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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 2020. 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 or counts 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.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Adult Criminal Cases Filed</b>	618	831	776	739	603
<b>Felony Cases Filed</b>	264	294	271	244	224
<b>Misdemeanor Cases Filed</b>	352	537	505	465	379
<b>Juvenile Cases Opened</b>	36	67	93	76	83

Below is a chart which indicates the number of cases, many of which contain multiple charges filed in 2020 for certain categories of offenses as compared to the same for the four prior years\*

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
<b>Operating While Intoxicated</b>	206	237	233	212	152
<b>Battery</b>	69	72	84	78	77
<b>Rape</b>	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Child Molesting</b>	9	9	6	2	7
<b>Sexual Misconduct with a Minor</b>	5	3	0	2	7
<b>Robbery</b>	4	6	4	3	3
<b>Arson</b>	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Burglary</b>	8	8	13	10	11
<b>Theft</b>	63	62	67	61	91
<b>Drug Charges</b>	314	402	331	265	174

Obviously, 2020 was a very “different” year and comparing numbers to previous years doesn’t really reveal much. I can say that with respect to upper level felonies (Level 4 and higher), the numbers were very comparable to last year, while misdemeanor and lower level felony cases decreased.

The Child Support Division of the Wells County Prosecutor’s Office collected \$3,018,641 in current and past due child support. In 2020, Wells County ranked 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:prosecutor@wellscounty.org).

	2020	2019	2018
<b>Child Support Cases Handled</b>	1006	1,066	1,043
<b>Amount of Child Support Collected</b>	\$ 3,018,641	\$2,703,014	\$2,765,505

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, as well as the council and the commissioners for the support my office receives.

In 2021, 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

\*In prior years, the chart included the number of “charges” and not “cases”, but because there are many cases in which multiple, very similar, charges are filed, this year, I indicated “cases”. In this report revised the numbers for prior years to reflect “cases” as well, so a proper comparison could be made. It’s just that if you look at a prior year’s report, the numbers may be different.