

GWINNETT JUVENILE COURT

ENGAGE GWINNETT HANDOUT

MANDATES

The Juvenile Court of Gwinnett is a Constitutional Court. We are governed by State and Federal Laws and Rules. These laws and rules mandate our existence and the functions of every division of our Court.

These mandates and service levels are explained further in our 2010 PowerPoint handout.

NON-MANDATED SERVICES

The classes and programs that are provided to the youth under our supervision could be considered non-mandated services. These are not paid for with the use of monies from the General Fund. All of our classes and programs are paid for with supervision fees per O.C.G.A. 15-11-71.

ORGANIZATION

An org chart is attached. The explanations of the functions of the divisions of our court are in our 2010 PowerPoint handout.

BUDGET SUMMARY

GWINNETT JUVENILE COURT

Year	Budgeted	Obligated	Remaining
2006	\$6,008,914.39	\$5,937,424.33	\$71,490.06
2007	\$6,275,720.00	\$6,216,463.36	\$59,256.64
2008	\$6,414,658.00	\$6,356,205.18	\$58,452.82
2009*	\$6,488,117.00	\$5,403,195.02	\$1,084,921.98
2010**	\$5,730,791.00		

* As of 11-13-2009

** As proposed with budget cuts

TRENDS

Over the past ten years our caseloads have increases 13%, which shows a slight increase in cases each year. More importantly the transition from a mostly suburban county to a very diverse and mostly urban one has increased the service levels required of the Court when hearing and supervising our cases. The 2007 census has Gwinnett with 63,000.00 people living at or under the poverty level. This year the Gwinnett County School System has 42 Title I schools. We are continuously seeing more and more complicated cases that strain all the resources in our community and of the Court.

GAPS AND SERVICE ISSUES

At the March of 2009 service levels the Court was keeping up with service demands in some areas but needed to improve in others. One of the most critical time lines is the average number of weeks

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it takes for a case to be received by the court and then heard on a court date. The delay between these dates virtually guarantees the youth will commit additional offenses therefore causing more damage in the community and more problems for themselves. In the Juvenile System the speed of punishment is a basic component of deterrence.

We have seen in the last ten years and before we added our third judicial division these numbers go as high as an average of 32 weeks. As of our March 2009 service levels we are at an average of 10 weeks. Though this is a great improvement over the past, 10 weeks is the maximum average we should accept. We should make every effort to stay under this current average.

The Clerk's Office added two positions in 2007. Prior to these additional positions there was a three-week delay in entering a case into our management system/docket. This number is down to an average of 6 days. The loss of one data entry clerk could put this back up to 10 or 12 days, which would further delay the start of our court process.

In the 2010 PowerPoint handout you will see the caseloads of our Intake, Probation and Guardian divisions. These divisions are all maintaining a quality level of service even with their high numbers. However, the loss of staff in any of these divisions will cause a critical service issue and severely impact our ability to carry out our mandated functions.