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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 2023. Below is a chart indicating the number of criminal cases filed in each of the last five 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. Our office conducted an internal audit of prior cases and found some discrepancies in reporting for years 2020-2021, and the annual report filed for those years. These discrepancies were most likely due to some human error in cataloguing or calculating cases within certain categories. The below numbers represent our current count of all cases from 2019-2023 based on our updated calculations. The methodology, however, has remained the same for all years.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Adult Criminal Cases Filed</b>	643	622	608	616	832
<b>Felony Cases Filed</b>	220	233	253	264	295
<b>Misdemeanor Cases Filed</b>	423	389	355	352	537
<b>Juvenile Cases Opened</b>	62	63	45	37	68

Below is a chart which indicates the number of cases, many of which contain multiple charges filed in 2023, for certain categories of offenses as compared to the same for the four prior years. In comparison with past reports, our office is only reporting filed cases, not individual counts. For drug and alcohol offenses, it is very common for a Defendant to have one case but multiple charges. It has been discovered that in the past, this office has reported individual counts as full cases in certain crime classes which resulted in some inaccuracies in prior reports. This inaccuracy has skewed numbers up to 2023 to some degree, and so the office has recalculated those years to only include cases filed.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Murder / Attempted Murder</b>	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Operating While Intoxicated</b>	103	114	115	125	153
<b>Battery</b>	81	53	52	60	64
<b>Rape</b>	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Child Molesting</b>	7	5	2	6	6
<b>Sexual Misconduct with a Minor</b>	5	2	4	4	3
<b>Robbery</b>	0	0	1	4	6
<b>Burglary</b>	2	9	8	7	8
<b>Theft</b>	63	59	66	62	61
<b>Drug Charges</b>	145	165	185	175	269

Below is a chart which indicates the number of Child Support cases handled by our IV-D Department and the amount of money collected in current and past due child support compared to the same for the past two years.

	2023	2022	2021
<b>Child Support Cases Handled</b>	943	983	995
<b>Amount of Child Support Collected</b>	\$2,717,532	\$2,817,121	\$2,863,236

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 2024, 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,



Colin Z. Andrews  
 Prosecuting Attorney  
 Wells County, Indiana