

Niagara County Probation Department

Annual Report 2025



Our Mission

It is our mission to protect the community through intervention in individual's lives by facilitating compliance with court orders and serving as a catalyst for positive change.

What is Probation?

Probation is the largest community corrections program in the world. Probation Officers supervise Probationers in the community using graduated sanctions and rehabilitative services.

Probation is a mandated service. Pursuant to article 12-A, Section 256, of the New York State Executive Law, each County shall maintain a probation agency.

Who We Are

The Niagara County Probation Department has **49 employees**.

1 – Clerical I	6 – Clerical II	2 - Account Clerical II
4 – ATI Specialists		1 – ATI Supervisor
28 – Probation Officers		5 – Probation Supervisors
1 – Deputy Director		1 Probation Director

Where We Are

111 Main Street Lockport, NY 14094	1001 11 th Street Niagara Falls, NY 14301
500 Wheatfield Street N. Tonawanda, NY 14120	in the NC Jail at 5526 Niagara Street Ext. Lockport, NY 14095

Pretrial Services

In 2025, the Probation Department managed **532 pretrial service cases**. Implemented in January 2020, New York's bail reform law eliminated cash bail for most misdemeanors and non-violent felonies, aiming to reduce pretrial detention and address racial disparities. Judges must now use the "least restrictive" means to ensure return to court. As such, utilization of pretrial skyrocketed. Prior to bail reform, the Probation Department managed approximately 25 cases per year. Pretrial cases are assessed for risk of failure to appear in Court, reducing reliance on cash bail and jail. The aim of pretrial services is to ensure defendant's return to court and to address any needs that brought them into the criminal justice system towards a reduction in recidivism.

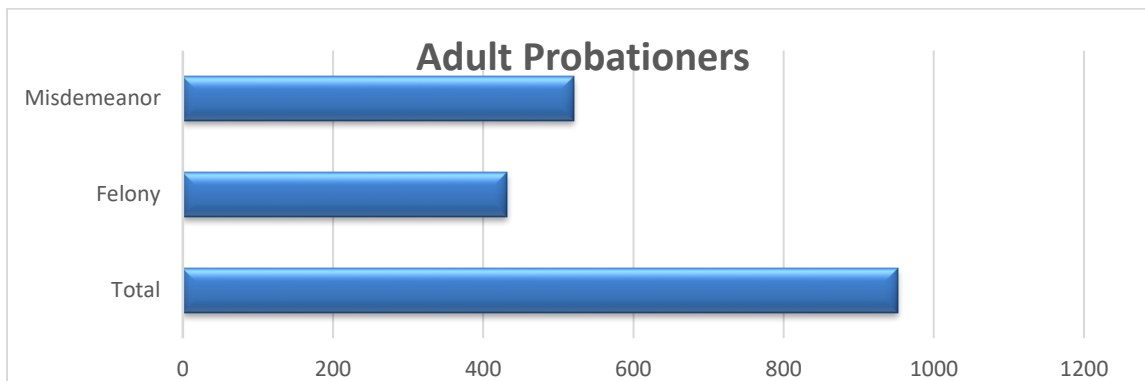
By The Numbers

Criminal Court

In 2025, the Niagara County Probation Department completed **919** presentence investigations for the Criminal Courts.

A presentence investigation (PSI) is a court-ordered process conducted by a probation officer to gather detailed information about a defendant's background, offense details, and personal circumstances after a guilty plea or verdict. It helps Judges make informed sentencing decisions, assists the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision in inmate classification, and helps in post-release supervision. Presentence investigations cover personal history, physical/mental health, substance use history, financial condition, and mitigating factors, as well as the offender's statement regarding the underlying offense, victim impact statements and sentencing recommendations.

As of December 2025, there were **905** adults supervised by the Niagara County Probation Department in relation to criminal court convictions.



Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC)

The goal of the Niagara TASC program is to reduce recidivism while reducing detention/incarceration. In 2025, the TASC program served **201** cases. Services are primarily assessment, court advocacy, referrals to substance abuse treatment programs and court monitoring, supported by therapeutic case management.

The goal of TASC is to provide treatment intervention to stop the cycle of addiction and recidivism. TASC acts as a bridge between the justice system and the treatment providers.

TASC serves the community at large by providing an avenue of rehabilitation for individuals whose criminal behavior is related to their substance abuse and/or behavioral health issues.



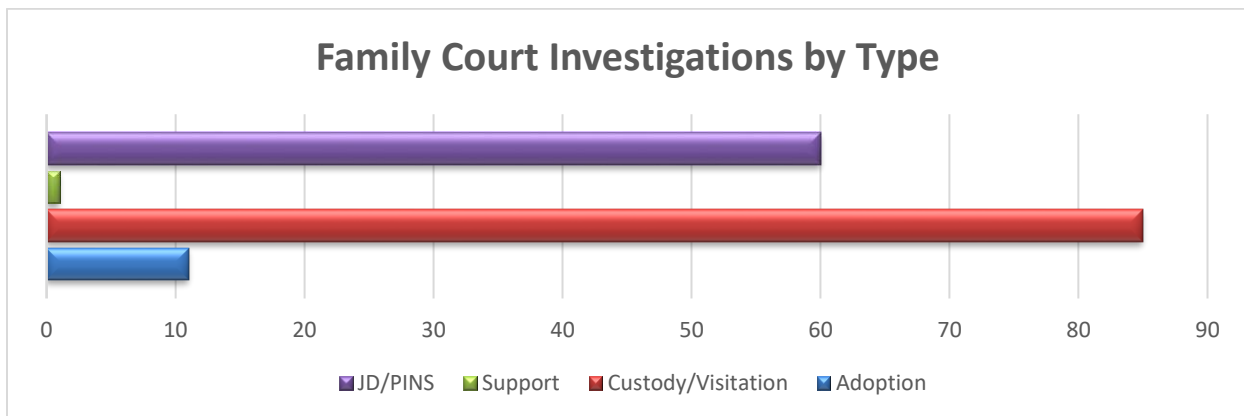
Following the enactment of Raise the Age, which raised the age of criminal responsibility to eighteen, taking effect on October 1, 2018, first for sixteen year olds, and on October 1, 2019, for seventeen year olds, youth who have committed a Felony level offense start in Youth Part. These youth are identified as Adolescent Offenders (AO). Youth identified as Juvenile Offenders (JO), thirteen to fifteen year olds who have committed a serious Felony Offense, are also handled in Youth Part.

The Probation Department is responsible for offering Voluntary Assessment and Case Planning Services (VACPS) while a youth’s case is pending in Youth Part. In 2025, **53 AOs** and **3 JOs** participated in Voluntary Services. During VACPS, a probation officer assesses a youth’s needs and connects them to relevant programs and services while their case is pending in Youth Part. Case plans are developed to identify short and long-term goals and steps to get there so youth can avoid further criminal involvement.

Family Court

In 2025, the Niagara County Probation Department completed **157 investigations for Family Court**.

Family Court investigation types include Adoption, Custody/Visitation, Child Support and Juvenile Delinquent/Persons in Need of Supervision.



Probation Officers conduct home study investigations for the Family Court, including background checks, medical records, financial statements, interviews of the prospective parties and a home safety inspection to ensure a safe environment for a child related to potential adoptions and petitions filed for custody and visitation purposes.

In 2025, the Probation Department completed **11** adoption investigations and **85** custody/visitation investigations.

The Family Court Unit provides adult supervision of persons who are on probation for Failure to Pay Child Support. As of December 2025, there were **21** people on probation for Willful Failure to Pay Child Support.

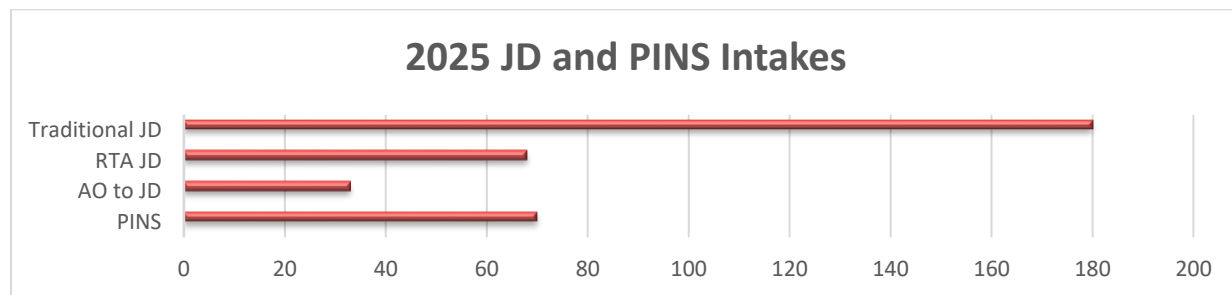
As of December 2025, the Family Court Unit had **25** Adjudicated Juvenile Delinquents under formal probation supervision.



Juvenile Intake/Diversion Services

As an alternative to court involvement, the Family Court Act provides for local Probation Departments to offer **diversion services**. The purpose of diversion services is to divert cases from going to Family Court. Diversion efforts relate to youth who are Juvenile Delinquents (JD) or Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS).

A **Juvenile Delinquent (JD)** is a child over 12, but under 18 years of age, who commits an act that would be a crime if an adult had committed it. In 2025, the Niagara County Probation Department processed **281** JD intakes.



A **Person in Need of Supervision (PINS)** is a youth under the age of eighteen who is showing a pattern of ungovernable or habitually disobedient behavior, running away, curfew violations, substance use, violent behavior, or school truancy problems. Parents or school districts make most PINS referrals. In 2025, the Probation Department managed **70** PINS diversion cases.

Diversion Services attempt to resolve the conflicts that brought a youth to the attention of the Probation Department by offering supervision, guidance, and referrals to community resources. Referrals may be made for individual and/or family counseling, substance abuse evaluations and treatment, and educational and employment assessments and opportunities.



Electronic Monitoring



GPS monitoring is a cost-effective enhanced supervision and sentencing option for high-risk offenders. It is used with juveniles as an alternative to detention. Pretrial offenders may also be ordered to electronic monitoring as a condition of their release.

In 2025, **GPS was ordered by the courts for 188 individuals** for a total of **13,985 monitoring days**. Of these, **46** cases were Family Court **juvenile** cases, **26** were adult **gun** cases, **15** were **domestic** violence cases and **101** were **pretrial** cases. Total costs for GPS monitoring in 2025 was \$43,353.50, which was paid for through various grants secured by the Probation Department.

The Probation Department utilizes additional electronic monitoring equipment on a client-pay basis for offenses that do not qualify for grant payment of fees associated with the monitoring. Remote alcohol monitoring equipment is also utilized on a client-pay basis.

Specialized Services



Comprehensive Reentry Task Force (CRTF)

The Niagara County CRTF coordinates services for individuals returning to the community from state prison, aiming to reduce recidivism and promote public safety. Based at [Community Missions of Niagara Frontier](#) in Niagara Falls, it offers case management, housing assistance, and employment readiness, including the "Ready, Set, Work!" program. The NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) typically determines eligibility, though individuals may contact the task force directly if needed.

Employment Focused Services (EFS) Program

The Probation Department's EFS program is a joint effort with the Niagara County Employment and Training Department to provide probationers with the opportunity to learn and demonstrate job readiness skills. In-house skill-based training programs facilitated by Probation Officers and Employment and Training Counselors aim to equip probationers with the necessary tools to obtain and sustain quality employment leading to self-sufficiency. Probationers receive assistance with career counseling; resume preparation, mock interviews, job searches and completion of career assessments and applications.

Research shows a strong inverse correlation between stable employment and criminal activity, with employment reducing recidivism by providing financial stability, structured time, and social ties that discourage crime. Employment programs can reduce re-arrest rates by nearly 20%.

In 2025, **85** high and/or medium risk probationers **enrolled in the EFS program**. **42** of them were **placed in jobs** and **32** of those **retained their jobs**.



Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative

GIVE is a key component of New York State's comprehensive plan to reduce shootings and firearm-related violent crime, including homicides. The Niagara County Probation Department in conjunction with the Niagara Falls Police Department, Niagara County Sheriff's Office and the Niagara County District Attorney's Office work to reduce gun violence in the City of Niagara Falls. The GIVE plan incorporates procedural justice practices and utilizes the evidence based strategies of hot spots policing, focused deterrence and street outreach. GIVE has been in place in Niagara County since 2014.

In 2025, Probation Officers conducted **351 home/field visits to GIVE offenders**, resulting in **482 contacts**.

In Niagara Falls in 2025, when compared to 2024 shooting incidents involving injury were down 15%, and shooting victims were down 37%.

Compared to the five year average, shooting incidents involving injury decreased **67%** (5 year average = 33, 2025 = 11). Shooting victims decreased **69%** (5 year average = 39, 2025 = 12). There were **NO individuals killed by gun violence in the City of Niagara Falls in 2025**.



Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring (IID)

The Niagara County Probation Department oversees compliance with ignition interlock installation for individuals required to install devices under New York's Leandra's Law, as part of a probation term or in response to their receipt of a Conditional Discharge from a Court. Offenders must install devices at their own expense (roughly \$60-\$80/month) to prevent driving with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) over .025%.

2025 Ignition Interlock Enforcement Program

As a result of receiving a Federal Governor's Traffic Safety Committee grant the Probation Department in conjunction with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney's Office participated in an Ignition Interlock Enforcement Program. Statewide, the ignition interlock installation rate is only 26%. This initiative looked to ensure that all ordered IIDs were installed as required and provided for community education of the requirements of IID and the penalties if an individual allows an IID ordered offender to operate a vehicle without an installed IID.

16 operations were conducted, having **contact with 113 people**. Two of these were at the **DWI Victim Impact Panels** that were held during the enforcement period - June 17, 2025 and

August 26, 2025, having contact with 26 people at these events, resulting in 2 arrests. Both operators who were arrested drove to the panel without having a valid driver's license, and without having the ignition interlock device installed. Attendance at the Victim Impact Panel was part of their sentence related to their original DWI convictions. Probation also conducted surveillance operations with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office on operators who were suspected of driving without a license/ignition interlock. These operations, resulted in 3 arrests for driving without a license/driving without an interlock device.

***Juvenile Risk Intervention Service Coordination (JRISC)**

JRISC is a youth intervention program incorporating evidence-based principles, enhanced supervision services, and cognitive behavioral therapy to effectively manage the needs of highest-risk youth. The program connects youth with community-based support services and strengthens familial bonds through family therapy to increase protective factors that reduce risk of harm. Services focus on targeted interventions and case-specific support, while probation supervision aims to reduce recidivism among participants.

In 2025, 79% of JRISC youth successfully completed their programs. Of those cases, 60% had a reduced risk of recidivism, as measured by the YASI.

The Niagara County JRISC program is highlighted in the NYS DCJS Knowledge Bank. <https://knowledgebank.criminaljustice.ny.gov/juvenile-risk-intervention-services-coordination-jrisc>

Sex Offender monitoring

92 of the New York State's 3,401 registered sex offenders are being supervised by the Niagara County Probation Department.

Probation Officers do quarterly address checks to verify the addresses of Probationers on the New York State Sex Offender Registry. The Probation Officer also ensures that offenders are submitting updated information regarding their address, employer, higher education enrollment, vehicle information, and internet data to the New York State Sex Offender Registry.

Electronic device monitoring is utilized for all devices and software owned or used by sex offenders that have internet access. The purpose of this monitoring is to determine that their use of technology is appropriate, legal, and within the parameters of their conditions and/or treatment program.

