

KENT COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Prosecutor’s Office is to perform a variety of statutorily mandated services on behalf of the citizens of Kent County. These include appearances in all criminal proceedings involving charges brought on behalf of the People of the State of Michigan in the various District and Circuit Courts as well as appearances in delinquency, neglect/dependency, mental incompetency, and adult guardianship proceedings in both the Probate Court and Family Divisions of the Circuit Court. Additionally, the Appellate Division initiates and responds to appeals resulting from cases in which the Prosecutor’s Office has appeared. Further, the Family Law Division, by virtue of both statutory requirements and contractual obligations, is responsible for the establishment of paternity and the securing of child support payments in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

CHRISTOPHER BECKER----- Prosecuting Attorney

Monica M. Janiskee -----Chief Assistant Prosecutor

Brandy A. Johnson -----Administrator

Editor:
Brandy A. Johnson

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May, 2024 - Grand Rapids, Michigan

KENT COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

It is my pleasure to present to the citizens of Kent County the statistical summaries and comparisons which reflect the activities of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney for the year of 2023. The following pages will describe the ways in which our resources were utilized in the past year. We ask you to review these numbers and would encourage any recommendations and comments concerning the ways we can work together to further improve our local criminal justice system.

As you can see, there was an increase in the number of charges we authorized in 2023 compared to 2022. In fact, this year our office issued more warrants than any other year since 2016. In addition, we also *rejected* more warrant requests than we did in 2022; this is the highest number of warrant requests we have denied since 2016. This office has at least one attorney review warrants every single day of the year. We need to make sure we are doing it right, no matter when the review takes place. Issuing or denying warrants is one of the most important functions a prosecutor can do. We must assure we are issuing warrants when appropriate; where there is sufficient evidence of a crime that may be proven in court, and sufficient evidence the person accused actually committed the crime. We must reject warrants that do not have sufficient evidence. Simply issuing a warrant can have a tremendous impact on the life of the person who is charged; they may be arrested, held in jail, and have their name released to the public. Not issuing a warrant can also have a huge impact on a potential victim; increasing fear, anxiety, and it creates the potential for more crime. It is not a science, it is a process, a process the staff understands must be taken seriously and carefully, and our numbers reflect that.

With these increases, it does put more pressure on our Victim Witness Unit to provide guidance to individuals who have been victimized by criminal behavior. We have a tremendous staff who handles victims' rights notifications, makes the phone calls to the victims, and helps victims through the entire court process from the first court hearing until after sentencing. We are very excited to have the ability to add two new victim advocates in the coming year to help victims involved in domestic violence cases. While there was a slight decrease in the number of domestic cases we charged this year, statistically, we still charged the highest number of domestic cases in 2023 than we have in past years. Our advocates are extremely dedicated to their job, and the victims they serve. They continue to do the work needed to make sure victims get the help they need.

I am proud of the entire staff in the office. Their dedication to their job, the people of the county they serve, and each other, make this office and Kent County as a whole, a wonderful place to work and raise a family.



Christopher Becker
Kent County Prosecuting Attorney

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ATTORNEY STAFF

BRIA Q. ADDERLEY-WILLIAMS, Bethune-Cookman University, B.S., *Magna Cum Laude*; Michigan State University College of Law, J.D.; 1.5 years of prosecution experience.

ELIZABETH A. BARTLETT, Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 10.5 years of prosecution experience.

CHRISTOPHER R. BECKER, Michigan State University, B.A.; Valparaiso University Law School, J.D.; 28 years of prosecution experience.

AUDRA J. BLODGETT, Loyola University Chicago, B.A.; University of Notre Dame Law School, J.D.; 2.5 years of prosecution experience.

LAWRENCE J. BOIVIN, McGill University, M.A.; B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 17 years of prosecution experience.

TRACEY E. BROWER, Michigan State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 18 years of prosecution experience.

G. JACK BURKE, Michigan State University, B.A.; Wayne State University Law School, J.D.; .5 years of prosecution experience.

TIFFANY A. BURKS, Saint Leo University, B.A.; Roger Williams University, B.S.; Northcentral University, M.B.A.; Western Michigan University, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 2 years of prosecution experience.

COURTNEY E. CHRISTENSEN, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Western Michigan Cooley Law School, J.D.; 4 years of prosecution experience.

LAURA A. CLIFTON, Michigan State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 21 years of prosecution experience.

ANGELA M. CURTIS, Michigan State University, B.A.; Michigan State University College of Law, J.D.; 12 years of prosecution experience.

YASMEEN M. DEHAAN, University of Michigan, B.A.; Valparaiso University Law School, J.D.; 3 years of prosecution experience.

PETER T. DRENT, Michigan State University, B.A.; Western Michigan Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 7 years of prosecution experience.

TRAVIS J. EARLEY, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 17 years of prosecution experience.

GERARD E. FABER, Chaminade University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 17 years of prosecution experience.

CHRISTOPHER R. HEKMAN, Aquinas College, B.A.; Wayne State University Law School, J.D. 18 years of prosecution experience.

GABRIEL J. HOLMSTROM, Culver-Stockton College, B.S.; Michigan State University, J.D.; 3 years of prosecution experience.

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AMANDA J. INGRAHAM, Western Michigan University, Bachelor of Music; Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 2 years of prosecution experience.

JOSEPH D. JACKSON, Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Michigan State University College of Law, J.D.; 13 years of prosecution experience.

MONICA M. JANISKEE, Wayne State University, B.A.; Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 26 years of prosecution experience.

BLAIR T. LACHMAN, University of Rhode Island, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 21 years of prosecution experience.

KIMBERLY M. MANNS, Hope College, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 18 years of prosecution experience.

MADELINE G. MCCLURE, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Loyola University of Chicago Law School, J.D.; 1.5 years of prosecution experience.

LAUREN A. MCNABB, Alma College B.A, WMU Cooley Law School J.D.; 1.5 years of prosecution experience.

DANIEL J. O'HARA, Grand Valley State University, B.A.; Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley law School, J.D.; 9 years of prosecution experience.

BONNIE L. PREVETTE, Michigan State University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 18 years of prosecution experience.

KIM A. RICHARDSON, Hope College, B.A.; Valparaiso University School of Law, J.D.; 24 years of prosecution experience.

ERYKAH M. ROSS, Michigan State University, B.A.; Michigan State University College of Law, J.D.; 1.5 years of prosecution experience.

MARGARET K. RUMMELT, Western Michigan University, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley, J.D.; 4 years of prosecution experience

MICHAEL D. SHEEHAN, Central Michigan University, B.S.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 10.5 years of prosecution experience.

DAVID J. SLOTSEMA, Calvin University, B.S.; Valparaiso University Law School, J.D.; 5.5 years of prosecution experience.

NICOLE I. SORCI, Central Michigan University, B.A.; Dayton School of Law, J.D.; 1.5 years of prosecution experience.

MICHELLE C. SMITH-LOWE, Grand Rapids Baptist College, B.A.; Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D.; 21 years of prosecution experience.

FELIX TARANGO, Texas State University, B.A.; University of New Hampshire School of Law, J.D.; 20 years of prosecution experience.

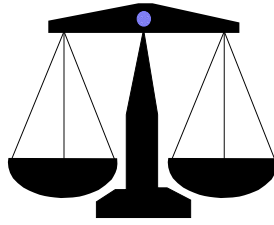
B. SCOTT VANDERKOLK, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Michigan State University-Detroit College of Law, J.D.; 21 years of prosecution experience.

BETH M. VAN DEUSEN, Eastern Michigan University, B.A; Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, JD.; 3 years of prosecution experience.

NICOLE B. WALKER, Florida State University, B.S.; Michigan State University College of Law, J.D.; 3 years of prosecution experience

KATHERINE E. WENDT, Grand Valley State University, B.S.; Michigan State University College of Law, J.D.; 3 years of prosecution experience.

The average seniority for attorney staff in the Kent County Prosecutor's Office is 10.8 years per attorney.



CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Criminal Division handles the prosecution of State law violations in Kent County Circuit Court, 61st District Court, 62nd District Court-Divisions A & B, 63rd District Court, and 59th District Court.

SUPPORT STAFF

Chelsey Mallekoote ----- **Office Administrator**
Teresa Avery----- Clerk III
Tanisha Baker ----- Clerk III
Amber Blamer ----- Clerk II
Kathryn Brinks ----- Clerk III
Taylor DeVlieg----- Legal Clerk
Alissa Gonzalez-Alfonso-----Legal Clerk
Lindsey Hamlin ----- Clerk III
Kelly Klein ----- Clerk III
Lindsey Pruitt ----- Clerk III
Brittany Shepard ----- Clerk III
Tamara Snider----- Clerk III
Rachael Traxler ----- Clerk III
Stephanie Wright ----- Clerk III
Brooke Young-----Legal Clerk

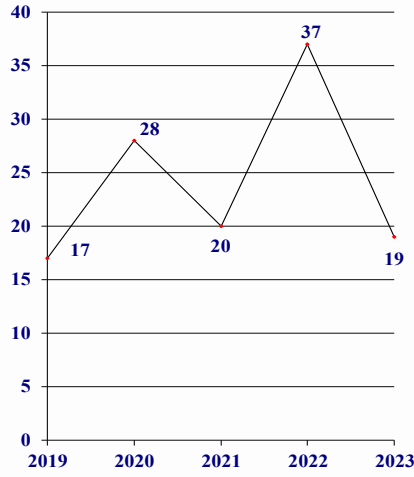
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Kent County has seventeen law enforcement agencies that submit charging/warrant requests to the Kent County Prosecutor's Office for review. Two Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys are responsible for thoroughly reviewing warrant requests, including incident reports, witness statements, and the suspect's criminal history before a charging decision is made. Other Assistant Prosecutors may also review warrant requests, particularly if the case involves an allegation of criminal sexual conduct, child abuse, or homicide. Additionally, both attorney and support personnel are in the office on weekends/holidays for warrant review and production since felony lockups require arraignment within 24 hours of arrest.

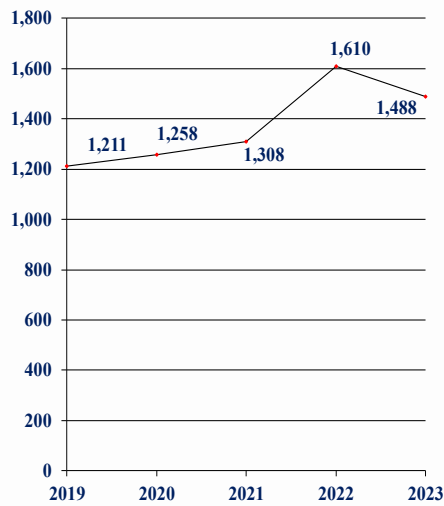
WARRANTS AUTHORIZED								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Felony	4,082	4,003	4,166	4,029	3,731	3,822	3,477	4,598
High Misdemeanor	2,404	2,290	2,198	2,153	-	-	-	-
Small Misdemeanor	1,374	1,365	1,318	1,220	-	-	-	-
Misdemeanor					2,809	3,222	3,286	3,236
Total	7,860	7,658	7,682	7,392	6,540	7,043	6,763	7,834

WARRANTS DENIED								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Felony	838	862	1,033	1,141	1,159	1,262	1,404	1,916
High Misdemeanor	503	514	639	702	-	-	-	-
Small Misdemeanor	1,728	1,725	1,824	2,075	-	-	-	-
Misdemeanor					2,893	2,829	3,430	3,972
Total	3,069	3,101	3,496	3,918	4,052	4,091	4,834	5,888

HOMICIDE CHARGES

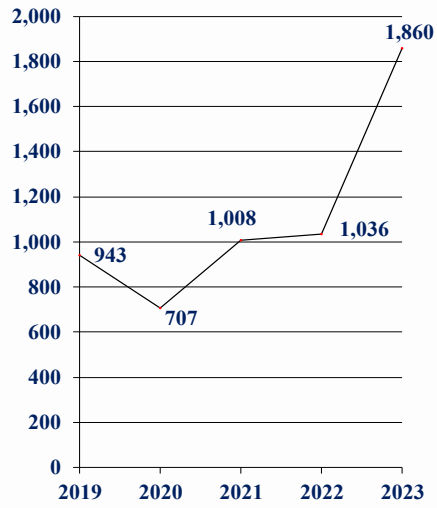


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGES

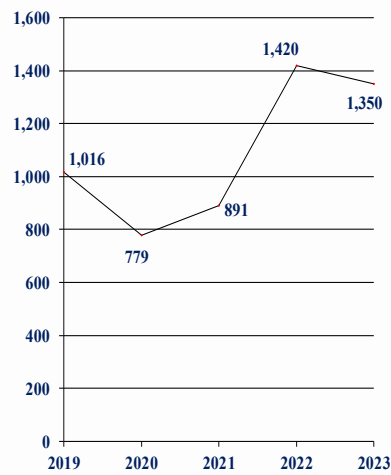


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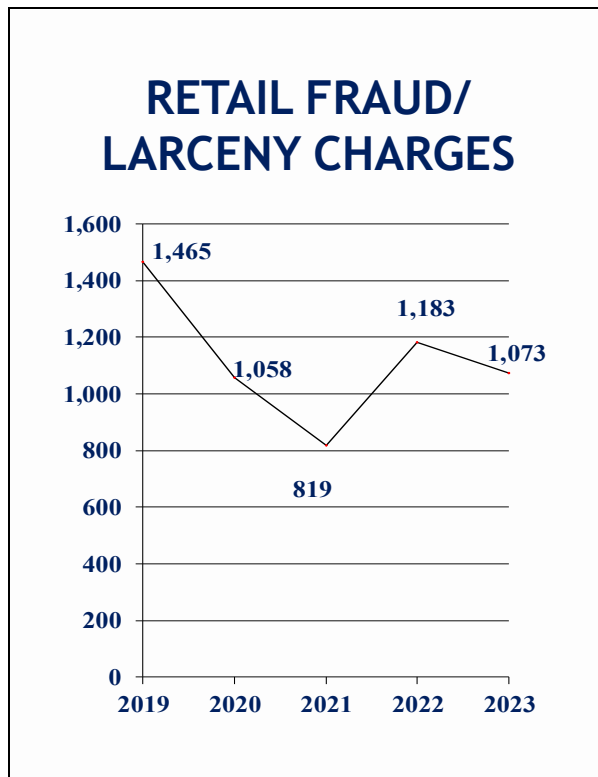
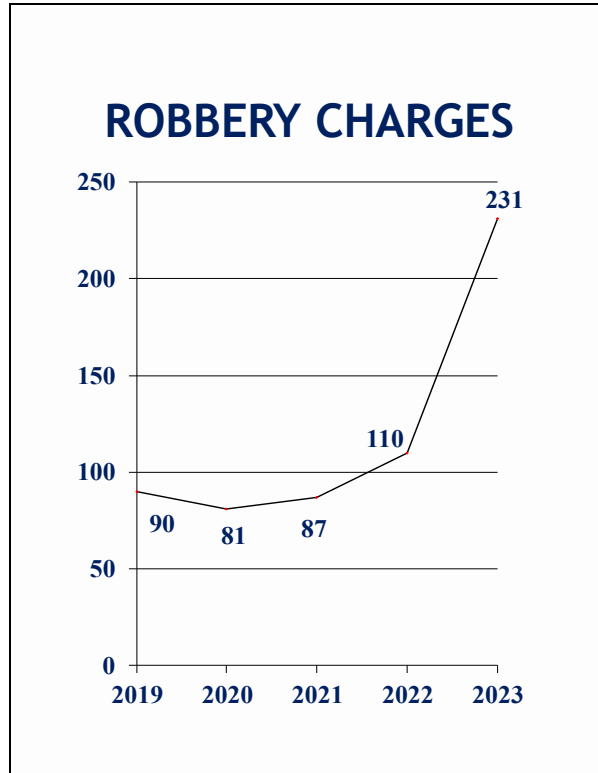
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CHARGES

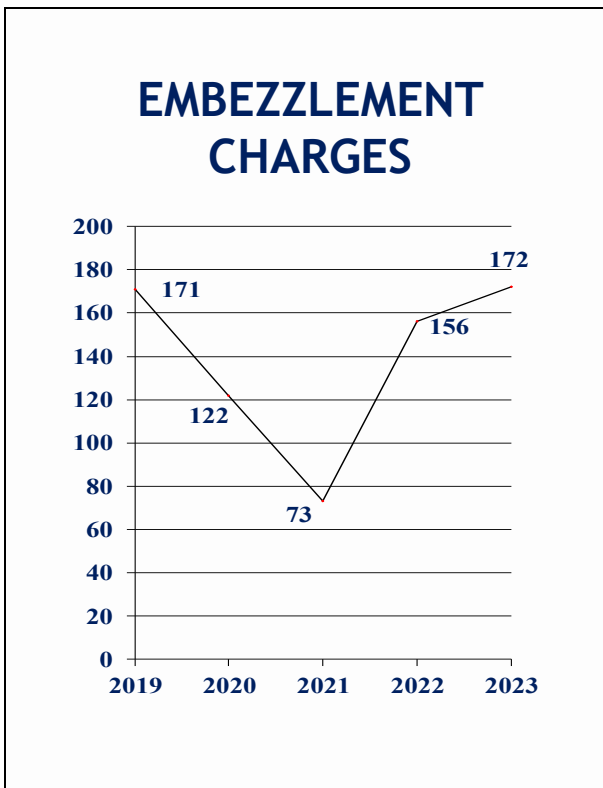
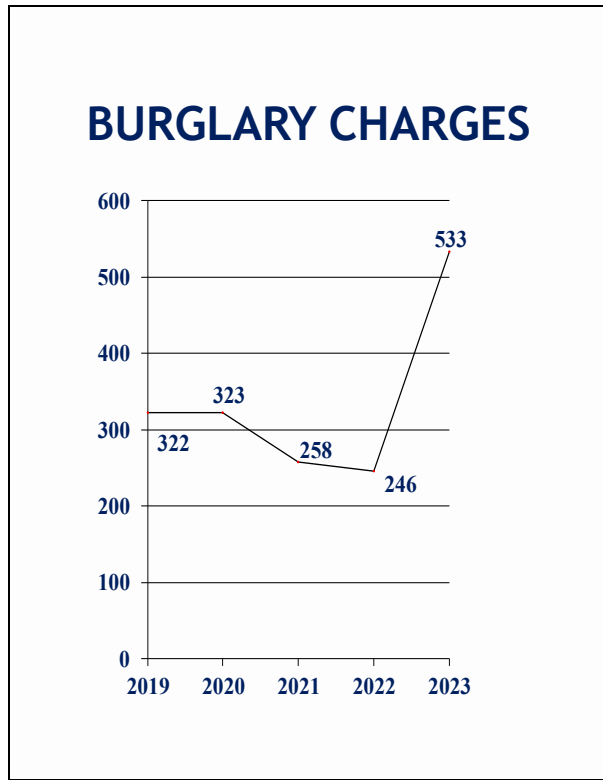


OUIL/OVI CHARGES

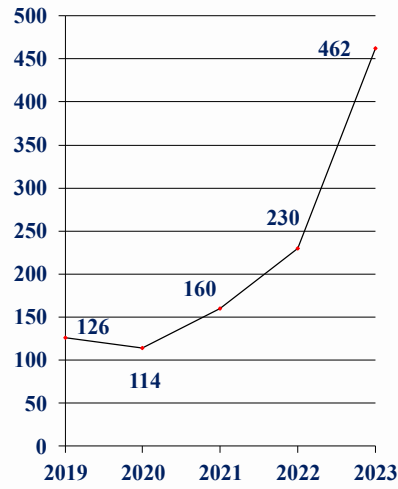


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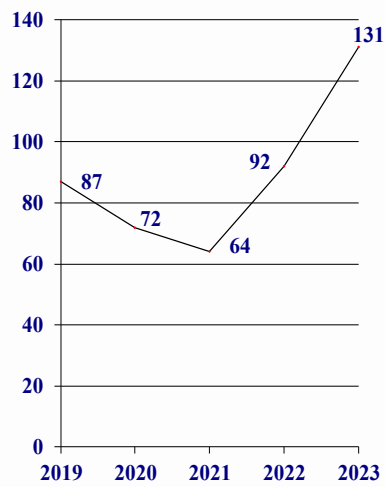




CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT CHARGES



CHILD ABUSE CHARGES



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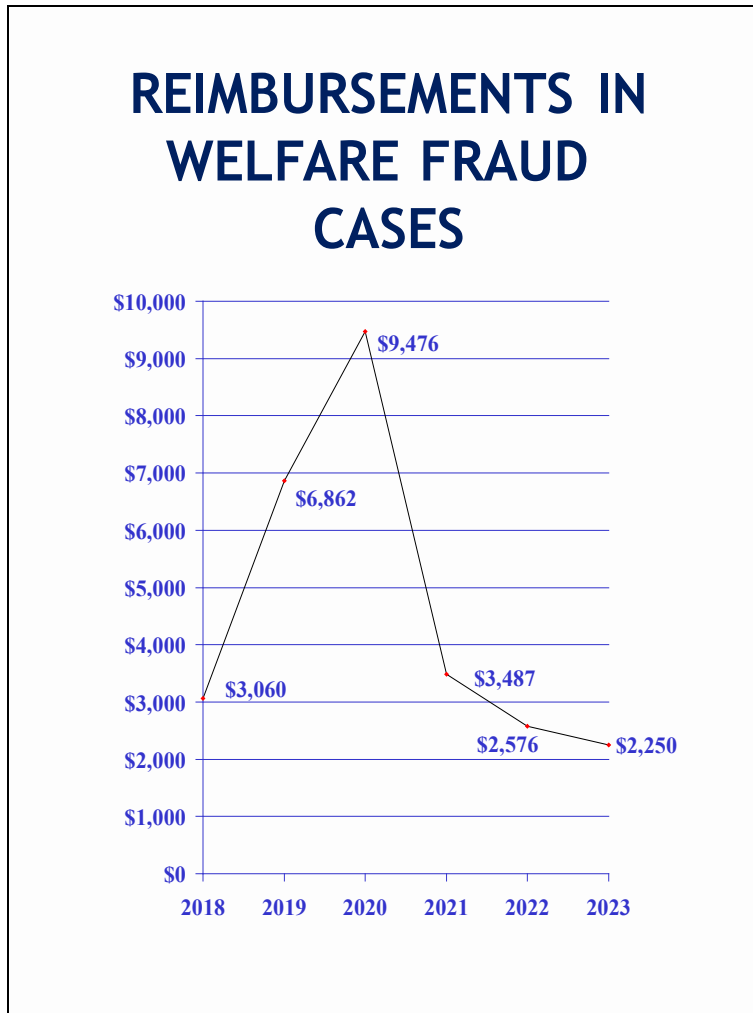
CONTESTED FORFEITURES

In an effort to reduce the financial incentive to commit drug offenses, the State Legislature gave police agencies the ability to seize and forfeit money, vehicles, or other property which are the direct result of drug trafficking. Police may seize property based on probable cause that it is the proceeds of illegal drug trafficking. If the owner does not contest the seizure within 20 days, the property is automatically forfeited to the seizing police agency. If the owner does contest the seizure, the case is reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office for possible civil filing with the Circuit Court.

