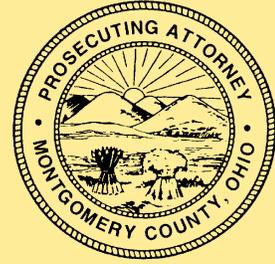


The Prosecutor's Report

April 2020

from Mat Heck, Jr., Prosecuting Attorney



The Prosecutor's Report is the monthly newsletter to the community from the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office.

If you would like additional information on any of the topics discussed, or have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Mr. Greg Flannagan, Public Information Officer, at 937-225-5610 or via email to info@mcpo.com.

Sentencings

In March, 2020, we disposed of 249 cases. The Judges sentenced the defendants in those cases as follows:

- 52.6% received Community Control Sanctions (probation)
- 21.7% were sentenced to the penitentiary
- 20.5% were granted Intervention in Lieu of Conviction (ILC)
- 5.2% received local jail time, or local jail time plus probation

Some notable sentences:

- 3/19/2020 - **Richard Gibson** was sentenced to 160 years-to-life in prison after being convicted of 16 counts of rape of a child under 13 years of age. Between November 2010 and November 2013, the defendant raped the victim multiple times, starting when the victim was 9 years old. The victim disclosed the assaults in 2019. The defendant was a maintenance worker at the Riverside apartment complex where the victim resided. Ms. Dylan Smearcheck and Ms. Victoria Nilles were the assistant prosecutors on the case.
- 3/23/2020 - **LaQuita Ross** was sentenced to a total of 11 years in prison after being convicted of rape and unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. On March 19, 2019, the Dayton Police Department received a tip through Crimestoppers that a security guard working at the Northwest Recreation Center on Princeton Park Drive had sexually assaulted a number of young boys inside her van. Ms. Dylan Smearcheck and Mr. Jonathan Sauline were the assistant prosecutors on the case.

Prosecutor Heck Recognizes April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month

On Wednesday, April 1, 2020, Prosecutor Heck recognized the start of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which occurs every April. He noted that the incidents of child abuse and neglect in our community remain unacceptably high. Over the past year, there have been far too many cases of children and infants being injured or dying from abuse and/or neglect in Montgomery County.

Prosecutor Heck said, "We know that 1 in 4 children are abused or neglected at some point in their lives and the effect that abuse has on those children can be long-lasting, both physically and mentally. All of us have an active role in helping to prevent child abuse and neglect. The assistance of the public in communicating and reporting incidents of suspected child abuse is crucial. As long as there is a single case of child abuse or neglect in our community, we need to do more. EVERY child deserves to be raised without fear of abuse or neglect.

"Today, under the current Coronavirus directives, people and families are even more stressed than usual. Children are out of school, many parents are out of work, and everyone is sheltering at home. This greatly increases the chances of child abuse and domestic violence, occurring.

"Teachers, typically a great source of referrals for suspected abuse, will not be able to see cases of abuse if the children are not in school. Now, more than ever, I ask every citizen in Montgomery County to help us by reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to either your local law enforcement agency or by reporting it to 937-224-KIDS (5437)."

Remember, if you "See Something, Say Something."



**SEE SOMETHING
SAY SOMETHING**

REPORT ABUSE ANONYMOUSLY
224-KIDS
5 4 3 7

 **Mat Heck, Jr.**
Prosecuting Attorney



Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic

The pandemic has changed the world as we know it, and it happened very quickly. Everything from the way we interact with others, to how we work, shop, and dine is very different from the way it was just one month ago.

The Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office, working in conjunction with other county agencies and departments, including the Common Pleas Court, is working hard to ensure we continue to deliver services to the public in a timely and safe manner. Through the use of the county's Virtual Private Network, most of our staff are working remotely from home. Many judges are conducting hearings via video conferencing. However, many trials and other functions that would require many persons to be in the courtroom have had to be continued in the interest of maintaining a safe environment.

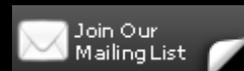
Prosecutor Heck said, "My staff and I understand that the situation we are living in now is very stressful and is affecting everyone to some degree. Everyone is experiencing some sort of heightened anxiety, depression, frustration, or other emotions. However, we are all in this together and must move forward. Hopefully, we can return to normalcy soon."

In the meantime, please, stay home, stay safe, and stay healthy.

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