



**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE / JUVENILE DIVISION
GEAUGA COUNTY**

Judge Timothy J. Grendell

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PRESS RELEASE
OCTOBER 24, 2011

**JUDGE TIMOTHY J. GREDELL ANNOUNCES ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR
JUVENILE DRUG AND ALCOHOL OFFENSES**

Effective immediately, any matters involving the use, possession or sale of drugs or alcohol will be filed as official complaints in the Geauga County Juvenile Court. Diversion will no longer be an option in these cases. Judge Grendell intends to strictly apply the law in juvenile drug and alcohol cases and plans to provide education/awareness and intervention simultaneously. Juvenile Court Judge Timothy J. Grendell said, "According to recent studies, juveniles that drink in their early teens are four times more likely to become addicted to alcohol than those who wait until they are twenty-one."

Drug & alcohol charges have been the most common charge filed in the Geauga County Juvenile Court for 16 out of the last 18 years. In 2010, drug & alcohol charges increased by 11.0%.