



Maricopa County Attorney

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August 8, 2017

Elizabeth Ortiz, Executive Director
Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council
1951 W. Camelback Rd., Suite 202
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

Re: The Maricopa County Attorney's Office Annual Activity Report on the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse, Fiscal Year 2017 Report

Dear Elizabeth:

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office hereby provides the *Maricopa County Attorney's Office Annual Activity Report on the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse Fiscal Year 2017 Report* as required by Arizona Revised Statute § 8-817.

This version of the report, in addition to the Multidisciplinary Protocol, is also available at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office website, <http://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/>.

Sincerely,

Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney

enclosure



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The Maricopa County Attorney's Office Annual Activity Report on the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse



August 2017

SUMMARY

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §8-817 requires each County Attorney to independently prepare and submit an Annual Report of Activity under the "Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse." The legislation directs that the report be independently prepared and submitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Secretary of State without any input from or communication with other reporting entities.

Each report is a publicly available document and shall include the number of criminal conduct allegations (CCA) investigated and the number investigated jointly, the number of cases presented for review, the number of persons charged in those cases, the reasons why charges were not pursued, final dispositions and the reasons why a joint investigation did not take place.

**Prosecution Activity – Maricopa County Attorney’s Office (MCAO)
July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017**

- The following table represents MCAO activity on the number of cases presented for review under these A.R.S. codes, the number of persons charged and final dispositions.

Maricopa County Attorney's Office	NUMBER OF CASES PRESENTED FOR REVIEW	NUMBER OF PERSONS CHARGED	DISPOSITIONS
Totals	2,239	1,507	2,650

- The MCAO is reporting information on the number of CCAs presented for review and charged. We have created a new customized report in our Case Management System (Prosecutor by Karpel) and that report is nearing final status. As soon as this report is finalized and we may be able to better report on the number of CCAs jointly investigated by our office.
- **Number of Cases presented for review** reflects law enforcement reports (referrals) received by the MCAO, which totals 2,239 cases during fiscal year 2016-17.
- **Persons charged** does not equal the number of cases presented for review because defendants may be charged in multiple cases and each statistical category presented is independent of each other.
- **Dispositions** include cases completed by Deputy County Attorneys that resulted in pleas, conviction, acquittal or dismissal. A total of 2,650 cases reached final disposition. Cases disposed during this reporting period may have been submitted prior to this period. Dispositions may or may not represent the same cases reported in the “Number of Cases Presented for Review” section.
- **Reasons why charges were not pursued** include 1) no reasonable likelihood of conviction; 2) referred to another agency for prosecution; 3) the charges were used as an aid to prosecute another pending matter; or 4) unable to locate witness(es).
- **Note:** Each of the three statistical categories reflects a separate query into a unique part of our Case Management System. Therefore each category is independent of each other and the same cases/persons are not necessarily included in each. This data is from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

2016-17 MCAO Accomplishments and Future Plans

- The MCAO continues to partner with Arizona law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to improve the way they investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence and child abuse at a series of specialized training events. These training

sessions address topics including best practices for investigating child sex abuse. Related to these specialized training events are the various joint operation apprehensions in 2016-17 that resulted in the arrest and conviction of several unregistered sexual offenders.

- The MCAO continues to regularly provide experts from our Speakers Bureau for presentations to schools and other agencies on the importance of “Mandatory Reporting.”
- In September 2015, the MCAO won a \$1.9M grant from the New York County District Attorney’s Office to analyze previously untested sexual assault evidence kits. With this support, the MCAO is seeking justice on behalf of victims of sexual assault, including children. In May 2017, the MCAO was recognized for these efforts with a National Association of Counties (NACo) achievement award.
- Several pieces of legislation passed in the 2017 Arizona Legislative Session that will protect children.
 - HB 2238 addresses Child Sex Trafficking. Those convicted of child sex trafficking, who are otherwise eligible for probation, may be sentenced to a period of probation up to and including their lifetime if the court determines that it is appropriate for the ends of justice.
 - HB 2239 improves communications between the courts and mental health facilities to ensure that public safety is protected when a potentially dangerous offender might be released. By improving notifications and sending defendants back to the criminal court system if they are not progressing in their mental health program, there will be assurance that a person won’t be released without proper supervision by either a mental health professional or members of the criminal justice system.

The current version of the “Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse” is always available at the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office website (<http://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/>), in addition to the 2016-17 version of the Annual Report of Activity from the MCAO. An extensive five-year revision of the entire Protocol was completed in early 2016.

Sincerely,



Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney