

2008 Annual Report



Welcome to Miami County Probate Court

Miami County
Probate Court

May 2008

The Probate Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Probate Courts are one of the oldest courts in Ohio, dating back to the Northwest Territory of 1787. The Ohio Constitution of 1851 created a separate Probate jurisdiction in each county.



Judge Lynnita K.C. Wagner
retired from office January 31,
2009

The Ohio Revised Code places over two hundred separate duties upon the Probate Court. These duties touch the lives of our citizens in fundamental ways, from issuing marriage licenses to overseeing wills, estates trusts and guardianships.

Probate Court Services

- *Marriage License and Marriage Records—1807 to present*
- *Decedent's Estates—1807 to present*
- *Testamentary Trusts—1807 to present*
- *Birth records—1853-1908*
- *Death records—1867-1908*
- *Guardianships for Incompetents*
- *Guardianships for Minors & Minor Settlements*
- *Change of Name*
- *Birth Registration and Delayed Birth*
- *Mental Illness*
- *Adoptions*

Transition for the Court: Commitment to public service

Judge Lynnita K.C. Wagner retired from office on Jan. 31 after serving two terms as the Probate/Juvenile Judge for Miami County. Judge Wagner had over 30 years service with Miami County. She served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Juvenile Court Magistrate before being elected as Judge in 1997.

Judge W. McGregor Dixon Jr. was elected Probate/Juvenile Judge in November 2008 after practicing law for 35 years and serving as Law Director for the City of Troy for over 29 years.



Judge W. McGregor Dixon, Jr.
assumed office February 9, 2009

Getting Married—Probate Court is the Place to Start

To receive a marriage license

- Applicants must appear together and in person at Probate Court during business hours and complete an application
- At least one of the applicants must be a resident of Miami County and the Marriage must be performed in the State of Ohio. If both applicants are from out of state but wish to be married in Miami County, they must obtain their license in Miami County.
- If either applicant age 18 years or younger, contact the court for further information
- A valid identification is required for an applicant .
- If either applicant has been previously married and divorced, a file stamped copy of the final order granting the divorce or dissolution is required for all previous divorces.
- Cost of the license is \$50 (cash only). Checks or credit cards are **not** accepted.
- License may be used the same day issued. It must be used within 60 days.
- No blood test is required.

In 2008, marriage applications were computerized. Applicants may now fill out the application on computers found in the public waiting area. The prospective bride and groom then meets with a deputy clerk who processes the applications along with the required supporting verifications and fee. The new process has increased accuracy and efficiency for the Court.

Probate Court Statistical Summary Filing Trend 2003-2008

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Decedent's Estates	562	614	568	562	546	558
Guardianships (Minors)	31	23	22	51	30	22
Guardianships (Incompetents)	47	59	47	30	65	72
Conservatorships	0	0	0	1	0	1
Testamentary Trusts	6	11	13	4	8	9
Civil Actions (will contests etc.)	18	17	16	9	15	16
Adoptions	63	50	58	55	42	69
Mental Illness/Mental Retardation	11	14	21	14	11	18
Minor's Settlement	7	3	13	14	6	10
Wrongful Death	3	8	4	9	2	8
Birth Registrations and Corrections	3	6	7	6	6	1
Change of Name	23	30	38	45	44	35
Marriage Applications	673	695	718	673	700	690
Total Filings	1447	1530	1525	1473	1475	1509