CASH/VEHICLES FORFEITED

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
KCSD					
Forfeitures Filed	3	0	7	1	1
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	2/\$19,642	0/\$0	1/\$20,700	0/\$0	0/\$0
GRPD					
Forfeitures Filed	14	3	12	5	4
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	7/\$20,231	3/\$0	8/\$129,441	1/\$11,134	0/\$1,649
MET					
Forfeitures Filed	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0
KANET					
Forfeitures Filed	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0
MSP (Rockford)					
Forfeitures Filed	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0
LOWELL PD					
Forfeitures Filed	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0
KENTWOOD PD					
Forfeitures Filed	1	0	0	0	0
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	0/\$2,799	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0
WYOMING PD					
Forfeitures Filed	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0	0/\$0
Total Forfeitures Filed	18	3	19	6	5
Total Vehicles/Cash Forfeited	9/\$42,672	3/\$0	9/\$150,141	1/\$11,134	0/\$1,649

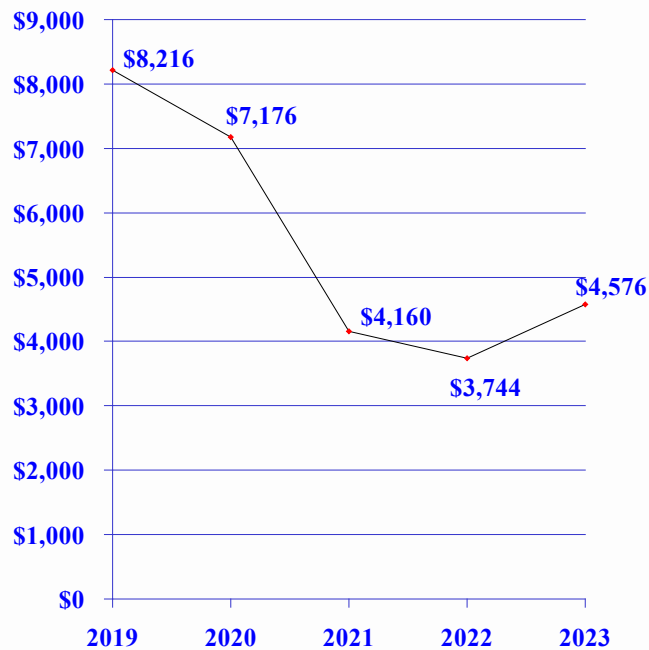
Judgments for forfeited money and property may not necessarily occur in the same year as a contested forfeiture filing. Cases may be filed in one year and not reach resolution until the following year. Hence, cash and vehicles forfeited are not always directly related to the specific filings for that year. Additionally, often there are miscellaneous items forfeited (e.g., jewelry, stereo equipment, cell phones, etc.) that are not reported in this publication.



Pursuant to US Code: Title 7, Section 2025(a), the Secretary is authorized to pay to each State agency an amount equal to 50 percent of all administrative costs involved in each State agency's operation of the food stamp program, which costs shall include, but not be limited to, ... (7) food stamp program investigations and prosecutions. The State then reimburses the County a portion of what it costs to prosecute cases where an offender has been charged with food stamp fraud.

Note: This data reflects the State of Michigan 2023 budget from October 2022-September 2023.

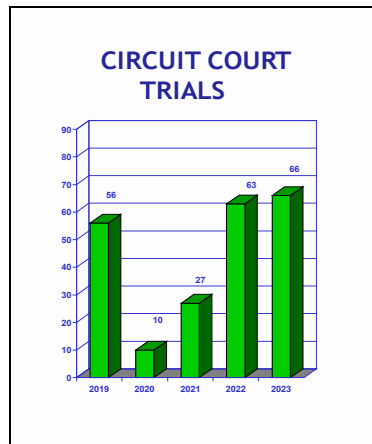
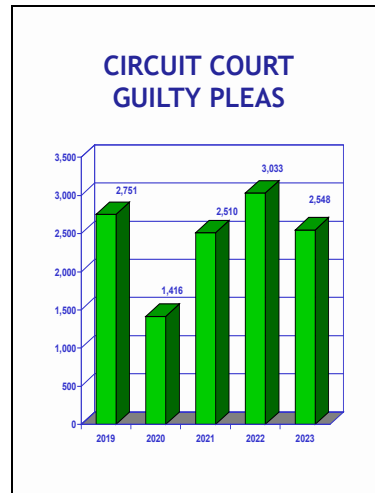
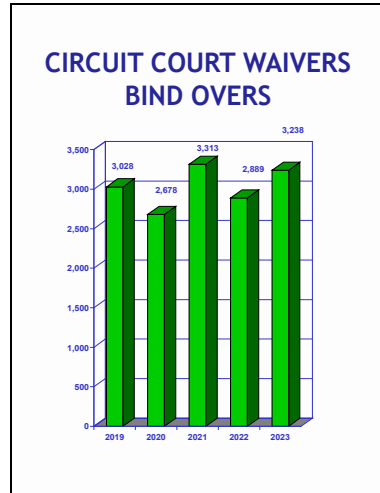
REIMBURSEMENTS IN DRIVER'S LICENSE RESTORATION CASES



Pursuant to MCL 257.323, the Prosecuting Attorney represents the Secretary of State in response to a petition filed in circuit court for judicial review of a revocation or suspension of a driver's license imposed by the Secretary of State. The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney receives reimbursement for representing the State in these cases.

Note: This data reflects the State of Michigan 2023 budget from October 2022-September 2023.

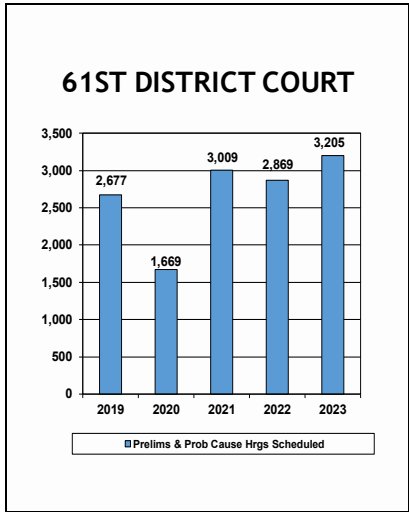
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CIRCUIT COURT

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Waived or Bound Over	3,028	2,678	3,313	2,889	3,238
Guilty Pleas					
Capital	128	41	163	156	79
Non-Capital	2,623	1,375	2,407	2,877	2,469
Total	2,751	1,416	2,510	3,033	2,548
Trials	56	10	27	63	66

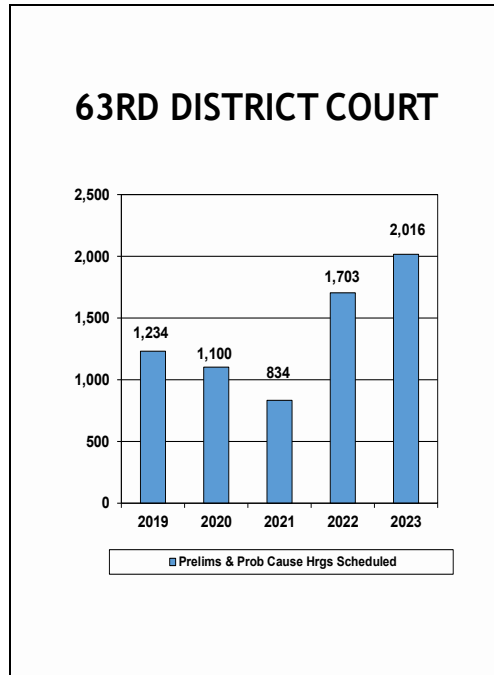
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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Probable Cause Hrgs Scheduled	1,956	1,669	2,023	1,931	2,146
Preliminary Exams Scheduled	722	880	986	938	1,059
Total PCH & PE's:	2,677	2,549	3,009	2,869	3,205
Waived - PCH/PE	922/256	765/315	915/356	784/317	810/347
Bound Over - PCH/PE	27/107	5/90	0/145	9/130	0/180
Misdemeanor Pleas - PCH/PE	225/71	161/68	188/74	171/79	214/103
Felony Pleas - PCH/PE	23/3	6/4	12/5	2/1	9/1
Adjourned	297	394	371	358	431
	(45-Drug Ct)	(11-Drug Ct)	(4-Drug Court)	(0-Drug Court)	(0-Drug Court)
Nolle/Dism (By Court or Pros)	107	99	141	170	139
Defendant FTA	90	104	123	136	208
Pre-Trials	768	308	0	1	0
Jury Picks	202	80	267	244	169
Settlement Conferences	1,406	1,354	1,943	1,744	1,713
Formal Hearings	25	19	23	21	16
Trials Scheduled	133	94	175	256	208
Motions	106	69	80	84	97

* Effective January 1, 2015 legislation went into effect requiring a person arraigned on a felony charge be scheduled for a probable cause conference (rather than a preliminary examination). If a plea agreement is not reached and/or the defendant does not waive, a preliminary exam is then scheduled.

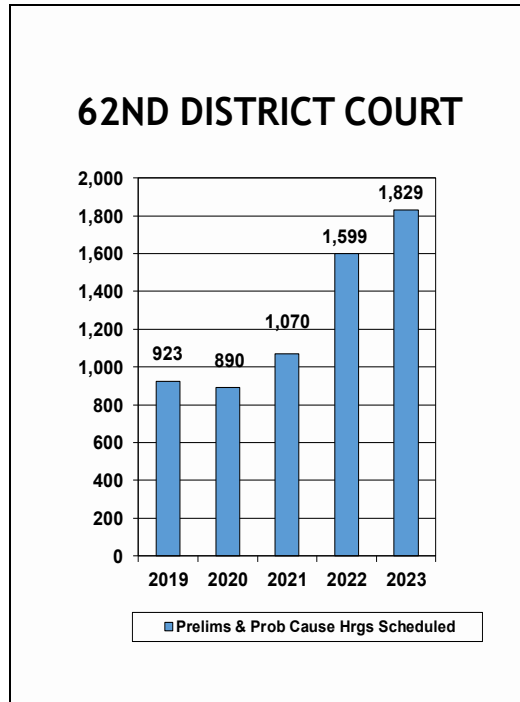
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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Probable Cause Hrgs Scheduled	893	816	567	1,026	1,263
Preliminary Exams Scheduled	341	284	267	677	753
Total PCH & PE's	1,234	1,100	834	1,703	2,016
Waived - PCH/PE	622	681	1,694	633	817
Bound Over - PCH/PE	29	56	191	82	72
Misdemeanor Pleas - PCH/PE	192	176	348	154	205
Felony Pleas - PCH/PE	5	4	17	3	3
Adjourned	90	222	91	211	284
Nolle/Dism (By Court or Pros)	36	32	162	69	73
Defendant FTA	50	127	159	147	147
Pre-Trials	3,853	3,039	1,873	3,231	2,852
Formal Hearings	55	44	40	42	26
Trials Scheduled	528	364	443	677	416
Motions	85	50	144	235	144

* Effective January 1, 2015 legislation went into effect requiring a person arraigned on a felony charge be scheduled for a probable cause conference (rather than a preliminary examination). If a plea agreement is not reached and/or the defendant does not waive a preliminary exam is then scheduled.

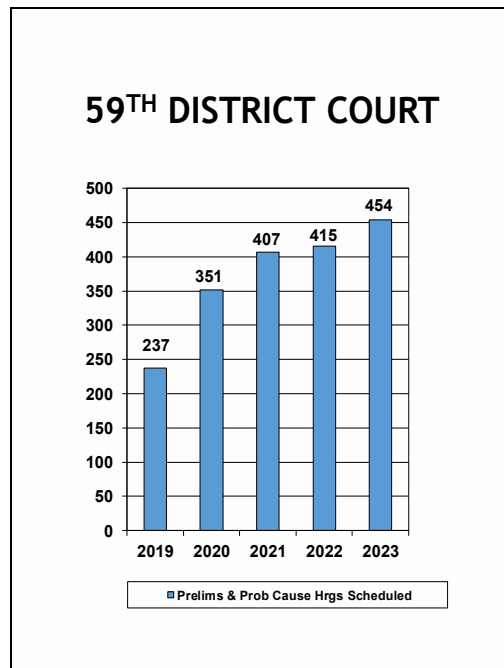
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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Probable Cause Hrgs Scheduled	694	890	1,070	1,043	1,185
Preliminary Exams Scheduled	229	408	502	556	644
Total PCH & PE's:	923	1,298	1,572	1,599	1,829
Waived - PCH/PE	444	505	642	568	650
Bound Over - PCH/PE	32	31	29	30	49
Misd Pleas - PCH/PE	99	122	146	213	223
Felony Pleas - PCH/PE	6	2	2	1	0
Adjourned	138	294	289	274	261
Nolle/Dism (By Court or Pros)	22	41	71	74	119
Defendant FTA	23	48	62	67	81
Pre-Trials	798	1,058	1,638	1,322	1,451
Jury Picks	197	179	69	84	110
Formal Hearings	7	10	13	15	11
Trials Scheduled	241	204	153	199	218
Motions	0	24	54	30	60

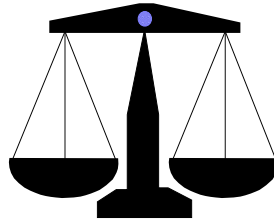
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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Probable Cause Hrgs Scheduled	206	278	299	325	327
Preliminary Exams Scheduled	31	73	108	90	127
Total PCH & PE's:	237	351	407	415	454
Waived - PCH/PE	155	178	189	218	222
Bound Over - PCH/PE	4	14	13	13	12
Misd Pleas - PCH/PE	25	31	60	27	58
Felony Pleas - PCH/PE	1	1	0	1	1
Adjourned	13	47	41	56	31
Nolle/Dism (By Court or Pros)	4	8	7	19	14
Defendant Failed to Appear	1	10	9	12	15
Pre-Trials	307	377	505	480	541
Jury Picks	0	0	0	0	0
Formal Hearings	1	2	3	1	3
Trials Scheduled	11	4	30	25	21
Motions	4	10	15	14	20

* Effective January 1, 2015 legislation went into effect requiring a person arraigned on a felony charge be scheduled for a probable cause conference (rather than a preliminary examination). If a plea agreement is not reached and/or the defendant does not waive a preliminary exam is then scheduled.



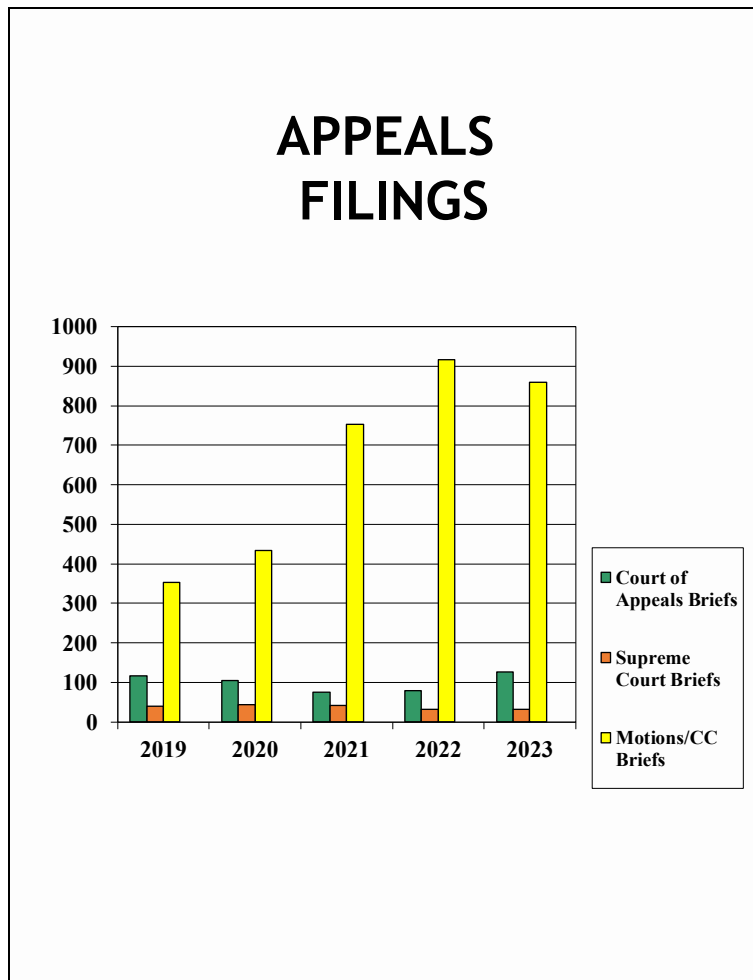
APPELLATE DIVISION

The primary responsibilities of the Appellate Division involve initiating and responding to appeals resulting from cases in which the Prosecutor's Office has appeared as counsel.

The majority of appeals arise from convictions or court rulings in criminal prosecutions. Jurisdiction over these appeals may be in the Circuit Court, Court of Appeals, the Michigan Supreme Court, or in the federal court system. The appellate attorneys' function is to handle all procedural and substantive matters relative to these appeals, from brief writing to oral argument. If an appeal is denied and a conviction is upheld, it is also the appellate staff's responsibility to see that the imposed sentence is executed.

In addition to the aforementioned appellate work, the attorneys provide legal advice and research assistance to attorneys in all divisions of the office.

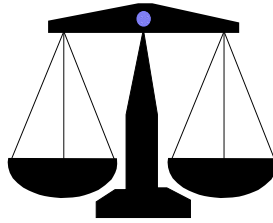
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APPELLATE DIVISION STATISTICS

Filings in:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Court of Appeals	116	105	74	78	127
Supreme Court	39	43	41	31	31
District/Circuit Ct Pleadings/Briefs/Set Asides	353	433	753	916	860
TOTAL	508	581	868	1,025	1,018

VICTIM/WITNESS UNIT



The Victim/Witness Unit of the Kent County Prosecutor's Office is located in the Kent County Courthouse at 180 Ottawa, Suite 5400. Under the Crime Victim's Rights Act, P.A. 87 of 1985, MCL 780.751 *et al.*, the Prosecutor's Office is mandated to provide certain services for victims of crime. This office provides the following mandated services:

Victim Assistance

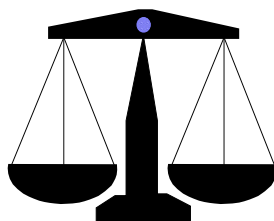
1. An explanation of the criminal justice system and a victim's rights within the criminal justice system.
2. Contact with the victim from arraignment to disposition of the case.
3. Assistance with applying for Crime Victim's Compensation.
4. Provide case status information.
5. Link victims and families with other personnel, such as the police or prosecutor.
6. Assist with the return of property.
7. Referrals to other agencies for special needs.
8. Crisis intervention.

Witness Assistance

1. Notify witnesses of court appearances and provide instructions.
2. Answer questions about the criminal justice system.
3. Notify witnesses of changes, delays, and times to appear.
4. Inform witnesses of case dispositions.
5. Assist in resolving conflicts (vacation, illness, reluctant employer, threats/harrassment, etc.).
6. Greet witnesses, update witness information, and obtain information for witness fee processing.
7. Escort witnesses from waiting area to offices and/or courtrooms as needed.

Pretrial Services

1. Assist the service officer when service information is outdated, incorrect, or incomplete.
2. Monitor service and service problems and assist in attempts to locate missing/uncooperative witnesses.
3. Arrange testimony when necessary for special hearings on missing witnesses.
4. Arrange for special services such as travel, accommodations, interpreters, cabs, Ambucabs, etc.



VICTIM/WITNESS UNIT STAFF

Angelica Ferrer-----Victim Witness Coordinator

61st District Court

Noemy Aguilar----- Victim Witness Advocate

Kristine Andrus----- Victim Witness Advocate

Miranda Lahi----- Victim Witness Advocate

Ericka Hayes-----Victim Witness Advocate

63rd District Court

Melissa Denson----- Victim Witness Advocate

62A (Wyoming), 62B (Kentwood), 59G (Grandville) & 59W (Walker) District Courts

Jackie Weeks----- Victim Witness Advocate

Juvenile/Family Court

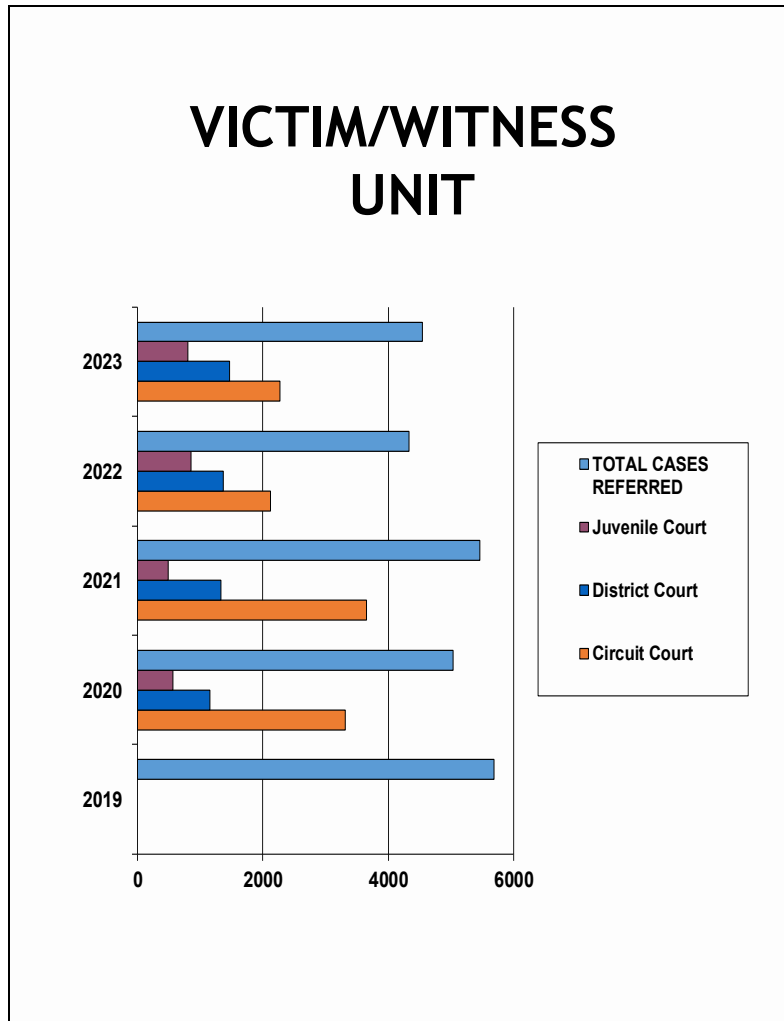
Jolynn Zirnhelt - Delinquency Cases----- Victim Witness Advocate

Clerks

Diamond Barnes-----Clerk II

Yamicel Hernandez-----Clerk II

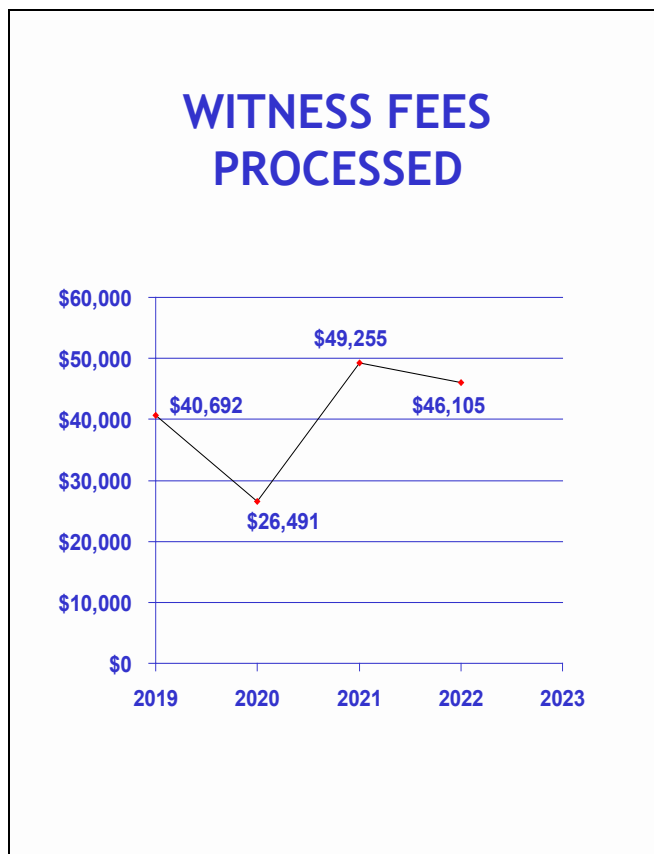
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VICTIM/WITNESS UNIT

