The Maricopa County Attorney's Office Annual Activity Report on the

July 2012

SUMMARY

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." New changes to this legislation in 2012 direct that the report should 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.

Each report is a publicly available document and shall include the number of criminal conduct allegations (CCA) investigated and the number investigated jointly, the number of cases presented for review, the number of persons charged in those cases, the reasons why charges were not pursued, final dispositions and the reasons why a joint investigation did not take place.

Prosecution Activity – Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO)

- 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	3,038	2,927	1,433

[1] Includes Arizona Revised Statutes 13-1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1303, 1304, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1410, 1417, 3212, 3552, 3553, 3554, 3601, 3623.

- The MCAO is reporting information on the number of CCAs presented for review and charged, but we are unable to report on the number of CCAs jointly investigated by our office or the reasons why a joint investigation did not take place.

- **Number of Cases presented for review** reflects law enforcement reports (submittals) received by the MCAO, which totals 3,038 cases during fiscal year 2012.

- **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 charges completed by Deputy County Attorneys that resulted in pleas, conviction, acquittal or dismissal. A total of 1,433 charges reached final disposition. Charges 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 County Attorney Information System (CAIS). Therefore each category is independent of each other and the same cases/persons are not necessarily included in each.

2011-12 MCAO Accomplishments and Future Plans

- The increased reporting of child abuse cases and the results from the Governor's Child Safety Task Force will continue to impact the number of child abuse joint investigations. Participating agencies must continue to educate citizens to change their reluctance about reporting suspected child abuse cases.

- New amendments in 2012 to Arizona legislation are intended to protect the safety and best interests of children.
    - New legislation provides for a new Office of Child Welfare Investigations which will employ and train new child welfare investigators.
    - HB 2794 provides for improved communication between CPS and law enforcement. This legislation includes changes to this Annual Report and will streamline CPS processes with the intent to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the department.
    - Legislation passed in 2011 mandates "pimps" who commit the crime of child prostitution with minors 15, 16 or 17 years of age and "johns" who

engage in child prostitution with minors they know are 15, 16 or 17 years of age receive a sentence consecutive to any other sentence imposed.

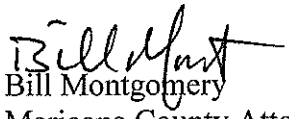
- Plans are in development for a new training video to be created by the MCAO for first responders to sex abuse, domestic violence and child abuse cases. The video will be used to train responders on the key tenants of the Child Abuse Protocol and the Victim's Bill of Rights.

- A 5-year review of the "Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse" will begin later this year.

- Changes are being made to the MCAO Submittal Forms that will include a checkbox to indicate whether a criminal matter was jointly investigated. This should be completed by next year's report and will ensure we are able to accurately report the number of CCAs jointly investigated.

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 2011-12 version of the Annual Report of Activity from the MCAO.

Sincerely,



Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney