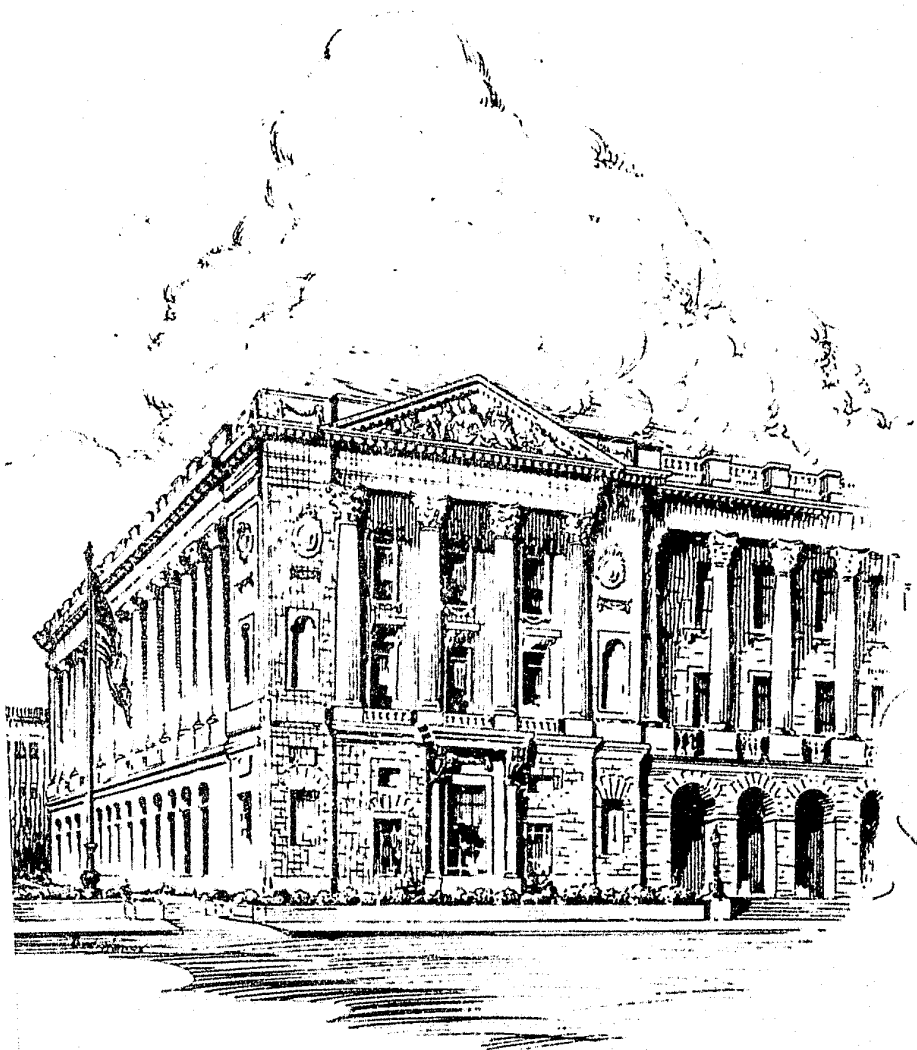


PHILADELPHIA COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

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FAMILY COURT DIVISION

1988 ANNUAL REPORT

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA



FAMILY COURT DIVISION

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

*Honorable Edward J. Bradley
President Judge*

*Honorable Nicholas A. Cipriani
Administrative Judge
Family Court Division*

121496

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National Institute of Justice

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This report was prepared by the Research and Planning Unit, Family Court Division. Pictures were provided by the Office of Public Information, Court of Common Pleas and the Special Services Office of the Family Court Division. All requests for information should be directed to: E. L. Davis, Deputy Court Administrator, Management and Staff, Family Court Division, 1801 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

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THE JUDICIARY

Edward J. Bradley — *President Judge*

Nicholas A. Cipriani — *Administrative Judge, Family Court Division*

JUDGES SITTING IN THE FAMILY COURT DIVISION DURING 1988

Alex Bonavitacola
John L. Braxton
Ida K. Chen
Tama Myers Clark
Leonard A. Ivanoski
Frank M. Jackson
Sheldon Jelin
Nicholas Kozay, Jr.

Jerome A. Zaleski

Stephen E. Levin
Kathryn S. Lewis
Joseph P. McCabe
Frank X. O'Brien
A. Frank Reynolds
Edward E. Russell
Edward R. Summers
Petrese B. Tucker

SENIOR JUDGES

Vito F. Canuso
Jerome A. O'Neill

Edward B. Rosenberg
Evelyn M. Trommer

IN MEMORIAM



Paul A. Tranchitella

Paul A. Tranchitella, a retired Family Court Judge died at his home in Longport, N.J. on May 10, 1988.

A native Philadelphian, Judge Tranchitella was a graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University Law School.

Appointed to the bench by Governor Schapp in late 1971, Judge Tranchitella was elected to a ten year term in 1973 and remained in office as a Senior Judge after his term ended.

Previous to his appointment, Judge Tranchitella maintained a private practice and served as administrator of the Jury Selection Board for 20 years.

He was affiliated with numerous professional and civic groups including the Grand Lodge of the Sons of Italy, serving as its state president for four years. He was also active in both the American and Philadelphia Bar Associations and the County Board of Law Examiners.

Judge Tranchitella is survived by his wife Mary, two daughters, two grandchildren and a sister.

IN MEMORIAM

*Harry A. Takiff*

Harry A. Takiff, Court Administrator, and a Senior Judge of Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas died on July 9, 1988.

A resident of Philadelphia, Judge Takiff graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and its Law School.

Judge Takiff was appointed to the bench in 1971 by Governor Shapp and was then elected to a full term. He became a Senior Judge in 1983.

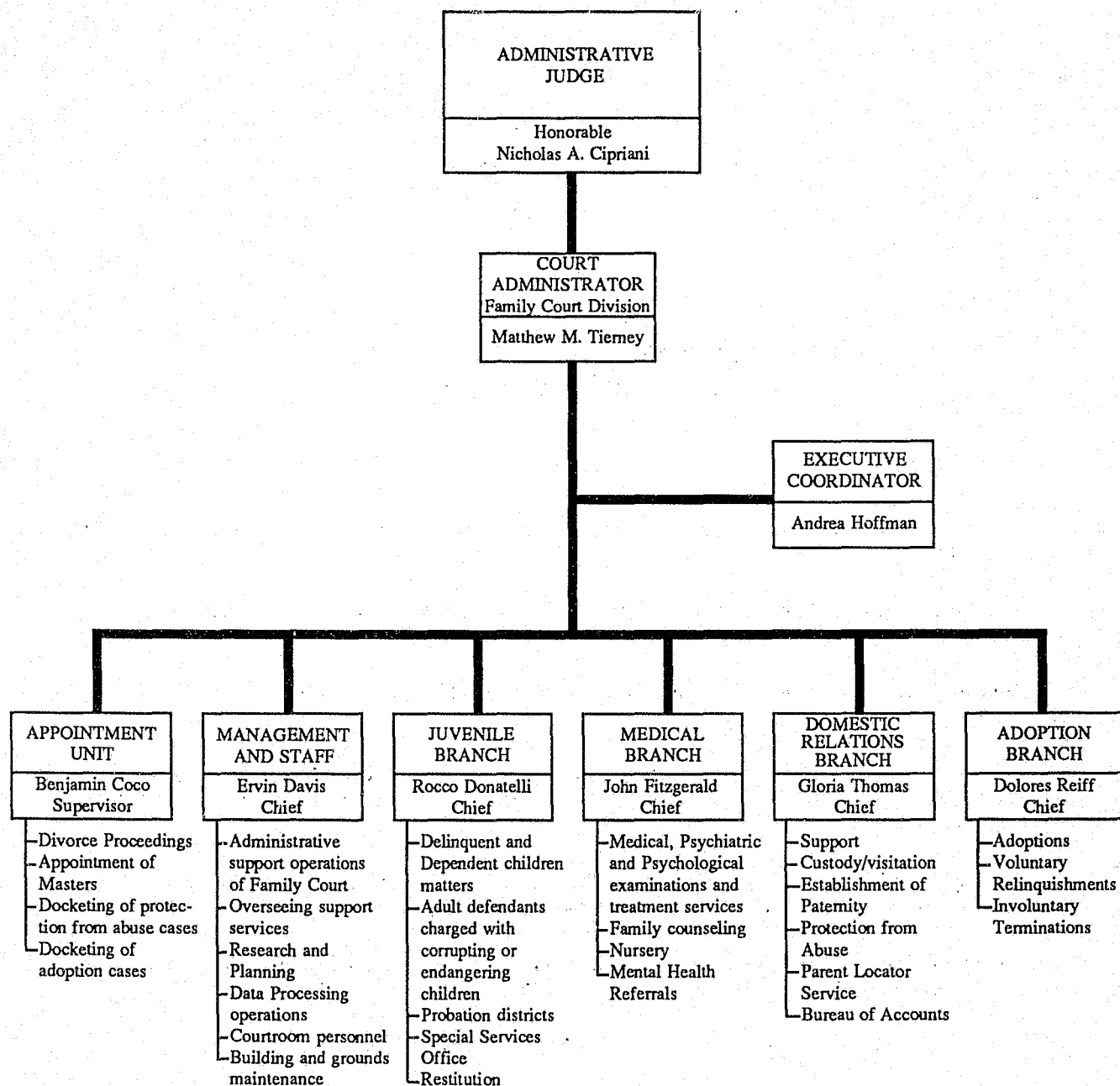
In January, 1984, he was appointed Court Administrator by President Judge Edward J. Bradley and State Supreme Court Justice Robert N. C. Nix, Jr. He retained this position until June, 1988 while continuing to hear cases as a Senior Judge.

During his 17 years on the bench, Judge Takiff presided over three grand jury investigations and developed a system for the Court to deal with hundreds of asbestos litigation cases.

Judge Takiff was the recipient of several awards including the Distinguished Service Award, Federation of Jewish Charities and the Humanitarian Service Award, Philadelphia Geriatric Center.

Judge Takiff is survived by his wife, Joy, three children and two grandchildren.

FAMILY COURT DIVISION ORGANIZATION





Nicholas A. Cipriani
Administrative Judge, Family Court Division

INTRODUCTION

As I face my retirement, it is natural for me to look back over my many years of service. In writing this introduction, I am doing just that, and many observations, experiences and recollections covering my eight and a half years as Administrative Judge occupy my mind.

The responsibility of administering our large court operation was challenging, engrossing and, at times a humbling experience. While I recognized the need to establish major goals and planning on both short and long term bases, I realized that actually a significant amount of my time had to be expended on many minor details, essential, yet details nevertheless.

Most of us concern ourselves with the immediate problems at hand; a few will think as far as a year out; and when there is need to plan five years out, our eyes glaze and interest is focused elsewhere.

I am proud of the significant advances that occurred in my eight and a half years as Administrative Judge. While I am willing to accept some credit for the advances which have occurred, I readily, and happily, acknowledge that credit must be shared with all our Family Court Judiciary and Administrators and their staffs who proposed and executed many of these goals so well and so effectively.

I am pleased to report that significant advances were achieved in each of our divisions. The Domestic Relations Branch Child Support Program is the area in which the most visible and most dramatic changes have occurred. These

changes ranged from continued computerization to the establishment of Masters Program for support, a Custody Unit, a computerized voice information telephone system and a Motion Court. Child Support collections have expanded from \$35,371,000 in 1981 to \$79,255,000 in 1988.

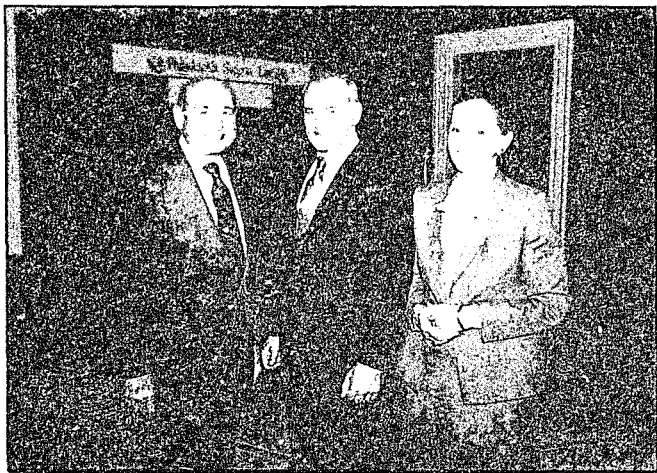
I am likewise proud of having organized a committee designated Stakeholders, composed of representatives of agencies involved in the delivery of services to children, and representatives of the Court; a committee which assessed the needs of our Juvenile Branch program and submitted a report with both short and long term recommendations, some of which have been implemented with other steps still to be taken. What I consider most significant, was that even though some of the representatives had widely divergent views, there was sincere effort made toward achieving agreements on essential changes.

There have been a number of specific changes prior to (and one after) the Stakeholder Committee report:

1. Creation and expansion of use of Masters for delinquent and dependent review cases
2. Computerization including case listing, and on-line entry, retrieval of juvenile case information and juvenile histories placed on-line.
3. Reorganization of Juvenile Branch
4. Cross training programs
5. Youth Aid Panels
6. New bench warrant system
7. New House Arrest Unit and New Aftercare Unit
8. Teleconferencing review hearings with institutions



Gilbert M. Branche, Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, addresses attendees at Family Court Child Support Awareness Day.



Philadelphia Support Line (PSL), a computerized telephone information system was introduced in 1988. This automatic system answers inquiries previously handled by the staff in the Domestic Relations Bureau of Accounts unit. Present at the news conference announcing the new service were (from left) Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani, Administrative Judge, Family Court; Judge Edward J. Bradley, President Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; Gloria P. Thomas, Esq., Chief, Domestic Relations Branch.

In the Adoption and Divorce areas, significant code/rules changes were effectuated as mandated by legislative action. Additionally, in the Divorce area, a Divorce Master Program utilizing court hired masters was planned for the purpose of recommending equitable distribution of property.

Finally, a comprehensive physical renovation program of the Family Court Building was effectuated and basically completed.

May I leave you with two final thoughts: First, I had hoped to finish what I started but that is not possible. Second, the number and diversity of individuals who are involved in the Family Court, both employee and representatives from a variety of agencies, are extraordinary. Even more is the dedication and intense motivation to make our "system" work and work as well as possible. They deserve the thanks and appreciation of the public; they already have my warmest thanks and appreciation.

It has been a long and sometimes a difficult voyage, but I would not have missed it for the world!

Statistics

The data appearing in this report has been collected from original documents, capturing information at the time of filing and at disposition, as well as from internal reports.



Mingo Stroeber, Defender Association of Philadelphia was acknowledged for her work as a member of the Juvenile Justice Stakeholders. She is shown with Judge Edward R. Summers who presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The reader is cautioned not to compare numbers of filings with numbers of cases disposed. These terms are not synonymous in that multi-petitions may be filed within a case. For example, both parents may file an individual petition for custody of a child. This would be counted as two petitions, but one case, if both petitions are disposed of at the same time.

The statistical unit used in this report regarding cases is the case disposed of because it is at the final stage that we have the most complete information about the case. The statistical data immediately following this section summarizes the overall workload of the family Court Division for the past five years. I believe the data is fairly accurate due to the development and adoption of better procedures in recent years.

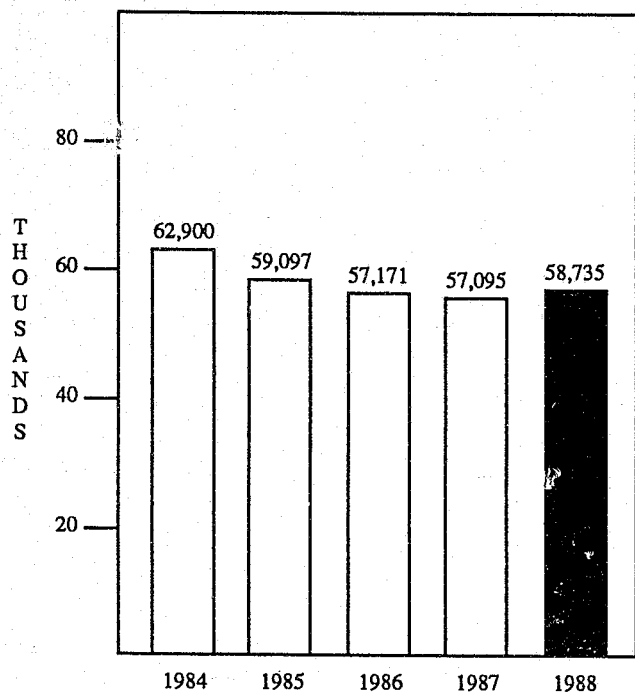


Joseph Pellegrino, Jr. Management and Staff, was acknowledged at the Employees Annual Awards ceremony for his 14 years of outstanding attendance. He received congratulations from Ervin L. Davis, Deputy Court Administrator, Management and Staff (left) and Matthew M. Tierney, Court Administrator, Family Court Division (right).

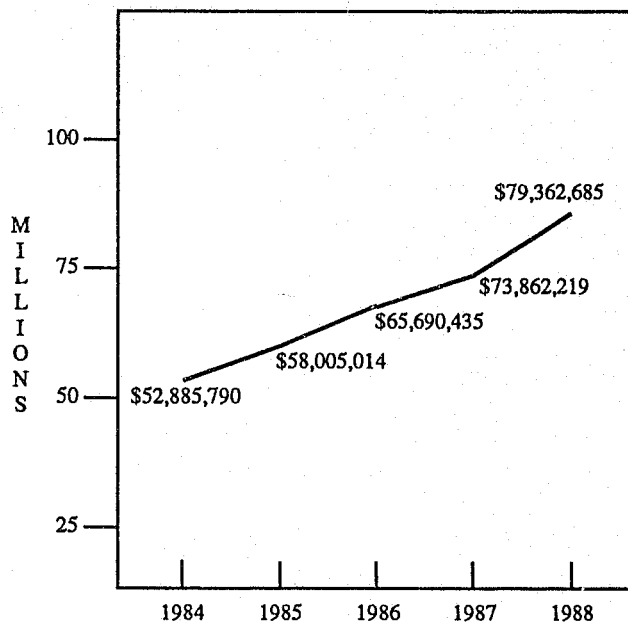
STATISTICAL SUMMARY: 1984 TO 1988

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
FILINGS:					
Juvenile Branch					
Petitions Filed	14,729	13,975	13,975	13,837	16,133
Adjusted at Youth Study Center	987	780	758	518	297
Total	15,716	14,755	14,733	14,355	16,430
Domestic Relations Branch Petitions	40,236	37,671	35,690	36,794	35,123
Adoption Branch Petitions	987	911	920	997	813
Divorce Proceedings Initiated	5,961	5,760	5,828	4,949	6,369
Total	62,900	59,097	57,171	57,095	58,735
CASES DISPOSED:					
Juvenile Branch					
New Cases	14,493	14,430	14,699	13,095	15,817
Review Hearings	24,103	24,775	29,883	33,346	39,714
Total	38,596	39,205	44,582	46,441	55,531
Domestic Relations Branch	22,604	27,671	27,235	26,370	31,426
Adoption Branch	1,106	980	936	1,119	887
Divorces Granted	4,970	4,652	4,744	4,303	4,708
Total	67,276	72,508	77,497	78,233	92,552
SUPPORT ORDER AND RESTITUTION PAYMENTS RECEIVED:					
Support Payments					
Domestic Relations Branch	\$52,779,409	\$57,892,635	\$65,586,638	\$73,755,032	\$79,254,794
Juvenile Branch	16,422	14,413	9,074	6,882	5,308
Total	\$52,795,831	\$57,907,408	\$65,595,712	\$73,761,914	\$79,260,102
Restitution	89,959	97,966	94,723	100,305	102,583
Total	\$52,885,790	\$58,005,014	\$65,690,435	\$73,862,219	\$79,362,685

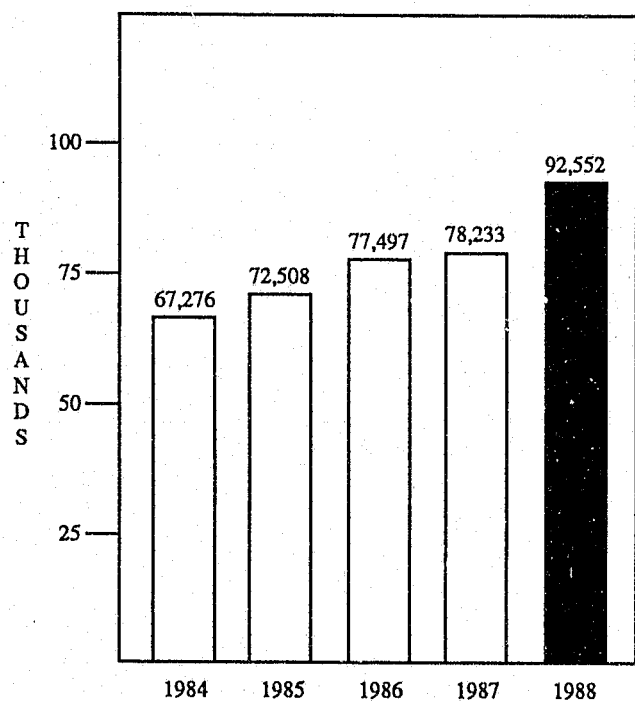
TOTAL FILINGS: 1984 TO 1988



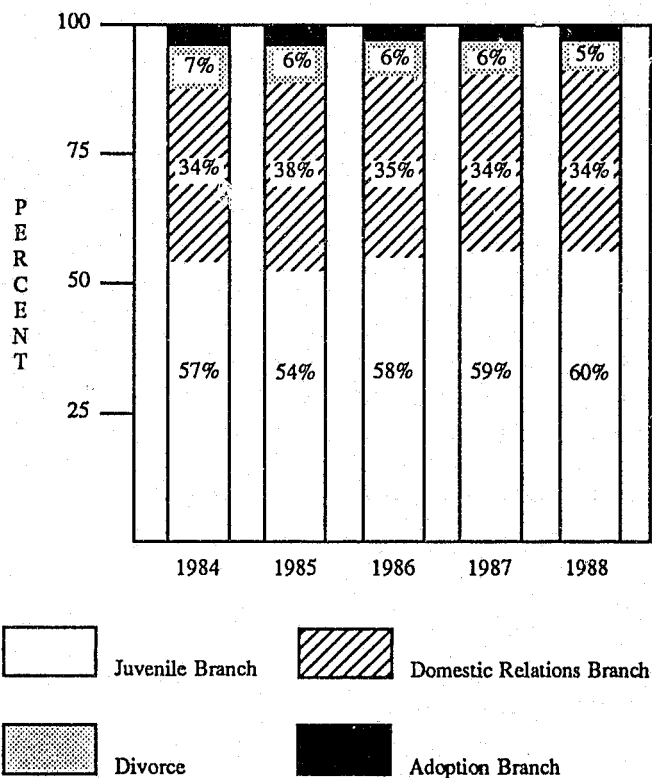
SUPPORT ORDER AND RESTITUTION PAYMENTS RECEIVED: 1984 TO 1988



TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED:
1984 TO 1988



PERCENT DISTRIBUTION — CASES DISPOSED:
1984 TO 1988



Juvenile Branch



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JUVENILE BRANCH

The Family Court Division has jurisdiction in all juvenile proceedings involving delinquent and dependent children. Additionally, adults charged with crimes against children or endangering their welfare also come under the jurisdiction of the Court. The Juvenile Branch is responsible for processing all juvenile cases coming under the Court's jurisdiction.

In keeping with the Court's child centered philosophy, specific procedures are used in disposing of juvenile cases to assure that the best interests of the children are served and their legal rights safeguarded. The flow charts on pages 21 and 34 show the major steps involved in processing delinquent and dependent (non-delinquency) cases.

The majority of new cases received and disposed of by the Juvenile Branch were delinquency cases as shown in the table below.

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1988

Type of Case	Number	Percent Distribution
Delinquency	9,725	62
Non-delinquency	4,286	27
Adult	1,806	11
Total	15,817	100

Most delinquency cases are brought to the Court's attention through police arrests.¹ When a juvenile is apprehended, an officer of the Juvenile Aid Division (JAD) determines if the child should be arrested or released. If arrested, the child is brought or referred to the Youth Study Center for further processing of the case. If the child is released, the police treat the case as a remedial disposition or a non-arrest. Juvenile arrests have been declining in recent years and in 1988, the number of juveniles arrested (11,772) decreased by 4 percent from 1987.

New delinquency cases disposed of increased by 18 percent in 1988, while the number of new non-delinquency cases disposed of increased by 42 percent. New adult cases disposed of in 1988 remained the same as in 1987.

¹Comparison of police arrests with court dispositions cannot be made due to use of different data collection procedures.

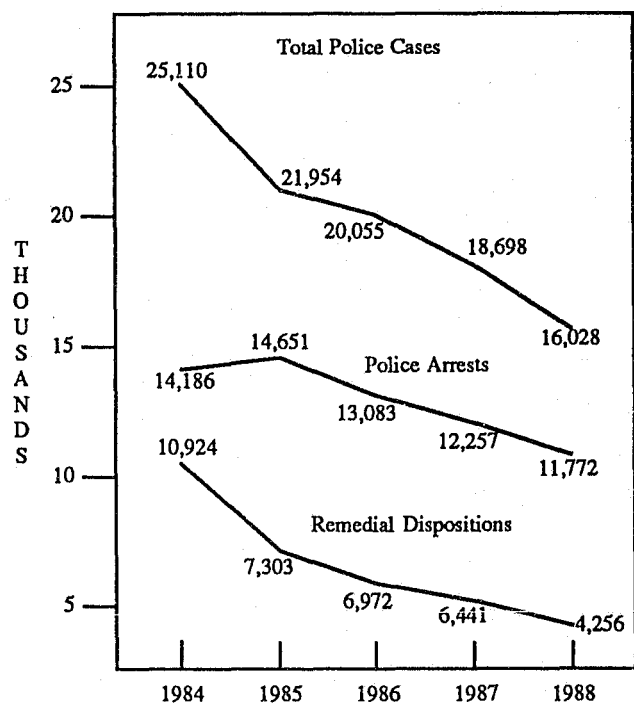
²A commitment or out-of-home placement requires a review hearing every six months as long as the child remains committed or in placement.

In addition to new cases, the Juvenile Branch processes thousands of cases involving review hearings. These are cases which must be reviewed due to a legal requirement² or because new facts brought to the Court's attention require modification of a previous disposition.



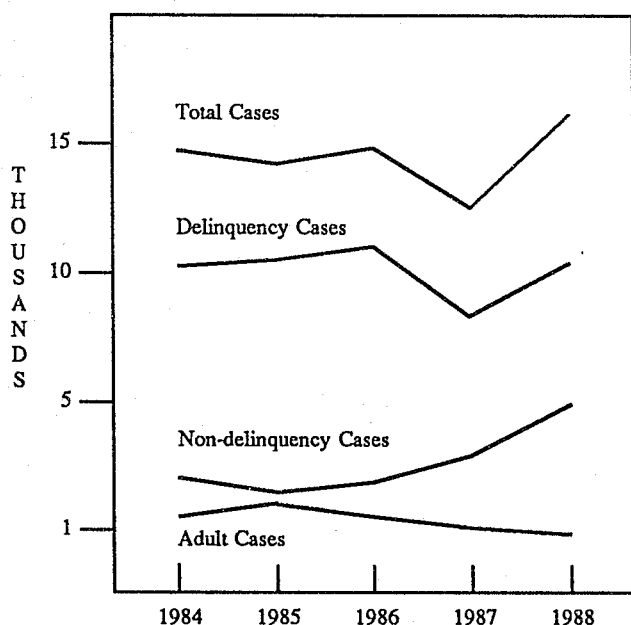
Inspector John Maxwell, JAD, Philadelphia Police Department, is shown with Judge Ida K. Chen after he was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as a member of the Juvenile Justice Stakeholders.

POLICE ARRESTS AND REMEDIAL DISPOSITIONS: 1984 TO 1988



Review hearings in 1988 accounted for 71 percent of all cases disposed of in the Juvenile Branch. Most review hearings concerned non-delinquent matters (63 percent). However, review hearings in delinquency cases have also increased in recent years and in 1988 they accounted for 60 percent of all delinquency cases disposed.

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988



Overall, the Juvenile Branch received and disposed of a substantial portion of the cases processed by the Family Court Division. In 1988, this branch accounted for 28 percent of all filings and 60 percent of the total cases disposed of by the Family Court Division.

Statistical data with graphic illustrations summarizing the workload of the Juvenile Branch for the past five years can be found immediately following this section.

Other programs under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Branch are the Juvenile Restitution and Community Services Program, the Special Services Office and the Enforcement Unit. These programs are discussed elsewhere in this report.



Mark Konecny, (center) of the Philadelphia Eagles Football team, gave the keynote address at Family Court's Juvenile Court Day. He is shown with some of the Judges in attendance. Starting at the left are: Judge Cipriani, Administrative Judge, Judge Braxton, Judge Bonavita Cola and Judge Bradley, President Judge.

Throughout the year, the Juvenile Branch staff received a wide variety of training in order to improve their skills and keep abreast of current legal developments. An on-going program designed for the Court's juvenile probation staff allows the staff, through on-site visits, to examine the physical environment of juvenile facilities while learning of the specialized programs offered by these institutions or agencies.

A specialized training program was instituted for probation officers to obtain a minimum of twenty training contact hours. Subjects such as Pharmacology and Toxicology of Abused Substances; Cross-Cultural Training and Stress Management were typical of the courses presented. The juvenile staff received other training through a Staff Development Program. These sessions are held monthly and provide the staff with information about other agencies with which they will be coming in contact, as well as, discussions on varied topics of interest to the staff.

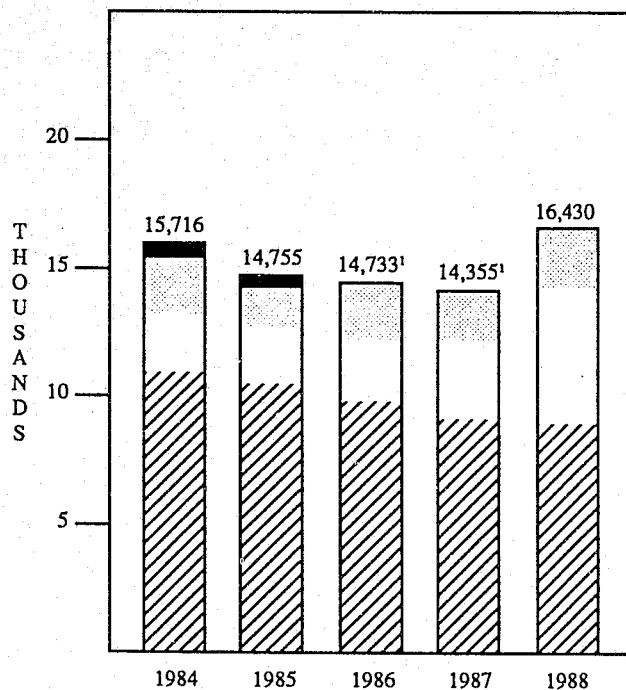
In addition to in-house training, many employees continue to upgrade their skills by attending courses at local colleges and universities on their own time.

JUVENILE BRANCH STATISTICAL SUMMARY: 1984 TO 1988

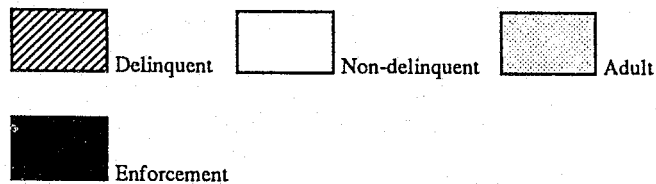
	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
FILINGS:					
Delinquency	11,002	10,705	9,948	9,260	9,196
<i>Petitions filed</i>	10,015	9,925	9,190	8,742	8,899
<i>Adjusted at Youth Study Center</i>	987	780	758	518	297
Non-delinquency petitions	2,347	2,066	2,671	3,152	5,235
Adult petitions	1,948	1,633	1,964	1,842	1,999
Enforcement Petitions and Motions	419	351	150	101	—
Total	15,716	14,755	14,733	14,355	16,430
CASES DISPOSED:					
Delinquency	19,216	19,609	22,893	21,626	24,291
Non-delinquency	17,188	17,310	19,737	22,767	28,951
Adult	1,826	2,021	1,869	1,808	1,806
Enforcement	366	264	83	240	483
Total	38,596	39,204	44,582	46,441	55,531
<i>New cases</i>	14,493	14,430	14,699	13,095	15,817
<i>Review hearings</i>	24,103	24,774	29,883	33,346	39,714
NEW REFERRALS¹	5,673	5,837	6,405	6,157	6,274
JUVENILE CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION DURING YEAR	8,006	8,493	7,793	7,105	6,494
CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION AT END OF YEAR:					
Delinquent	5,317	5,237	5,134	4,539	4,856
Non-delinquent	242	138	131	69	139
Total	5,559	5,375	5,265	4,608	4,995
PAYMENTS RECEIVED:					
Direct order on parents	\$ 3,298	\$ 3,206	\$ 1,754	\$ 1,490	\$ 1,455
Reimburse order on Department of Human Services	13,124	11,207	7,320	5,392	3,853
Restitution	89,959	97,966	94,723	100,305	102,583
Total	\$106,381	\$112,379	\$103,797	\$107,187	\$107,891
COURT SESSIONS:					
Delinquency	1,105	1,046	1,307	1,144	1,409
Non-delinquency	373	239	300	482	648
Adult	333	357	265	250	226
Enforcement	6	6	6	1	—
Total	1,817	1,648	1,878	1,877	2,283

¹Family or individual's first time contact with Family Court.

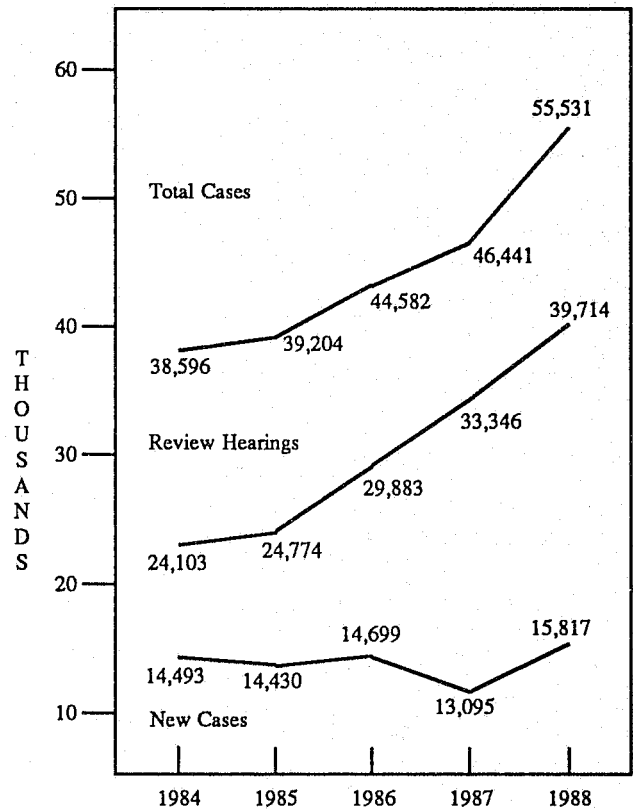
JUVENILE BRANCH FILINGS: 1984 TO 1988



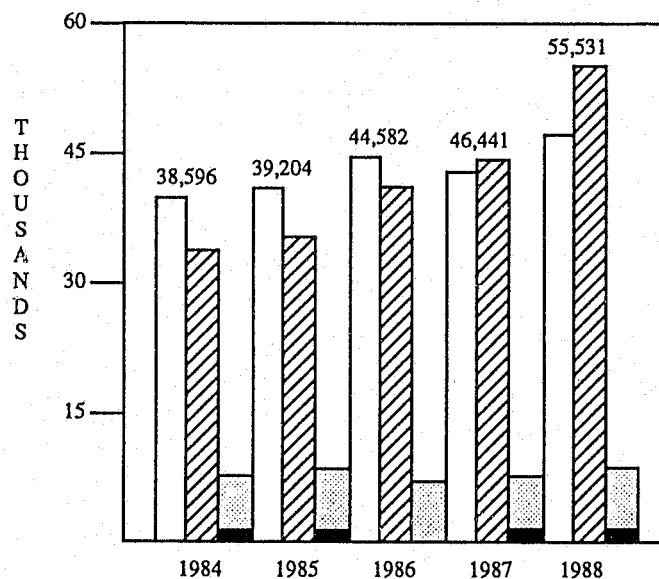
¹Enforcement filings included in total but number too small to depict.



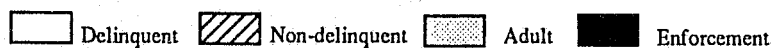
JUVENILE BRANCH DISPOSED CASES: 1984 TO 1988



JUVENILE BRANCH DISPOSED CASES¹: 1984 TO 1988



¹Includes new cases and review hearings.



DELINQUENCY CASES¹

Delinquency cases constitute the largest part of the workload in the Juvenile Branch. In 1988, these cases accounted for 56 percent of all new cases received by the Juvenile Branch. Delinquency cases involve juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 who have been charged with delinquent acts.² These cases are brought to the Court's attention primarily through police arrests (91 percent in 1988), although other authorities, individuals or parents may refer cases to Court.

All new delinquency cases are screened at the Youth Study Center Intake Unit to determine appropriate action to take in regards to detention and the further processing of the petition. An Intake Interviewer presides over an intake interview and either disposes of the case or refers it to the Court. Pending the court hearing, the juvenile is either released to the parent(s) or detained at the Youth Study Center or a Community Based Shelter site. In cases in which the juveniles are detained, the Judge, at the detention hearing³, may order the youth assigned to the Pre-Hearing Intensive Supervision Unit (PHIS) or to the newly established House Arrest Unit described below. The Judge may also order the youth placed in a Community Based Shelter program and possibly an In-House Detention program⁴. These programs provide an alternative to detention during the time prior to or following the adjudicatory hearing. Probation officers from PHIS have daily contact with a very limited caseload of juveniles who otherwise would be detained.

In 1988, the House Arrest Program was established. This innovative program seeks to protect the community at large while maintaining the presumption of innocence for the detainee. In addition, it reaffirms the obligation of the parents to supervise their children.

The Court dictates the juvenile's range of restriction. This range may permit the juvenile to participate in activities that can be monitored by a probation officer. The Court may also restrict the youth to his home. The degree of threat to the community and the Court's discretion in the case are the deciding factors.

This program is mutually beneficial to both the community and the detainee. The community is protected due to the monitoring of the juvenile. In addition, savings in housing and personal costs of the detainee are realized because the juvenile remains at home instead of being placed in a detention facility.

¹See flow chart on page 21.

²Excluding the crime of murder or summary offenses.

³Required by law to be heard within 72 hours. Hearings are held Monday through Friday and on holidays which fall on Monday or Friday.

⁴This program is administered and monitored by Community Based Services who have contracted with the Philadelphia Youth Advocate Program and the Lower Kensington Environmental Center for supervision of youths.

While the youth does not have the option to leave home, he benefits by having the familiarity and comforts of home.

In 1988, approximately 3 percent of new delinquency cases were adjusted at the YSC and 97 percent were referred to Court for disposition.

While the delinquency statistics presented in this report cannot define the total amount of delinquency in Philadelphia, they can indicate trends. In addition, they alert the community to the amount of serious crime attributed to youthful citizens. Actually, a small number of Philadelphia's children are involved in delinquent behavior. In 1988, approximately 3 percent of juvenile residents between the ages of 10 and 17 were charged with delinquent acts. This percentage has been relatively stable for many years. The typical delinquent case involved a 17 year old male who was charged with a theft offense. Males as a whole were responsible for 90 percent of all new delinquent cases disposed of in 1988.

NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1988

	Total	Male	Female
Intake interview YSC	297	206	91
Court hearing	9,428	8,577	851
Total	9,725	8,783	942

Delinquency cases involving female offenders comprised 10 percent of the total new cases disposed in 1988. Unlike male offenders, the majority of female offenders were charged with injury to person offenses. These offenses constituted a much larger percentage for female offenders (48 percent) than for male offenders (19 percent).

When disposing of a delinquent case, the facts and circumstances of the case determine the type of disposition. In 1988, 40 percent of the cases were adjusted, withdrawn or dismissed while 34 percent resulted in the offender being placed on probation.

NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED BY AGE AND SEX: 1988

Age	Total	Male	Female
10	61	59	2
11	214	205	9
12	377	329	48
13	712	607	105
14	1,255	1,129	126
15	1,928	1,735	193
16	2,285	2,090	195
17	2,794	2,570	224
Not reported	99	59	40
Total	9,725	8,783	942

OFFENSES DISPOSED: 1988

	Total	Male	Female
Injury to person	2,127	1,677	450
Theft	4,814	4,496	318
Weapon offenses	219	191	28
Sex offenses	251	249	2
Drug law violations	1,571	1,495	76
Malicious mischief	424	387	37
Runaway from institution	271	245	26
Other offenses ²	48	43	5
Total	9,725	8,783	942

²Includes non-payment of fines, liquor law violations.

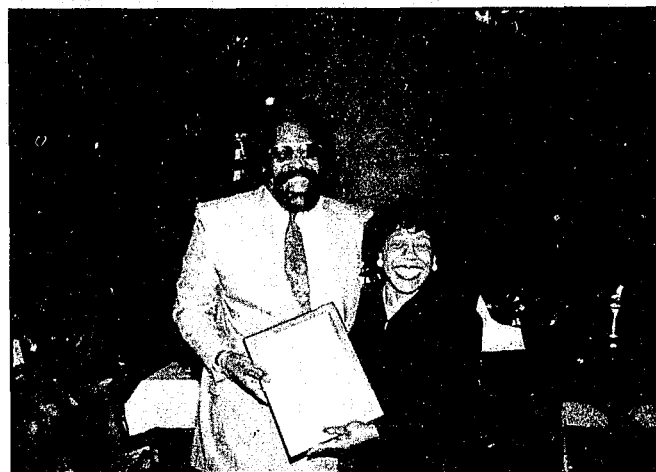
In order to serve juveniles who are to be supervised because of detention, commitment or probation, Family Court has seven probation districts and five specialized units. Most of the probationed youths are assigned to district offices. Smaller numbers of juveniles who are in need of more stringent supervision are assigned to one of four specialized units, the Pre-Hearing Intensive Supervision (PHIS), House Arrest Program (HAP), (both discussed on the previous page) the Correctional Group Counseling (CGC), Intensive Probation Services (IPS), The services of the fifth specialized unit, Community Related Institutional Probation, (CRIP) are described in the data on commitments.

The CGC program provides group therapy to a prescribed number of juvenile probationers on a twice weekly basis. The probation officers conduct these sessions under the guidance of the Medical Branch's Chief Psychologist.

The Intensive Probation Services Unit services very small caseloads involving probationed juveniles who have committed more serious offenses and who are in need of more



Rita Ricci, a recipient of an Employee of the Year Award for the Juvenile Branch is shown with Judge Tucker who presented the award.



John T. Shields, Probation Officer, PHIS, receives congratulations from Judge Tucker upon being selected as one of the recipients of Employee of the Year Awards for the Juvenile Branch.

intensive supervision. In 1987, this unit was expanded allowing more youths to be supervised in lieu of committing them to institutions.

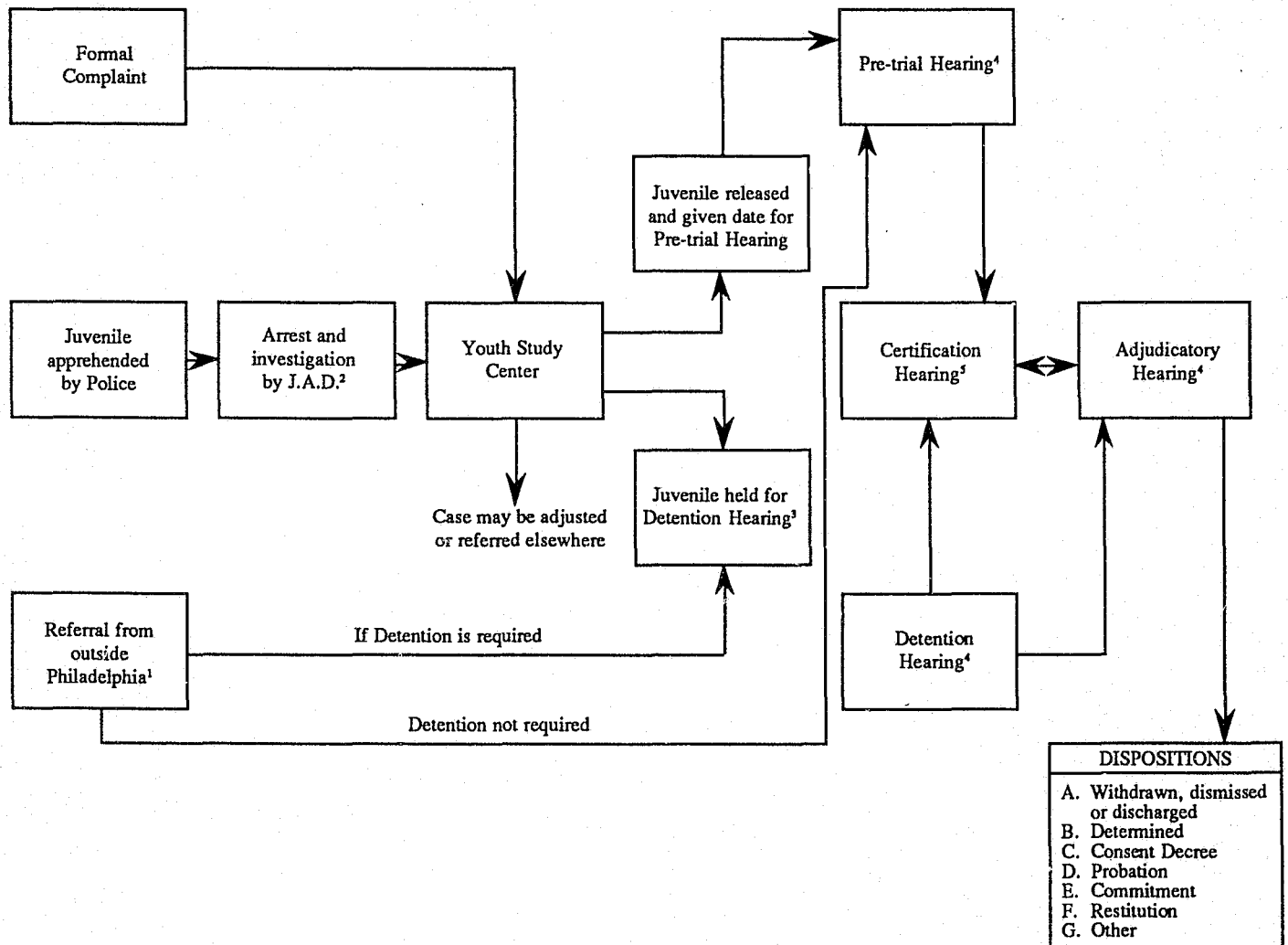
An additional 22 percent of new delinquency cases resulted in the juvenile offender being committed. Most commitments were to delinquent institutions (84 percent), the balance of commitments were to community based or mental health facilities.

DISPOSITIONS IN NEW DELINQUENCY CASES: 1988

Referred to other authorities	145
Dismissed/withdrawn	3,913
Adjusted at YSC	297
Withdrawn	2,278
Other dismissal	1,338
Probation ¹	3,306
Consent decree	667
Probation	2,639
Commitment	2,141
Certified to criminal court	146
Other	74
Restitution/fines	61
Other	13
Total	9,725

¹Includes cases in which restitution was ordered.