Cases Referred	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Circuit Court	-	3,317	3,650	2,119	2,269
District Court	-	1,152	1,325	1,362	1,471
Juvenile Court	-	566	486	853	798
TOTAL	5,691 est.	5,035	5,461	4,334	4,538

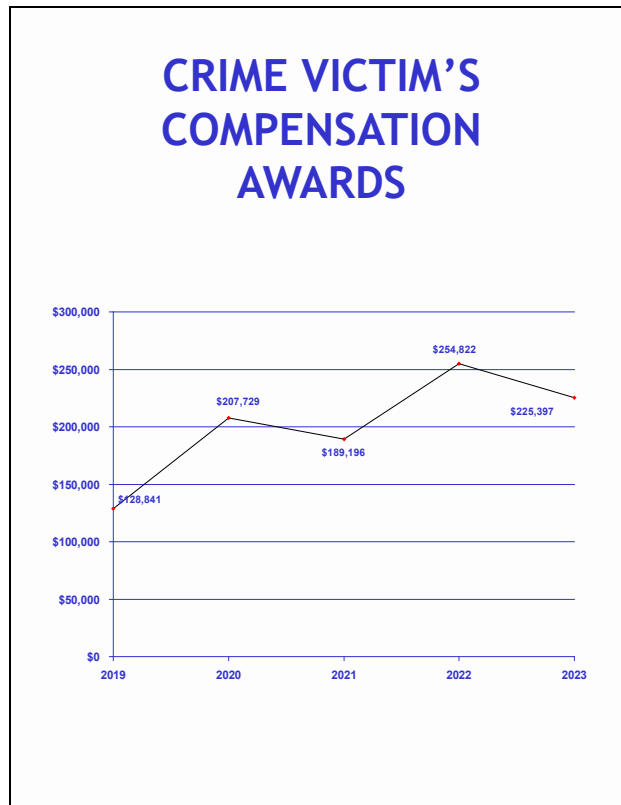
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Witnesses Subpoenaed	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Police					
Adult Cases	8,802	5,852	1,773	2,318	2,054
Civilians					
Adult Cases	4,783	2,185	1,122	2,223	2,030
TOTAL					
Adult Cases	13,585	8,037	2,895	4,541	4,084
Juvenile Cases	1,462	1,444	78	283	141
			(Police/Civ)	(Police/Civ)	(Police/Civ)
Witness Fees Processed					
Adult Cases	\$37,556	\$25,581	\$48,855	\$46,037	\$46,040
Juvenile Cases	\$3,136	\$910	\$400	\$68	\$67
TOTAL	\$40,692	\$26,491	\$49,255	\$46,105	\$46,107

***In December of 2020, the Kent County Prosecutor's Office started using a new case management system known as Karpel. As a result of this conversion, there may be discrepancies in the pattern of data. Starting in 2023, subpoenas issued numbers reflect the number of cases subpoenas were issued on v. the number of subpoenas generated.

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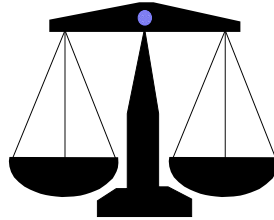


VICTIM/WITNESS UNIT

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Crime Victim's Compensation					
State Awards to Victims	\$128,841	\$207,729	\$189,196	\$254,822	\$225,397
No. of Victims Assisted with Crime Victims Compensations Claims	543	590	207	695	1,161

The Department of Community Health's Crime Victim Services Commission provides grant monies each year to prosecuting attorney offices throughout the state in an effort to ensure victims are provided assistance.

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FAMILY LAW DIVISION

Through both statutory and contractual arrangements, the Prosecutor's Office is responsible for the establishment of paternity and the securing of child support orders. The objective of the cooperative reimbursement program is to secure child support payments from those legally responsible and financially able to provide for their children; thereby shifting the burden for the support of minor children from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to the responsible parent. Furthermore, legal representation is provided to any Kent County resident seeking assistance with the establishment of paternity and/or child support. In return, the county receives an incentive of all monies collected.

Michelle Smith-Lowe ----- **Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney**
Tracey E. Brower ----- Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Yasmeen DeHaan----- Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Margaret Rummelt----- Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Kristina Morse -----**Casework Supervisor**
Marisa Alvarado ----- Caseworker
Maria Nunez ----- Caseworker
Camille Love----- Caseworker
Ashley Morey ----- Caseworker
Emily Watson ----- Caseworker Assistant
Tina Gillhooley ----- Clerk III
Anne Jetzer ----- Clerk III
Jolene VanMalsen ----- Clerk III
Erin Lyons ----- Clerk III
Ashley Cephas ----- Clerk II
Lia Colón ----- Clerk II
Kim Fife ----- Clerk II
Sarah Wood ----- Clerk II

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COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Fiscal Year is October 1 to September 30

	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Personnel	19	19	19	19	18
Approved Budget	\$2,138,768	\$2,192,712	\$2,133,948	\$2,127,241	\$2,209,370
State Funds Expended	\$1,259,137	\$1,447,189	\$1,408,405	\$1,405,959	\$1,409,352
County Funds Expended	\$648,646	\$745,522	\$725,542	\$720,782	\$726,029
Actual Budget	\$1,908,277	\$1,990,230	\$2,039,042	\$1,978,897	\$2,135,381
Cases Opened	3,666	2,898	2,720	2,644	2,487
Cases Continued	2,522	3,072	2,640	3,289	3,576
Cases Closed	3,547	2,466	2,495	2,308	2,145
Cases Pending	2,359	2,829	2,592	3,235	3,542
Judgments	1,737	1,306	1,382	1,389	1,275

The rules governing case closure require us to keep a case in “locate” (i.e. pending) for up to three (3) years if we have a social security number for the father, or one (1) year if a social security number is unknown. Additionally, if the mother is non-cooperative, we are required to keep the case open indefinitely while the Office of Child Support attempts to resolve the non-compliance issue. Consequently, these rules restrict what we can do to reduce or limit the number of “Cases Pending”.

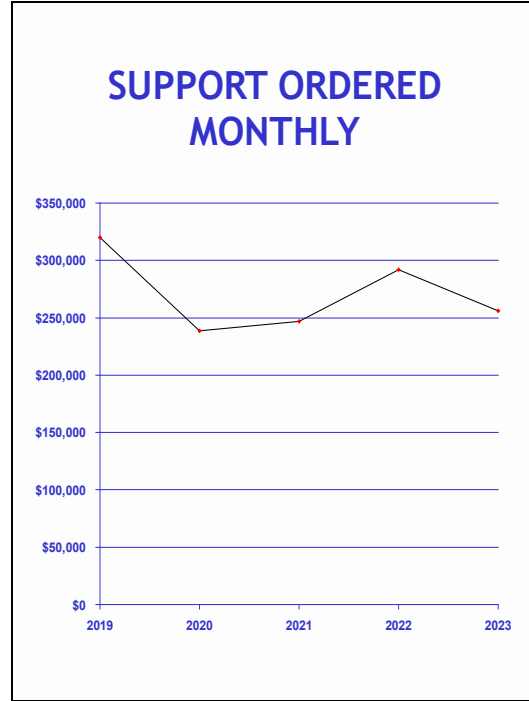
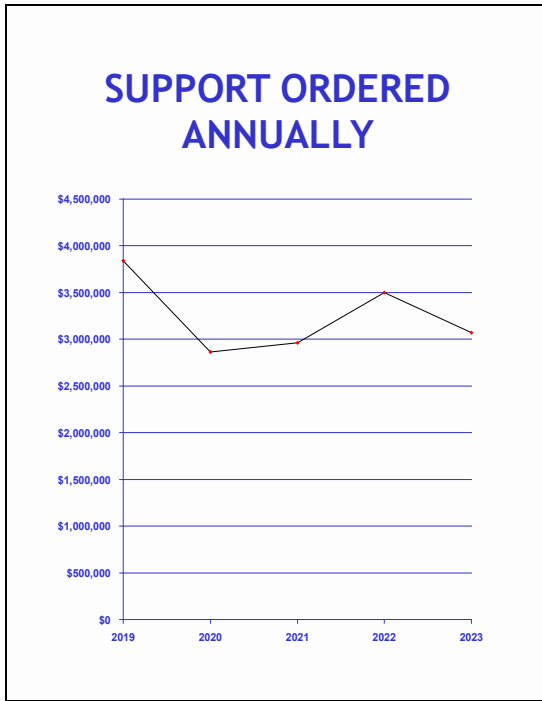
IN-OFFICE SERVICE

Non-custodial parties (NCP's) in paternity and support cases must be personally served with a Complaint and Summons once the case is filed with the court. The average cost to serve an NCP is around \$28.00, but can be more, especially if they live or work outside of Kent County. In May 2014, a process for scheduling dates for the NCP to appear in the office for service in lieu of sending cases to a process server for personal service was implemented. Not only does this save money, it offers an opportunity for service to be done privately (not at work or home), allows them an opportunity to file an Answer right away, and if appropriate, for genetic testing to be done the same day. This provides for speedier processing and resolution of the case.

2023 Statistics:

- 859 NCP's were scheduled to come in for service; 222 (26%) appeared and were served resulting in \$6,216 in savings
- 202 (91%) of those served filed an Answer the same day and avoided default.
- 54 genetic tests were completed the same day the NCP was served and filed an Answer, freeing up timeslots for other parties to be scheduled for testing sooner.

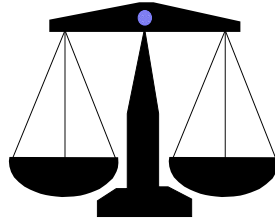
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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Support Ordered Monthly	\$319,986	\$238,746	\$246,699	\$291,780	\$255,900
Support Ordered Annually	\$3,839,832	\$2,864,952	\$2,960,388	\$3,501,360	\$3,070,800
Cost Per Positive Disposition	\$1,098	\$1,523	\$1,475	\$2,520	\$1,674
Cases Completed w/i 6 months from Service Date	97%	96.6%	93.7%	96.3%	92.8%
Cases Completed w/i 12 months from Service Date	96%	96.1%	93.5%	95.9%	92.4%
Cases w/Support Orders Entered	81%	80%	79%	79%	79%
Cases w/Paternity Established	98%	97%	97%	98%	97%

Objectives

- Complete 75% of cases within six (6) months from service date and 90% within twelve (12) months from service date as required by federal regulations.
- Enter support orders in 80% of cases and establish paternity in 90% of cases as required by federal regulations.



JUVENILE DIVISION

The staff of the Juvenile Division has three primary areas of responsibility: delinquency, child protective proceedings, and mental incompetency hearings. In addition, the attorneys are statutorily mandated to represent those who have filed a petition with the Circuit Court seeking the issuance of a PPO (i.e. Personal Protection Order). Staff also acts as a resource for the many social service, counseling, and youth programs associated with the juvenile justice system. Everyday responsibilities include providing legal advice to virtually everyone involved in child welfare: police, probation officers, and social workers.

Laura A. Clifton -----Senior Prosecuting Attorney

Joseph Jackson -----Senior Prosecuting Attorney

Peter T. Drent -----Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Lauren A. McNabb-----Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Scott VanderKolk-----Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Beth M. Van Deusen-----Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Nicole B. Walker-----Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Brittany Shepard-----Clerk III

Kelly Klein-----Clerk III

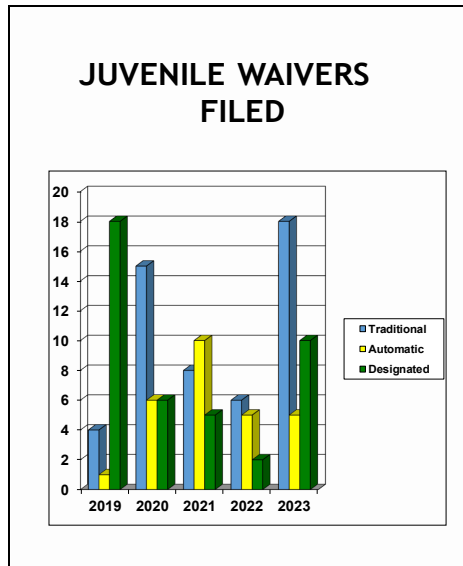
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JUVENILE DIVISION STATISTICS

***In December of 2020, the Kent County Prosecutor's Office started using a new case management system known as Karpel. As a result of this conversion, there may be discrepancies in the pattern of data.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DELINQUENCY					
Delinquency Trials	34 NJT=30 JT=4	-	35	40	37
Delinquency PTCs	788	-	-	857	1,059
Delinquency Pleas	176	-	-	490	748
Delinquency Jury Demands	465	-	551	737	858
Review Hearings	444	-	551	43	407
Delinquency Petitions Authorized	1,641	1,209	1,224	1,852	1,835
Delinquency Petitions Denied	364	274	470	890	778
<u>NEGLECT</u>					
Neglect Conferences	263	-	176	91	-
Termination Confs Petitions Authorized	130	-	-	-	-
Contested Neglect Hearings (Adjudication/Dispo)	820	-	308	194	297
Contested Termination Hearings	245	-	46	81	138
Other Neglect Hearings	188	-	-	14	244
Motions and OTSC Hearings	161	-	-	1	1
Personal Protection Order Hearings	73	-	-	38	70
Incompetency Hearings	889 411-Kent 478-Other Counties	810	756	1,614 1,490-Kent 124-Other Counties	3,354 1,753-Kent 1,601-Other Counties

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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Traditional Waivers Filed	4	15	8	6	18
Traditional Waivers Granted	4	15	8	6	18
Automatic (Direct) Waivers Filed	1	6	10	5	5

There are three types of waivers. The first two allow a juvenile to be placed in the adult system. An “automatic” waiver (sometimes called a direct waiver) automatically transfers jurisdiction of the juvenile to the adult system and is based on the severity of the crime committed. A “traditional” waiver (also referred to as a two-phase waiver) is based on the juvenile’s criminal history rather than simply the severity of the crime committed. It is utilized only if all rehabilitation/treatment avenues have been exhausted within the juvenile system. When the juvenile commits a new crime, the Prosecutor’s Office petitions the Juvenile Court to waive the offender to the adult system for prosecution.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Designated Waivers	18	6	5	2	10

A “designated” waiver results in an adult conviction but allows the judge the discretion to sentence the offender as a juvenile.

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DIVERSION PROGRAM STATISTICS

Prosecutor Referrals	2020	2021	2022	2023	Diff. 22-23
Total Year	64	58	49	112	63
Average Month	5.3	4.8	4	9	5
Offenders Enrolled					
Total Year	60	55	41	100	59
Average Month	5	4.5	3.4	8	4.6
Offenders Rejected					
Total Year	5	3	5	13	8
Average Month	0.4	0.25	0.41	1.1	0.69
Offenders Revoked					
Total Year	5	12	4	5	1
Average Month	0.4	1	0.33	0.40	0.07
Yearly Percentage	7%	10%	11%		
Successful Completions					
Total Year	66	49	42	65	23
Average Month	5.5	4	4	5	1
Yearly Percentage	93%	80%	89%	94%	5%
Average Days in Program	158	159	152	152	0
Average Months in Program	5.2	5.3	5.1	5	-.10
FEES COLLECTED					
Diversion Fee					
Total Year	\$35,700.00	\$23,136.00	\$20,378.00	\$39,834.00	\$19,456
Average Month	\$2,975.00	\$1,928.00	\$1,698.00	\$3,319.50	\$1,621
Restitution					
Total Year	\$29,792.00	\$12,313.00	\$13,179.0	\$20,454.46	\$7,275.46
Average Month	\$2,483.00	\$1,026.00	\$1,098.00	\$1,704.54	\$606.54
Percentage Ordered v. Collected					
Application Fee					
Total Year	\$1,450.00	\$1,375.00	\$950.00	\$2,425.00	\$1,475
Average Month	\$122.00	\$115.00	\$79.00	\$202.08	\$123.08

Diversion Program Statistics

