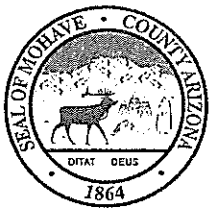
MOHAVE COUNTY ATTORNEY



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MOHAVE COUNTY ATTORNEY ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S REPORT ON THE INVESTIGATION OF CHILD ABUSE PURSUANT TO A.R.S.§8-817.B.8

Under A.R.S. §8-817.B.8 there is a requirement that every County develop, adopt, and implement protocols to guide the investigations of allegations involving criminal conduct with respect to children. Mohave County's protocol had been developed over a number of years, with the final draft being adopted in the year 2007. A copy of Mohave County's protocol was submitted along with our report in the year 2011. A copy of the protocol has not been attached this year but could be immediately provided if requested.

In fiscal year 2012 Mohave County investigated 84 cases involving child abuse and 92 cases involving child sexual abuse. Of the 84 cases involving child abuse, 79 cases were investigated jointly pursuant to our investigation protocol. The cases that were not investigated jointly by law enforcement and CPS involved Aggravated DUI cases where a child was in the vehicle and two cases where the abuse was not committed in the child's home.

Regarding the 92 cases involving child sexual abuse, 67 of those cases were investigated jointly, and the remaining cases involve molestation or sexual abuse that did not occur in the home and was not perpetrated by someone living with the child, which mandates CPS involvement. CPS does not get involved in cases that occur outside of the home of the victim.

There was a case involving child sexual abuse where a joint investigation between law enforcement and CPS did not take place due to a failure to notify CPS of the ongoing investigation. That issue has been discussed with the appropriate agencies, and hopefully next year we will be able to report no cases in which there was a failure to have a joint investigation between law enforcement and CPS.

Of the 84 child abuse cases presented for review, 73 cases resulted in some criminal charge with 66 of those cases resulting in convictions for at least one criminal offense. Of the 92 child sexual abuse cases presented to the County Attorney's Office

for review, 78 of those cases resulted in at least one criminal charge being filed and 70 of those cases resulted in a criminal conviction for at least one criminal offense.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Smith
Mohave County Attorney

MJS/brb

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