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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 2017. Below is a chart indicating the number of criminal cases filed in each of the last 4 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.

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Adult Criminal Cases Filed	739	603	535	436
Felony Cases Filed	244	224	186	165
Misdemeanor Charges Filed	465	379	349	271
Juvenile Cases Opened	76	83	66	43

Below is a chart which indicates the number of charges filed in 2017 for certain categories of offenses as compared to the same for the three prior years

	2017	2016	2015	2014
Operating While Intoxicated	214	148	153	119
Battery	92	82	93	79
Rape	1	0	0	1
Child Molesting	2	14	20	9
Sexual Misconduct with a Minor	2	11	11	4
Robbery	3	3	7	1
Arson	2	0	0	1
Burglary	11	15	12	9
Theft	65	132	76	149
Drug Charges	280	186	169	61

The total number of cases filed increased more than 22% over 2016 and is up over 69% from 2014. Operating While Intoxicated charges were up significantly, almost all of the increase being in cases where we filed charges for operating with a controlled substance in the person's system., usually marijuana or synthetic marijuana. Theft charges decreased significantly, but it is important to remember that those charges are mostly "shoplifting" and generally come to law enforcement if the person is caught by store security *and* the store reports it. Last year again showed a marked increase in drug-related charges across the board - marijuana possession charges increased from 46 in 2016 to 87 in 2017 and total dealing charges increased from 40 to 68. The severity of the dealing charges increased as well, there having been 8 charges for dealing as a Level 4 or higher in 2016 and 17 charges for dealing as a Level 4 or higher in 2017.

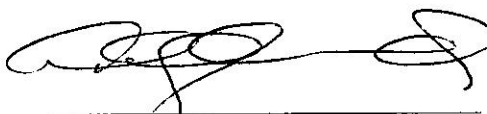
The Child Support Division of the Wells County Prosecutor's Office collected \$2,845,436 in current and past due child support. In 2017, Wells County ranked 5th in the state for the percentage of current child support collected. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of the services offered by the Child 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.

	2017	2016	2015
Child Support Cases Handled	1,079	1,083	1,101
Amount of Child Support Collected	\$2,845,436	\$ 2,892,458	\$ 2,959,783

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 2018, 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.

Wells County Prosecutor's Office



Andrew J. Carnall
 Prosecuting Attorney
 Wells County, Indiana