JUVENILE BRANCH — NEW DELINQUENCY CASES — FLOW GUIDE



¹Other Court or Authority.

²Juvenile Aid Division Officers have broad discretion in determining whether a juvenile offense is treated as an arrest or a non-arrest (remedial disposition).

³Pennsylvania law requires a Detention Hearing within 72 hours. Juvenile may be detained at Youth Study Center or a Community Based Service facility.

⁴a) District Attorney may request certification of Juvenile at this hearing.

b) Judge may dispose of case at this hearing.

⁵If certification is granted, case is transferred to criminal court. If denied, case is scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

In most cases in which a commitment to an institution is ordered by the Court, the juvenile is assigned a probation officer from CRIP, who maintains contact with the juvenile and the family. This relationship helps the juvenile adjust to the commitment and allows the probation officer to develop an aftercare plan for the child's anticipated return to the community. Upon discharge from the institution, the Court may order continued supervision by the probation officer through the Court's aftercare program.

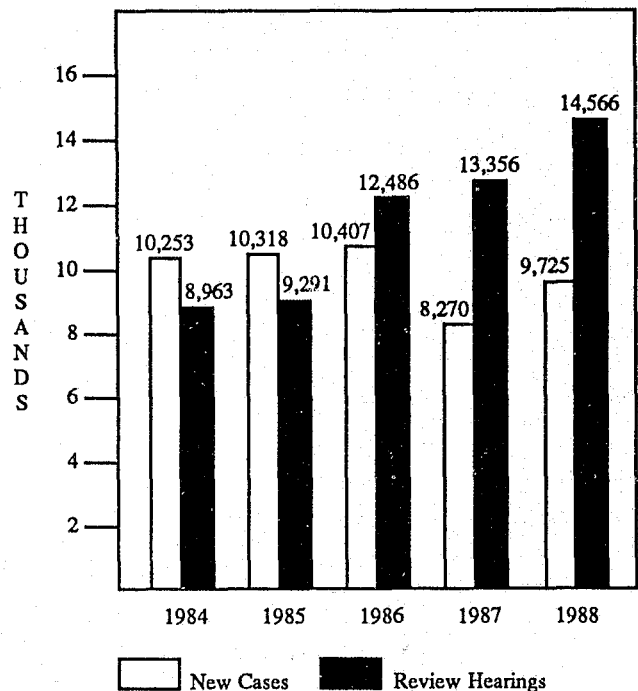
In December, 1988, through a grant from the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission, the Intensive Aftercare Unit was established. Probation officers from this unit provide close supervision to small groups of juveniles, who have been defined as serious offenders and who have been committed to the Youth Development Center at Cornwell Heights, Pennsylvania or placed in the unit's aftercare program upon their release from the center.

Probation officers are required to perform social investigations; prepare plans and reports pertaining to the probationed youths; meet periodically with the juveniles and their families and present recommendations to the Court regarding rehabilitative services for the probationers. At the end of 1988, the probation officers had completed 6,494 investigations and had 4,995 juveniles under their supervision excluding cases assigned to PHIS or HAP.

In certain delinquency cases in which the offenses are serious, the juvenile is 14 or more years of age and is found not to be amenable to rehabilitation, the Court may order the juvenile be tried as an adult in Criminal Court. In 1988, Family Court certified 146 delinquency cases to the Trial Division of the Court of Common Pleas.

In addition to new cases, the Court also reviews cases in which new facts or changing circumstances are brought to its attention. Furthermore, the law and court policy require a court hearing every six months for those juveniles who have been committed to delinquent institutions or placed elsewhere during the year. In 1988, 14,566 review hearings were heard in Family Court.

DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988



Barbara Hudson is shown with Judge A. Frank Reynolds after being recognized for completing 25 years of service to the Court. Also shown in the background is Judge Bonavitacola.

TABLE 1

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES: 1988

New cases filed:	
Petitions	8,899
Adjusted at Youth Study Center	297
Total	9,196
New cases disposed:	
Pre-trial	1,559
Adjudicatory	7,869
Youth Study Center intake interviews	297
Total	9,725
Review hearings	14,566
Total cases disposed	24,291
New referrals	2,819
Court sessions	1,409

NEW CASES FILED: 1984 TO 1988

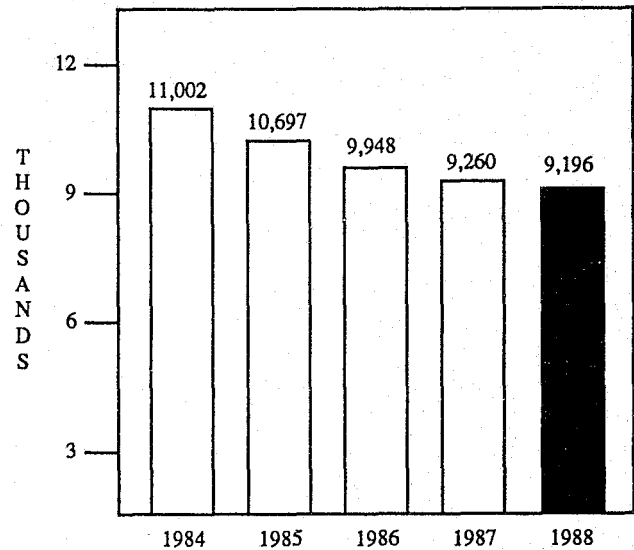


TABLE 2

CASES PROCESSED AT YOUTH STUDY CENTER:
1984 TO 1988

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Disposed of at intake interview	987	774	758	518	297
Referred to juvenile court	10,015	9,923	9,190	8,742	8,899
<i>Detained at YSC¹ pending court hearing</i>	3,062	2,991	3,234	3,642	5,343
<i>Released to parents pending court hearing</i>	6,953	6,932	5,956	5,100	3,556
Total	11,002	10,697	9,948	9,260	9,196

¹Youth Study Center or Community Based Service Facility

TABLE 3

SOURCE OF REFERRAL -- NEW CASES
DISPOSED: 1988

Police arrests	8,890
Authorities outside of Philadelphia	113
Individual	573
Parent or relative	112
School authorities	1
Other	36
Total	9,725

DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

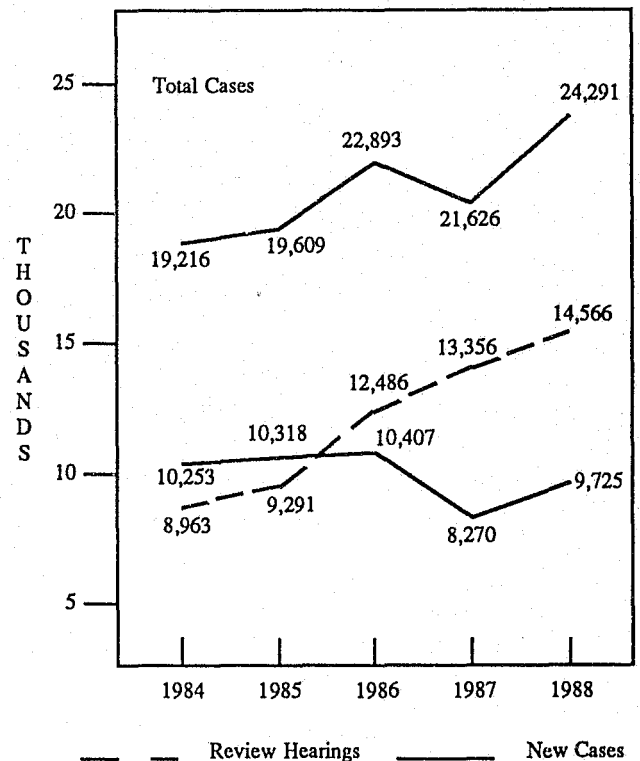


TABLE 4

NEW CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Injury to person	1,656	1,679	1,890	1,725	2,127
Burglary	1,747	1,796	1,324	767	728
Robbery	2,222	2,097	2,098	1,364	1,277
Larceny	1,152	1,179	1,123	1,035	1,476
Auto theft	630	670	806	714	797
Other theft	495	563	621	450	536
Weapons offenses	446	486	384	311	219
Sex offenses	232	210	281	252	251
Drug law violations	502	606	724	771	1,571
Malicious mischief	458	509	535	456	424
Runaway from institution	260	279	284	229	271
Other	453	244	337	196	48
Total	10,253	10,318	10,407	8,270	9,725

NEW CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE OF HEARING: 1984 TO 1988

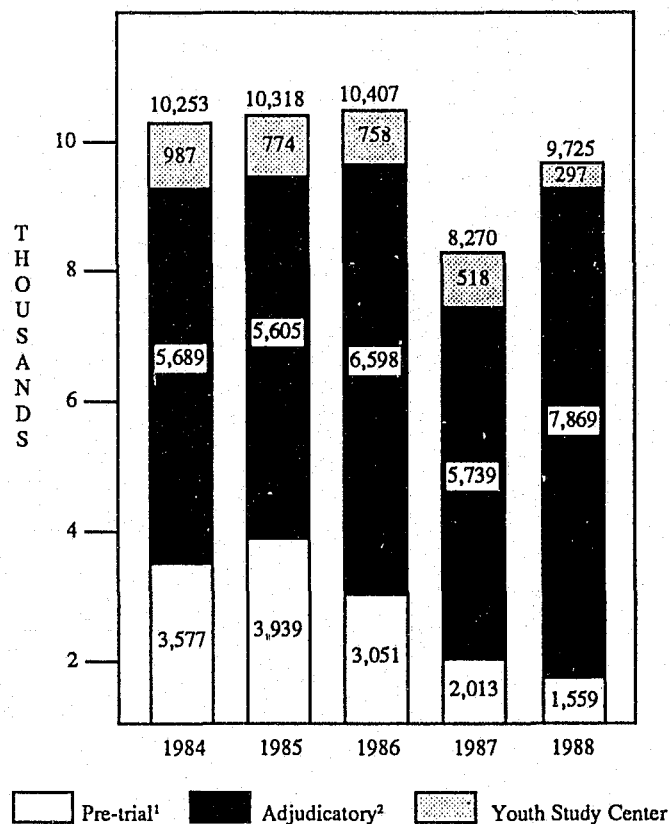
¹Includes a small number of detention hearings.²Includes a small number of certification hearings.

TABLE 5

TYPE OF OFFENSES DISPOSED: 1988

Offenses	Total	Male	Female
Injury to person:			
Homicide	6	5	1
Aggravated assault	800	658	132
Assault	1,180	896	284
Coercion/Threats	131	98	33
Other	10	10	—
	2,127	1,677	450
Theft:			
Burglary	728	686	42
Robbery	1,277	1,176	101
Larceny	1,476	1,391	85
Retail theft	117	70	47
Auto theft	258	249	9
Unauthorized use of auto	539	525	14
Receiving stolen property	324	316	8
Fraud, forgery, etc.	95	83	12
	4,814	4,496	318
Weapons offenses:			
Possessing instruments of crime	26	22	4
Prohibited offensive weapons	21	18	3
Violation of UFA ¹	172	151	21
	219	191	28
Sex offenses:			
Rape	94	94	—
Indecent assault	131	131	—
Prostitution	4	2	2
Deviate sexual intercourse	11	11	—
Indecent exposure	11	11	—
	251	249	2
Drug law violations:			
Possession of drugs	1,407	1,338	69
Sale of drugs	164	157	7
	1,571	1,495	76
Malicious mischief:			
Vandalism	60	56	4
Arson	9	7	2
Disorderly conduct	20	16	4
Trespassing	157	147	10
Conspiracy	126	116	10
Harassment	11	8	3
Other	41	37	4
	424	387	37
Runaway from institution	271	245	26
Miscellaneous offenses:			
Failure to pay fines and costs	1	—	1
Other	47	43	4
	48	43	5
Total	9,725	8,783	942

¹Uniform Firearms Act.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OFFENSES: 1988

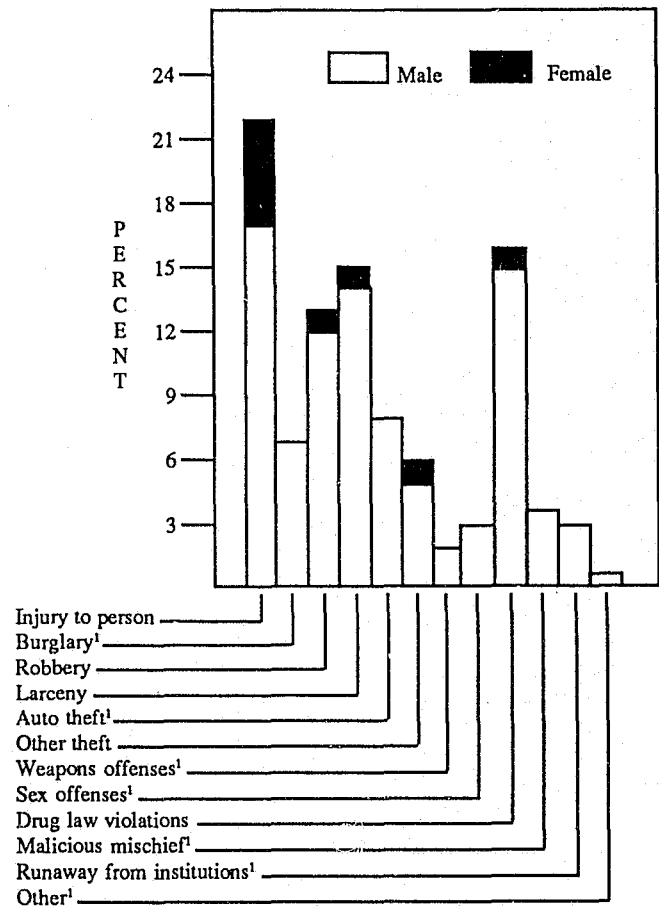
¹Less than 0.5 percent for female cases.

TABLE 6

TYPE OF OFFENSES DISPOSED BY AGES: 1988

Offenses	Total	Age								
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	N/R
Injury to person	2,127	22	54	110	179	340	403	447	516	56
Theft	4,814	33	120	177	352	635	994	1,125	1,356	22
Weapons offenses	219	1	4	12	25	25	41	52	59	—
Sex offenses	251	3	5	23	46	44	43	45	40	2
Drug law violations	1,571	—	—	8	47	124	292	459	639	2
Malicious mischief	424	1	18	27	52	59	99	73	78	17
Runaway from institution	271	—	11	21	10	22	48	77	82	—
Other offenses	48	—	2	—	1	6	8	7	24	—
Total	9,725	60	214	378	712	1,255	1,928	2,285	2,794	99

TABLE 7

INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN INVOLVED IN
DELINQUENT CASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX: 1988

Age group and sex	Cases	Children
Male		
10-13	1,200	864
14-15	2,864	1,870
16-17	4,659	2,911
Not reported	60	55
Female		
10-13	164	137
14-15	319	274
16-17	419	347
Not reported	40	35
Total	9,725	6,493

TABLE 8

CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN:
1988

Age:		Sex:	
10 years	58	Male	5,700
11 years	150	Female	793
12 years	270	Total	6,493
13 years	523		
14 years	854		
15 years	1,290		
16 years	1,520		
17 years	1,738		
Not reported	90		
Total	6,493		
		Residence of individual children:	
		Both parents	1,672
		Parent and stepparent	239
		Mother	3,372
		Father	238
		Other	713
		Not reported	259
		Total	6,493
Race:			
White	1,064		
Hispanic	633		
Non-white	4,727		
Other	21		
Not reported	48		
Total	6,493		

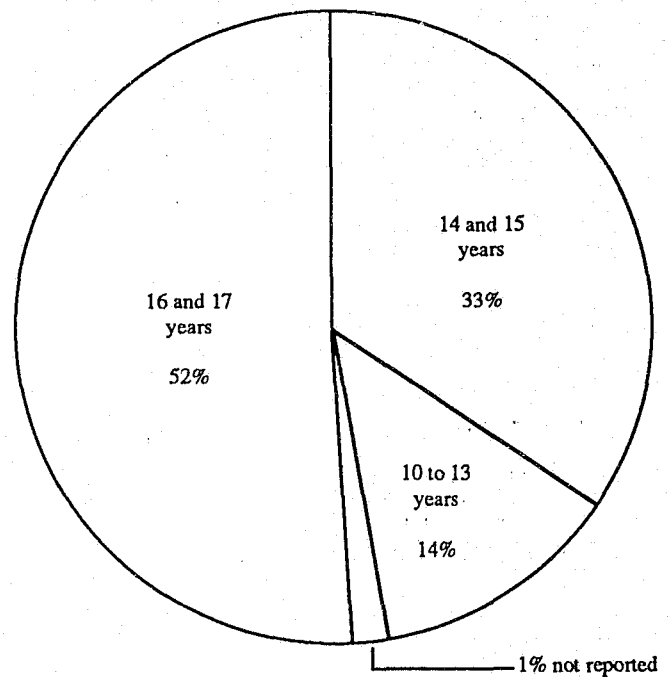
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NEW
DELINQUENCY CASES: 1988

TABLE 9

PERCENT OF DELINQUENT RESIDENT
CHILDREN: 1988

Age	Resident child population ¹	Individual children		
		Non-residents	Residents	
			Number	Percent of population
10 years	22,055	—	58	0.2
11 years	22,159	1	149	0.6
12 years	20,554	2	268	1.3
13 years	21,071	6	517	2.4
14 years	20,725	14	840	4.0
15 years	21,723	41	1,249	5.7
16 years	23,152	66	1,450	6.2
17 years	40,054	92	1,649	4.1
Not reported	—	1	90	—
Total	191,493	223	6,270	3.2
Male	97,964	199	5,501	5.6
Female	93,529	24	768	0.8
10-13	85,839	9	992	1.1
14-15	42,448	55	2,089	4.9
16-17	63,206	158	3,099	4.9
Not reported	—	1	90	—

¹Information supplied by School District of Philadelphia

INCIDENCE OF DELINQUENCY: 1984 TO 1988

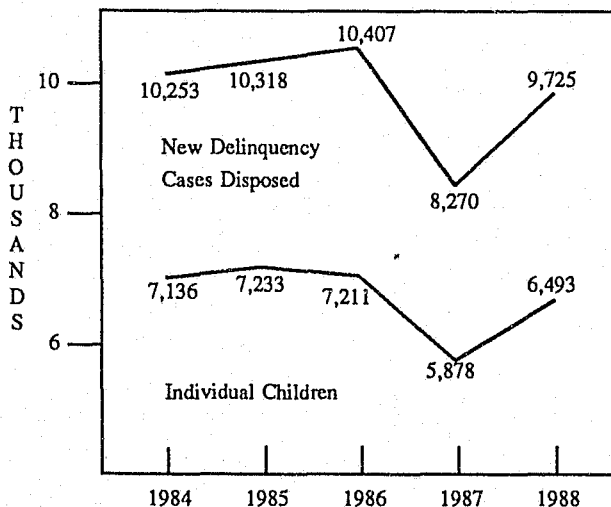
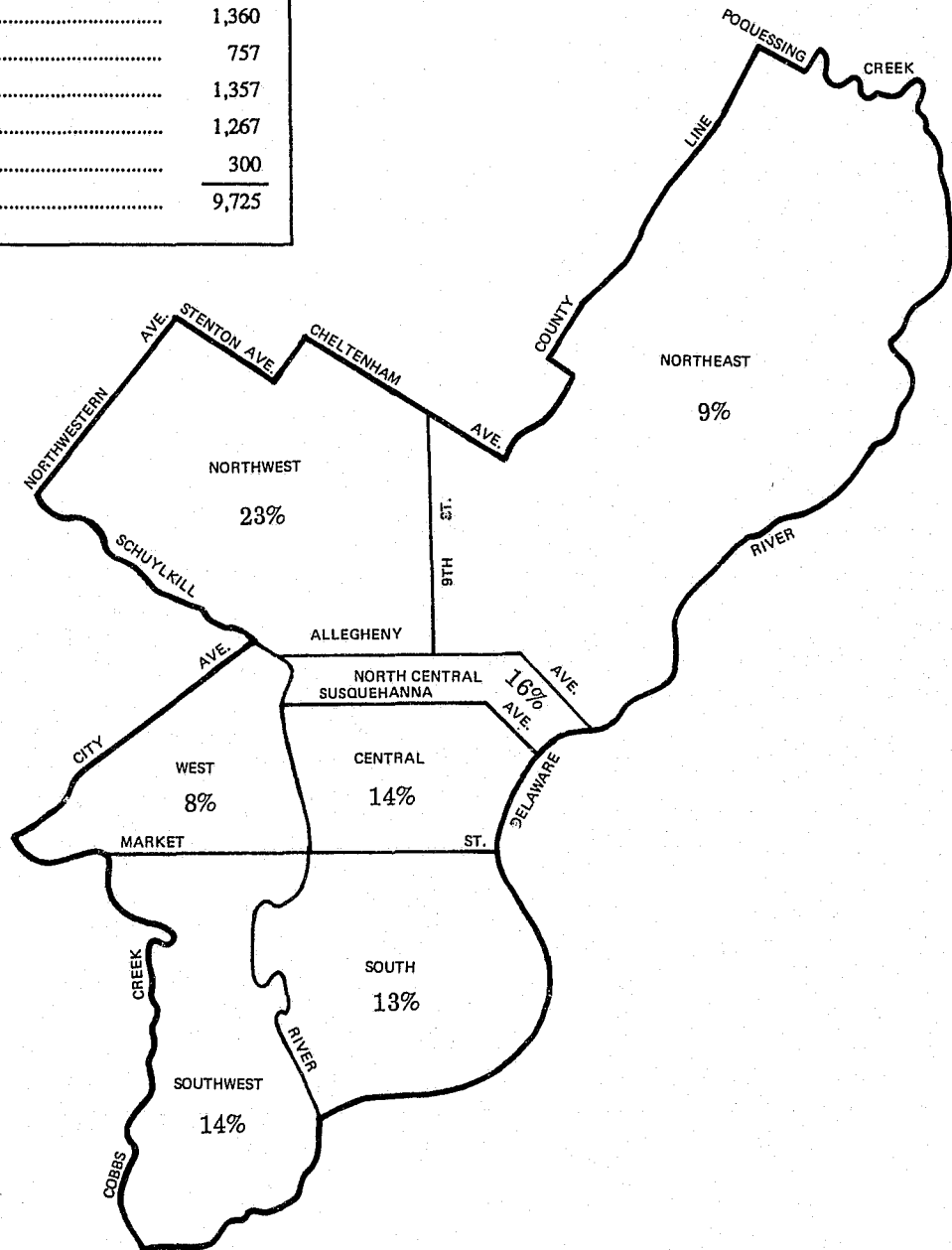


TABLE 10

NEW DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED BY
RESIDENCE AREA OF
JUVENILE OFFENDERS: 1988

Residents of:	
Northwest district	2,213
Northeast district	897
Northcentral district	1,574
Central district	1,360
West district	757
Southwest district	1,357
South district	1,267
Non-residents	300
Total cases	9,725

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY
CASES BY RESIDENCE AREA OF
JUVENILE OFFENDERS: 1988¹



¹Non-Residents accounted for 3% of cases.

TABLE 11

TYPE OF OFFENSE BY AREA OF OCCURRENCE: 1988

Police District	Injury To Person	Burglary	Robbery	Larceny	Auto Theft	Other Theft	Weapons Offenses	Sex Offenses	Drug Law Violations	Malicious Mischief	Runaway From Institution	All Other Offenses	Total
1st	52	21	49	66	11	24	2	15	17	13	1	3	274
2nd	57	12	8	42	2	49	10	9	20	16	4	2	231
3rd	29	9	38	35	5	25	1	8	10	—	4	2	166
4th	34	18	26	40	4	26	6	3	11	3	3	4	178
5th	16	14	12	13	1	11	—	4	12	6	2	2	93
6th	68	38	145	89	34	89	5	15	26	23	4	1	537
7th	15	9	7	12	1	16	3	3	11	5	1	1	84
8th	44	20	9	28	—	7	8	4	5	25	3	—	153
9th	70	21	66	115	24	65	7	9	58	24	26	4	489
12th	122	54	71	58	15	53	13	10	130	22	11	1	560
14th	90	50	66	90	18	69	8	11	56	15	13	1	487
15th	79	45	56	58	3	33	10	5	22	17	7	—	335
16th	44	18	22	31	6	34	1	11	47	5	8	—	227
17th	63	17	36	41	8	33	12	11	81	9	7	3	321
18th	85	36	133	149	26	73	11	11	55	21	11	6	617
19th	96	47	57	66	11	64	14	12	131	26	13	2	539
22nd	79	26	63	44	11	43	12	14	97	14	28	2	433
23rd	39	26	52	26	8	34	11	10	40	14	10	1	271
24th	42	20	22	31	4	24	4	6	9	23	8	1	194
25th	143	70	94	115	9	67	22	26	370	41	36	7	1,000
26th	70	34	48	44	7	26	13	9	160	19	21	—	451
35th	131	80	101	76	26	114	26	24	113	28	24	1	744
39th	91	21	85	60	12	34	12	15	71	25	14	—	440
Other	18	2	3	17	—	10	2	—	9	1	1	3	66
Total Police Arrests	1,577	708	1,269	1,346	246	1,023	213	245	1,561	395	260	47	8,890
Other Referrals	550	20	8	130	12	52	6	6	10	29	11	1	835
Total Cases	2,127	728	1,277	1,476	258	1,075	219	251	1,571	424	271	48	9,725

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DELINQUENCY
CASES BY PHILADELPHIA POLICE DISTRICTS:
1988

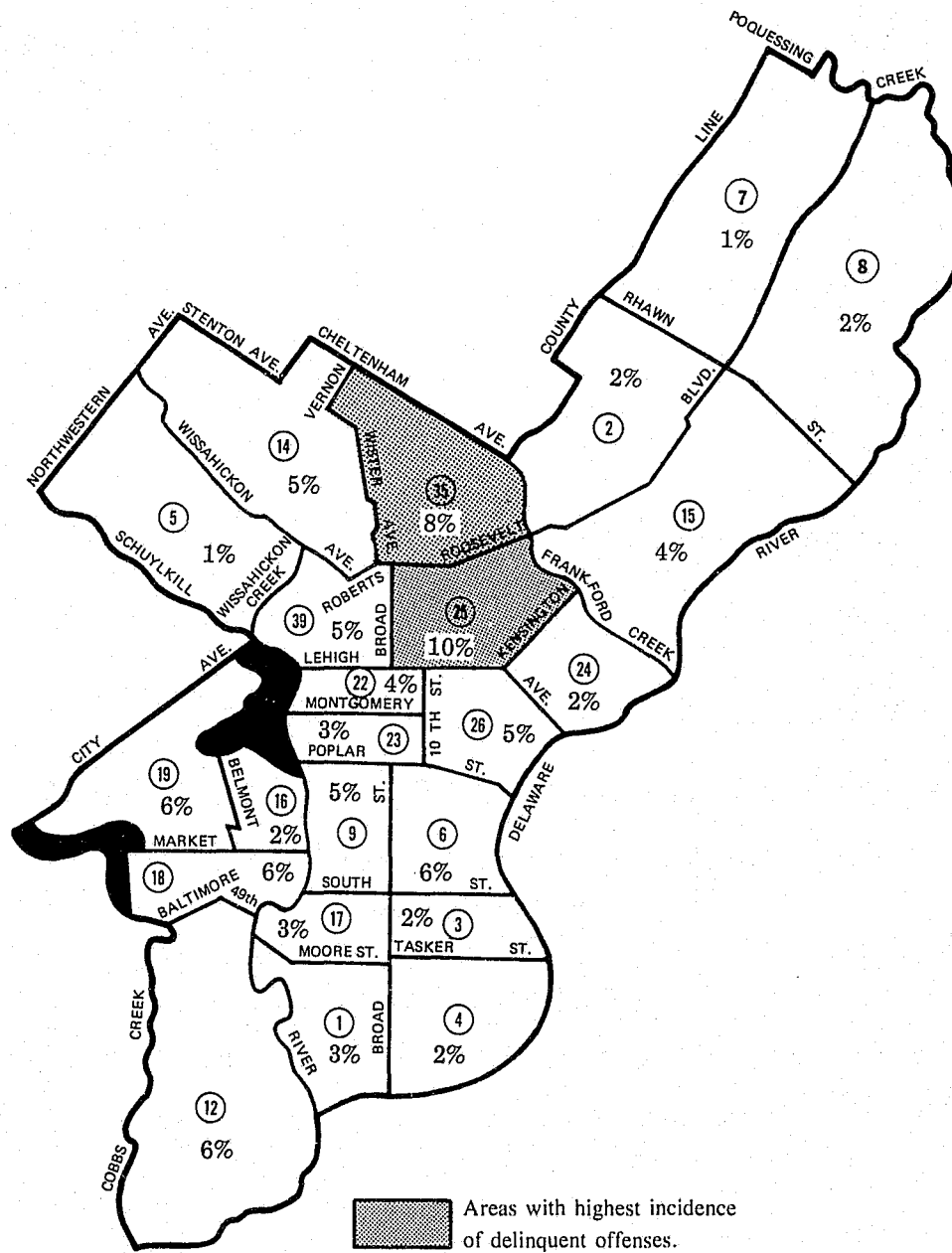


TABLE 12

OFFENSES DISPOSED BY SEX AND TYPE OF DISPOSITION: 1988

Offenses	Total		Referred elsewhere		Withdrawn, Discharged or adjusted		Probation		Commitment		Certified to criminal court		Other	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Assaults ¹	1,579	417	19	3	732	208	508	174	290	26	19	—	11	6
Coercion/threats	98	33	1	—	56	23	35	9	6	—	—	—	—	1
Burglary	686	42	6	—	335	31	182	7	144	4	15	—	4	—
Robbery	1,176	101	10	—	701	74	210	20	205	5	40	—	10	2
Larceny	1,391	85	10	2	515	40	489	33	350	10	12	—	15	—
Auto theft	774	23	9	—	231	10	341	11	175	2	9	—	9	—
Retail theft	70	47	—	1	35	17	20	25	14	3	—	—	1	1
Receiving stolen property	316	8	11	—	32	1	145	4	124	3	—	—	4	—
Other theft	83	12	—	—	42	8	27	4	12	—	1	—	1	—
Weapons offenses	191	28	4	—	51	13	106	15	29	—	—	—	1	—
Rape	94	—	—	—	53	—	15	—	21	—	5	—	—	—
Other sex offenses	155	2	5	—	59	1	67	1	22	—	2	—	—	—
Drug law violations	1,495	76	57	2	360	26	559	34	471	14	42	—	6	—
Disorderly conduct	16	4	—	—	3	1	11	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Vandalism	56	4	1	—	14	—	28	3	11	1	—	—	2	—
Arson	7	2	—	—	1	2	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Resisting an officer	30	2	—	—	7	—	14	1	9	1	—	—	—	—
Trespassing	147	10	1	—	18	2	87	7	41	1	—	—	—	—
Other malicious mischief	131	15	1	—	38	5	71	10	21	—	—	—	—	—
Runaway from institution	245	26	—	—	112	19	21	—	111	7	1	—	—	—
Motor vehicle violations	11	1	2	—	4	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	32	4	—	—	29	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8,783	942	137	8	3,428	485	2,944	362	2,064	77	146	—	64	10
	9,725		145		3,913		3,306		2,141		146		74	

¹Includes six homicides.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF DISPOSITIONS: 1988

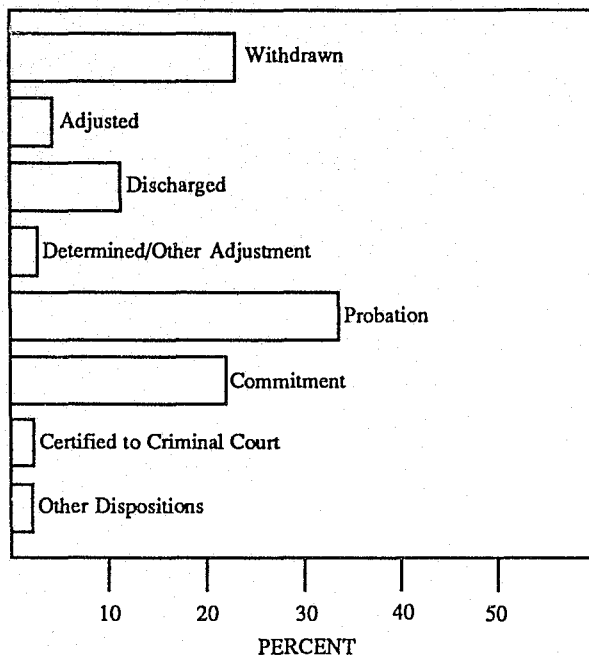


TABLE 13

DISPOSITION OF NEW CASES: 1988

Disposition	Total	Male	Female
Referred elsewhere	145	137	8
Withdrawn discharged or adjusted:			
Petition withdrawn	2,278	2,044	234
Adjusted at YSC	297	206	91
Discharged at court	1,123	989	134
Determined	63	56	7
Other	152	133	19
Total	3,913	3,428	485
Probation:			
Probation	1,729	1,586	143
Clinical services probation	5	5	—
Intensive probation	472	447	25
Probation and restitution	433	396	37
Consent decree	544	407	137
Consent decree with restitution	123	103	20
Total	3,306	2,944	362
Commitments:			
Institution for delinquents	1,793	1,726	67
Other institutions and agencies	348	338	10
Total	2,141	2,064	77
Certified to criminal court	146	146	—
Restitution and fines	61	54	7
Other	13	10	3
Total	220	210	10
Total	9,725	8,783	942

TABLE 14

DISPOSITIONS: 1984 TO 1988

Type of Disposition	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Referred elsewhere	51	51	38	46	145
Withdrawn, discharged or adjusted	3,519	3,752	4,197	3,118	3,913
Probation or supervision	4,610	4,629	4,041	3,283	3,306
Committed to: Institution for delinquents	1,426	1,423	1,634	1,307	1,793
Other Institutions or agencies	269	250	181	242	348
Certified to criminal court	229	129	181	195	146
Restitution or fines	54	68	97	53	61
Other	95	16	38	26	13
Total	10,253	10,318	10,407	8,270	9,725

TABLE 15

REVIEW HEARINGS: 1988

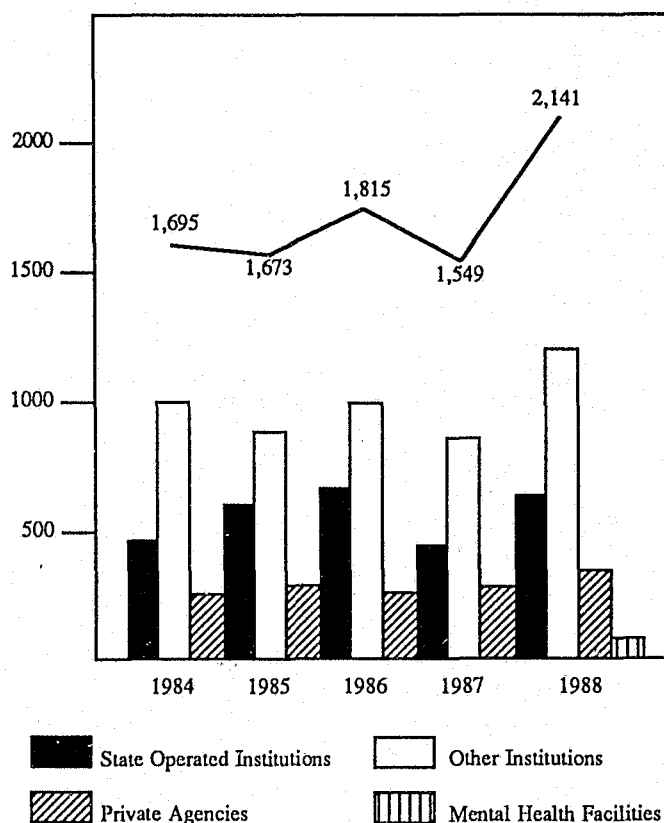
Reason for review:	
Unsatisfactory probation	105
Discharge from supervision	3,034
Consent decree relisted	124
Discharge from commitment	2,109
Case review	1,498
Review of placement	7,052
Runaway from institution or agency	233
Other	411
Total	14,566
Disposition:	
Motions dismissed or withdrawn	137
Discharged from probation or aftercare	1,895
Discharged from commitment	1,926
Probation or aftercare	255
Runaway returned	18
Committed to institutions for delinquents	1,055
Other commitments	621
Remain as placed	6,203
Discharged from consent decree	740
Record expunged	74
Previous decision to stand	1,587
Other	55
Total	14,566

TABLE 16

**INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES TO WHICH DELINQUENT CHILDREN
WERE COMMITTED — NEW CASES: 1988**

INSTITUTIONS		MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES ¹	PRIVATE AGENCIES, COMMUNITY BASED SETTINGS, DAY TREATMENT PROGRAMS
STATE OPERATED:		Eastern State School and Hospital 7	House of Umoja 22
Youth Development Centers 412		Philadelphia Psychiatric Center 2	Some Other Place 5
Open setting 276		Norristown State Hospital 37	St. Gabriel's De La Salle In Towne 50
Secure unit 136		Keystone School 1	St. Gabriel's Vocational Program 38
Forestry camps 114		Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic 7	Vision Quest 133
Secure Treatment units 48			St. Gabriel's Group Home 7
			Mordy Program 6
			Other 33
Total 574		Total 54	Total 294
OTHER INSTITUTIONS:			
Abraxas 143			
George Jr. Republic 21			
Glen Mills 339			
Sleighton School 292			
St. Gabriel's Hall 321			
St. Michael's School 73			
The Bridge 2			
Other 28			
Total 1,219			
TOTAL NEW COMMITMENTS:	2,141		

TOTAL COMMITMENTS — NEW CASES: 1984 TO 1988



¹New commitments to mental health facilities too small to depict for years 1984–1987.

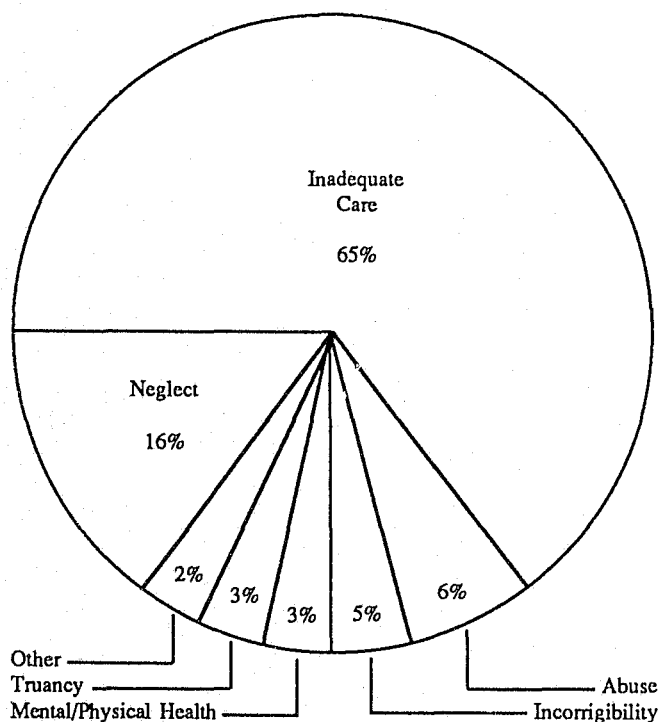
NON-DELINQUENCY CASES

Non-delinquency (dependent) cases concern children who were found to be dependent due to neglect, abuse or inadequate care. Non-delinquency cases are informal proceedings, conducted by a Judge, with only those involved in the proceedings in attendance. In 1988, a total of 28,951 cases consisting of 4,285 new cases and 24,665 review hearings were disposed of by Family Court. In addition, 1,007 hearings were held regarding emergency protective custody or treatment in cases involving mental health or suspected child abuse. These hearings are not included in the statistics because they occurred before the filing of a non-delinquency petition.

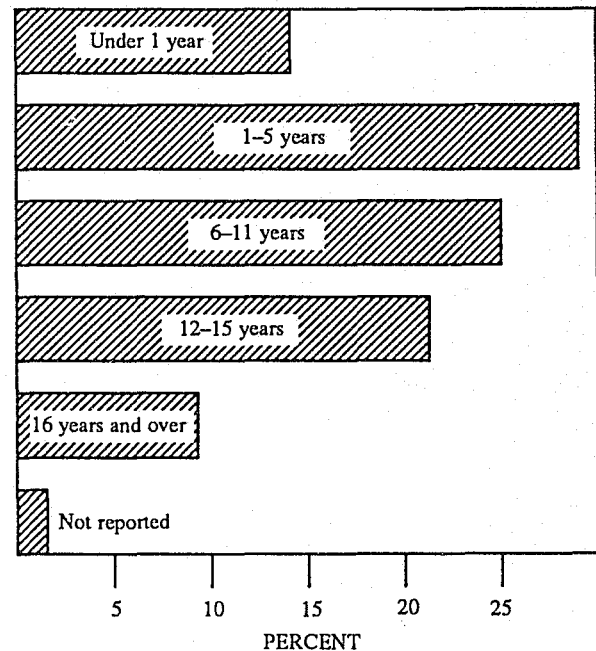
Most new cases come to the attention of the Court through the Department of Human Services. This agency referred 83 percent of the new cases disposed of in 1988. Six percent of the cases were referred by parents. Almost all of these cases involved incorrigibility. The Court and the Board of Education each referred 4 percent while 3 percent of the cases were referred by a relative or other individual.

In general, the most frequent reason given for referral in non-delinquency cases was "inadequate care". These cases accounted for 65 percent of the new cases disposed of in 1988, as compared to 53 percent in 1987.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION — REASON FOR REFERRAL: 1988



AGE DISTRIBUTION: 1988



In previous years, children involved in non-delinquency cases were evenly divided between the sexes. In 1988 however, more boys (2,208) than girls (2,078) were referred to Court as dependent children.

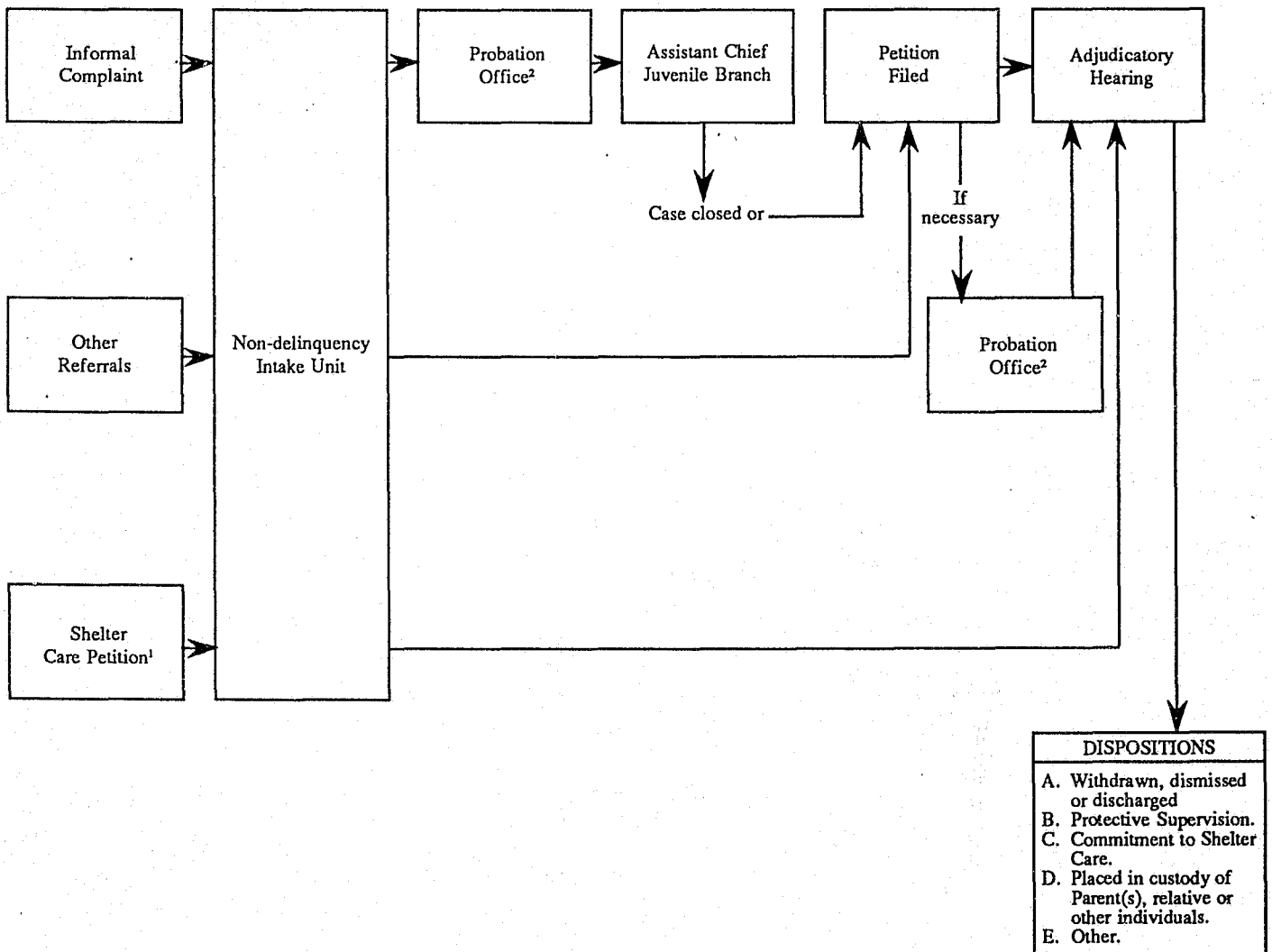
While both sexes were referred to Court primarily due to neglect or inadequate care, females more often than males were referred because of abuse.

The ages of children in non-delinquency cases ranged from a few months to over 17 years. For many years, children in the 12-15 age group accounted for the largest number of new cases disposed. However, in 1988, children in the 1-5 age group had the largest number of new cases disposed followed by those in the 6-11 age group.

Considering the economic hardships often found in single parent families, it is not surprising to find a large number of dependent children lived with one parent (32 percent). An even larger percentage (54) resided in agencies, foster homes or institutions.

In 41 percent of new non-delinquency cases disposed of in 1988, the child was committed to the Department of Human Services. An additional 26 percent of the dispositions allowed the child to remain at home but under the protective supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court. Twenty-five percent of the cases were dismissed or withdrawn.

JUVENILE BRANCH — NEW NON-DELINQUENCY CASES — FLOW GUIDE



¹Petitions filed by Department of Human Services when a child has been voluntarily placed for more than 30 days.

²For investigation.

In recent years, the number of new non-delinquency cases received and disposed of have shown little change. In 1988 however, there was a 66 percent increase in petitions filed and a 42 percent increase in new cases disposed. This increase is due in part to the large number of petitions filed by the Department of Human Services because of neglect and or abuse of children by parents or caretakers who have drug abuse problems. Review hearings continued to rise and in 1988 comprised 85 percent of the non-delinquency workload.

Review hearings concern cases previously disposed of but for varied reasons are brought to the Court's attention for modification of the previous dispositions. Dispositions involving commitments to child placing agencies usually are made for indefinite periods. By law, as well as court policy, cases involving commitment are reviewed every six months as long as the child remains in placement. In 1988, 24,665 review hearings were heard by Family Court, almost triple the number heard in 1981. Masters, appointed by the court, review the cases of dependent children placed in shelter care or other out of home facilities, as well as those children placed under the supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court.

Sixty-two percent of review hearings resulted in the children remaining in placement, 8 percent were discharged from commitment or supervision, 1 percent were committed to a child placement or mental health facility, while 3 percent

remained at home under protective supervision of the Department of Human Services or the Court. In 25 percent of the review hearings, the Court allowed the previous decision to stand.

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

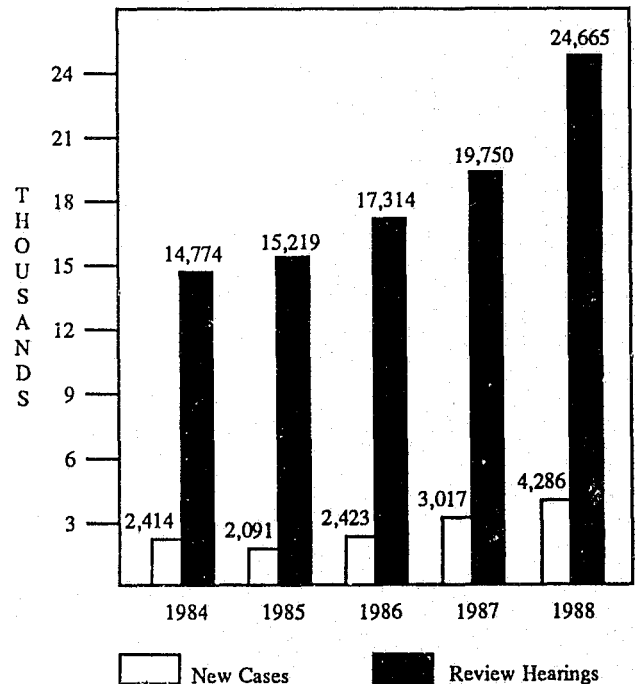


TABLE 1

JUVENILE NON-DELINQUENCY CASES: 1988

Petitions filed	5,235
Cases disposed:	
New cases	4,286
Review hearings	24,665
Total	28,951
New referrals	1,770
Court sessions	648

PETITIONS FILED: 1984 TO 1988

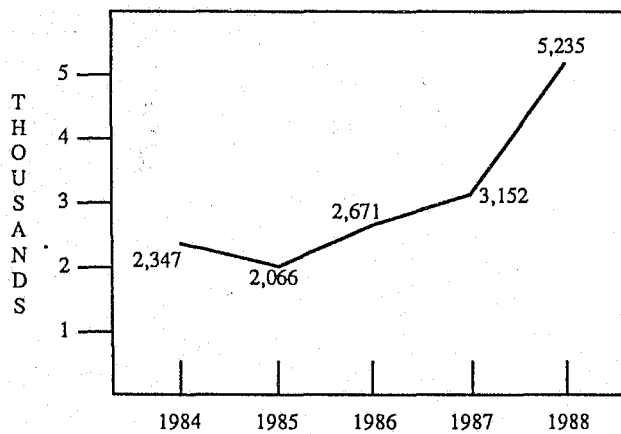


TABLE 2

REASON FOR REFERRAL BY SEX: 1988

	Total	Male	Female	Families Involved
Inadequate care	2,780	1,419	1,361	1,755
Neglect	706	387	319	293
Abuse	255	113	142	146
Mental/physical health	113	59	54	92
Truancy	142	83	59	101
Incorrigibility	199	101	98	186
Other	91	46	45	64
Total	4,286	2,208	2,078	2,637

NON-DELINQUENCY CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

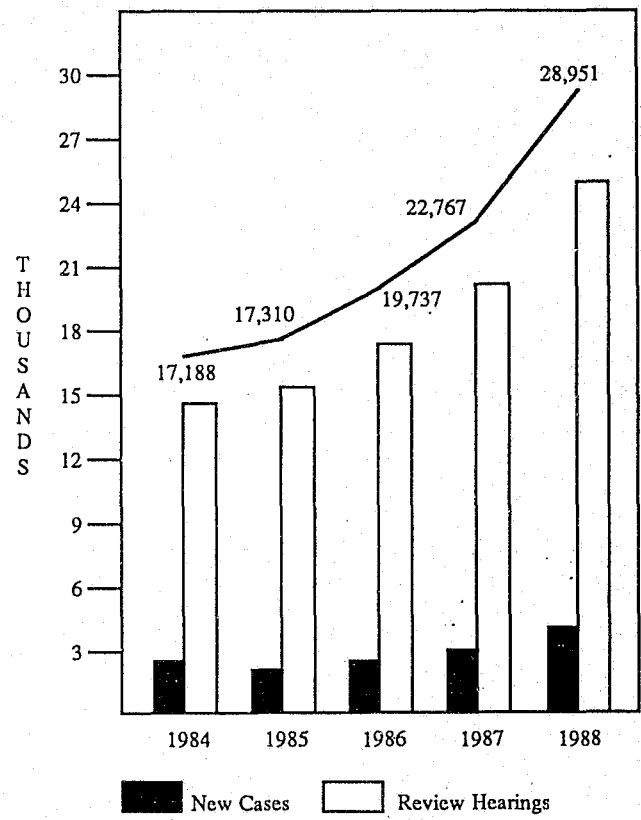


TABLE 3

REASON FOR REFERRAL: 1984 TO 1988

New Cases	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Inadequate care	1,335	1,224	1,115	1,609	2,780
Neglect	325	318	383	492	706
Abuse	215	139	240	216	255
Mental/physical health	93	63	72	100	113
Incorrigibility	205	179	416	417	199
Truancy	67	64	74	43	142
Other	174	104	123	140	91
Total	2,414	2,091	2,423	3,017	4,286

TABLE 4

SOURCE OF REFERRAL: 1984 TO 1988

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Parent	218	183	425	448	267
Relative	77	62	88	96	129
Other individual	21	10	10	23	7
School authorities	323	225	141	82	189
Dept. of Human Services	1,599	1,474	1,609	2,244	3,534
Court	174	130	150	124	160
Other	2	7	—	—	—
Total	2,414	2,091	2,423	3,017	4,286

TABLE 5

NEW CASES DISPOSED BY AGE GROUP: 1988

	Total	Under 1 year	1-5 years	6-11 years	12-15 years	16 and over	Not reported
Inadequate care	2,780	472	821	647	565	244	31
Neglect	706	105	315	213	55	14	4
Abuse	255	20	76	107	39	12	1
Mental/physical health	113	—	5	27	50	31	—
Truancy	142	—	—	33	83	24	2
Incorrigibility	199	—	—	9	120	66	4
Other	91	7	31	26	17	9	1
Total	4,286	604	1,248	1,062	929	400	43

TABLE 6

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN IN NON-DELINQUENCY CASES: 1988

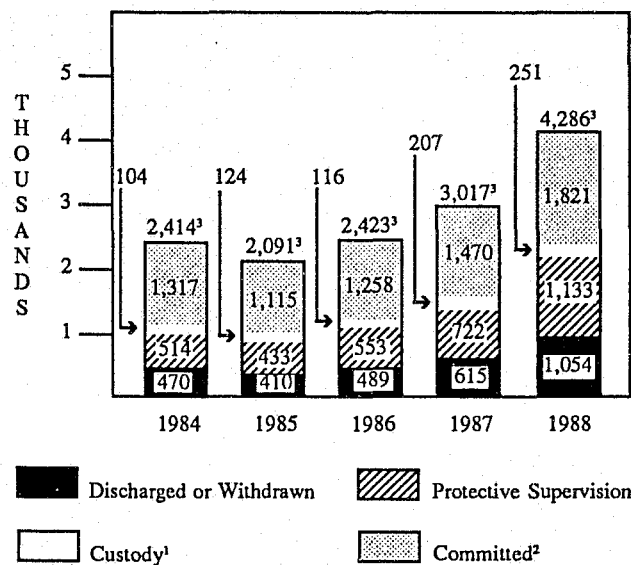
Age:		Sex:	
Under 1 year	604	Male	2,208
1-5 years	1,248	Female	2,078
6-11 years	1,062		
12-15 years	929	Residence of child:	
16 years and over	400	Both parents	272
Not reported	43	Parent and stepparent	20
Total	4,286	Mother	1,295
		Father	66
Race:		Other family home	254
White	522	Foster home	12
Hispanic	274	Institution	2,302
Oriental	6	Independent	1
Black	3,331	Not reported	64
Other/not reported	163		
Total	4,286	Total	4,286

TABLE 7

DISPOSITIONS — NEW CASES: 1988

Dismissed or discharged	554
Petition withdrawn	500
Protective supervision	1,133
Placed in custody of:	
Parent	18
Relative	212
Other individual	21
Committed to:	
Department of Human Services	1,754
Mental Health Facility	67
Other	27
Total	4,286

DISPOSITIONS — NEW CASES: 1984 TO 1988



¹Parent, relative or other individual.

²Department of Human Services, Mental Health Facility.

³Other dispositions too small to depict.

TABLE 8

REVIEW HEARINGS: 1984 TO 1988

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Reason for review:					
Discharge from supervision	810	798	979	1,321	1,383
Discharge from commitment	1,448	1,356	1,580	1,626	1,748
Case review	825	6,988	3,210	4,682	6,290
Report/Placement review	11,609	5,988	11,518	12,104	15,228
Other	82	89	27	17	16
Total	14,774	15,219	17,314	19,750	24,665
Disposition:					
Discharged from supervision	706	720	725	956	1,118
Discharged from commitment	1,135	989	960	868	912
Remain as placed	11,954	12,500	11,426	12,051	15,197
Protective supervision	568	614	614	734	781
Committed:					
Department of Human Services	209	212	264	334	259
Mental health facility	40	21	17	10	9
Placed in custody of:					
Parent	31	35	30	48	37
Relative	43	39	45	80	64
Individual	15	26	14	27	24
Dismissed or withdrawn	73	62	41	83	76
Decision to stand	—	—	3,176	4,557	6,184
Other	—	1	2	2	4
Total	14,774	15,219	17,314	19,750	24,665

ADULT CASES

The Adult Unit of the Juvenile Branch processes cases involving adults charged with crimes against children and exercises authority in the following types of cases:

1. Any adult charged with corrupting, or tending to corrupt the morals of any child under the age of 18 years, or who aids or encourages any such child in the commission of any crime, or in violating any order of the Court.
2. Any parent, guardian, or other person supervising the welfare of a child under 18 years who is charged with knowingly endangering the welfare of the child by violating a duty of care, protection or support.
3. Any adult charged with a crime against a child under 18 years such as simple or aggravated assault, indecent assault, rape etc.

In adult cases, the Judge sits as a Municipal Court Judge. In this capacity, he may make final disposition of any case concerning a crime for which the maximum sentence is five years or less. In cases concerning crimes having a maximum sentence of more than 5 years, he presides over a preliminary hearing and determines whether or not the evidence warrants holding the accused for trial. If it does, the accused is referred for action and subsequent trial in the Criminal Court.

Summary

In 1988, 1,999 cases were received by the Adult Unit for disposition. A total of 1,806 cases consisting of 1,590 new cases and 216 truancy cases were disposed of in 1988.

Adult cases (excluding truancy cases) disposed of involved 202 female and 1,388 male offenders. Sex offenses accounted for 31 percent of the new charges disposed. An analysis of the new cases disposed showed 6 percent of women and 35 percent of male offenders were charged with a sex offense. Aggravated Assault was the most frequently committed offense (40 percent), followed by robbery offenses (18 percent). Fourteen percent of the offenses concerned rape and 12 percent involved charges of indecent assault.

The age groups of adult offenders were as follows: 41 percent were under age 25; 53 percent were between the ages of 25-50; 6 percent were over 50 years of age.

In the majority of new cases disposed of in 1988 (excluding truancy cases), the adult offenders were held for trial (53 percent). The remaining cases were disposed of as follows: 24 percent were dismissed or discharged; in 16 percent of the cases, the offenders were placed on some form of probation; 6 percent were imprisoned and the balance were disposed of by other actions.

CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

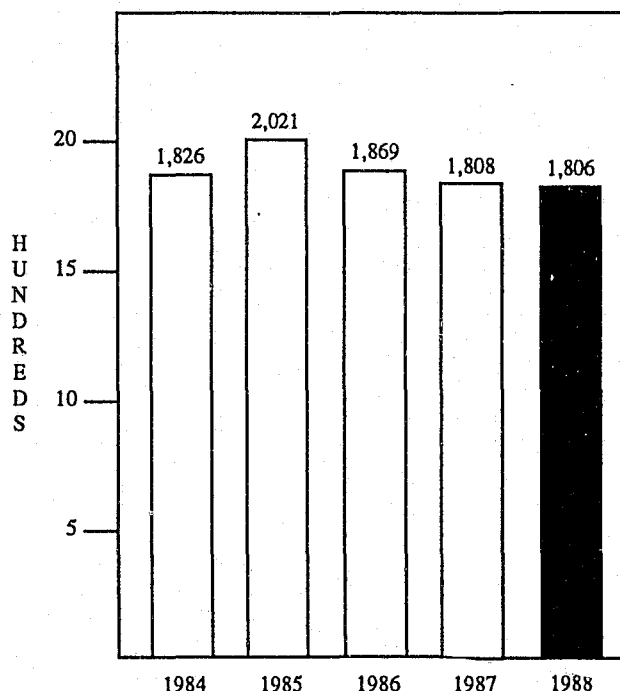


TABLE 1

ADULT CASES INVOLVING JUVENILES: 1988

Petitions filed	1,199
New cases disposed:	
Sex offenses	491
Non-sex offenses	1,099
Truancy	216
Total	1,806
New referrals	1,685
Court sessions	226

ADULT PETITIONS FILED: 1984 TO 1988

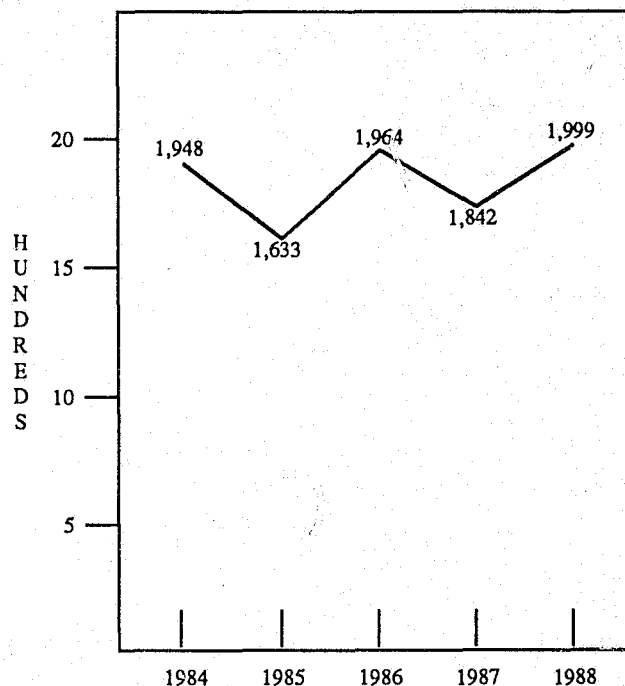


TABLE 2

NEW CASES¹ DISPOSED BY AGE GROUP: 1988

	Total	Under 25 years	25-50 years	Over 50 years
Sex offenses:				
Rape	217	60	137	20
Assault and attempted rape	25	7	14	4
Indecent assault	196	28	146	22
Commercialized vice	19	3	16	—
Other	34	6	20	8
Non-sex offenses:				
Aggravated assault	631	250	357	24
Assault	66	29	37	—
Robbery	283	226	56	1
Other thefts	52	27	23	2
Cruelty or neglect of child	16	4	12	—
Corrupting morals of child	29	7	20	2
Other	22	10	8	4
Total	1,590	657	846	87

¹Truancy cases not included.

ADULT CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

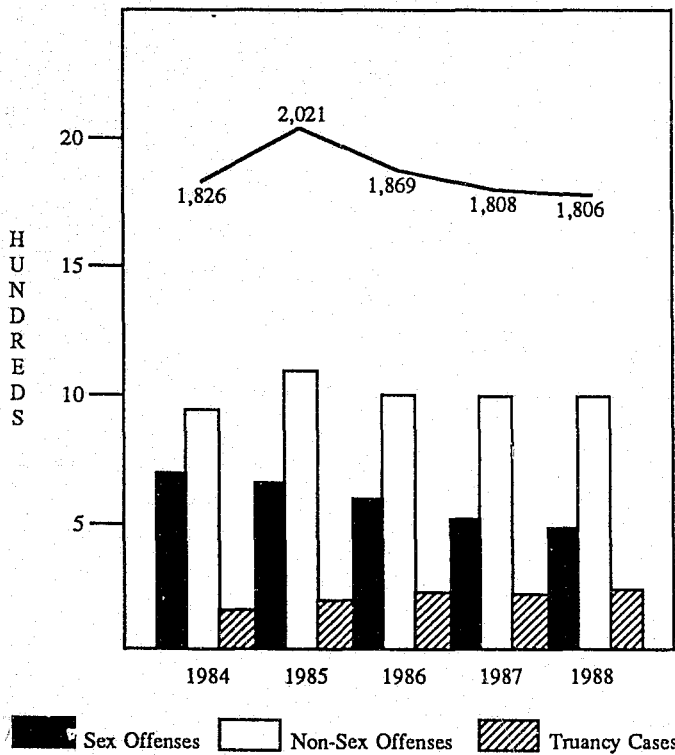


TABLE 3

CHARACTERISTICS OF ADULT OFFENDERS: 1988

Age:	
Under 25 years	657
25-50 years	846
Over 50 years	87
Sex:	
Male	1,388
Female	202

Does not include adults involved in truancy cases.

TABLE 4

DISPOSITIONS IN ADULT CASES: 1984 TO 1988

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Dismissed, discharged or withdrawn	566	607	682	643	538
Held for trial	849	852	767	822	845
Pre-indictment probation	49	100	33	58	76
Probation	169	228	229	176	175
Committed	50	90	76	75	94
Fines and costs	96	113	66	23	29
Suspended sentence	25	10	5	2	4
Other	22	21	11	9	45
Total	1,826	2,021	1,869	1,808	1,806

THE SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE

The primary purpose of this office is to involve citizen participation in the juvenile justice system through a volunteer program.

The Special Services Office (SSO) recruits, screens and trains adult volunteers to work with court referred juveniles and to provide other services not available through normal court activities.

Volunteers come from many backgrounds, and are assigned jobs based on their interests and skills. In 1988, 768 citizens contributed 14,563 hours of service to Family Court and its youthful clients.

Volunteers are utilized by the SSO in one of three units: the Information Center, the Youth Employment Unit or the STEPS program.

The information Center provides comprehensive, up-to-date community resource information. Over 1,700 entries ranging from tutoring programs to hospital clinics are listed in the SSO resource file. Volunteers research community resources and keep the Court's staff informed about Philadelphia's network of agencies and community groups.

The Youth Employment Unit uses volunteers to solicit business and government agencies for employment and training opportunities for court referred youths. In 1988, 357 juvenile clients found full or part-time employment through this program.

While the primary goal of this unit is to aid clients in finding employment, much preparation is needed to accomplish this goal. In a large metropolitan area such as Philadelphia, many youthful offenders need specific instructions in learning how to get and hold a job.



Client receives employment skills training through the World of Work Program



Participants in the STEPS Program enjoyed a trip to the Afro-American Museum.

Therefore, the major use of volunteer time and energy is expended in preparing juvenile clients for the "world of work".

Emphasis is placed on fundamental job hunting skills, i.e., reading employment sections of local newspapers, filling out sample job applications, etc. Trips are an important part of this program because they permit clients to observe people at work in a variety of settings.

Approximately 902 clients experienced world of work sessions during 1988.

The STEPS program (Start Toward Eliminating Past Setbacks) provides individualized support for male clients by emphasizing a one-to-one relationship with adult male volunteers. Participants are matched on the basis of common interests and geographic location of their homes. The latter is especially significant because of Philadelphia's strong neighborhood ties. The parties agree to work toward a goal set by the juvenile client. The emphasis is always on "skills" learning using a broad definition of skills to include anything from remedial reading to carpentry, or social and cultural awareness.

Other projects undertaken in 1988:

1. Assigning practicum students to various court units allowing them to gain direct client experience while assisting the staff. Additional volunteers are placed as office aids to assist with the clerical work generated by court activities.



One of the many cultural trips sponsored during 1988, was a tour of Independence Historical Park.

2. Matching volunteer tutors with clients who are functionally illiterate. The tutors worked with the assigned juveniles at least once a week for a minimum period of six months. In 1988, 1,399 hours were expended in the tutoring of juvenile clients. In addition, volunteers, who are accredited teachers, taught remedial reading once a week to a group of male youths referred by the Court.
3. Through the generosity of numerous local businesses and community groups, the SSO was able to offer recreational and cultural experiences for juvenile court clients. Trips to museums, ball games, the zoo and other recreational activities such as roller skating and swimming were some of the activities in which the youths participated.
4. The SSO, through contributions from charitable agencies, community groups and individuals, was able to provide 279 meals through the Food Basket Program during the 1988 holiday season.

1988 Contributors to the Special Services Office:

Academy of Natural Science
 Acme Market
 Action Line — Philadelphia Inquirer
 Afro-American Museum
 Bright Hope Baptist Church
 Community Churches
 Family Court:
 Domestic Relations Branch
 Juvenile Branch
 Ken Antrom Fund
 Probation Staff
 Friends Central School
 Great Skates Roller Skating
 Gulf

Hero Scholarship Thrill Show
 Kansas Beef Company
 Kensington Neighborhood House
 KYW — Channel 3
 Needlework Guild of America
 Norman Rockwell Museum
 Philadelphia:

Academy of Fine Arts
 Board of Education
 Department of Recreation
 Eagles Football Team
 Flyers Hockey Team
 Inquirer
 Museum of Art
 Phillies Baseball Team
 76'ers Basketball Team
 Robin Hood Dell — East
 Salvation Army
 Sonny Hill Basketball League
 Stenton Bowling Lane
 Summit Presbyterian Church
 The Squaws
 Tucker House Nursing Home
 University of Pennsylvania
 WDAS — Radio
 WMMR — Radio
 YMCA — North Branch
 Young's Meat Market
 Zoological Society

Schools participating in SSO Volunteer Program:

Abington High School
 Beaver College
 Bryn Mawr College
 Cheltenham Township Senior High
 Chestnut Hill College
 Community College of Philadelphia
 Dickinson College
 East Stroudsburg State College
 Eastern College
 Elizabethtown College
 Friends Central School
 Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Philadelphia,
 Department of Mental Health Sciences
 Haverford College
 Indiana State University of Pennsylvania
 John W. Hallahan High School
 La Salle University
 Mansfield State College
 Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) — Archdiocese of
 Philadelphia
 Pennsylvania State University
 Rosemont College
 St. Joseph's University
 Temple University
 University of Pennsylvania
 West Chester State College

ENFORCEMENT CASES

The main function of this unit is the collection and disbursement of restitution payments imposed by the Court on juvenile offenders.

Restitution is compensation to a crime victim by the offender.

The Court may order a juvenile or the parent(s) or guardian of the juvenile to reimburse a victim for any loss incurred due to the juvenile's actions.

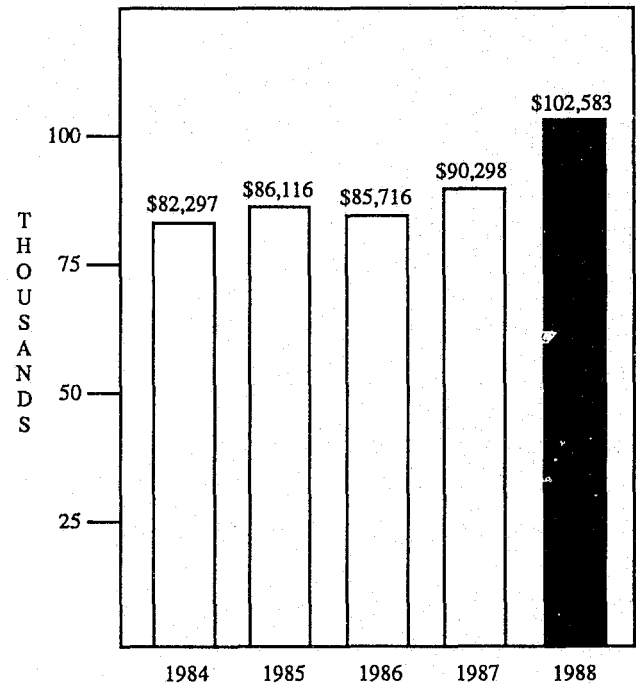
In 1988, this unit received restitution payments totaling more than one hundred and two thousand dollars. These payments have increased by 69 percent since 1983.

The Enforcement Unit is an important point of contact for juvenile probation officers and other authorized agencies who request information. In 1988, this unit responded to more than 4,000 such requests.

In addition, the Enforcement Unit processes Blanket Petitions for remitted restitution and unclaimed funds. In 1988, 483 Blanket Petitions were processed by this unit.

¹Does not include restitution payments received through the Restitution and Community Services Program.

RESTITUTION PAYMENTS¹: 1984 TO 1988



JUVENILE RESTITUTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

The Juvenile Restitution and Community Services Program is a special project administered by Family Court. The program provides alternative methods of holding juveniles accountable for their criminal activities while compensating victims of crime.

Juveniles are referred to the program by Family Court Judges when it is believed that participation in the program will benefit the juvenile. The Court has the discretion to order restitution in the form of monetary payment when there is an identifiable victim, and in cases involving victimless crimes or no financial loss, to order that the juvenile perform a free service for the community.

Services Offered

Program staff are responsible for interviewing family members and screening the juvenile to ascertain his individual needs. Juveniles who do not possess employment experience are required to participate in comprehensive job readiness courses offered by the Court or by local agencies. When a juvenile has successfully completed job training, he is in a position to either be encouraged to secure employment on his own, or if he needs assistance, program staff will assist him in securing employment.

In response to an increased caseload and a shortage of paid positions, the program recently hired a Job Developer whose primary responsibility is to locate employment in the public and private sector. Program staff then screen juveniles participating in the program and assign them to positions designed to provide a positive work experience while enabling them to earn enough money to compensate their victims. In cases in which a juvenile is assessed community service hours, the juvenile is assigned to one of several non-profit agencies which have agreed to supervise the juvenile and provide a challenging volunteer experience.

Program staff work closely with the juvenile's probation officer in monitoring the juvenile's progress and identifying areas of concern. It is firmly believed that an integral part of the rehabilitation process involves emphasizing the importance of compensating victims for the harm caused, or repaying a debt by performing a service. It should be noted that recent studies indicate that the rate of recidivism for juveniles successfully completing restitution and community service requirements is substantially lower than juveniles not required to participate in this kind of program.

Summary

Since its inception in 1984, the Restitution and Community Services Program has served approximately 800 juveniles who have been ordered to pay restitution or perform community service. The Restitution and Community Services Program has been successful in securing employment to assist in the payment of thousands of dollars to victims and securing placement in the community service sites for hundreds of clients.

Contributors

ABC Learning Center
Abington High School
American Legion Playground
Anti Graffiti Network
Aubury Recreation Center
Barrett Education Center
Barrett Recreation Center
Belfield Recreation Center
Benjamin Franklin High School
Bok Technical High School
Boone High School
Cabrini College
Capitola Playground
Cecil B. Moore Recreation Center
Chalfont Playground
Clara Baldwin Home
Columbia Branch YMCA
Crisconi PAL
Department of Recreation
Edison High School
Episcopal Hospital
Fishtown Civic Association
Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital
Fitzsimmons Opportunity Program
Free Library of Philadelphia
Germantown Settlement House
Germantown YMCA
Gillespie Jr. High School
Gratz High School
Henry Houston School
Hirsh Recreation Center
Holmesburg Boys Club
Hunting Park Nag
Interac
James Finnegan Playground
Mantua Community Planner
Marion Anderson Recreation Center
Martin Luther King High School
Methodist Hospital

Contributors (Continued)

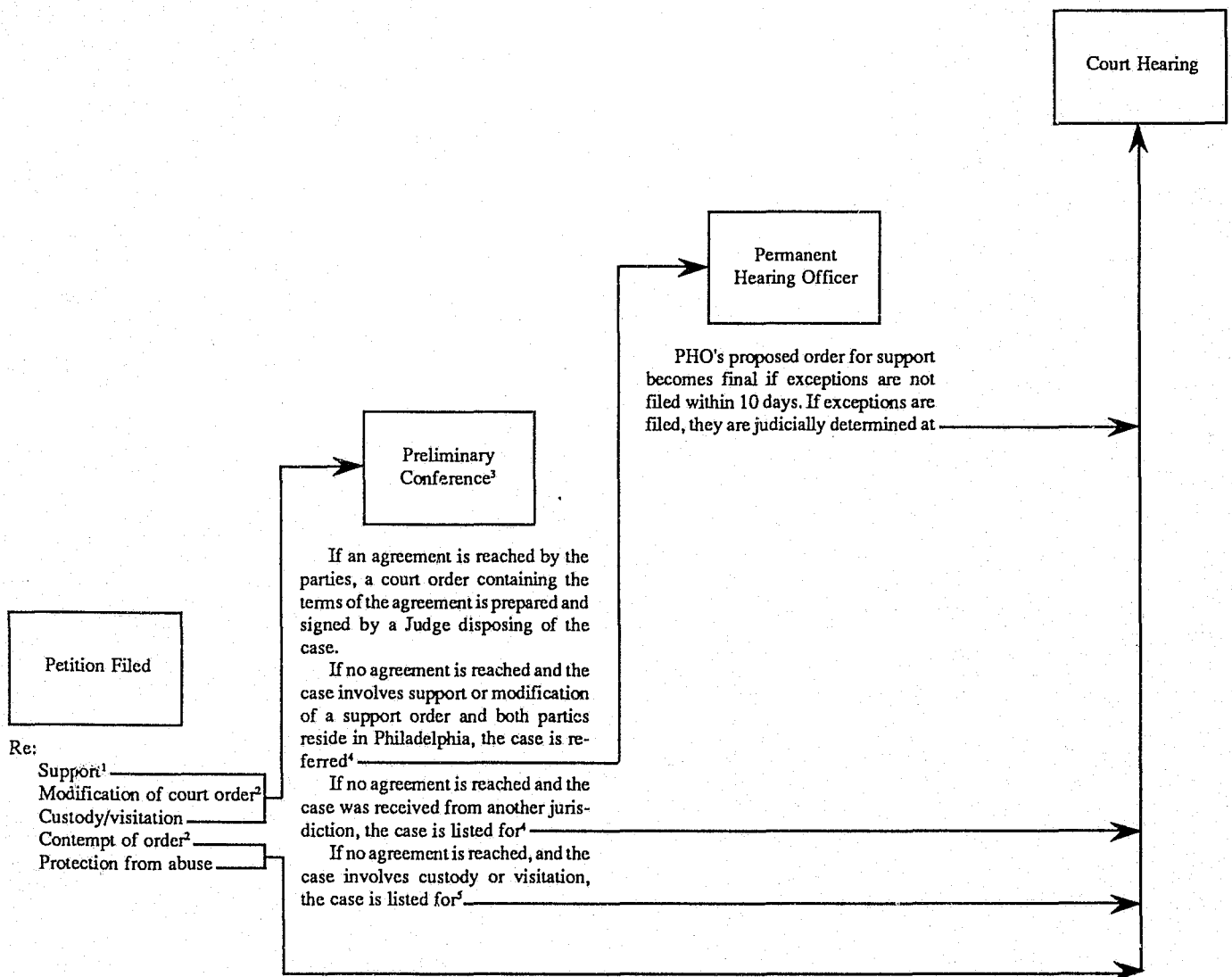
Myers Recreation Center
New Hope Center
New Inspirational Baptist Church
Northeast Boys & Girls Club
Olney Eagles Football Team
Olney High School
Opportunity Towers
Overbrook Community Council
Park Pleasant Nursing Home
Philadelphia Tribune Charities
Police Athletic League
Rehobeth United Methodist Church
Rescue Mission
R. W. Brown Center
Salvation Army
Shepard Recreation Center
Simpson Playground
Southwark House

Southwest Community Development Center
Sperring White Corporation
St. Barnabus Catholic Church
St. Boniface Church
St. Francis of Assisi
St. William's Catholic Rectory
Tasker Tenant Improvement Council
Tioga Athletic Association
Trinity Episcopal Church
Urban Coalition
Wanamaker High School
Waterview Recreation Center
West Mill Creek Playground
Wharton Center
Wissahickon Boys & Girls Club
YMCA
YWCA
Zion Baptist Church

Domestic Relations Branch



DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH FLOW GUIDE



¹Local cases and petitions received from outside Philadelphia have a preliminary conference; petitions filed in Philadelphia involving a party living outside of Philadelphia are forwarded to the other jurisdiction for disposition.

²Includes cases involving support, custody, partial custody or visitation

³Where Philadelphia is the respondent in cases received from other jurisdictions only the defendant is present.

⁴A temporary child support order may be obtained pending hearing before PHO or the Court.

⁵Home investigations and neuropsychiatric evaluations may be scheduled and temporary custody/visitation orders may be obtained pending the court hearing.

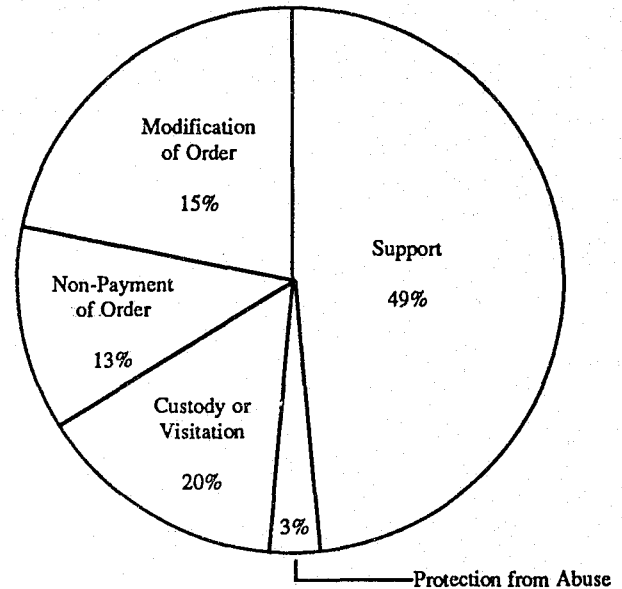
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PETITIONS FILED: 1988

The Domestic Relations Branch operates at two locations, in the Family Court Building at 1801 Vine Street and at ten floors of office space at 1600 Walnut Street. The more than 300 employees in the branch receive and process most matters involving family conflicts excluding the granting of divorces. The workload of this branch is a varied one and includes such cases as: the establishment of paternity, financial support of children and spouses, custody and visitation matters and protection from abuse within the family. The bulk of domestic relations cases, however, involves obtaining support for children from legally responsible parents.

The collection of support by the Domestic Relations Branch is a process which yields important social benefits. The program provides the legal mechanism for ensuring that families receive adequate financial support which reduces the need for these families to receive public assistance. For families which do receive public assistance, the program collects support which is used to reimburse the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for monies expended for these families. This helps to reduce the cost of public assistance to the taxpayers of the Commonwealth.

The enactment of the Child Support Enforcement Act led to substantial increases in the workload of the Domestic Relations Branch. Since its passage in 1975, new support cases have tripled. In 1988, a total of 34,220 petitions were filed in the Domestic Relations Branch.



Paternity Matters

Many petitions for support concern children of unmarried parents. Before a support order may be entered, paternity must be determined. This may be accomplished through a voluntary acknowledgement of the father. If the reputed father denies paternity, an order for a HLA blood test is issued. Blood samples are taken from the reputed father, the child and the mother, on the premise at 1600 Walnut Street. The studies performed on these samples are very sophisticated and are highly accurate in determining the probability of paternity. When the tests are completed, the case is listed for court and the issue of paternity is judicially determined. After paternity has been established, the case is then processed as any other support case. In 1988, paternity was established in 6,285 cases. Of this number, 86 percent were established through voluntary acknowledgement of the father.

Custody

Petitions filed concerning custody, partial custody or visitation of children have increased in recent years. In 1988, 6,935 such petitions were filed as compared to 6,402 filed in 1987. In order to process these cases expeditiously, six social workers serve as Custody Officers and conduct pre-trial conferences which are mandatory in all cases. The unit also has two workers who perform all home investigations, which assist the Judges in their determination of the best interest of the children.



Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani, Administrative Judge, Family Court Division, accepts an award from Alex Porter III, Regional Administrator, Family Support Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in recognition of the Court's outstanding achievement in the collection of child support. Shown from left to right are: Gloria P. Thomas, Esq., Chief, Domestic Relations Branch; Judge Alex Bonavitala; Alex Porter III; Judge A. Frank Reynolds; Judge Cipriani, and Judge Edward J. Bradley, President Judge, Court of Common Pleas.

Expedited Processes

Because of the volume of cases coming into the Domestic Relations Branch each year, it is imperative that good management practices be effected so that cases may be disposed of promptly and efficiently. The Domestic Relations Branch through its use of preliminary conferences and Permanent Hearing Officers, was able to negotiate nearly 19,000 agreements and orders thereby disposing of 61 percent of the 1988 workload without court hearings. These procedures, known as expedited processes, enabled the judiciary to concentrate on the more complex protracted cases, contempt matters, issues involving other jurisdictions, exceptions to proposed orders in support cases and paternity. (A guide showing the flow of domestic relations cases is shown on page 48.)

Overall, 30,712 cases were disposed of in 1988. Of this number:

1. 17,135 or 56% involved new cases of support or modifications of a current support order.
2. 7,048 or 23% concerned non-payment of a support order.
3. 5,266 or 17% pertained to custody or visitation matters.
4. 1,263 or 4% involved protection from abuse cases.

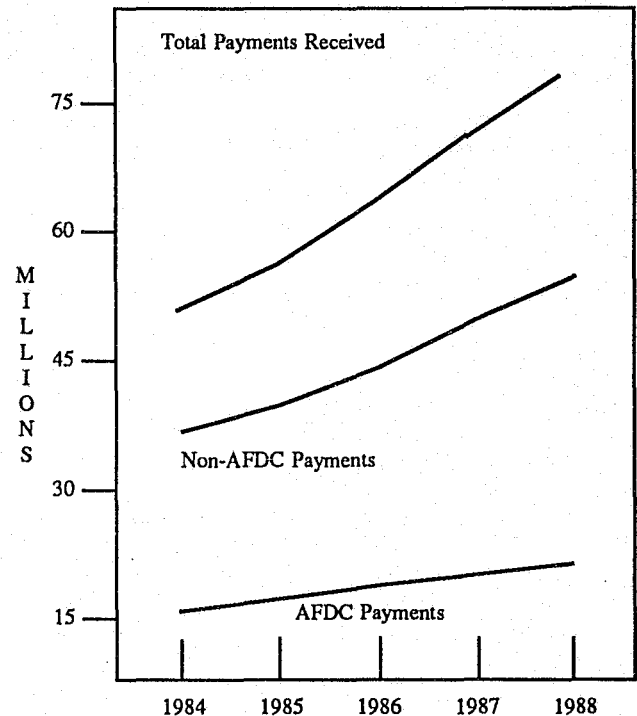
Specialized Units

The Domestic Relations Branch has several specialized units which provide support services for the branch. For example, the Writ Servers Unit personally serves parties with orders to appear at conferences or court hearings; the Parent Locator Unit processes requests for assistance in locating absent parents in child support and custody cases; and the Legal Unit provides general legal services for the branch. A unit of the District Attorney's office provides attorneys for AFDC cases to assist in the establishment and enforcement of support orders.

Program Performance

The Domestic Relations Branch continued its strong enforcement program in the collection of support payments. In 1988, this branch collected and disbursed a total of \$79,254,794, an increase of 7% over the 1987 total. Approximately 60 to 65 percent of all support collections were received as a result of wage attachment orders, including attachment of unemployment compensation. Collections received through the Federal Income Tax Refund Intercept Program have risen from \$812,026 in 1981, to \$5,053,098 in 1988. In Aid for Dependent Children cases, collections continue to rise. In 1988, total collections under this program amounted to \$22,620,179.

SUPPORT ORDER COLLECTIONS: 1984 TO 1988



During the year varied training is provided to court staff. The Domestic Relations Branch staff were very active in 1988 in their efforts to keep abreast of changes in domestic relations issues. They attended numerous conferences, training courses, seminars and workshops to improve their skills and to keep current on legal and social aspects having an impact on the branch.



Alice Clark received one of the Employee of the Year awards for the Domestic Relations Branch. She is shown with Judge Edward R. Summers who presented the award.

Program innovations in 1988 included the installation of the Philadelphia Support Line, a computerized voice information processing system which allows clients to receive by telephone, account and order information seven days a week, 24 hours a day. This was the first such use of this technology in a child support application in the United States. The branch also began to exchange account information with National Credit Bureaus via computer and expanded its use of computer technology in many other areas.

Other programs were piloted such as the modification of inadequate support orders and the testing of a new referral system with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Programs such as these are constantly attempted in an effort to provide more efficient and cost effective services to the citizens of Philadelphia.

The year 1988 was very productive for the Domestic Relations Branch. The statistics following this section reflect this productivity.

TABLE 1

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES: 1988

Petitions filed ¹	35,123
Cases disposed ¹ :	
Through court hearing	11,959
Without court hearing	19,467
Pre-trial units	8,684
Custody unit	2,565
Master's unit	3,274
Enforcement units	4,944
Total	31,426
Other activities:	
Paternity blood studies completed	776
Wage attachments issued	21,583
Interviews and pretrial conferences	45,101
Cases completed by the Parent Locator Unit	4,977
Court sessions	1,413

¹See page 10 statistics.

TYPE OF PETITION FILED: 1984 TO 1988

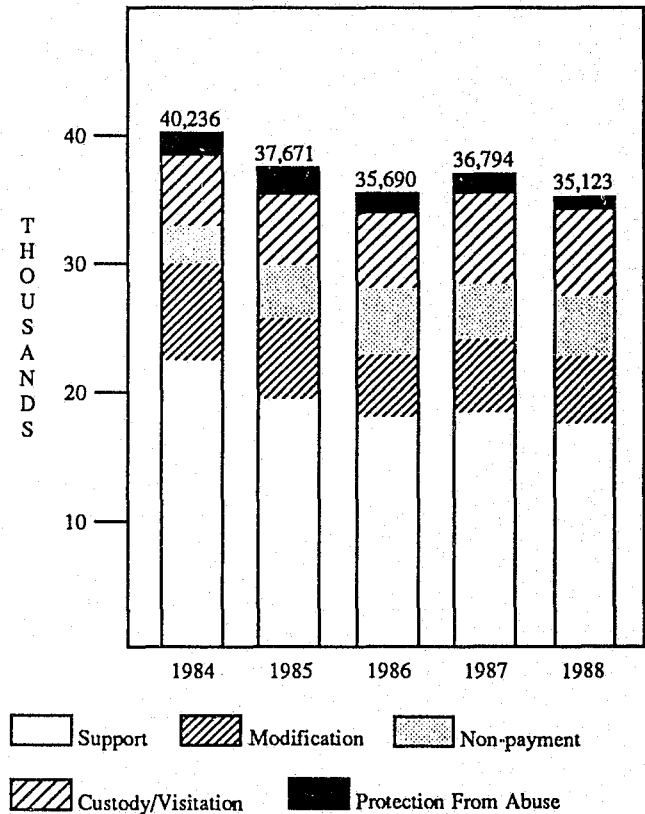


TABLE 2

TYPE OF PETITION FILED: 1988

Support	16,784 ²
Non-paternity cases	5,927
Paternity cases	10,857
Modification of support orders	5,877
Non-payment of support orders	4,547
Child custody, partial custody, visitation rights	6,935
Protection from abuse	980
Total	35,123

²Of this number, 14,145 were local petitions while 2,639 were petitions to/from other States or other Pennsylvania counties. Of the latter group, Philadelphia was the initiator in 1,915 petitions.

TABLE 3

CASES DISPOSED BY TYPE OF HEARING: 1988

	Total	Court hearing	Without Court hearing
Support/Modifications	17,849	2,669	15,180
Non-payment of order	7,048	5,395	1,653
Child custody or visitation	5,266	2,632	2,634
Protection from abuse	1,263	1,263	-
Total	31,426	11,959	19,467

CASES DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

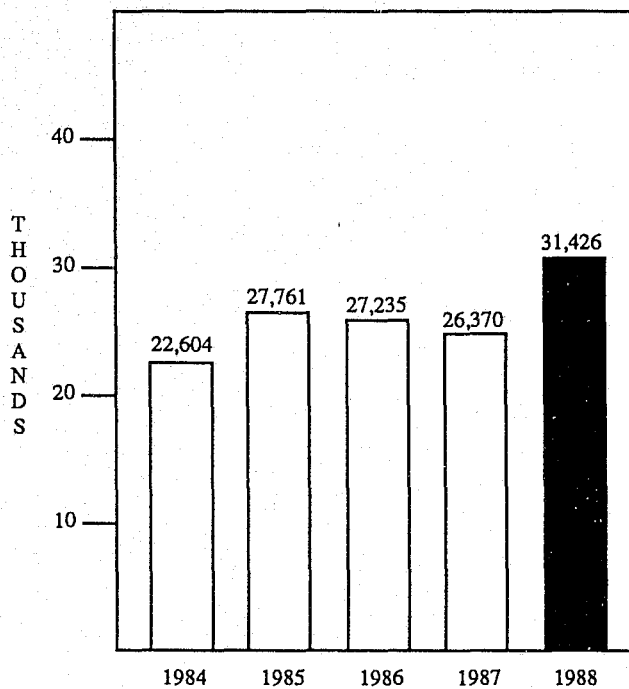


TABLE 6

PAYMENTS RECEIVED ON SUPPORT ORDERS:
1984 TO 1988

	Total	AFDC ¹	Non-AFDC
1984	\$52,779,409	16,517,356	36,262,053
1985	\$57,892,635	17,643,988	40,248,647
1986	\$65,586,638	20,046,064	45,540,574
1987	\$73,755,032	21,982,964	51,772,068
1988	\$79,254,794 ²	22,620,179	56,634,615

¹Aid for Dependent Children.²Over 5 million of this amount was collected through the Federal Income Tax Refund Intercept Program.

TABLE 4

PATERNITY ESTABLISHED: 1988

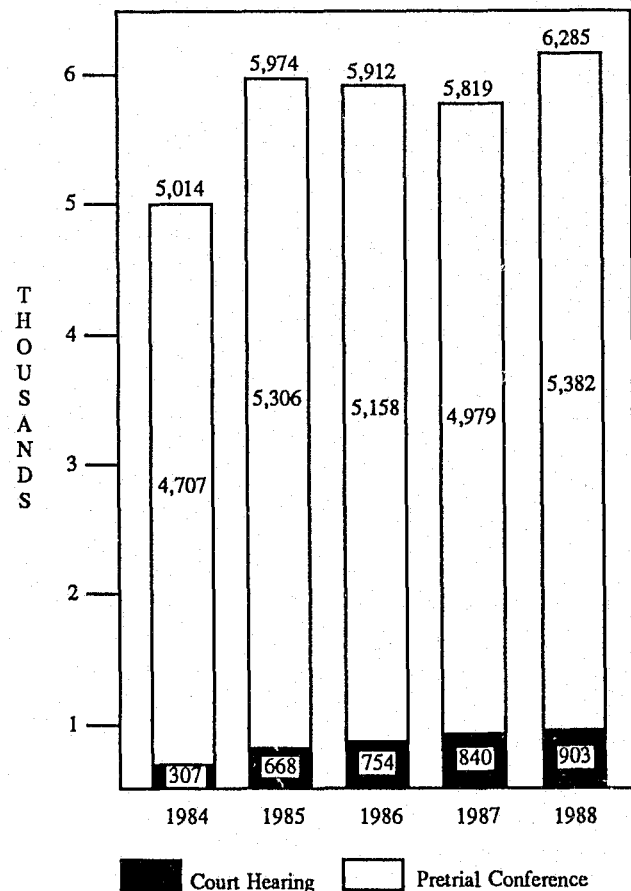
Pretrial conference	5,382
Court hearing	903
Total	6,285

TABLE 5

SUPPORT ORDERS: 1988

New orders made	7,345
Orders vacated	11,340
Orders changed	9,764

PATERNITY ESTABLISHED: 1984 TO 1988



Divorce Proceedings



DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS

Family Court has jurisdiction in all matters relating to divorce and annulment. Procedures in divorce and annulment actions are governed by the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure 1920.1 to 1920.92 inclusive. These Statewide rules have been implemented by local rules thereby providing the bench and bar with an integrated source for rules governing divorce and annulment.

The Appointment Unit receives and processes all matters pertaining to divorce and or annulment proceedings. The unit is also responsible for the appointment of Masters when required. In addition, it has the responsibility for docketing adoption and protection from abuse cases.

A divorce proceeding is often emotionally unsettling for the parties involved due to the nature of the action and the variety of issues to be determined. Issues of support for spouses and children, division of marital property, and custody of minor children of the marriage are all matters to be decided in divorce actions.

Until the enactment of the Divorce Code in July, 1980 (the first major reform in over 50 years), divorce proceedings required a plaintiff to bring a specific charge against the spouse, i.e., indignities, desertion, etc. In addition, other issues dealing with support, custody, etc. were usually considered as separate actions requiring additional input of time by the Court and the parties involved in the divorce action. This system was complicated and expensive for the parties adding additional pressures to an already tense situation.

The Divorce Code of 1980 addressed some of these problems. It added no fault grounds, and allowed for alimony and the equitable distribution of marital property.

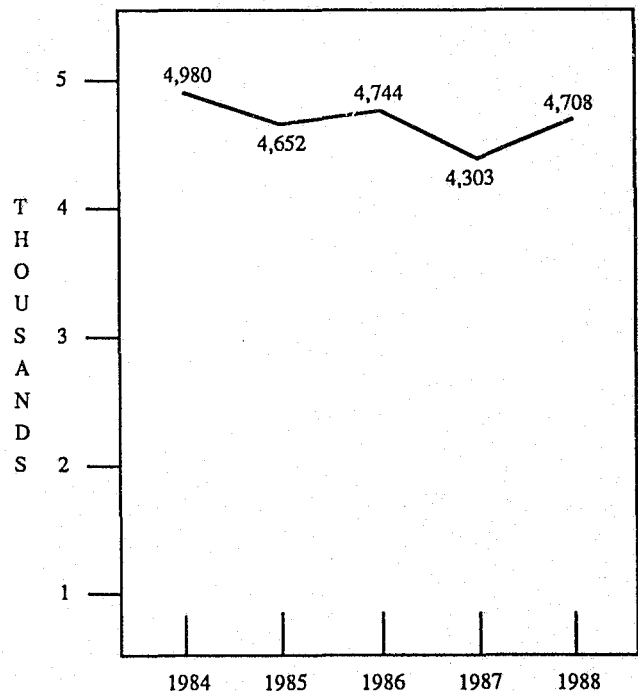
While the Divorce Code still permits the filing of a specific charge in a divorce action, it also allows the parties in a divorce action (under Section 201c and 201d)¹ to proceed to finality without the intervention of a Master when both parties agree the marriage is irretrievably broken. In addition, local court rules effective January, 1988, allow for a written agreement between the parties addressing matters related to the divorce to be incorporated into the final decree.

¹Section:

201c — A divorce may be granted when each of the parties in the divorce give consent, and ninety days have elapsed from the filing of the complaint alleging irretrievable breakdown of marriage.

201d — In a non-consensual divorce action, a divorce may be granted after the parties in the divorce have been separated for a period of two years and the marriage is irretrievably broken.

DIVORCES GRANTED IN
PHILADELPHIA: 1984 TO 1988



With the enactment of the Divorce Code in 1980, there were predictions of massive increases in the divorce rate. As yet, these forecasts have not materialized.

There were two major developments in Philadelphia divorce practice in 1988 which will have a sustained effect for future years. First, wide-ranging amendments to the Pennsylvania Divorce Code became effective as of February 12, 1988. Among the significant changes resulting from these amendments are a more liberal basis for alimony, a reduction from three to two years to obtain a non-consensual, no-fault divorce (provided that the final separation began after February 12, 1988) and the inclusion of gifts between spouses in property subject to equitable distribution.

The second major development in local practice occurred on September 19, 1988 when Administrative Judge Nicholas A. Cipriani implemented a new system for disposing of economic issues in divorce cases. Prior to that time, when such issues as equitable distribution, alimony and counsel fees were raised in a case, the entire matter was referred to a Master upon special appointment by one of the Family Court Judges. Any attorney admitted to practice in Philadelphia could serve as a Master, and he or she was paid for his/her services on an hourly basis by the parties to the action. In complex divorce cases involving lengthy hearings, the fees for the Master's services could be substantial.

Under the new system, governed by Administrative Regulation 88-4, economic issues are referred to permanent Masters, who are full-time court employees with established expertise in divorce law. Aside from a one-time certification fee of \$200.00, no charges are imposed for the Master's service regardless of the duration of the case.

To avoid the delays that often attended the old Master's system, no case can be certified for a hearing before the Permanent Master until grounds for the divorce have been established, and all discovery has been completed.

After a case is certified, a hearing will be held in approximately thirty days. Any party who is displeased by the recommendations of the Permanent Master can request a trial before a Judge, in which case the matter is heard on a de novo basis. Thus far, the great majority of cases listed before the Permanent Masters have resulted in settlements and the immediate entry of Decrees in Divorce. Cases that do not involve contested economic issues are handled in basically the same way as in past years; i.e., upon the filing of a Praecipe to Transmit Record and the expiration of ten days for filing objections thereto, the file is referred to a Judge for review of the documents in the file. If all papers are in order, including for example, proof of service and all required affidavits, a Final Decree is entered.

Where interim relief of any kind is sought in a divorce case, the petition or motion at issue is listed before the Family Court Motion Judge. Typical matters that come before the Motion Court are petitions for alimony pendente lite, injunctions against the sale or transfer of marital assets, petitions for interim counsel fees and requests for exclusive possession of the marital home.

Summary

In 1988, 6,369 divorce proceedings were initiated in Family Court. In addition, 2,054 motions and rules were filed requesting a court order or direction on a specific matter relating to the divorce action. Exceptions to the Master's report were filed in 31 cases. These actions signify disagreement with the Master's findings by one or both parties in a divorce action. The total number of divorces granted in 1988 was 4,708, an increase of 9 percent from 1987.

Ninety-nine percent of the divorce cases in 1988 cited irretrievable breakdown as the reason for the divorce. As in



Celeste Barnabei, Employee of the Year for the Appointment Unit is shown with Judge Stephen E. Levin who presented her award.

previous years, the wife is most often the plaintiff (59 percent) in divorce actions.

The average marriage had lasted 13.3 years at the time the divorce was granted. More than half of the couples obtaining a divorce in 1988 (56 percent) were married for 10 years or more. Twenty-two percent of the marriages lasted 20 years or more. In 9 cases the marriage lasted one year or less while in 96 cases the couples had been married for more than 39 years.

Almost twice the number of wives (26 percent) as husbands (14 percent) were married before age 21. The median age of husbands divorced in 1988 was 37.8, for wives, 35.7. Fourteen percent of wives and 15 percent of husbands had previous marriages. During 1988, the highest number of divorces occurred in the 30-34 age group for both wives and husbands.

There were no children in 39 percent of the divorces in 1988 but a total of 5,709 children were involved in the balance of the divorces granted. Of the total number of divorcing couples with children, 40 percent had 1 child; 36 percent, 2 children; 16 percent, 3 children; and 8 percent had 4 or more children. The majority of children (4,005) were under 18 years of age at the time the divorce was granted. Twenty-five percent of this latter group were in the "only child" category, while 12 percent came from families with 4 or more children.

TABLE 1**DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS¹: 1988**

Divorce proceedings started	6,369
Divorces granted	4,708
Motions and rules filed	2,054
Motions and rules disposed	1,239
Exceptions to master's report filed	31
Exceptions to master's report disposed	1
Court sessions	177

¹Includes annulments.**TABLE 2****DIVORCES GRANTED BY LEGAL GROUNDS: 1988**

Legal grounds for decree	Divorces granted	Plaintiff	
		Husband	Wife
Irretrievable breakdown	4,670	1,927	2,743
Indignities	32	3	29
Desertion	3	—	3
Other	3	1	2
Total	4,708	1,931	2,777

TABLE 3**CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DIVORCES GRANTED:
1988**

Divorces granted	Number of children in family	All children	Children under 18
1,859	0	—	—
1,128	1	1,128	1,009
1,022	2	2,044	1,642
444	3	1,332	865
149	4	596	302
106	5	609	187
4,708	or more	5,709	4,005

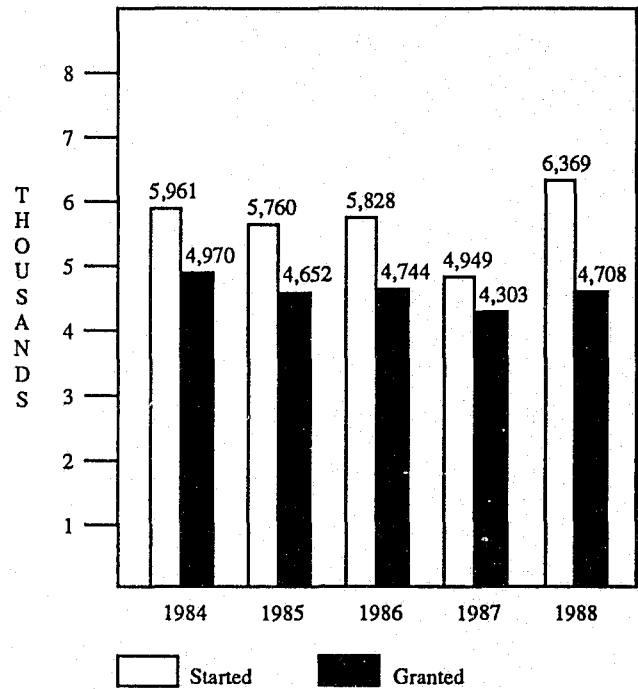
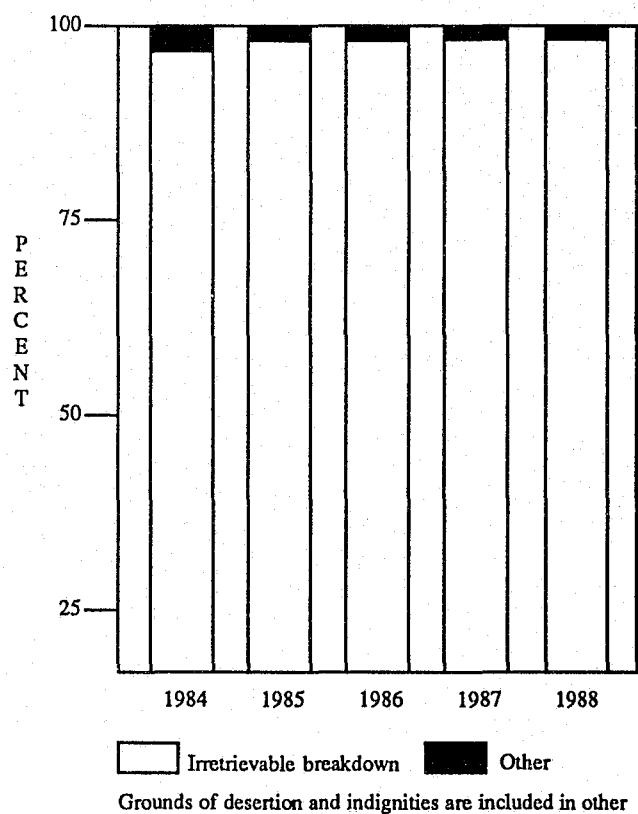
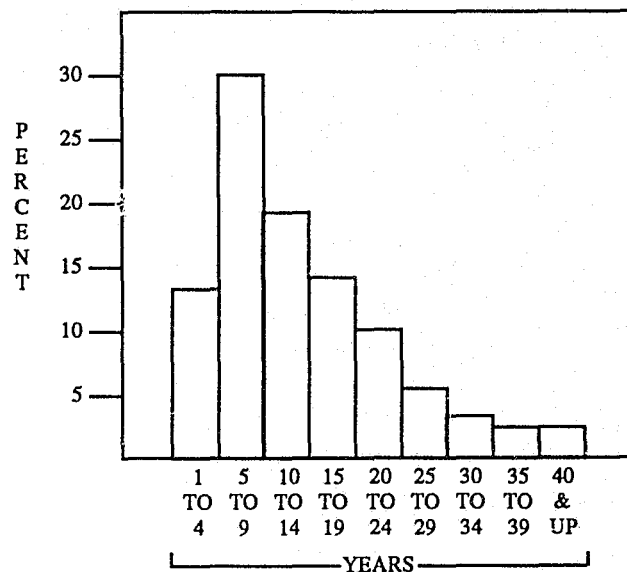
DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS STARTED AND GRANTED: 1984 TO 1988**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION — LEGAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE: 1984 TO 1988**

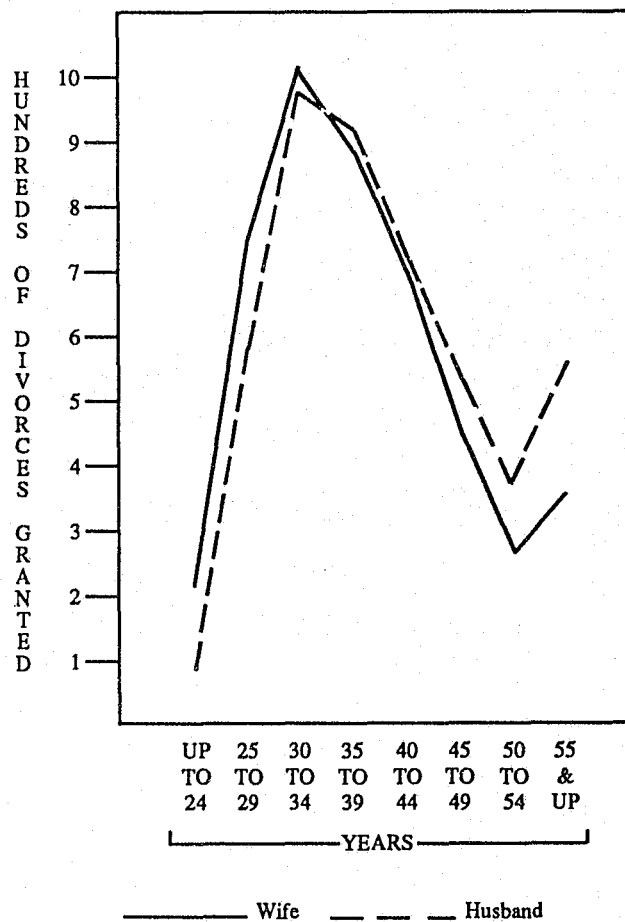
TABLE 4

DIVORCES GRANTED BY DURATION
OF MARRIAGE: 1988

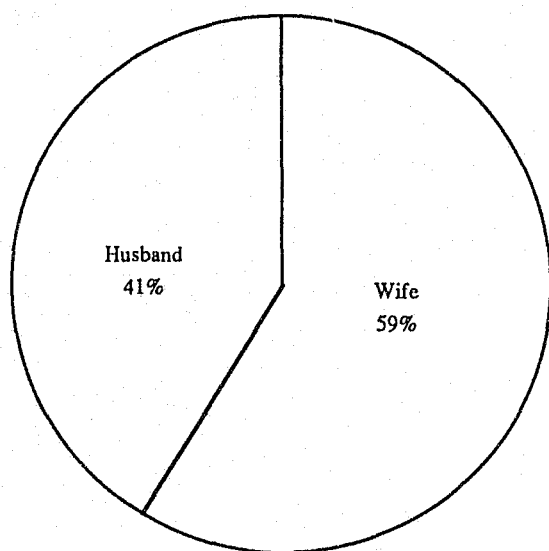
Duration of marriage	Divorces granted
1 year	9
2 years	96
3 years	225
4 years	253
5 years	315
6 years	339
7 years	297
8 years	268
9 years	253
10 years	214
11 years	183
12 years	203
13 years	163
14 years	142
15 years	152
16 years	147
17 years	136
18 years	114
19 years	110
20 - 24 years	428
25 - 29 years	272
30 - 34 years	163
35 - 39 years	99
Over 39 years	96
Not reported	31
Total	4,708

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION — DURATION
OF MARRIAGE: 1988

AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DIVORCE: 1988



PLAINTIFF IN DIVORCES GRANTED: 1988



Adoption Branch



ADOPTION BRANCH

The Adoption Act of January, 1981¹ provided for the following:

1. the adoption of individuals
2. the termination of certain parent-child relationships
3. the recording of foreign decrees of adoption
4. provisions for adoption procedures, decrees, records and related matters.

Under the law, any individual may be adopted and any person may become an adopting parent with the approval of the Court when in the best interest of the child.

The Adoption Branch of Family Court is responsible for investigating and processing all matters relating to termination of parental rights and adoption.

There are two types of adoption cases:

1. Kinship cases involve petitioner(s) and adoptee(s) who are related.
2. No kinship cases concern parties with no familial relationship.

In no kinship cases, placements are made under the auspices of an agency or a private attorney.

Adoption proceedings vary somewhat depending on the type of case and the relationship of the adoptee to the petitioner(s).

Petitions for termination of parental rights require a court hearing before a Judge. These petitions are granted only when the statutory requirements have been met. See chart in next column for conditions and requirements which must be met.

A report of intention to adopt must be filed with the Court in all adoptions where the child is not related by blood or marriage to the person having custody or control. The Court must make a complete investigation regarding the health, social and economic status of the adopting parent(s). No report is required when the child is related by blood or marriage to the adopting parent(s).

Since adoption is a statutory proceeding, the following are other mandates which are required by law:

1. The court shall appoint counsel or a guardian ad litem for a child who has not reached 18 years whenever it is in the best interest of the child. No attorney or law firm shall represent both the child and the adopting parent(s).

¹Repealed the Adoption Act of July 1970.

Petition	Party Filing Petition	Conditions for Termination
Voluntary Relinquishment	Natural Parents	a. Consent of agency b. Consent of natural parent c. Court appearance by consenting parent
Involuntary Termination	a. Natural parent; When termination is sought with respect to other parent b. Agency; When custody of child has been given to agency c. Individual having custody of child	Parental rights may be terminated on any of the following grounds: a. Failure or refusal to perform parental duties for a period of six months. b. Parents whereabouts unknown and child is not claimed for a period of 3 months. c. Continued incapacity, abuse or neglect has caused the child to be without essential parental care, control or subsistence. d. The parent is the presumptive but not the natural father of the child. e. The child was removed from the parent by the Court or by a voluntary placement for a period of six months and the parent cannot or will not remedy the conditions which led to the removal or placement of the child.
Petition to Confirm Consent	a. Intermediary b. In cases where there is no intermediary, the adoptive parent(s) may file the Petition.	If parent or parents of the child have executed consents to an adoption but have failed for a period of 40 days after executing the consent to file or proceed with the Petition for Voluntary Relinquishment, the intermediary may petition the Court to hold a hearing for the purpose of confirming the intention of the parent(s) to voluntarily relinquish their rights and duties as evidenced by the consent(s) to the adoption.

2. If the adoptee is over twelve years of age, his/her consent to the adoption must be obtained.
3. A decree of adoption is not granted until the adoptee has been in the custody of the petitioner(s) for at least six months. This is not required when the adoptee is over 18 years of age or related to the petitioner(s) by blood or marriage.
4. All court hearings are conducted in private.
5. All records relating to an adoption proceeding are kept in strict confidence and may be inspected only through a court order.



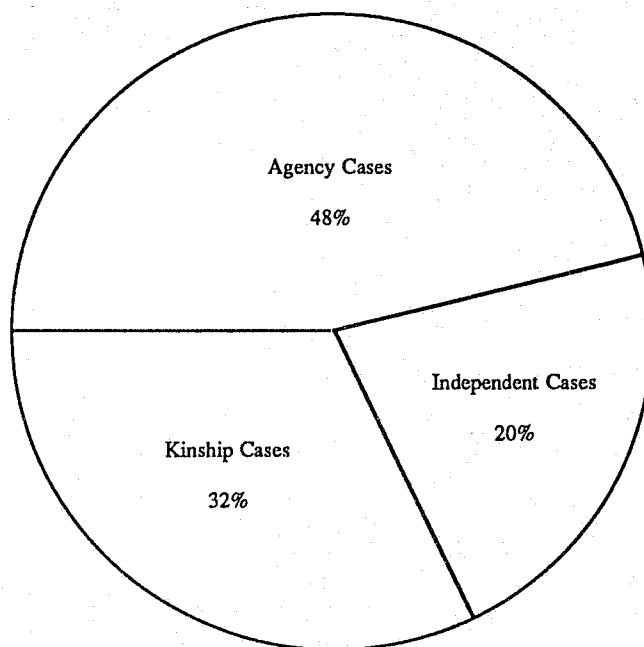
Marcia Osner was a recipient of an Employee of the Year award for the Adoption Branch. She is shown receiving congratulations from Judge Stephen Levin.

Summary

The total number of petitions filed in 1988 decreased 18 percent from 1987. Adoption petitions filed in 1988 decreased by 12 percent over the number filed in 1987. Petitions for voluntary relinquishment decreased by 35 percent while petitions for involuntary termination decreased by 8 percent.

The adoption of 423 individuals was approved by the Court in 1988, 400 children and 23 adults. Most of the adoptees had been born out of wedlock (72 percent). Adoptees were placed for adoption by the natural parent(s) in 53 percent of the cases with an additional 39 percent placed by an agency or an intermediary. In the balance of cases (8 percent), the child was

SOURCE OF PETITIONS: 1988



placed by other relatives or the Department of Human Services. Of the total adoptees, 54 percent were 5 years of age or under with 2 percent being under one year of age. The median age for adoptees born during wedlock was 8.6 years; for those born out of wedlock, 2.2 years. Almost half of the adoptees (47 percent) were in custody of the petitioner(s) for one year or less. The adoptee and the petitioner(s) were not related in most cases (54 percent) while 39 percent of the adoptees were adopted by step-parents. The balance of adoptions (7 percent) involved other relatives such as grandparents.

Single petitioners accounted for 10 percent of all adoption in 1988, with women being the predominant petitioner in these cases.

The ages of adopting parents ranged from under 25 years to 60 years and over with the median age for women at 35 years, for men, 36.1 years.

The income of the adopting parents appears advantageous for the adoptee. Of the total petitioners, 78 percent had annual incomes of \$25,000 or more with 41 percent having incomes of \$40,000 or more.

