



# COMMON PLEAS COURT

## GENERAL DIVISION

Richard E. Berens, Administrative Judge  
David A. Trimmer, Judge

### PRESS RELEASE

December 27, 2016

The Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas is committed to reducing recidivism and protecting our county through reentry programs and community partnerships. The purpose of this press release is to inform community members and individuals of a new reentry program that is being extended to Fairfield County residents by the STAR Community Justice Center.

The STAR Community Justice Center is a 250 bed American Correctional Association accredited male and female Community Based Correctional Facility (CBCF) and one of nineteen such facilities in the State of Ohio. A CBCF is a local alternative to prison with the primary purpose of rehabilitation of non-violent, felony offenders.

The STAR Community Justice Center will continue to house offenders from Fairfield County in its residential facility, as it has for many years, and beginning in 2017 it will also be providing “aftercare” services to Fairfield County residents who successfully complete the STAR residential program. The purpose of the aftercare program is to help ease the transition of reintegrating back into society for STAR graduates. As part of the program, an aftercare specialist will meet with the graduates in Fairfield County once a week for up to six months to assist them in overcoming reentry barriers and pairing their needs with available community resources. The specialist will also reinforce the cognitive behavioral therapy skills that individuals have practiced during their time at STAR.

“These skills aid the probationers in learning self-control, self-discipline, respect for others and the community, and ultimately, self-respect,” said Shannon Bishop, STAR’s Reentry Director. “Once they believe in their ability to succeed, they begin to transform into stable, productive members of our communities.”

“The Court very much appreciates having this additional resource to draw upon as another tool to reduce crime and offer persons on Community Control supervision by the Court additional support services,” said Richard Berens, Judge of the Fairfield County Common Pleas Court.

Individuals with questions about the STAR Community Justice Center and its new aftercare program are encouraged to contact STAR’s Reentry Director Shannon Bishop at 740-354-9026 or Fairfield County Director of Adult Probation, Angel Sanderson at 740-652-7344.

Court of Common Pleas of Fairfield County, Ohio • Hall of Justice • 224 East Main Street • Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
Judge Richard E. Berens (740) 652-7422 • Judge David A. Trimmer (740) 652-7423 • [www.fairfieldcountyohio.gov](http://www.fairfieldcountyohio.gov)