

Genesee County Probation 75th Anniversary Edition

Jason Mindler, Probation Officer

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When Nicholas Figlow, Genesee County's first probation officer, wrote the first Annual Report in 1948, his optimism was apparent:

"All of the Judges, Justices and others who have used the services of this Department will agree that many a misguided offender has been given an opportunity to rehabilitate himself in the community without either he or his family becoming a public charge or a burden on the tax-payers."

Acting as a one-man operation until 1955, it is unknown what Figlow would think of the state of the justice system or probation today. Initially responsible for such various cases as physically disabled adults, child support collection, juvenile and adult supervision, he also completed court investigations as ordered. Since the beginning, however, the clear aim of this Department has been to efficiently rehabilitate criminal offenders in order to avoid placing the burden of incarceration on the community. Many programs have been added, removed, expanded, reduced, and reconfigured, in an effort to meet this goal.

In 1962, the opening of Genesee County Family Court created a large influx of new cases. As duties such as guardianship of incapacitated adults and child support collection were assumed by other agencies, programs such as Release Under Supervision were added in an attempt to further reduce the jail population. Staffing was increased over time to meet the growing workload.

In some cases, Probation has been an early adopter of technology-assisted supervision, piloting an electronic monitoring program as early as 1988. Another important program, known as Intensive Supervision, was implemented by Director Gary Clark in the early 1980's. The Intensive Supervision officers were the first probation officers in the county to be armed.

Throughout the 80's and 90's, as crime and drug use increased, focus was shifted to enforcement via drug testing and searches. Urine drug testing became available in the late 1980's, adding to the tools available to officers.

In the 90's and 2000's, GPS monitoring and Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) were explored. Budget and staffing issues impacted the scope of services Probation could continue providing. Beginning in the 2010's, staffing levels began to stabilize, resulting in a current staff with an average of about 15 years of county employment.

Looking toward the next 75 years, the Probation Department plans to continue innovating. We have implemented an in-house petit larceny education program, started working with juvenile offenders on interactive journaling, and have plans to move forward with increases in technology-based monitoring for adults and sex offender populations. With an eye toward the future of public safety, community supervision, and offender rehabilitation, we hope to carry forward Nicholas Figlow's optimism in our mission for many more years.



Genesee County Probation Department Logo designed in 2014.

Genesee County Probation Department

County Building 1, 15 Main St, Batavia, NY 14020 Tel: 585-344-2550

Staff Directory 2022



Timothy Michalak
Probation Director
Ext. 2270



Kevin Wright
Probation Supervisor
Ext. 2271



Rachel Sanfratello
Probation Supervisor
Ext. 2252



Michele Tucci
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2262



Jeremy Barber
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2259



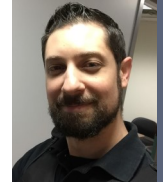
Traci Russo
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2265



William Bogan II
Probation Officer
Ext. 2309



Carly Luttrell
Probation Officer
Ext. 2272



Jason Mindler
Probation Officer
Ext. 2254



Terri Buchholz
Probation Officer
Ext. 2216



Benjamin Heale
Probation Officer
Ext. 2263



Jeffrey Hyde
Probation Officer
Ext. 2266



Bryan Pike
Probation Officer
Ext. 2283



Beatriz Mateos
Probation Officer
Ext. 2274



Jessica Turman
Probation Officer
Ext. 2273



Vicki Athoe
Principal Clerk
Ext. 2257



Jessica O'Neil
Principal Financial Clerk
Ext. 2255

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Risk Assessments

Carly Luttrell, Probation Officer

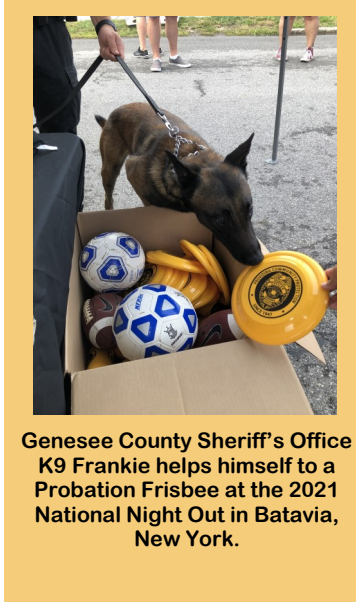
Probation departments are required to complete assessments in order to assist in determining the supervision level for all individuals placed on probation supervision. Said assessments are normally completed during the pre-sentence investigation phase and are included in the report sent to Court. The defendant is required to complete an offender questionnaire to assist in the determination of a supervision level. Areas addressed on the Compas Risk and Needs Assessment include criminal involvement, community/peer associations, employment, residential/housing, drug/alcohol abuse, mental health and family support. Upon completion, a suggested supervision level is generated and can be re-addressed upon need as the offender progresses or regresses.

In addition to the Compas Risk and Needs Assessment mentioned above, there are other assessment tools available which our Department uses. One tool, the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVS), was designed to assess the risk of repeated domestic violence on the basis of information available at

the time of the assessment, again normally during the pre-sentence investigation phase. This will not only assist the investigation officer in determining an appropriate supervision level, but will help the officer make a recommendation for sentence. We also use the YASI for juvenile offenders and the STATIC-99 to obtain clearer risk profiles for sex offenders.

The Genesee County Probation Department also uses the Impaired Driving Assessment (IDA) for DWI offenders. This assessment has a self-report section which the offender fills out and an evaluator report section. The self-report section is comprised of 34 questions designed to measure both retrospective and current perceptions of conditions related to mental health, alcohol and other drug involvement, social and legal attitude/involvement and acknowledgement of problem areas and motivation to seek help in those areas. The evaluator-report section has 11 questions that provide information around the offenders past DWI and non-DWI legal involvement, past DWI education and/or treatment and current status of treatment involvement.

Each offender and each crime differ in many ways. The above-noted assessments assist our Department in development of an individualized supervision plan for the offenders we supervise, in an effort to promote community safety.



Genesee County Sheriff's Office K9 Frankie helps himself to a Probation Frisbee at the 2021 National Night Out in Batavia, New York.

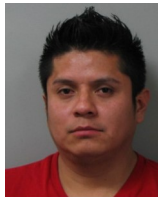
PROBATION'S MOST WANTED

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of these individuals, please call

Genesee County Probation Department
(585) 344-2550 x 2255



Jeffrey
Balk



Gerardo
Carrera-
Sanchez



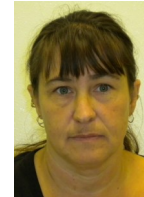
Duty
Caswell



Jason
Duffina



Carolina
Frias



Janet
Grossman



Deavin
Herman

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de-escalation, dog encounters, mental illness, suicidal subjects and many others. The topic I felt I valued most was de-escalation. Sometimes just using your voice and knowing what to say to someone can make a world of difference.



Our Department had a new training opportunity this year. The Criminal Justice Department at Genesee Community College assisted us in using their new VirTra V-100 simulator. VirTra's mission is to help prepare law enforcement for real-life incidents and it even gives you the ability to use a virtual range and practice your shooting accuracy.



Our main use of the training was for the reality-based scenarios. The simulator not only gives you a real scenario, but also changes the scenario based on your response. In any field of law enforcement, part of the job involves making critical decisions in often intense and uncertain situations. This training helps you make the right moves.



In this profession, as a probation officer, I've learned that communication skills are often your best skillset. Using the VirTra was a way of practicing that skill set, along with your tactical skills if the scenario worsened. The training was designed to make each scenario unique. The instructor running the training has more than one option to choose from. Sometimes just officer presence would cause the person on the screen to comply and sometimes, it did not.

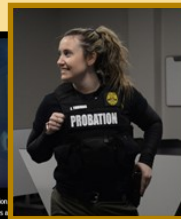


VirTra gives you the ability to critique your skills. You feel as if you are really on scene, your adrenaline starts pumping and you begin to respond how you would in real life, based on the scenario in front of you. To name a few of the scenarios you can practice: active threats, suspicious subjects,



"You feel as if you are really on scene, your adrenaline starts pumping and you begin to respond how you would in real life..."

De-escalation did not always work and you had to try a use-of-force option. After every scenario we would discuss the scenario, what we could have done differently, what worked and what didn't. Just like any home or field contact we make, we often talk about it after to help us debrief and help us in the future.



