Maricopa County Attorney

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September 1, 2015

Elizabeth Ortiz, Executive Director
Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council
1951 W. Camelback Rd., Suite 202
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

Re: The Maricopa County Attorney's Office Annual Activity Report on the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse, Fiscal Year 2015 Report

Dear Ms. Ortiz:

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office hereby provides the ***Maricopa County Attorney's Office Annual Activity Report on the Multidisciplinary Protocol for the Investigation of Child Abuse Fiscal Year 2015 Report*** as required by Arizona Revised Statute § 8-817.

This version of the report, in addition to the Multidisciplinary Protocol, is also available at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office website, http://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/.

Sincerely,

Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney

enclosure

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

August 2015

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, 2014 to June 30, 2015

- 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	4,148	2,821	4,022

[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 4,148 cases during fiscal year 2015.

- **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, conviction, acquittal or dismissal. A total of 4,022 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 (Prosecutor by Karpel). 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, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

2014-15 MCAO Accomplishments and Future Plans

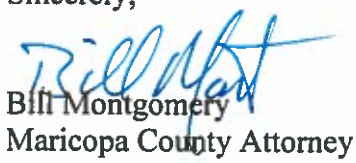
- The MCAO continues to partner with Arizona law enforcement and criminal justice professionals to improve the way they investigate and prosecute cases of domestic violence and child abuse at a series of specialized training events. These training sessions address topics including best practices for investigating child sex abuse.

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

- Several pieces of Arizona legislation passed in the 2015 Session that will continue to protect children. HB 2098 reorganized Child Protective Services into the Department of Child Safety; HB 2166 permits the redaction of minor victim's names from public records; and HB 2100 requires that a person who receives DCS information maintain the confidentiality of the information and prohibits the disclosure of the information unless authorized by law or a court order.

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 2014-15 version of the Annual Report of Activity from the MCAO.

Sincerely,



Bill Montgomery
Maricopa County Attorney