

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

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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 2018. 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.

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

Below is a chart which indicates the number of charges filed in 2018 for certain categories of offenses as compared to the same for the three prior years

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

The total number of cases filed increased about 5% from 2017 and is up 45% from 2015. Again this year, the number of “drug” charges that we filed increased significantly with the majority of that increase being marijuana and paraphernalia possession charges. Methamphetamine charges had been down a little bit from their peak a few years ago, but rose sharply again last year. The methamphetamine that we are finding now is not “homemade”, but rather is methamphetamine that is being commercially produced by large criminal enterprises and distributed through existing illegal drug dealing channels.

The Child Support Division of the Wells County Prosecutor’s Office collected \$2,845,436 in current and past due child support. In 2018, Wells County ranked 8th 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 took significant steps in 2018 to become “paperless” in the child support office by investing in software and hardware that will allow us to manage our information in computer files. My staff is almost done scanning our existing files into the system and then we will be able to move forward to actually start using it. We hope to be paperless by the summer of 2019.

	2018	2017	2016
Child Support Cases Handled	1,043	1,079	1,083
Amount of Child Support Collected	\$2,765,505	\$2,845,436	\$ 2,892,458

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 2019, 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