

# Prosecutor's Office

82 Ionia Avenue NW, Suite 450, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2266  
Phone: (616) 632-6710 Fax: (616) 632-6714

## Mission

*To protect the rights, safety, and security of Kent County residents through diligent efforts to prosecute criminal offenses in Kent County.*

## Overview

The Prosecuting Attorney appears for the State or County in all criminal prosecutions in Circuit Court and District Court, as well as appearances in delinquency, neglect, mental incompetency, and adult guardianship proceedings in both Probate Court and the Family Division of the Circuit Court. The Prosecuting Attorney shares jurisdiction with the Michigan Attorney General for any crime that is committed in Kent County, but is independent of that State office. The Prosecuting Attorney is an elected official with a four-year term, chosen at the time of the Presidential election, on the partisan ballot.

The office is divided into the following divisions: Criminal, Appellate, Family Law and Juvenile. Each division has specific attorneys assigned to it and is structured to serve that division's unique needs. Additionally, the Victim/Witness Unit of the office performs services for victims of crime as mandated under the Crime Victims Rights Act.

The Prosecuting Attorney's office is responsible for other legal functions, including:

- Keeping victims notified of case status, their right to participate, and to protect/preserve their rights;
- Providing information on juvenile offenders to the Kent Intermediate School District; and
- Representing the County in forfeiture actions.

## Significant Accomplishments

- Established program with Hispanic Center to send a victim witness advocate to the Hispanic Center, once a month, to provide an open and non-threatening space to meet to discuss issues their clients may be having in the court system. The advocates will have the opportunity to meet with victims of domestic violence who may be afraid to file a report, witnesses who may be afraid to go to the courthouse, or any other person at the Hispanic Center who may have questions regarding anything pertaining to the criminal justice system. This is a program designed to reach a significant minority group in the community who are in fear of getting involved in the criminal justice system given possible immigration implications.
- Set up a Juvenile Teen Sexting program to deal with the issue of peer-to-peer exchange of inappropriate photos. In the past we have had situations in the County where multiple groups of teens or pre-teens exchange photos and we have made the decision not to get involved and let the school districts handle it. This program is a way to take action to educate the kids who are engaging in this sort of behavior by providing a diversion program where they view an on-line program and participate in a class where the potential dangers of texting and on-line behavior are reviewed. If they successfully complete the program no charges are filed. If they do not complete it, we then may file juvenile charges.
- Convicted more cases per Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (APA) than any other large county in Michigan (Genesee, Ingham, Kalamazoo, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne) with 94 convictions per APA.
- Based upon Kent County's population, provided services at the second lowest cost per tax payer (\$13.55) than any other large county in Michigan.

**Strategic Goals**  
*Strategic issues for the Department include:*

- Effectively utilize staff and budgets to perform statutorily mandated services. (Efficient Use of Resources)



# Prosecutor's Office - Family Law Division

82 Ionia Avenue NW, Suite 425, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2266

Phone: (616) 632-6645 Fax: (616) 632-6646

## Mission

*To establish paternity and enter child support orders within federally mandated time lines.*

## Overview

The Prosecuting Attorney represents the State of Michigan in proceedings to establish paternity and set child support orders. The Prosecuting Attorney is an elected official with a four-year term, chosen at the time of the Presidential election, on the partisan ballot.

The office is divided into the following divisions: Criminal, Appellate, Juvenile, and Family Law. The Criminal, Appellate and Juvenile divisions are under the General Government functional area. Each division has specific attorneys assigned to it and is structured to serve that division's unique needs. Additionally, the Victim/Witness Unit of the office performs services for victims of crime as mandated under the Crime Victims Rights Act.

### Strategic Goals

*Strategic issues for the Department include:*

- Effectively utilize staff and budgets to perform statutorily mandated services. (Efficient Use of Resources)

## Significant Accomplishments

- Completed 98% of cases within 6 months from service date at a rate that is better than is required by federal guidelines.
- Entered support orders in 82% of cases and established paternity in 98% of cases which also is better than required by federal guidelines.
- Began collaboration with Health Department and FOC to start "Early Establishment Program" will result in genetic testing and paternity establishment in as little as 8 weeks after a child is born.

**DEPARTMENT: PROSECUTORS OFFICE**

**Department Mission Statement:**

*The mission of the Prosecutor’s Office is to perform a variety of statutorily mandated services on behalf of the citizens of Kent County. These include appearances in all criminal proceedings involving charges brought on behalf of the People of the State of Michigan in the various County District and Circuit Courts as well as appearances in delinquency, neglect/dependency, mental competency, and adult guardianship proceedings in both the Probate Court and Family Division of the Circuit Court. Additionally, the Appellate Division initiates and responds to appeals resulting from cases in which the Prosecutor’s Office has appeared. Further, the Family Law Division, by virtue of both statutory requirements and contractual obligations, is responsible for the establishment of paternity and the levels of child support set in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services.*

**Service Area: Criminal/Appellate Division**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*The mission of the Criminal Division is to appear in criminal proceedings in the Circuit and District Courts of Kent County involving charges brought on behalf of the People of the State of Michigan as well as initiating and responding to appeals resulting from cases in which the Prosecutor’s Office has appeared.*

**Goal**

- Prosecute violations of state law in District and Circuit Courts within Kent County.

**Objectives**

- Effectively utilize staff and budget to perform statutorily mandated services.
- Effectively prosecute cases that go to trial.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
Guilty Verdicts in District Court Trials	86	80/ 60	70/ 62	60
Guilty Pleas in Circuit Court	2,829	2,937/ 2,739	2,824/ 2,856	2,808
Guilty Verdicts in Circuit Court Trials	64	58/ 59	56/ 65	57

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
Number of Felony Warrants Authorized	3,858	3,930/ 3,984	3,918/ 4,082	3,975
Number of Misdemeanor Warrants Authorized	3,952	4,258/ 3,854	3,948/ 3,778	3,861
District Court Trials	112	110/ 88	96/ 81	93
Circuit Court Trials	79	71/ 72	69/ 65	45
Court of Appeals Briefs Filed	154	139/ 161	151/ 130	148
Supreme Court Briefs Filed	46	38/ 66	48/ 77	63
Motion Answers & Circuit Court Briefs	240	232/ 235	237/ 243	239

**Service Area: Victim/Witness Program**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To provide comprehensive and effective services to victims of crime, to reduce secondary trauma and ensure their fundamental rights are met.*

**Goal**

- To protect and preserve the rights of victims by complying with the mandates of the Michigan Crime Victim's Rights Act.

**Objectives**

- Assist victims who choose to exercise their rights
- Assist victims in applying for Crime Victim's Compensation

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
Eligible Victims Rights Cases	6,081	6,395/ 6,663	6,416/ 7,455	6,733
Number of Witnesses Subpoenaed: Police(Adult & Juvenile Cases)	16,568	13,617/ 12,707	13,714/ 11,421	13,565
Number of Witnesses Subpoenaed: Civilian(Adult & Juvenile Cases)	12,899	10,845/ 9,252	10,674/ 5,625	5,812
Total Number of Witnesses Subpoenaed	29,467	24,462/ 21,959	24,388/ 18,213	23,213
Witness Fees Processed in Adult Cases	\$40,988	\$38,891/ \$33,828	\$37,899/ \$40,120	\$38,312
Witness Fees Processed in Juvenile Cases	\$12,872	\$14,335/ \$10,597	\$39,301/ \$5,873	\$6,112
Amount of Restitution Awarded to Victims through the Crime Victim's Compensation Board	\$295,674	\$434,134/ \$218,826	\$351,799/ \$313,574	\$276,024

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
Number of Cases Referred to Victim/Witness (Circuit Court)	981	795/ 934	859/ 728	881

Number of Cases Referred to Victim/Witness (District Court)	4,809	4,920/ 5,180	4,981/ 5,402	5,130
Number of Cases Referred to Victim/Witness (Juvenile Court)	2,459	2,329/ 2,154	2,253/ 2,064	2,225
Total Number of Cases Referred to Victim/Witness	8,249	8,043/ 8,268	8,093/ 8,194	8,237
Witness Fee Expenditures	\$53,860	\$53,225/ \$44,425	\$50,999/ \$45,993	\$48,092

