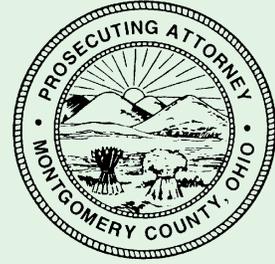


The Prosecutor's Report

May 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 April, 2020, we disposed of 131 cases. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this total is approximately one-half the normal number of disposed cases. The Judges sentenced the defendants in those cases as follows:

- 42.7% received Community Control Sanctions (probation)
- 34.4% were sentenced to the penitentiary
- 16.8% were granted Intervention in Lieu of Conviction (ILC)
- 6.1% received local jail time, or local jail time plus probation

Some notable sentences:

- 4/23/2020 - **Brandon Leigh** was sentenced to 30 years-to-life in prison after being convicted of murder, involuntary manslaughter, improperly discharging a firearm at or into a habitation, and having weapons while under disability. On February 16, 2018, Dayton police officers and medics were dispatched to a home on Lorenz Avenue on a report of a shooting. Inside, they located the victim, 22-year-old Keyona Deshawn Murray, who had been shot in the head. The victim was pregnant at the time of the shooting, and her fetus also died. The investigation determined that the defendant, 17 years old at the time, had fired a shot towards the home from an alley behind the residence. Ms. Kelly Madzey and Mr. Dan Brandt were the assistant prosecutors on the case.

Prosecutor Heck's Victim/Witness Division Recognized by National Organization During Victims' Rights Week

On Monday, April 20, 2020, Prosecutor Heck recognized the start of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This year, the week was special as his Victim/Witness Division was recognized by the National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) which named the division a NOVA 2020 Honorary Awardee for their tireless efforts to advance crime victims' rights.

Andy Yurick, President of the Board of Directors of NOVA said the Prosecutor's Victim/Witness Division was nominated for this special recognition by colleagues who collectively recognize the critical impact the Victim Advocates make daily. Yurick said, "Most significantly, the extraordinary compassion, leadership, and ingenuity in your work has helped countless victims and survivors begin to heal in the aftermath of a crime."

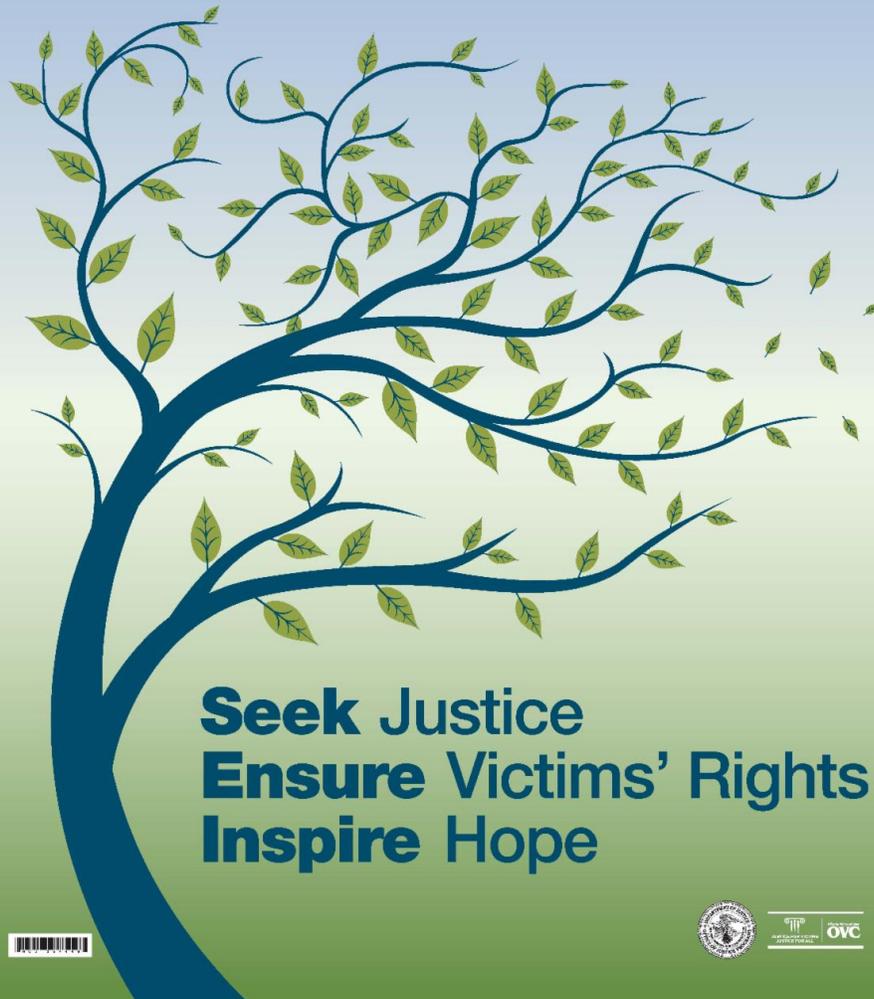
Prosecutor Heck added, "I am especially proud of the work my victim advocates do to help victims of crime. This recognition by NOVA of the Victim/Witness Division's dedication to ensuring victims receive the services they need is well deserved."

Each year, millions of Americans are affected by crime. Many will need ongoing support. This year, April 19-25 was National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It is a time to celebrate the progress achieved for victims, raise awareness of victims' rights and services, and stand with the families, neighbors, friends, and colleagues whose lives have been forever altered by crime.

Annually, the Victim/Witness Division of the office participates in Crime Victims' Rights Week to highlight the services provided to victims of crime in Montgomery County. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, we are continuing to provide support services to child victims, elder victims, victims of domestic violence, and sexual assault. As always, we continue to reach out to families who have lost a loved one to homicide.

We encourage those with questions to call Prosecutor Heck's Victim/Witness Division's 24-hour Crisis Line at 937-225-5623 to learn how you or someone you know can get help.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 19–25, 2020



Domestic Violence and Quarantine

The nationwide directives to shelter at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic assumes the home is the safest place to remain. But not everyone is safe in their residence. Domestic violence victims often face the prospect of their home being the least safe place to remain. If a couple is subject to a mandatory lockdown, the potential for physical and/or mental abuse can be greatly elevated.

Avoiding the residence is not possible for victims who are ordered to work from home or are otherwise ordered to remain home. And making matters even worse, some defendants are being released from jail to protect them from the Covid-19 virus.

Unfortunately, some victims, who are facing an indefinite quarantine lockdown in the same home as their abuser, might find the situation so dreadful that they seek

help or move out. However, during the current crisis, Domestic Violence shelters might not have space to allow for new arrivals, and victims of domestic violence might not feel safe in a shelter due to concerns about the Coronavirus. Victims should not assume shelters are full, and should seek help through our office, Artemis (www.artemiscenter.org - 937-461-4357), or the YWCA (www.ywcadayton.org - 937-222-7233) for assistance in developing a safety plan which may include finding a friend or relative that they would feel safe staying with.

Prosecutor Heck said, "My staff and I stand ready to assist victims of domestic violence. Our 24-hour Crisis Line (937-225-5623) is available for victims of sexual or domestic violence. We encourage victims and those with knowledge of domestic violence to reach out and get help. Even during a world-wide pandemic, help is always available."

Additionally, the National Domestic Violence Hotline website is available and has tips, resources, and information to help victims stay safe. The website is www.thehotline.org or you can call them at 1-800-799-7233. If a victim doesn't feel safe to place a phone call, they are encouraged to text LOVEIS to 22522.

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