



Maricopa County Attorney

ALLISTER ADEL

July 30, 2021

Elizabeth Ortiz, Executive Director
Arizona Prosecuting Attorney's Advisory Council
3838 N. Central Ave, Suite 850
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Re: Maricopa County Attorney's Office FY 2021 Annual Activity Report on the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse

Dear Elizabeth:

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §8-817 requires each County Attorney to independently prepare and submit an Annual Report of Activity under the "Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse." The legislation directs that the report be independently prepared and submitted to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Secretary of State without any input from or communication with other reporting entities.

Prosecution Activity – Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO)
July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

The following table represents MCAO activity on the number of cases presented for review under these A.R.S. codes, the number of persons charged and final dispositions.¹

Maricopa County Attorney's Office	Number of cases presented for review	Number of persons charged	Dispositions
TOTALS	3,507	1,661	2,952

¹ Prosecutor By Karpel (PBK) database queries includes Arizona Revised Statutes §13-1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1303, 1304, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1410, 1417, 3212, 3552, 3553, 3554, 3601, 3623.

- **Number of Cases presented for review** reflects law enforcement reports (referrals) received by the MCAO, which totals 3,507 cases during fiscal year 2020-21.
- The Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) is a referring law enforcement agency in our case management system, but in nearly every instance a traditional law enforcement agency is listed as the referring agency.
- **Persons charged** does not equal the number of cases presented for review because defendants may be charged in multiple cases and each statistical category presented is independent of each other.
- **Dispositions** include cases completed by Deputy County Attorneys that resulted in pleas, furthered to law enforcement for more information, referred to other agencies for prosecution, conviction, acquittal or dismissal. A total of 2,952 cases reached final disposition. Cases disposed during this reporting period may have been submitted prior to this period. Dispositions may or may not represent the same cases reported in the “Number of Cases Presented for Review” section.
- **Reasons why charges were not pursued** include 1) no reasonable likelihood of conviction; 2) referred to another agency for prosecution; 3) the charges were used as an aid to prosecute another pending matter; or 4) unable to locate witness(es).
- **Note:** Each of the three statistical categories reflects a separate query into a unique part of our Case Management System. Therefore, each category is independent of each other and the same cases/persons are not necessarily included in each. This data is from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

2020-21 MCAO Accomplishments

- The annual Vehicular Heatstroke Awareness Campaign was re-launched this April and continues the MCAO education initiative to the community about the dangers of leaving kids and pets in hot cars. Deaths associated with hot cars are completely preventable and the MCAO strives to achieve its goal of zero incidents each campaign year. More information can be found at: <https://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/399/Vehicular-Heatstroke>.
- The MCAO continued as a partner and sponsor of the annual “Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life” event. Nearly 4,000 students from around the state came together virtually for a one-day education and prevention event to help students and adults learn about bullying and suicide and what signs to watch out for related to those issues so they can ultimately help someone in need.
- During the most recent legislative session, MCAO supported SB 1660, an omnibus bill containing statutory recommendations of the Governor’s Justice for Victims of Sexual Abuse Taskforce. The Taskforce was charged with multiple responsibilities, including: developing and conducting a collaborative statewide review of Arizona’s laws for protecting children victimized by sexual abuse, and providing legislative recommendations to reform Arizona’s laws for protecting

children victimized by sexual abuse. Among other things, the legislation removes the statute of limitations for sex trafficking, expands the definition of position of trust, allows a court to prohibit a pro se defendant from cross-examining a minor victim and requires the Department of Child Safety to ensure a child who is eight years of age or older receives materials and resources about sexual abuse, child sex trafficking and exploitation within 30 days of placement in out-of-home care. This bill was signed by the Governor on 7/9/2021.

In addition, MCAO drafted extensive amendments resulting in the final HB 2889. This enhances sentences for adults convicted of dangerous crimes against children relating to certain sexual offenses. The bill increases sentencing ranges for offenses related to commercial sexual exploitation of a minor and child sex trafficking, requires all sentences for child sex trafficking to be consecutive to any other sentence imposed on a person and requires sentences for child molestation to be served consecutively rather than concurrently. This bill was signed by the Governor on 4/9/2021.

The current version of the "Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse" is always available at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office website (<http://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/>), in addition to the 2020-21 version of the Annual Report of Activity from the MCAO.

An extensive five-year revision of the "Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse" was completed in early 2016. Significant legislative changes since 2016 necessitate consideration of another revision.

Sincerely,



Allister Adel
Maricopa County Attorney