A best practice for monitoring a sex offender who is on probation is the use of polygraph testing. The offender must take and pass the polygraph in order to be held accountable for their probation offense and any past offenses allowing us to have a better picture of their risk to the community. That knowledge informs the style and intensity of supervision that is required to maximize public safety.

Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) initiative

New in 2025, NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services funded law enforcement agencies and service providers in 17 counties to improve the public safety response to intimate partner abuse and domestic violence, and better address the needs of victims and survivors. The Probation Department is utilizing the grant funds for additional after-hours field contacts to offender residences, as well as costs of GPS monitoring for individuals with a full stay away Order of Protection in place.

Youth In Probation Program

The Youth in Probation program is a joint venture between the Niagara County Probation Department and the Niagara County Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. This program provides co-located mental health services at probation for identified youth who may benefit from mental health services and/or other appropriate linkages.

In 2025, **42** youth participated in this program.



Probation Officers as program facilitators:

All Niagara County Probation Officers are trained facilitators of **Interactive Journaling** through The Change Companies. Interactive Journaling is an evidence-based, client centered model that uses expressive writing, motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy and the stages of change to motivate and guide individuals toward positive, lasting behavior change.

6 Probation Officers are certified in **Ready, Set, Work!** and two of those officers are additionally credentialed in **Career University**, which is the youth version employment readiness program.

The Niagara County's Ready, Set, Work! Program is highlighted in the NYS DCJS Knowledge Bank. <https://knowledgebank.criminaljustice.ny.gov/ready-set-work>



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

The Probation Department is authorized by law to collect monies including restitution for victims, Court surcharges, fines and fees. The funds that are collected are disbursed to various sources including crime victims, County of Niagara (revenue), and other government agencies.

The total money collected by the Probation department in 2025 is:

Restitution			\$141,356.20
Fines			\$54,792.33
Fees (County revenue)	Supervision Fees	\$165,018.00	
	Drug Test Fees	\$931.00	
	Restitution Surcharge	\$9,879.40	
		Total County Revenue	\$175,828.40
		Total Collections	\$371,976.93

Funding Sources

Probation is a legally mandated service. The Probation Department's 2025 budget was **\$7,837,432.00**.

New York State aid – Probation Block grant total: **\$524,829.00 = 7%** of total budget
 Probation revenue – Probation Administrative Fee, Drug Test fee, and Restitution

Surcharge total: **\$175,828.00 = 1.8%**

STOP DWI funds and percentage bail money total: **\$12,358 = .2%**

NYS Grant funding - **\$2,895,072.00 = 37%**

Funding total: \$3,607,726 = 46%

County Share: \$4,229,706 = 54% of total budget

NYS grants received in 2025 by Niagara County Probation include:

Alternatives to Jail Detention, Classification 13A funds – Alternative to Incarceration program funding (TASC), Discovery Reform, Employment Focused Services, Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE), Ignition Interlock Device Monitoring, Pretrial Services, Raise the Age, Statewide Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE), Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program, Youth Justice Alternatives and Diversion Programming.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Deborah M. LaRock, Probation Director
716-438-4061
deborah.larock@niagaracounty.gov

Jeffrey Sheehan, Deputy Director
716-278-8240
Jeffrey.sheehan@niagaracounty.gov

Angela Beightol, ATI Supervisor
TASC Unit/Pretrial Release Services
716-438-3381
angela.beightol@niagaracounty.gov

Amanda Bond, Probation Supervisor
Niagara Falls Criminal Court Unit
716-278-8122
amanda.bond@niagaracounty.gov

William E. Collins, Probation Supervisor
Lockport Criminal Court Unit
716-438-4055
william.collins@niagaracounty.gov

Jennifer Drake, Probation Supervisor
Niagara Falls Family Court Unit
716-278-8122
jennifer.drake@niagaracounty.gov

Courtaney Harper, Probation Supervisor
Niagara Falls Criminal Court Unit
716-278-8122
courtaney.harper@niagaracounty.gov

Susan Woock, Probation Supervisor
NT Criminal/NT & Lockport Family Court
716-743-4526
susan.woock@niagaracounty.gov