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February 24, 2022

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 2021. 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.

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Adult Criminal Cases Filed	608	618	831	776	739
Felony Cases Filed	253	264	294	271	244
Misdemeanor Cases Filed	355	352	537	505	465
Juvenile Cases Opened	36	67	93	76	83

Below is a chart which indicates the number of cases, many of which contain multiple charges filed in 2021, for certain categories of offenses as compared to the same for the 4 prior years.

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Murder / Attempted Murder	1	0	1	3	1
Operating While Intoxicated	187	206	237	233	212
Battery	60	69	72	84	78
Rape	1	1	0	0	1
Child Molesting	2	9	9	6	2
Sexual Misconduct with a Minor	5	5	3	0	2
Robbery	1	4	6	4	3
Burglary	7	8	8	13	10
Theft	64	63	62	67	61
Drug Charges	327	314	401	331	265

Again, 2021 was a very “different” year due to COVID and comparing numbers to previous years doesn’t lead to good statistical analysis. Our misdemeanor filings are down and our felony filings are relatively steady with some categories being too statistically low to provide analysis.

This office, following the State’s lead and in conjunction with the other pieces of the criminal justice system, is taking an evidenced-based approach to prosecution and sentencing. Although, this office remains focused on prosecution of those who violate the law, the office recognizes that reducing recidivism means more than just obtaining a conviction. We are working with the probation department, the community corrections department and other community providers to facilitate rehabilitation and treatment even while holding offenders accountable.

The Child Support Division of the Wells County Prosecutor’s Office collected \$2,863,236 in current and past due child support. Because the state is moving to a new system, analytical reports could not be run for 2021, but we were able to document the number of cases and total support collected as set forth below. 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 260-824-6409 or visit the Prosecutor’s Office Website at prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

	2021	2020	2019
Child Support Cases Handled	995	1,006	1,066
Amount of Child Support Collected	\$ 2,863,236	\$3,018,641	\$2,703,014

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 2022, 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