

40 N. Main Street
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
Phone: (586) 469-5150
www.macombgov.org

James M. Biernat Jr., Chief Judge
16th Judicial Circuit Court,
Macomb County Probate Court,
42nd District Courts

News



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Nicole Faulds [\(586\) 469-5413](tel:5864695413)

Date: [December 2, 2019](#)

16th Judicial Circuit Court – Juvenile Division welcomes therapy dog

The Juvenile Division has recently recruited its newest member - Izzy the Therapy Dog. The Court worked closely with the Office of the County Executive and Macomb County Animal Control to make this a reality. Izzy is a Golden Doodle who was rescued from a dog hoarding situation where she spent most of her time in a crate. She was adopted from Macomb County Animal Control and has been preparing for her new role by participating in an intensive Therapy Dog Training Program with Handler (and Juvenile Division Case Work Supervisor) Amy Mitchell. The program started with nineteen days of residential training for Izzy and hours of handler training for Amy.



Currently, Amy and Izzy participate in bi-weekly training sessions in order to maximize Izzy's therapeutic benefits. In her role as a therapy dog, she will provide comfort and support to youth and families who are receiving services through the Juvenile Division. Although the Juvenile Division Therapy Dog Program has only been in existence for a few months, Amy and Izzy have already had a huge impact. Vulnerable, fragile, and anxious victims and litigants have expressed sincere gratitude for Izzy's presence. Court partners, including DHHS and CMH have written to thank the Juvenile Division for Izzy's assistance.

On behalf of the Circuit Court, Chief Judge James Biernat, Jr. said, "Coming to court can be an intimidating experience for kids. It is my hope that Izzy can be a soothing influence and ease anxieties for troubled youth. We are pleased to offer this important resource to the families that we serve."

###