**Service Area: Family Law Division**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*To establish paternity and enter child support orders within federally mandated time lines.*

**Goals**

- Establish paternity and enter child support orders.
- Comply with Federal Regulations for Expedited Case Processing

**Objectives**

- Complete 75% of cases within 6 months from service date as required by Federal regulations
- Complete 90% of cases within 12 months from service date as required by Federal regulations
- Enter Support Orders in 80% of cases as required by Federal regulations
- Establish Paternity in 90% of cases as required by Federal regulations

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outcomes</b>				
Percentage of DHS referrals that are non-TANF (ADC) (May be receiving Food Stamps, Child Care, or Medicaid)	83.00%	83.00%/ 84.00%	83.00%/ 81.00%	82.00%
Judgments Entered (Paternity & Support Orders)	2,889	2,629/ 2,812	2,790/ 2,704	2,801
Cases completed within 6 months from service date (Federal goal is 75%)	96.00%	94.00%/ 95.00%	96.00%/ 98.00%	96.00%
Cases completed within 12 months from service date (Federal goal is 90%)	96.00%	94.00%/ 95.00%	96.00%/ 98.00%	96.00%
Cases with support Orders entered (Federal goal is 79%)	80.00%	80.00%/ 82.00%	81.00%/ 82.00%	81.00%
Cases with Paternity established (Federal goal is 90%)	95.00%	96.00%/ 100.00%	97.00%/ 98.00%	98.00%

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Efficiencies</b>				
Cost Per Positive Disposition	\$608	\$678/ \$640	\$636/ \$696	\$648

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
Monthly Support Ordered	\$446,829	\$325,171/ \$441,167	\$395,107/ \$462,261	\$450,085
Annual Support Ordered	\$5,361,948	\$3,920,048/ \$5,294,004	\$4,741,288/ \$5,547,132	\$5,401,028
Cases Opened	3,943	3,564/ 3,865	3,697/ 3,655	3,821
Cases Continued	1,704	1,469/ 2,018	1,691/ 2,076	1,932
Cases Closed	3,865	3,548/ 4,053	3,899/ 3,916	3,944
Cases Pending	1,782	1,642/ 1,830	1,645/ 1,815	1,809



**Service Area: Juvenile Division**

**Service Area Mission Statement:**

*Appear in delinquency, neglect/dependency, mental competency, and adult guardianship proceedings in the Probate Court and Family Division of the Circuit Court.*

**Goal**

- To represent the People of the State of Michigan at hearings involving delinquency, neglect/dependency, and matters of mental competency.

**Objective**

- Effectively utilize staff and budget to perform statutorily mandated duties.

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>2014 Actual</b>	<b>2015 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2016 Expected/ Actual</b>	<b>2017 Expected/ Actual</b>
<b>Outputs</b>				
Number of Trials (Jury & Non-Jury Delinquency)	20	16/ 13	16/ 8	13
Number of Non-Contested Hearings (Delinquency Pleas)	701	702/ 674	662/ 504	626
Number of Contested Hearings (Neglect)	835	722/ 871	820/ 872	859
Number of Termination Hearings (Neglect)	318	312/ 326	322/ 284	309
Number of Termination Petitions Authorized	139	123/ 125	132/ 111	125
Number of Waiver Petitions Filed (Traditional & Automatic)	12	12/ 5	8/ 7	8
Number of Juveniles Waived to Circuit Court (Traditional & Automatic)	12	12/ 5	8/ 7	8
Number of Pre-Trial Conferences (Neglect)	303	279/ 325	306/ 358	328
Number of Pre-Trial Conferences (Delinquency)	646	718/ 613	640/ 610	623
Number of Incompetency Hearings	630	611/ 597	608/ 553	593
Number of Juvenile Delinquency Police Referrals Processed	2,459	2,329/ 2,433	2,346/ 2,064	2,318

Number of Motions and OTSC Hearings	94	112/ 83	105/ 82	86
Number of Misc. Hearings (Review/Jury Demands)	820	711/ 771	755/ 743	778
Number of Disposition Hearings	354	324/ 321	322/ 366	347
Number of Personal Protection Order Hearings	80	74/ 83	81/ 86	83