TABLE 1

TOTAL ACTIVITY: 1988

Petitions filed	813
Reports of intention to adopt filed.....	175
Petitions disposed	887
Total adoptees	423
Court sessions	77

TABLE 2

TYPE OF PETITION BY SOURCE: 1988

Type of Petition	Total	Source		
		Agency	Independent	Kinship
Adoption	401	141	77	183
Voluntary relinquishment	204	158	40	6
Involuntary termination	208	93	41	74
Total	813	392	158	263

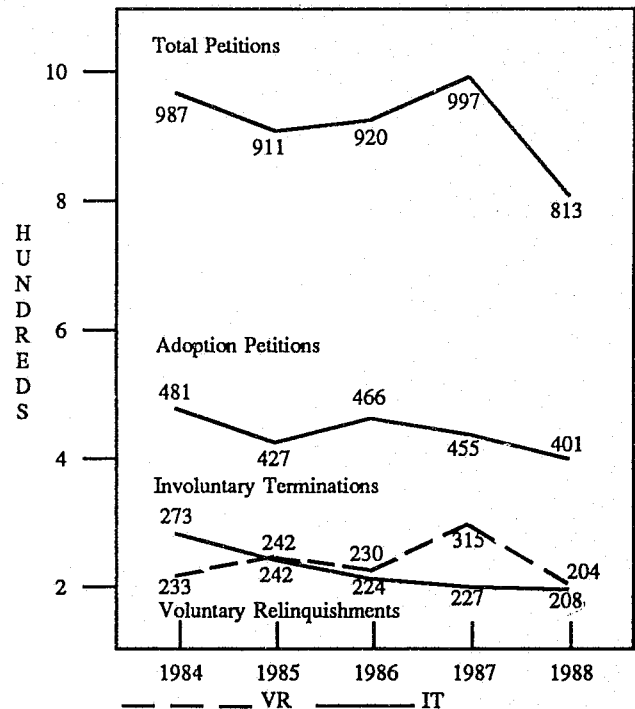
TABLE 3

PETITIONS DISPOSED: 1988

Adoption:	
Granted	364
Withdrawn	19
Voluntary Relinquishment ¹ :	
Granted	168
Withdrawn	59
Involuntary Termination:	
Granted	261
Withdrawn	16
Total	887

¹Includes petitions to confirm consent for adoption.

PETITIONS FILED: 1984 TO 1988



PETITIONS DISPOSED: 1984 TO 1988

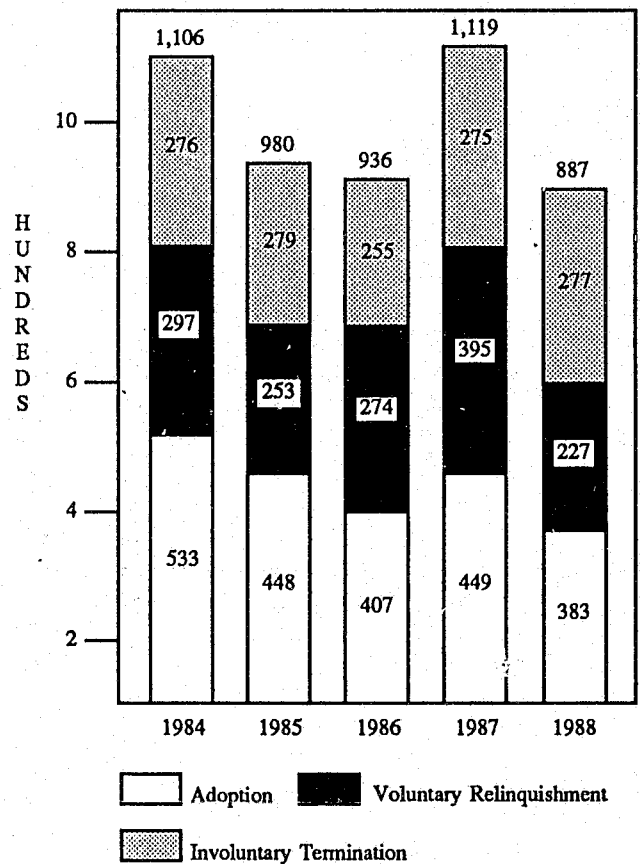
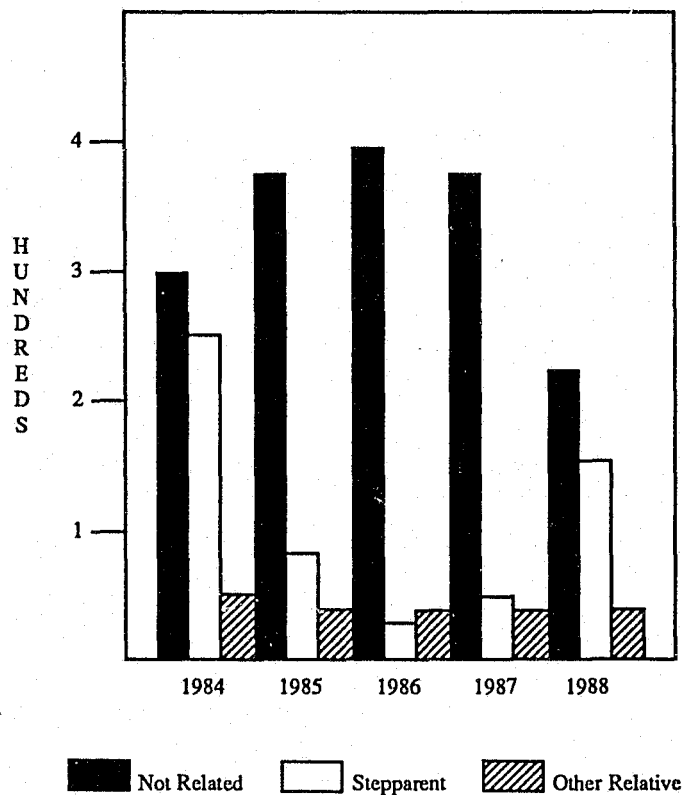


TABLE 4
CHARACTERISTICS OF ADOPTEES AND PETITIONERS: 1988

Adoptees: 423			Petitioners				
Age:			Birth status:			Marital status:	
Under 1 year	9		Born during wedlock	119		Married	381
1 -- 5 years	218		Born out of wedlock	304		Single	42
6 -- 9 years	94						
10 -- 17 years	79		Adoptee placed by:			Age:	
18 and over	23						

¹Department of Human Services.

RELATIONSHIP OF PETITIONER TO ADOPTEE: 1984 TO 1988



Medical Branch



MEDICAL BRANCH

The Medical Branch is an integral part of Family Court and has been in the forefront of activities since the Court's establishment in 1913.

Contributing seventy-five years of service, this branch has experienced tremendous changes as a result of medical advances and the growing awareness of good mental and physical health. Together with the increased availability of medical facilities, such as clinics and mental health centers in the community, as well as changes in court functions, laws and social mores, the types of cases referred to this branch and the services provided have varied over the years.

While there have been changes in the work of the branch throughout the years, the basic functions have remained the same. These functions are to examine, diagnose and recommend treatment for clients referred by other branches of the Court, or ordered by the judiciary.

The Medical Branch has a highly professional staff of physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, mental health workers and registered nurses to perform these services.

Among the duties performed are: physical examinations; psychiatric and psychological evaluations and studies; counseling of individuals and families; processing of involuntary mental health commitments of juveniles for evaluation and treatment; emergency treatment of clients and employees; and notifying clients of medical problems requiring treatment or care. In addition, the branch makes referrals to hospitals, clinics and mental health facilities and maintains follow-up on



John J. Fitzgerald, Jr., Chief, Medical Branch, receives congratulations from Judge A. Frank Reynolds, upon his completion of twenty-five years of service to the Court.



Sandra De Muro was selected as Employee of the Year for the Medical Branch. She is shown with Judge Levin who presented the award.

the client's progress. A group treatment program for delinquent juveniles (Correctional Group Counseling) is conducted by specially trained probation officers under the guidance of the Chief Psychologist.

The importance of diagnosing and assuring treatment of physical, mental or emotional deficiencies of clients referred to the Medical Branch cannot be stressed enough. The professional findings are an important aid to the judiciary in making decisions on cases before them.

For years, the Court has provided a unique service for its clients—a facility for infants and children while their parents appear in court. Family Court has two such facilities—one at 1801 Vine Street and a second at 1600 Walnut Street to service parents who must appear there. In addition, the facility at 1801 Vine Street is open on Sunday for court ordered visitations.

A member of the supervisory staff is on hand to oversee the visits and to handle complaints and/or suggestions from clients utilizing this service.

The Medical Branch has indeed been an essential part of the Court. It has contributed much in the past and will continue in the future to provide a vital service to the Court.

Summary

In 1988, 6,794 examinations were performed by the Medical Branch staff. These included: 1,556 physical, 1,885 psychiatric and 3,353 psychological examinations.

The two child care facilities cared for more than 12,000 children while their parents transacted business in the Court. In addition, more than 3,000 children were brought to 1801 Vine Street for Sunday visitation.

In the Clinical Services Unit, 458 cases were processed through interviews or treatments while 41 cases were referred to outside agencies.

The Medical Branch staff was called upon to handle over 900 emergency matters pertaining to clients and employees.

The Correctional Group Counseling Program, a group therapy program for juvenile delinquents, had 259 juveniles referred to it in 1988.

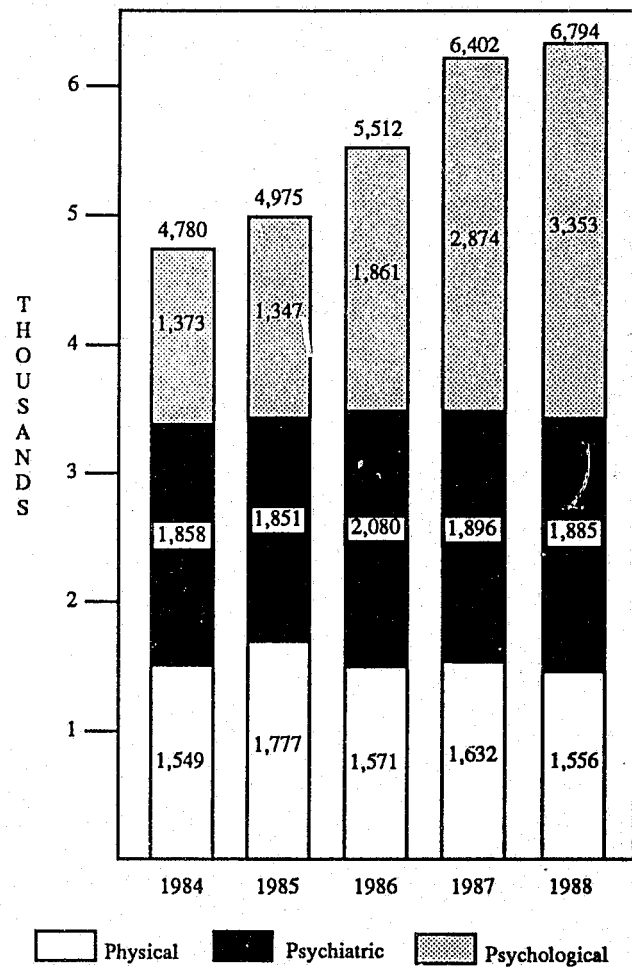
There were 254 mental health commitments for evaluation or long term treatment, as well as 915 pre-commitment investigations and/or follow-ups dealing with requests for commitments or review of commitments.

TABLE 1

TOTAL ACTIVITY: 1988

Physical examinations	1,556
Psychiatric examinations	1,885
Psychological examinations	3,353
Total	6,794
Pre-commitment investigations	915
Commitments under Mental Health Act	254
New cases enrolled in Correctional Group Counseling .	259
New cases under supervision:	
Physical	407
Clinical services	320
Total	727
Children cared for in nursery	15,590

EXAMINATIONS COMPLETED: 1984 TO 1988



PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF ALL EXAMINATIONS BY SOURCE OF REFERRAL: 1988

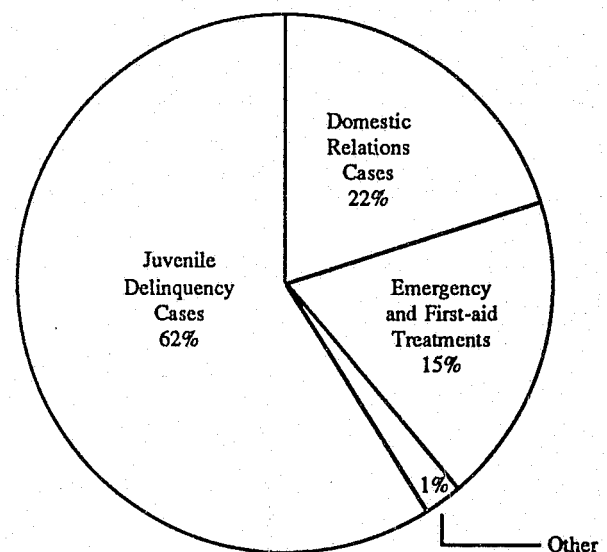


TABLE 2

TYPE OF EXAMINATION BY BRANCH: 1988

	Total	Psychiatric	Psychological	Physical
Juvenile branch	4,219	1,735	2,418	66
Domestic relations branch	1,503	150	935	418
Employees	81	—	—	81
Emergency and first aid treatments	991	—	—	991
Total	6,794	1,885	3,353	1,556

TABLE 3

PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS: 1988

Diagnoses	Total	Juvenile		Adults
		Delinquent	Non-Delinquent	
Superior	61	12	—	49
Bright normal	149	50	1	98
Normal	831	577	4	250
Dull normal	634	571	6	57
Borderline retardation	580	543	—	37
Mild retardation	192	180	1	11
Other ¹	906	463	9	434
Total	3,353	2,396	21	936

¹Mental health assessment, no IQ required.

TABLE 5

CLINICAL SERVICES UNIT ACTIVITIES: 1988

Clinical services probation	320
Domestic relation cases	138
Total	458
Cases referred to outside agencies	41
Correctional group counseling:	
New cases	259
Carry over from previous year	340
Total	599

TABLE 4

PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATIONS: 1988

	Total	Juvenile		Adults
		Delinquent	Non-Delinquent	
Subnormal intelligence	2	2	—	
Mental retardation	2	2	—	
Schizophrenia	5	3	—	2
Neuroses	1	1	—	
Personality disorders	132	128	—	4
Alcoholism	2	—	—	2
Drug dependence	77	66	—	11
Adjustment reaction of adolescence	626	616	7	3
Adjustment reaction of childhood	13	8	5	—
Unsocialized aggressive reaction	164	164	—	—
Group delinquent reaction	26	26	—	—
Social maladjustment	3	—	—	3
No mental disorder	776	671	19	86
Other diagnoses	56	35	2	19
Total	1,885	1,722	33	130

CHILDREN CARED FOR IN NURSERY: 1984 TO 1988

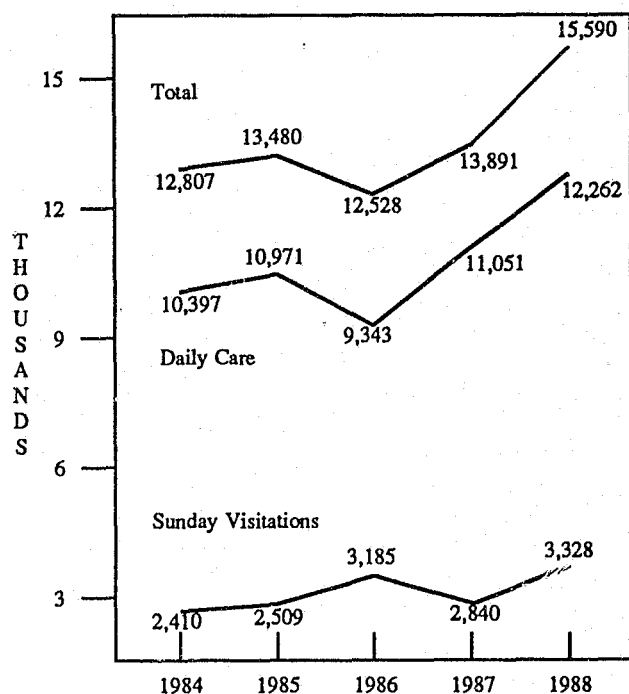
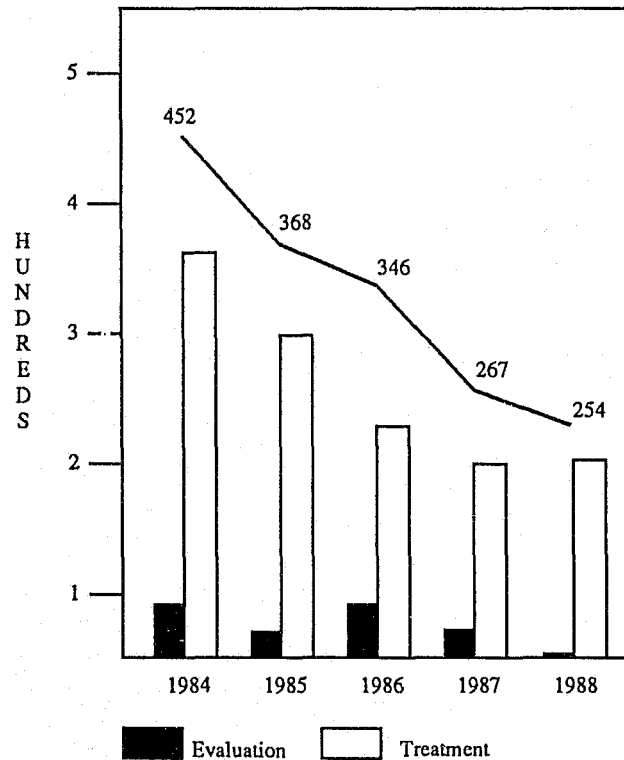


TABLE 6

COMMITMENTS UNDER MENTAL HEALTH ACT: 1988

Admitting Centers or Institutions	Evaluation	Treatment
Allentown State Hospital	-	7
Benjamin Rush	3	-
Catch (formerly Jefferson)	4	2
Catchment Area No. 4 CMHC	3	1
Charles R. Drew CMHC	10	5
COMHAR, Inc.	1	1
Devereaux Foundation	-	2
Eastern State School and Hospital	-	123
Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institution	-	2
Embreeville Hospital	-	1
Eugenia Hospital	-	1
Hahnemann Hospital	3	1
Hahnemann CMHC	7	3
Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital	1	1
Jefferson Hospital	1	-
Norristown State Hospital	-	36
Northeast CMHC	3	-
Northwestern CMHC	3	2
Path CMHC	2	1
Pennsylvania Hospital	1	1
Philadelphia Child Guidance	2	2
Philadelphia Psychiatric Center	-	7
West Philadelphia Consortium	2	-
Woodhaven Center	-	7
Wordsworth	-	1
Total	46	208

COMMITMENTS UNDER MENTAL HEALTH ACT: 1984 TO 1988



Glossary



GLOSSARY

AFDC — Aid to families with dependent children.

AFTERCARE — a supervised and or treatment program for delinquent juveniles released from commitment.

AGREEMENT — mutual consent by both parties with respect to support or custody/visitation matters. The agreement is put in writing and becomes an enforceable order when given judicial approval.

ARREST — taking physical custody of a juvenile, by a legal authority, to answer a complaint regarding a delinquent act.

CASE —

ADULT — includes cases involving adults charged with endangering the welfare of a child, corrupting the morals of a child, or committing a crime against a child.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS — case involving financial support of children and spouses; custody/visitation matters; establishment of paternity; and protection from abuse within the family.

JUVENILE — cases involving children alleged to be delinquent or dependent.

CHILD — an individual under the age of 18 years; or under the age of 21 years who committed a delinquent act before reaching the age of 18 years; or who was adjudicated dependent before reaching the age of 18 years and requests the Court to retain jurisdiction. In no event will this jurisdiction extend past the age of 21 years.

DELINQUENT CHILD — a child ten years of age or older whom the Court has found to have committed a delinquent act and is in need of treatment, supervision or rehabilitation.

DEPENDENT CHILD — a child under the age of 18 years found to be:

1. without proper parental care, control, subsistence or education as required by law.
2. ungovernable and in need of care, treatment or supervision.
3. habitually truant from school.
4. under the age of ten who has committed a delinquent act.

COMMITMENT — a child placed in the care of: Department of Human Services, private agency, institution or an individual, by order of the Court.

CONSENT DECREE — a court order placing the child under supervision for a period of six months with neither an adjudication of delinquency nor an admission of guilt.

CUSTODIAN — a person other than a parent or legal guardian, who stands in loco parentis to the child, or a person to whom legal custody of the child has been given by order of the Court.

DELINQUENT ACT — an act designated a crime under the laws of this State or another State if the act occurred in that State or under Federal law or local ordinances.

DETENTION — legal authorized confinement of a juvenile, subject to juvenile court proceedings, until committed to a correctional facility or released.

DISPOSITION — a final determination of a case.

EXCEPTION — a formal objection to the action of the Court during a hearing in which the party excepting seeks to reverse the Court's decision at a later proceeding.

HABITUAL OFFENDER — juvenile who meets the following criteria:

Three adjudications for any charge involving Rape, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Kidnapping, Arson, Burglary, or Drug Sales
and

Commitment to a residential placement facility.

HEARING OFFICER — a Court employee assigned to preside at domestic relations preliminary conference.

HEARING —

ADJUDICATORY — juvenile hearing to determine if child is either dependent or delinquent based on evidence presented at hearing.

CERTIFICATION — a hearing to determine if a juvenile should be tried as an adult in criminal court.

DETENTION — held within 72 hours of juvenile's detention. At this hearing a judicial determination is made as to the release or continued detention of the juvenile pending a further court hearing.

PRE-TRIAL — hearing held after intake interview at Youth Study Center, before a Judge, at which time it is determined if the case should be disposed of or scheduled for an adjudicatory hearing.

REVIEW — involves a case already under Court supervision which is returned to Court for review or amendment of the original disposition.

HOUSE ARREST — Juvenile who, if at large, presents a threat to the community, is restricted to his/her home according to the dictates of the Court.

INTAKE INTERVIEW — an informal conference presided over by an intake interviewer authorized to screen all delinquent cases to determine if the Court has jurisdiction. If the case comes under the Court's jurisdiction, the interviewer hears the facts of the case and either disposes of the case or refers it to Court. Pending the court hearing, the child is either released to the parent(s)/guardian or detained.

INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION — the termination of parental rights with respect to a child.

IRRETRIEVABLE BREAKDOWN — estrangement due to marital difficulties with no reasonable prospect of reconciliation.

IV D PROGRAM — a federally funded program under the Social Security Act which provides incentives and reimbursement funds to local domestic relations offices for increased efforts in collecting AFDC and non-AFDC child support monies.

MASTER — (a) an attorney employed by the Court to hear cases involving financial support of families; (b) one who hears cases dealing only with the economic issues in divorce cases or (c) one who presides over delinquent and dependent cases and with the consent of all parties, may conduct hearings on all matters relating to delinquent (except transfers to the Trial Division) or dependent proceedings; (d) an attorney appointed by the Court to make recommendation with respect to non-economic issues in a divorce case.

MOTION — an oral or written request made to a court at any time before, during, or after court proceedings, asking the Court to make a specified finding, decision, or order.

PETITION — a written request made to the Court asking exercise of judicial powers of the Court in relation to a specific matter.

PERMANENT HEARING OFFICER — see Master (a).

PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE — a domestic relations proceeding, in which a hearing officer, acting as a mediator, attempts to effect an agreement between both parties concerning financial support of children and spouses and/or matters involving custody/visitation of mutual children.

PROBATION — the placing of a delinquent child under the supervision of the Court's probation staff.

PROBATION OFFICER — a Court employee responsible for the supervision of juvenile offenders placed on probation.

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY — an emergency measure taking physical custody of a child where there is reasonable cause to believe that the health or safety of the child is in imminent danger, or that the child may abscond or be removed from the jurisdiction of the Court.

PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION — supervision of dependent children by the Court's probation staff or the Department of Human Services.

REFERRAL —

NEW — family or individual's first time contact with Family Court.

SOURCE — person or agency formally bringing the case to the attention of the Court.

REIMBURSEMENT ORDER — an order of the Court directing parents to reimburse the County for care of a child committed or accepted into an agency or institution.

RESTITUTION — a court order directing a juvenile to reimburse his/her victim for any loss due to the juvenile's action.

REVIEW HEARING — see hearing.

SUPPORT ORDER — an order of the Court directing the defendant in a domestic relations case to pay a specified sum on a regular basis to a spouse and/or children.

VOLUNTARY RELINQUISHMENT — a procedure whereby the natural parents of a child (under eighteen years) petition the Court to relinquish forever all parental rights and duties with respect to their child.