



Maricopa County Attorney

ALLISTER ADEL

July 30, 2020

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 2020 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, 2019 to June 30, 2020

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

	NUMBER OF CASES PRESENTED FOR REVIEW	NUMBER OF PERSONS CHARGED	DISPOSITIONS
Maricopa County Attorney's Office			
Totals	3,315	1,740	3,072

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 3,315 cases during fiscal year 2019-20.
- 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 3,072 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, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

2019-20 MCAO Accomplishments

- The MCAO presented a redesigned website (<https://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/>), this year, dedicated to keeping families safe. The MCAO is committed to helping keep families and communities safe beyond the courtroom. It’s a priority of the office to help educate residents of Maricopa County on the issues that affect families and children the most. Information and links on the new website include child safety and vaping/drug and alcohol awareness for teens.
- Prior to COVID-19, the MCAO regularly provided experts from our Speakers Bureau for presentations to schools and other agencies on the importance of “Mandatory Reporting.” Free educational presentations for businesses and organizations are currently being scheduled remotely.
- The annual “Don’t Leave Me Behind” Vehicular Heatstroke Awareness Campaign was re-launched this May 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 of children left in hot cars each campaign year. More information can be found at: <https://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/399/Vehicular-Heatstroke>.

- The MCAO Victim Services Division continues to take the lead in addressing the unique needs of child exploitation, human trafficking victims and victims who have a limited support system. Using grant funding, MCAO continues to support a victim advocate who specializes in cases dealing specifically with the sexual abuse, production and distribution of images depicting child pornography, child enticement, sex trafficking and victims of non-supportive guardians. The specially trained advocate networks with local agencies to develop resources specific to the needs of this population and they use their training in the areas of trauma, trauma bonding, grief, loss, reactive attachment, sexual exploitation, human trafficking and domestic violence to assist vulnerable child victims.
- The MCAO launched Bully Free AZ during National Bully Awareness Month in October. Partnering with KTAR, Earnhardt Ford and the Arizona Cardinals, MCAO presented Bully Free presentations at schools and parent teacher organizations.
- 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 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.

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 2019-20 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