For more information visit Virtra.com

In the Community



National Night Out

- Probation Officers participated in the annual "Stuff the Cruiser" event hosted by the Village of LeRoy.
- Probation Officers participated in the Stop DWI Night at the Ballpark and the National Night Out
- The Probation Department collected money for a donation to the Genesee County **Holiday Tote Project**, this year benefitting senior citizens in Genesee County.
- Probation staff dressed in Buffalo Bills apparel during the NFL playoffs this year, donating money to both **Crossroads House** and the **Genesee County Animal Shelter**
- Probation Officers participated in the **Batavia City Schools Polar Plunge**, helping to raise over \$11,000.00 for the Special Olympics.



Polar Plunge

Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Director's Corner

By Timothy Michalak
Probation Director

For much of 2021 we were still largely in the grips of the COVID-19 global pandemic. In our community, we have lost loved ones and friends, there is food insecurity, livelihoods continue to be at risk, inflation is high, infrastructure is crumbling and we've all been affected by economic and supply chain issues. Recently, here in Western New York, even our beloved Buffalo Bills lost in the playoffs in heartbreaking fashion.

As we get closer to spring, we are undoubtedly all hoping to begin to put the pandemic behind us or simply learn to live with the virus and its variants. These are challenging times to say the least. That is why it is important for us to come together, put our differences aside and selflessly give of ourselves for each other, our communities and our country.

Divisiveness, fear and hatred cannot continue to be so prevalent in our society. We not only need strong leaders to step forward and have the courage to face these challenges, but it is also the responsibility of each and every one of us to help facilitate positive change. This can begin simply with a change in attitude. Winston Churchill once said, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Are you feeling negative or positive? Angry or joyful? Pessimistic or optimistic? Ungrateful or appreciative? Critical or congratulatory? Are you feeling like a victim or a winner? Regardless, doing our part begins with self awareness.

Simply stop and reflect on your current state of mind. It sets an atmosphere that affects how you perceive others and how others perceive you. Unfortunately, we are often unaware of the vibes we are sending out. Our attitudes affect our relationships at home, at work and in the community. We have all struggled, been hurt or frustrated at times, particularly over the past couple of years. We've been hit with so many things seemingly out of our control, however, the one thing we can control is ourselves, our own behaviors and our own attitudes.

When you feel negativity settling in, try to cut back on complaining and help to find solutions. Talk with others about how you would like things to be rather than how dissatisfied you are about how things are. We can disagree about things yet still respect one another. We can spend less time interrupting, correcting and condemning and more time truly listening to find common ground. This will set an atmosphere that is more conducive to change and you will find that others will be more comfortable in your presence.

Conflict is inevitable. However, it is how we handle conflict that makes all the difference. If you want to be a better person, if you want to contribute positively to your community, if you want to live in a more unified country, and if you would like to see more love and peace in this world, it begins inside each one of us. Don't wait for good things to happen, make good things happen. The future is in our hands. One last thing...Go Bills!



Probation Administration Over The Years

PROBATION DIRECTORS

Nicholas Figlow
(1st Probation Officer) 1947-1966
William Wescott 1966-1975
Thomas Geles 1975-1982
Gary Clark 1982-2006
Julie Smith 2007-2013
Timothy Michalak 2013-Present

PROBATION SUPERVISORS

Gary Churchill
Jerome Bukiewicz
Gary Clark
Frank Wiater
Julie Smith
Timothy Michalak
Kevin Wright
Rachel Sanfratello

Past Directors' Commentary

"It truly has been stated that "Probation is the Cornerstone of Modern Correctional Care," because it is the most positive influence in the criminal justice system on the prevention of crime and delinquency. Probation is the least expensive means to effect rehabilitation of the individual as an alternative to incarceration. Therefore our philosophy will continue to be to encourage greater use of Probation by the Courts."

William G. Wescott, Annual Report-1973

"The criminal justice agencies in Genesee County have continued to be a model throughout the state with new and innovative programs. It is through the excellent cooperation of the courts, police agencies and many other agencies that Genesee County is truly a leader in criminal justice."

Gary L. Clark, Annual Report 1983

Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Contact Information:

Genesee County Probation Department
County Building No. 1,
15 Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020

TEL: (585)344-2550, Ext 2255 FAX: (585) 343-5839

Dept. Email: probation@co.genesee.ny.us



The Mission of the Genesee County Probation Department is to enhance the safety of victims and communities through the fair and effective supervision of community-based offenders, community partnerships, and results-driven management practices.

