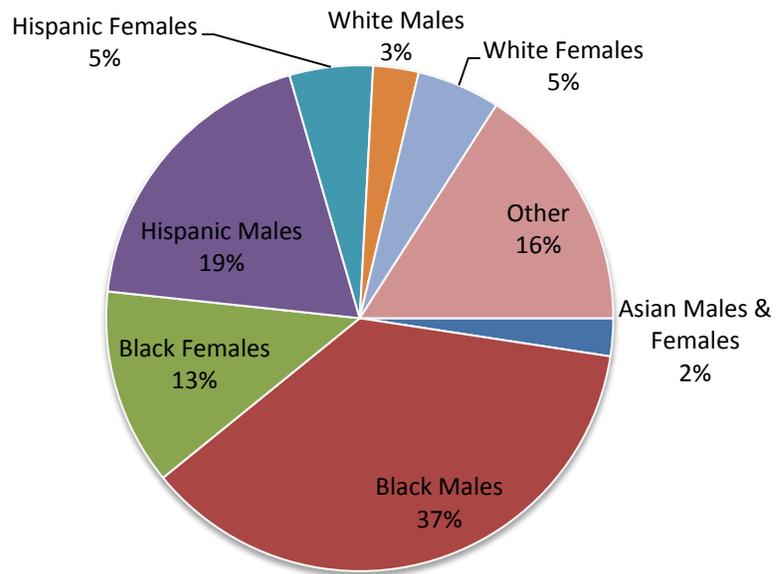
FY 2013 Unruly Filings - 311 Counts



FY 2013 Deprived Filings - 1,002 Counts



FY 2013 Traffic Filings - 207 Counts



FY 2013 Special Proceedings Filings - 171 Counts

