

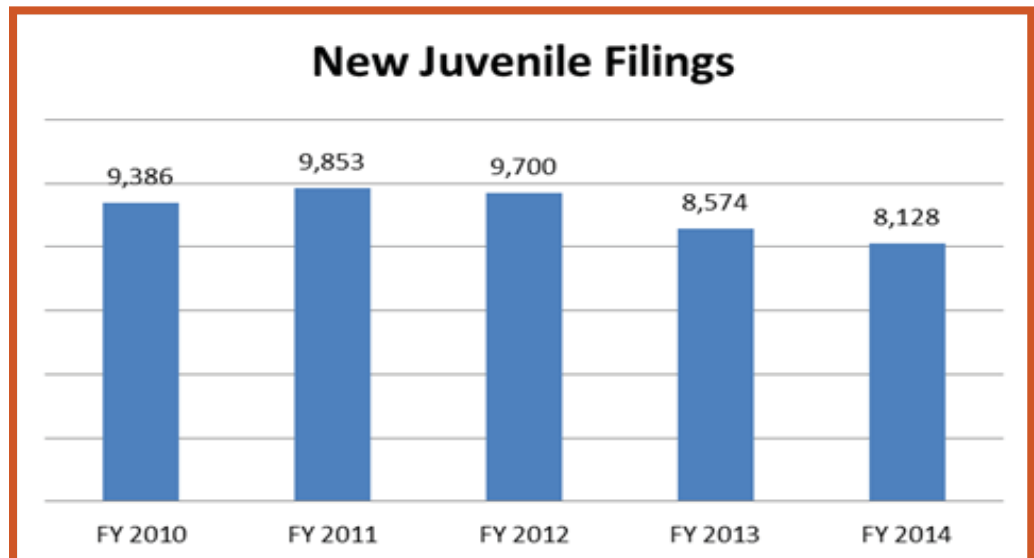


Juvenile Justice

Improving Outcomes for Families and Communities

Report to Governor
C.L. "Butch" Otter
and the 1st Regular
Session of the 63rd
Idaho Legislature

JUVENILE CASE FILINGS CONTINUE DOWNWARD¹



HON. MARK A. INGRAM PROVIDES STATEWIDE JUVENILE JUSTICE LEADERSHIP

The Honorable Mark A. Ingram, the magistrate judge presiding in Lincoln County, has agreed to continue the work of the Honorable John Varin, who retired in January of this year. Judge Ingram is working to enhance the administration of juvenile justice cases and chairs the Juvenile Justice Advisory Team (JJAT), which is comprised of magistrate judges representing all of Idaho's judicial districts. Judge Ingram's willing service and the countless contributions and improvements to juvenile justice made by Judge Varin and the JJAT over many years is truly appreciated.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATION'S REPORT ON CONFINEMENT OF JUVENILE IN IDAHO

Last session, the Office of Performance Evaluations provided the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee a report to provide, "insight into how the juvenile justice system functions in Idaho and identifies possibilities to improve and strengthen the Juvenile Corrections Act."² In response to this report, the courts have undertaken efforts to help improve the juvenile justice system. The JJAT, working in collaboration with stakeholders,

Idaho Supreme Court
451 W. State St.
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

P: (208) 334-2246
F: (208) 947-7590
www.isc.idaho.gov



¹ In previous years, a combined count of new filings and probation violations and other post-judgment motions have been reported. We began reporting new filings only in FY2013.
² Idaho Legislature. Office of Performance Evaluations. (February 2014). Confinement of Juvenile Offenders (Evaluation Report 14-01).

has developed proposals to make the following enhancements: 1) Clarify the term of probation allowable for a juvenile returning from commitment to the Department of Juvenile Corrections; 2) Modify the criteria for commitment to state custody based on a screening process that will focus on the juvenile's risk to reoffend and whether those risks can be safely managed in the community; and 3) Lend assistance to the various jurisdictions to improve their diversion policies and practices, in coordination with the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections. The overarching theme of these efforts continues to be the employment of practices that research shows will likely reduce recidivism and to improve community safety.

IDAHO TEAM ATTENDS JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM SUMMIT

In May, an Idaho team led by Chief Justice Roger Burdick attended a summit on juvenile justice reform sponsored by the National Center for State Courts. In addition to the Chief Justice, the team consisted of Administrative Director of the Courts, Patti Tobias; Magistrate Judge Mark Ingram; Justice Services Division Director, Kerry Hong; Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections Director, Sharon Harrigfeld; and, Bannock County Probation Administrator, Matt Olsen. During the summit, the team was asked to identify priorities for juvenile justice system improvement. The Idaho team identified three priority areas, including:

1. A process for review of probation services to evaluate and enhance the availability of appropriate evidence-based interventions for juveniles and their families who come into contact with the juvenile justice system;
2. Legal training specific to the juvenile court system for public defenders dealing with juvenile matters; and,
3. Statutory and rule changes which will limit general public access to juvenile records while maintaining open court proceedings.

COURTS AND IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS WORK TOGETHER TO TRANSITION MILLENNIUM FUND PROGRAMS

Since 2001, the Joint Millennium Fund Committee has granted funds annually to the Court for youth courts, status offender services, and more recently alcohol, tobacco and drug diversion courts. For FY2014, the Court supported the transition of these efforts to the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, relying on the Department to coordinate and evaluate these services for status offenders statewide.

During the transition, funding has continued at current levels for programs that had been administered by the court, ensuring the continuation of essential tools for magistrate judges and local communities to intervene when youth violate Idaho's laws prohibiting status offenses and illegal use of alcohol and tobacco.

12-16-14

*For further information, contact Senior Judge Barry Wood
Email: bwood@idcourts.net /// Phone: 208-334-2246*