

CHRISTOPHER E. HARVEY
Chief Deputy

COLIN Z. ANDREWS
Deputy Prosecutor

DAVID G. CRELL
Deputy Prosecutor

CYNTHIA L. UPTGRAFT
Victim Advocate
(260) 824-6558

OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
WELLS COUNTY
28TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF INDIANA
ANDREW J. CARNALL
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

102 W. Market Street
Suite 405

Bluffton, IN 46714

Telephone: (260) 824-4102

Facsimile: (260) 824-6550

Email: prosecutor@wellscounty.org

January 17, 2020

TO: Wells County Commissioners and Wells County Council
Bluffton News Banner

RE: Annual Report of Criminal and Child Support Activity/
Wells County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

This report provides a statistical breakdown of the volume and classification of criminal cases and charges, juvenile adjudications, and child support collection cases prosecuted and administered by the Wells County Prosecutor's Office in the year 2019. Below is a chart indicating the number of criminal cases filed in each of the last 5 years. Please remember that a case will often consist of multiple charges filed against one individual and that a case is defined by the level of the most serious charge filed in the case. These numbers do not include the numerous traffic infractions which come through the county criminal justice system.

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Adult Criminal Cases Filed	831	776	739	603	535
Felony Cases Filed	294	271	244	224	186
Misdemeanor Cases Filed	537	505	465	379	349
Juvenile Cases Opened	67	93	76	83	66

Below is a chart which indicates the number of charges filed in 2019 for certain categories of offenses as compared to the same for the four prior years

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Operating While Intoxicated	237	231	214	148	153
Battery	75	94	92	82	93
Rape	0	0	1	0	0
Child Molesting	9	11	2	14	20
Sexual Misconduct with a Minor	3	0	2	11	11
Robbery	6	4	3	3	7
Arson	0	0	2	0	0
Burglary	8	14	11	15	12
Theft	60	77	65	132	76
Drug Charges	439	335	280	186	169

The total number of cases filed increased about 7% from 2018 and is up 55% from 2015. Again this year, the number of “drug” charges that we filed increased significantly. For the second year in a row, Methamphetamine charges spiked. Arrests for Possession of Methamphetamine increased from 26 in 2018 to 62 in 2019 and Dealing Methamphetamine arrests increased from 6 in 2018 to 20 in 2019.

The Child Support Division of the Wells County Prosecutor’s Office collected \$2,703,014 in current and past due child support. In 2019, Wells County ranked 18th in the state for the percentage of current child support collected. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of the services offered by the Child Support Division of the Wells County Prosecutor’s Office may either call the Child Support Division at 824-6409 or visit the Prosecutor’s Office Website at prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

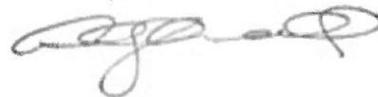
We are still moving toward becoming completely “paperless” in the child support office. We are utilizing the hardware and software that we had purchased in 2018 to scan and catalog all information for new files and have scanned all of the old files. There are still just a few files that require hard copies because of the types of documents that they contain.

	2019	2018	2017
Child Support Cases Handled	1,066	1,043	1,079
Amount of Child Support Collected	\$2,703,014	\$2,765,505	\$2,845,436

The successful prosecution of crimes and the collection of child support would not be possible without the hard work of all of the persons involved, including the deputy prosecutors, our staff, law enforcement officers, probation officers and staff, community corrections officers and staff, the clerk’s office, as well as the judges and their staffs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of these people.

In 2020, this office will continue to work hard to provide quality and just prosecution of criminal and child support matters while efficiently using our resources. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this report, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Carnall
Prosecuting Attorney
Wells County, Indiana