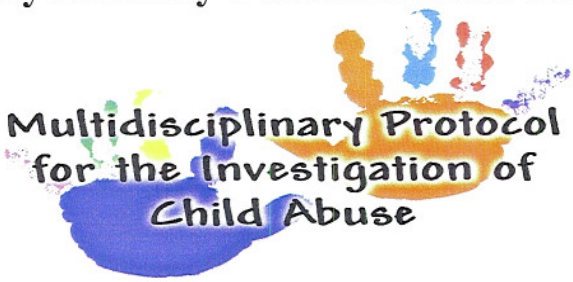
The Maricopa County Attorney's Office Annual Activity Report on the



August 2013

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)
July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

- 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	3,379	2,158	1,737

- 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.

[1] 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 (submittals) received by the MCAO, which totals 3,379 cases during fiscal year 2013.

- **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 1,737 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.

2012-13 MCAO Accomplishments and Future Plans

- The MCAO is partnering with Arizona law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to improve the way they investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence and child abuse at a series of specialized training events. These training sessions will address topics including best practices for investigating child sex abuse. To date, approximately 1,000 representatives from more than sixty agencies throughout the state have attended the sessions.

- The MCAO continues to provide experts from our Speakers Bureau for presentations to schools and other agencies on the importance of "Mandatory Reporting."

- Two pieces of Arizona legislation passed in 2013 that impact the way child abuse cases are investigated. HB 1375 revises A.R.S. §41-1969.01 to further clarify the duties and responsibilities of the new Office of Child Welfare Investigations. HB 2067 revises A.R.S. §8-807 to provide for the release of CPS records to a County Medical Examiner for purposes of conducting an investigation surrounding the death of a child.

- A new training video is being 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" is underway and will be completed by the end of 2013.

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 2012-13 version of the Annual Report of Activity from the MCAO.

Sincerely,

Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney