

2025 Annual Report

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser



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ABOUT THE OFFICE

By Illinois statute, the State's Attorney's Office is the chief prosecuting authority in Kane County and legal advisor to the county, its elected and appointed officials, and, when requested, state officials. In 2025, the Kane County State's Attorney's Office employed 197 staff members, which included 91 assistant state's attorneys and 106 support staff. The office operates at the following locations throughout Kane County: Kane County Judicial Center in St. Charles Township, Kane County Courthouse in downtown Geneva, Juvenile Justice Center on the Judicial Center Campus in St. Charles Township, Aurora Branch Court at the Aurora Police Department, Elgin Branch Court at Elgin City Hall, and Kane County Branch Court on Randall Road in St. Charles. The Child Advocacy Center is located in downtown Geneva.



**Kane County
Judicial Center**
Address

37W777 Route 38,
St. Charles, IL 60175
Telephone Number
(630) 232-5805



**Kane County
Courthouse**
Address

100 S. 3rd Street,
Geneva, IL 60134
Telephone Number
(630) 208-5320



**Kane County
Juvenile Justice Center**
Address

37W655 Route 38,
St. Charles, IL 60175
Telephone Number
(630) 406-7480



Aurora Branch Court
Address

1200 E. Indian Trl,
Aurora, IL 60505
Telephone Number
(630) 892-3221



Elgin Branch Court
Address

150 Dexter Court,
Elgin, IL 60120
Telephone Number
(847) 931-6030



**Kane County
Branch Court**
Address

530 S. Randall Road,
St. Charles, IL 60174
Telephone Number
(630) 262-5116



**Child Advocacy
Center**
Address

427 Campbell Street,
Geneva, IL 60134
Telephone Number
(630) 208-5168



Collaborative Diversion
Address

719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg G,
Geneva, IL 60134
Telephone Number
(331) 293-1519

Message from the State's Attorney

"The duty of a public prosecutor or other government lawyer is to seek justice, not merely to convict." - Rule 3.8(a) of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

The job of the State's Attorney is to seek justice, which means making sure everyone is treated equally and fairly. In my first term, we made significant changes in our judicial system to ensure that we are doing justice for everyone in Kane County. We created new departments and new initiatives and worked to instill a modern mindset of what a prosecutor's office should be. In 2025, these changes became fully implemented and firmly established.

This past year, the programs we started during my first term continued to improve their processes and outcomes. Our most recently established unit, the Human Exploitation Unit, hit the ground running, opening multiple investigations, providing training to law enforcement officers, and conducting outreach within the community. It also closed outstanding cases, sending four offenders convicted of human trafficking to prison.

In addition, our Criminal Division handled numerous complex cases, including multiple murder, sexual assault, and other serious trials, achieving justice for victims and their families while continuing to increase our conviction rate. Our Victim Services Unit handled a record number of orders of protection, underscoring our office's unwavering commitment to addressing domestic violence. And our continued focus on a trauma-informed approach when working with victims and members of the community has strengthened our ability to ensure their voices are heard throughout the process.

My goal as your State's Attorney has always been to bring true criminal justice reform that is guided by public safety. This means that I want to rehabilitate offenders when possible and aggressively prosecute individuals who engage in violent and destructive criminal activity that harms people and our community. When I took office, I asked my attorneys to look at every case individually, because justice should be determined by the facts of the case, the defendant's criminal history, and other aggravating or mitigating facts.

My office continues to focus on justice by understanding that not every person needs to go to jail or prison. The Deferred Prosecution Program, Collaborative Diversion Program, and Specialty Courts continue to support defendants who need rehabilitation and deserve a second chance while also holding those defendants accountable. When appropriate, we seek to provide individuals with resources toward rehabilitation, getting those people the treatment and resources that they need to stay out of the criminal justice system in the future. Now, we are working to implement a fifth specialty court, one that will be the first in the state dedicated to families.

Our office was also involved in the passing of vital legislation that will impact children all across the state of Illinois. Our office led the push to pass an amendment to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act that will use evidence-based standards to ensure more children are connected to vital social services instead of arrested and needlessly traumatized. Throughout the state of Illinois, our office is seen as an innovator as we seek new ways to protect and serve the community of Kane County.

However, 2025 also presented significant challenges. The County Board proposed budget cuts that threatened the jobs of dedicated public servants and critical programs. We responded proactively by securing funding through state and federal grants. Our community has also been impacted by aggressive federal immigration enforcement, which has caused some victims, witnesses, and others to feel unsafe coming to the Judicial Center, while also placing strain on the relationships between local law enforcement and the residents they serve. We continue to address these concerns by working closely with the judiciary, local municipalities, and state officials to ensure that constitutional rights are upheld and that the public is accurately informed about the role of local officials.

Throughout these challenges, the individuals in this office have remained committed to a mission that extends beyond prosecuting cases, focusing on serving the community as a whole and supporting victims and families across Kane County. I am incredibly proud of the prosecutors, victim advocates, criminal investigators, and support staff who work with dedication and professionalism on an often-difficult job. They fight for justice and safety every day for the people of Kane County. Most importantly, every case we handle tells a story. A story of loss, courage, and resilience. None of the defendants in our courtrooms could be brought to justice without the bravery of victims and witnesses. They are the ones who are central to these successes.

As we reflect on this past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the progress made by the Kane County State's Attorney's Office and what our incredible team has accomplished in service to our residents. I am honored and grateful to serve as your State's Attorney and proudly present our 2025 Annual Report.

Jamie L. Mosser
Kane County State's Attorney





Human Exploitation

Christine Bayer | First Assistant

In January 2025, State's Attorney Jamie Mosser formed the Human Exploitation Unit, a specialized team dedicated to investigating and prosecuting human trafficking offenses, such as sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The unit operates within the office's Criminal and Investigations Divisions. There are three attorneys, three police investigators, a digital forensic investigator, a victim advocate, a victim resource advocate, and an administrative assistant assigned to the unit and overseen by First Assistant State's Attorney Christine Bayer.

The Human Exploitation Unit was established in response to the growing number of incidents of human trafficking happening in Kane County. The unit's primary purpose is to protect victims, hold traffickers accountable, and prevent further human exploitation. In addition to investigating and prosecuting offenses, the unit offers training to police departments and works to educate the community. In 2025, the unit participated in multiple trainings focused on trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches. The unit also held eight law enforcement trainings that reached approximately 590 police officers.

A key focus for 2025 was building relationships with area service providers for trafficked individuals and for vulnerable populations. Members of the unit met with community partners to better understand the services and resources available to assist victims of human trafficking. The unit also met with community partners that have vulnerable populations. The unit met with 34 different agencies and organizations in 2025.

The unit participated in public-awareness summits, trainings, podcasts, and other campaigns so our community can recognize the signs of trafficking. The unit held 12 such events, reaching over 580 people. The unit also attended trainings held by experts in the field to continue its members' own education and expertise. The unit received a combined total of over 600 hours of training.

The unit actively investigates allegations of trafficking. They gather evidence against traffickers, facilitators, and organized criminal groups, utilizing specialized investigative techniques like digital forensics, undercover work, and financial tracking. The unit partners with area police departments, state police, and federal agencies in identifying and collecting evidence against individuals and organizations involved in illegal trafficking. The unit also works in conjunction with the State's Attorney's Office's other dedicated units, including the Child Advocacy Center, the Child Exploitation Unit, and the Special Victim's Unit. The unit initiated 12 investigations in 2025, which are ongoing.



Notable Case Resolutions

ASA Matthew Rodgers

Jamar Hare, 2024 CF 2725, was sentenced to 13 years in prison on six counts of involuntary servitude for profiting financially from a scheme that involved males paying for sexual acts from six women under his control. He used illegal drugs, threats, and physical force to control the women, each of whom was over 18 years of age.

The following four individuals operated four brothels in the cities of Aurora, Elgin, St. Charles, and South Elgin, all in Kane County. These individuals also established brothels in Cook County. The victims were all made to engage in commercial sex acts through threats of physical harm, physical restraint or threats of physical restraint, and financial control.

FEB

In February, the SAO secured a sentence of seven years in prison for **Martha Hurtado**, 60, of Chicago, after she pled guilty to trafficking in persons.

FEB

In February, the SAO secured a sentence of five years in prison for **Rigoberto Parra**, 47, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to trafficking in persons.

FEB

In February, the SAO secured a sentence of five years in prison for **Christian Hurtado**, 29, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to trafficking in persons.

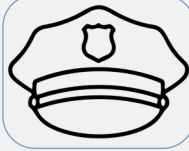
MAR

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of five and a half years in prison for **Daniel Hurtado**, 27, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to Trafficking in Persons.

2025 Statistics



The unit received a combined total of over 600 hours of training.



The unit held eight law enforcement trainings that reached approximately 590 police officers.



The unit held 12 educational events reaching over 580 people.



The unit met with 34 different government agencies and community organizations.



The unit initiated 12 investigations.



Five individuals were convicted of trafficking offenses in 2025.



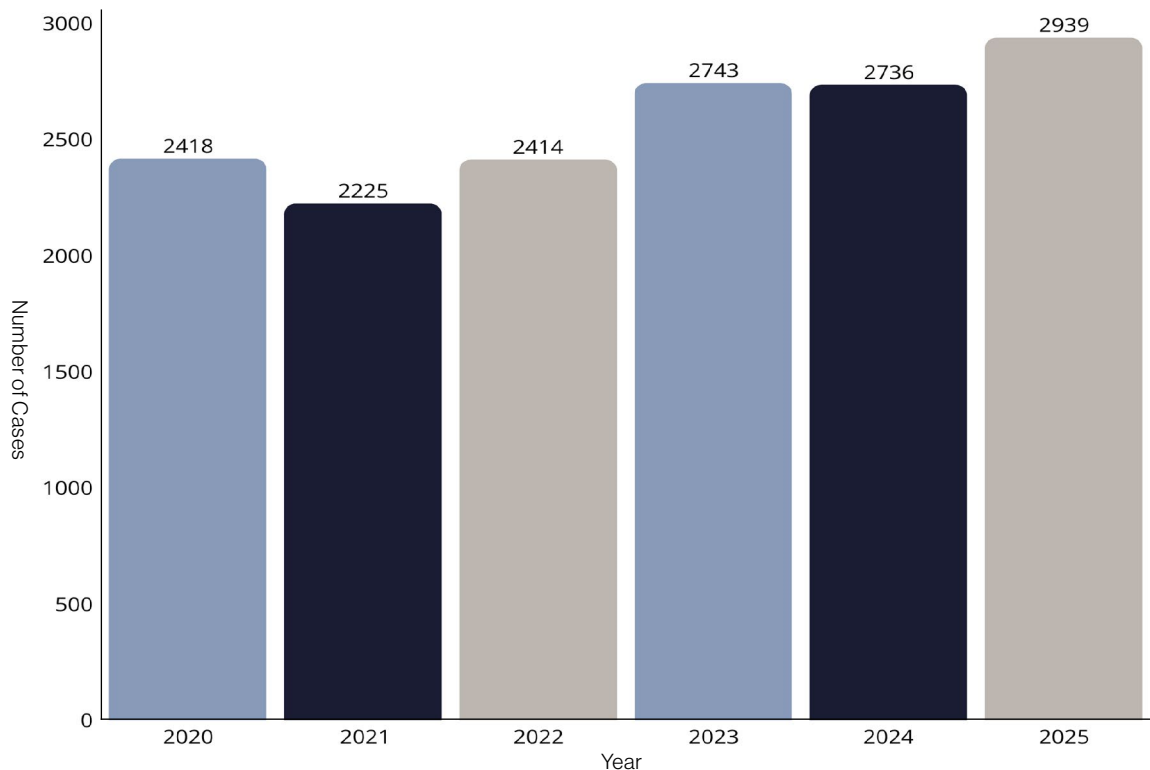
Criminal Division

Robert Dore | Division Chief

The Criminal Division comprises the following units: Human Exploitation, Major Crimes, Guns & Gangs, Narcotics, Special Victims, Child Exploitation, Child Advocacy Center, Domestic Violence, DUI & Major Traffic, Juvenile Delinquency, and Misdemeanor & Traffic.

Assistant State's Attorney Bob Dore is the Criminal Division Chief. He handles complex criminal cases and supervises the division's assistant state's attorneys (ASAs) and staff.

Total Felony Cases Filed



Felony Screening

Steve Sims | Supervisor



The Felony Screening Unit evaluates the facts and evidence of an investigation and determines whether felony charges are appropriate.

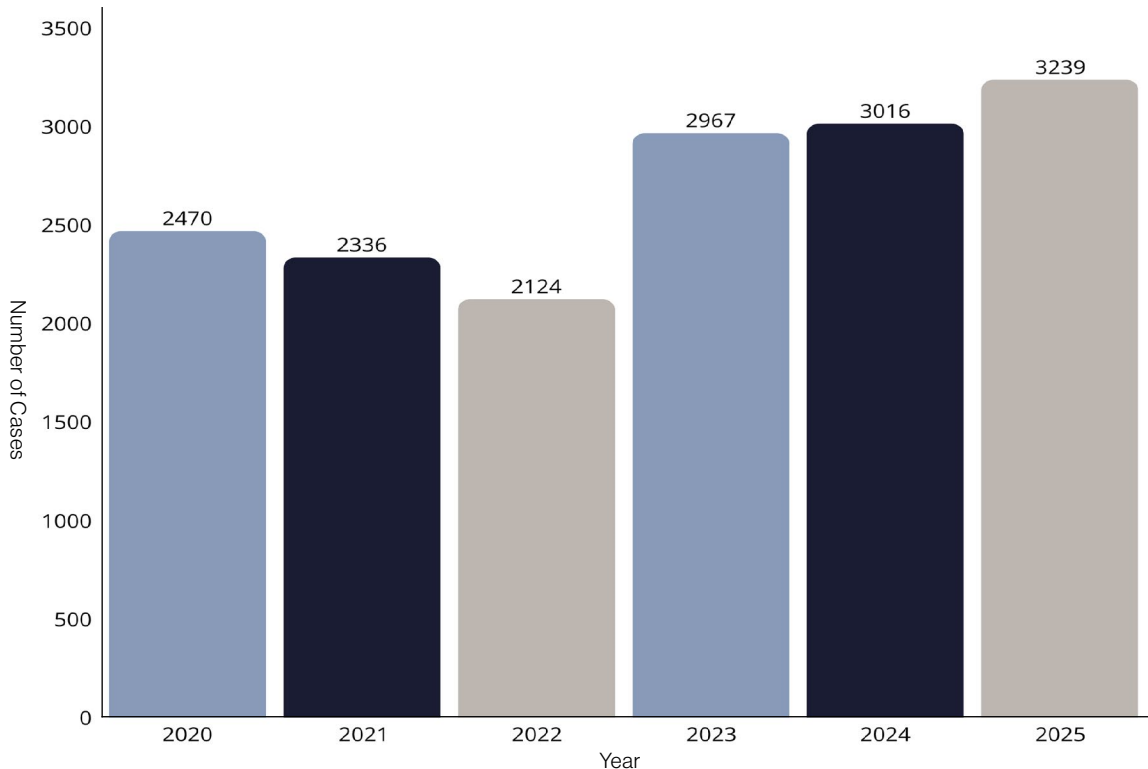
Criminal cases begin with a police investigation. Police have the discretion to authorize misdemeanor charges, but prosecutors must approve felony charges. When police believe they have sufficient evidence, they contact an on-call prosecutor.

Unit prosecutors are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to officers, detectives, and investigators, authorize charges when they conclude an investigation, and provide guidance during pending investigations.

Prosecutors must ensure that probable cause exists before authorizing an offense and determining appropriate charges. The prosecutor may suggest additional investigative steps be taken to build a stronger case. On more complex screenings, the prosecutor may go to the police station to review reports and evidence.

Assistant State's Attorney Sims supervises two ASAs.

Total Cases Screened





Major Crimes

David Belshan | Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division and Major Crimes Supervisor

The Major Crimes Unit prosecutes the majority of the most serious and high-profile offenses committed in Kane County. These offenses include, but are not limited to, first-degree murder, attempt first-degree murder, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated vehicular hijacking, and select traffic fatalities.

The office's most experienced prosecutors are assigned to these cases due to their serious nature, which allows little margin for error.

Assistant State's Attorney Belshan supervises four ASAs.

2025 Statistics



**13 Cases
Reached Disposition**



10 first-degree murder cases reached disposition.



In six cases, the defendant was found guilty by a jury.



In three cases, the defendant pled guilty.



In one case, the defendant was found not guilty by reason of insanity.



Six defendants were charged with first-degree murder

2025

Of the six new murder cases, four were allegedly committed in 2025.

2023

Two were allegedly committed in 2023.



Three aggravated DUI causing death/reckless homicide cases reached disposition.



In all three cases, the defendant pled guilty.

Notable Case Resolutions

Cases Sentenced in 2025

JAN

ASA Mark Stajdohar

In January, the SAO secured a sentence of 24 years in prison for **Deandre Bradley**, 34, of Chicago, after he pled guilty to the offense of armed robbery. In 2023, Bradley robbed a delivery truck at a gas station in Sugar Grove while armed with a firearm. Bradley discharged the gun during the incident, striking the delivery truck. The driver was not injured.

FEB

ASAs David Belshan and Hillary Sadler

In February, the SAO secured a sentence of 12.5 years in prison for **Edgar Barrios**, 23, of DeKalb, after he pled guilty to the offense of aggravated driving under the influence causing death to another. In 2022, Barrios, while under the influence of cannabis, drove a vehicle westbound on Route 38 at an excessive speed and drove into oncoming traffic, striking another vehicle. An occupant of the other vehicle, a young child, was killed as a result of the crash.

MAR

ASAs Mark Stajdohar and Kathryn Wuerstl

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of 57 years in prison for **Byron Frazier**, 33, of Chicago, after a jury found him guilty of attempt first-degree murder and other charges. Frazier shot a man who was the ex-boyfriend of Frazier's girlfriend while the man was talking to Frazier's girlfriend as she was in a parked car at a gas station.

JUL

ASAs David Belshan, Katy Flannagan and Tyler Cox

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 109 years in prison for **Michael James**, 41, of Aurora, after a jury found him guilty of first-degree murder and other offenses for the shooting and killing of a man who he had tried to rob after breaking into an apartment building.

JUL

ASA Kelly Orland

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 19 years in prison for **Luis Loyo**, 19, of Carpentersville, after he pled guilty to the offense of aggravated battery with a firearm. In 2024, Loyo shot a man outside of a Little Caesars restaurant in Elgin.

OCT

ASA Kelly Orland

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 25 years in prison for **Duka Smith**, 49, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to the offense of armed violence for the stabbing of an acquaintance after a dispute that occurred in an apartment building parking lot in 2023.

DEC

ASA Christine Bayer

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of 38 years in prison for **Abel Quinones Herstad**, 23, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to first-degree murder. Quinones Herstad stabbed the victim, his biological mother, 26 times with a knife in her home before fleeing to his brother's residence in Wisconsin. Quinones Herstad's brother contacted the police, who conducted a welfare check and found the victim's body in a closet.

Cases Convicted in 2025, Sentenced in 2026

AUG

ASAs Mark Stajdohar and Matt Picton

In August, a jury found **Darnell Rhodes**, 35, of Elgin, guilty of aggravated kidnapping for the kidnapping of an Elgin woman. A co-defendant drove the woman to Elgin while threatening her with a knife. The co-defendant picked up Rhodes and another man. The three men beat the woman while in the car and took her to a house in Elgin and tied her up. Inside the residence, they threatened her, beat her, and stabbed her, causing her to suffer serious injuries. Rhodes is awaiting sentencing.

SEP

ASAs Eric Leafblad, Bridget Carlson and Robert Harden

In September, a jury found **Timothy Edwards**, 66, of Elgin, guilty of first-degree murder for the stabbing and killing of his girlfriend inside Edwards' apartment. He is awaiting sentencing.

OCT

ASAs Mark Stajdohar and Stacy Wittman

In October, a jury found **Dru Jarvis**, 27, of Lake in the Hills, guilty of first-degree murder for the shooting and killing of a man who was inside a moving vehicle. Jarvis is awaiting sentencing and faces a minimum of 96 years in prison.

OCT

ASAs Lori Anderson and Amanda Busjleta

In October, a jury found **Samuel Garcia**, 27, of Aurora, guilty of first-degree murder and other offenses for the shooting and killing of a man in a gang-motivated shooting in a residential neighborhood in Aurora. He was recently sentenced to 90 years in prison.

NOV

ASAs Hillary Sadler, David Belshan and Lori Anderson

In November, a jury found **Travares Mitchell**, 51, of Aurora, guilty of first-degree murder and armed habitual criminal for the shooting and killing of his wife while she was a passenger in a vehicle that he was driving in a residential neighborhood. In 2026, Mitchell was sentenced to 105 years in prison.



Guns & Gangs

Ruth Walstra | Supervisor

The Guns & Gangs Unit prosecutes the illegal use and possession of firearms, as well as gang-related offenses.

The Criminal Code contains dozens of felony offenses related to the unlawful possession and use of firearms, many of which have enhanced sentencing provisions. Charges of Armed Violence and Unlawful Possession of Firearm by Repeat Felony Offender are examples in which the classification and penalty are enhanced by the weapon element. Gang membership is also charged with a higher felony classification.

Assistant State's Attorney Walstra supervises six ASAs and one administrative assistant.

2025 Statistics

 New Files Assigned	145
 Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon Cases	42
 No FOID Cases	17
 Unlawful Use of a Weapon by Felon Cases	12
 Gang-Related Cases	12
 Armed Violence Cases	11
 Unlawful Possession of Firearm by Repeat Felony Offender Cases	11
 Reckless Discharge of a Firearm Cases	9
 Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm Cases	5

Notable Case Resolutions

MAR

ASAs Lori Anderson and Vince Coyle

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of ten years in prison for **Thomas Milan**, 29, of Aurora, after a jury found him guilty of the class X offense of armed habitual criminal. Milan was in a vehicle about to be stopped by police when he fled. A loaded firearm was located in Milan's flight path as he was chased by police. Milan is a documented Insane Deuce gang member.

MAR

ASA Brandon Raney

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of four years in prison for **Israel Palomarez**, 18, of Aurora, after he entered a cold plea to the class 1 offense of aggravated discharge of a firearm. Palomarez and his accomplices attempted to break into a stranger's vehicle, but the vehicle owner caught them, chased them off, and then followed them in his vehicle. Palomarez produced a gun and fired it multiple times at the vehicle, striking it. Palomarez was located 38 minutes later with an unserialized firearm and a stolen vehicle. Palomarez admitted the firearm was his. The cartridge casings from the scene of the shooting were determined to have been fired from Palomarez's gun.

OCT

ASA Tyler Cox

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of five and a half years in prison for **Dennis Patterson**, 26, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to the class 2 offense of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon. A search of Patterson's residence was conducted pursuant to a parole check. During the search of Patterson's residence, a loaded firearm was located, which, being a convicted felon, was illegal to possess.

OCT

ASA Ruth Walstra

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 10 years in prison for **Dylan Edmison**, 31, of Peoria, after he pled guilty to the class 2 offense of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon. When Edmison was arrested for outstanding FTA warrants, a loaded handgun was located on his person. In his hotel room, an unloaded firearm and two rifle magazines containing a total of 99 live rounds of ammunition were located. Edmison admitted to purchasing both firearms, which, being a convicted felon, were illegal to possess.

DEC

ASA Lori Anderson

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of 11 years in prison for **Brian Aguilar**, 21, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to the class X offense of unlawful use of a weapon. A search of Aguilar's vehicle was conducted pursuant to a parole check. A loaded firearm with a switch affixed was located, which is illegal to possess even if Aguilar was not a convicted felon. Aguilar admitted to being a Sureno gang member since he was 13 years old.





Narcotics

Jake Matekaitis | Supervisor

The Narcotics Unit is comprised of five prosecutors. The unit prosecutes violations of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, and the Cannabis Control Act. The Narcotics Unit handles all felony narcotics cases, ranging from the most serious trafficking cases to the lowest-level possession cases.

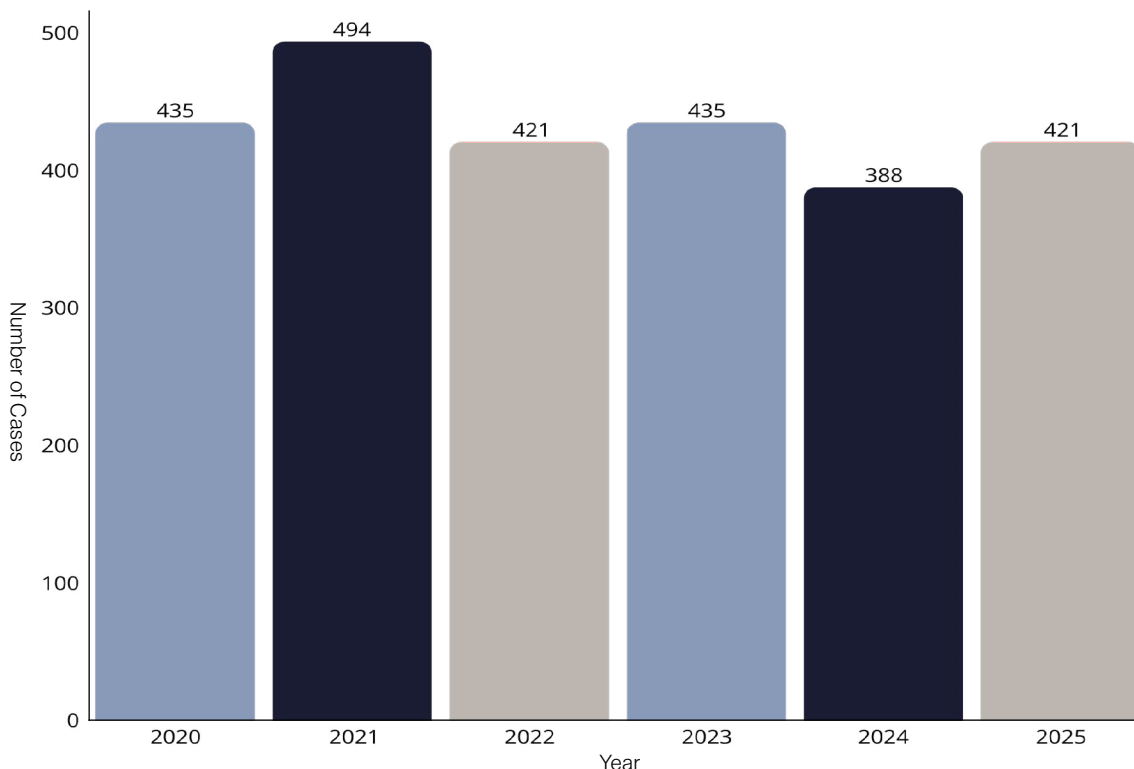
The State's Attorney's Office works hard to separate defendants whose charges are the product of addiction from those whose charges are the result of illegal drug sales. The unit identifies those who have addiction issues and steers those individuals toward treatment programs in an effort to break the addiction cycle.

However, those who continue to make our communities unsafe by selling and trafficking dangerous drugs are prosecuted to the fullest extent permitted by law. By interrupting the supply chain, law enforcement is able to reduce drug-related crime and promote community safety.

Narcotics Unit prosecutors work in cooperation with agencies at all levels of government: the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Homeland Security Investigations; the Illinois Attorney General's Office; the Illinois State Police's North Central Narcotics Task Force; and local law enforcement agencies and police departments.

Assistant State's Attorney Matekaitis supervises four ASAs.

Total Felony Drug Cases Filed



Notable Case Resolutions

APR

ASA Ryan Merkel

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of seven years in prison for **Bradley Jarm**, 40, of St. Charles, after he pled guilty to possession of meth with intent to deliver. On April 6, 2023, the North Central Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant at Jarm's residence. In his bedroom and office, investigators located 21.6 grams of a substance containing meth. Officers also located three scales, drug packaging, and indicia for the defendant.

APR

ASA Ryan Merkel

In April, the SAO secured a sentence of 10 years in prison for **James Murray**, 51, of West Chicago, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. On May 6, 2022, Murray was pulled over in a traffic stop. A K-9 alerted on the vehicle, and a subsequent search revealed 28.4 grams of a substance containing cocaine behind the radio. In the same area, officers located Murray's wallet and two bundles of US currency. Murray admitted to selling cocaine to support his own habit.

JUN

ASA Ryan Merkel

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of 14 years in prison for **Jose Gomez**, 40, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to armed violence. On June 25, 2024, CPAT officers executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence. He was located in his bedroom. Approximately three feet from the defendant, officers located a loaded 12-gauge shotgun. Officers also located more than 100 grams of cannabis from the bedroom as well.

JUL

ASA Jake Matekaitis

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 20 years in prison for **Andrew Guca**, 51, of Des Plaines, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The defendant was arrested after a traffic stop while in possession of four kilograms of cocaine.

JUL

ASA Jake Matekaitis

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 17 years in prison for **Marco Medina Perez**, 52, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to armed violence and unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon. The defendant was arrested after a traffic stop while in possession of a loaded firearm and more than 85 grams of methamphetamine while he was on parole.

JUL

ASA Ryan Merkel

In July, the SAO secured two concurrent nine-year prison sentences for **Frederick Wallace**, 56, of St. Charles, after he pled guilty to possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver and possession of a weapon by a felon. On July 3, 2024, officers from the North Central Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant at the Wallace's residence. When the upstairs bedroom was searched, officers located more than 100 grams of a substance containing cocaine and a loaded 9mm handgun in the bedroom. Officers located mail belonging to the defendant in the room along with two digital scales and drug packaging.

JUL

ASA Jake Matekaitis

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of nine years in prison for **Seven Taylor**, 31, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The defendant was arrested after police executed a search warrant at his residence and recovered 173 pills of MDMA, thousands of kilograms of cannabis, and several firearms.

AUG

ASA Jake Matekaitis

In August, the SAO secured a sentence of 12 years in prison for **Kevin Miranda**, 32, of Carpentersville, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The defendant was arrested after police executed a search warrant at his residence and recovered more than 150 grams of cocaine.

SEP

ASA Jake Matekaitis

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of 11 years in prison for **Darryl McDonald**, 42, of Chicago, after he pled guilty to unlawful possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The defendant was arrested after a traffic stop while in possession of more than 100 grams of cocaine.



Child Advocacy Center



Lori Schmidt | Executive Director

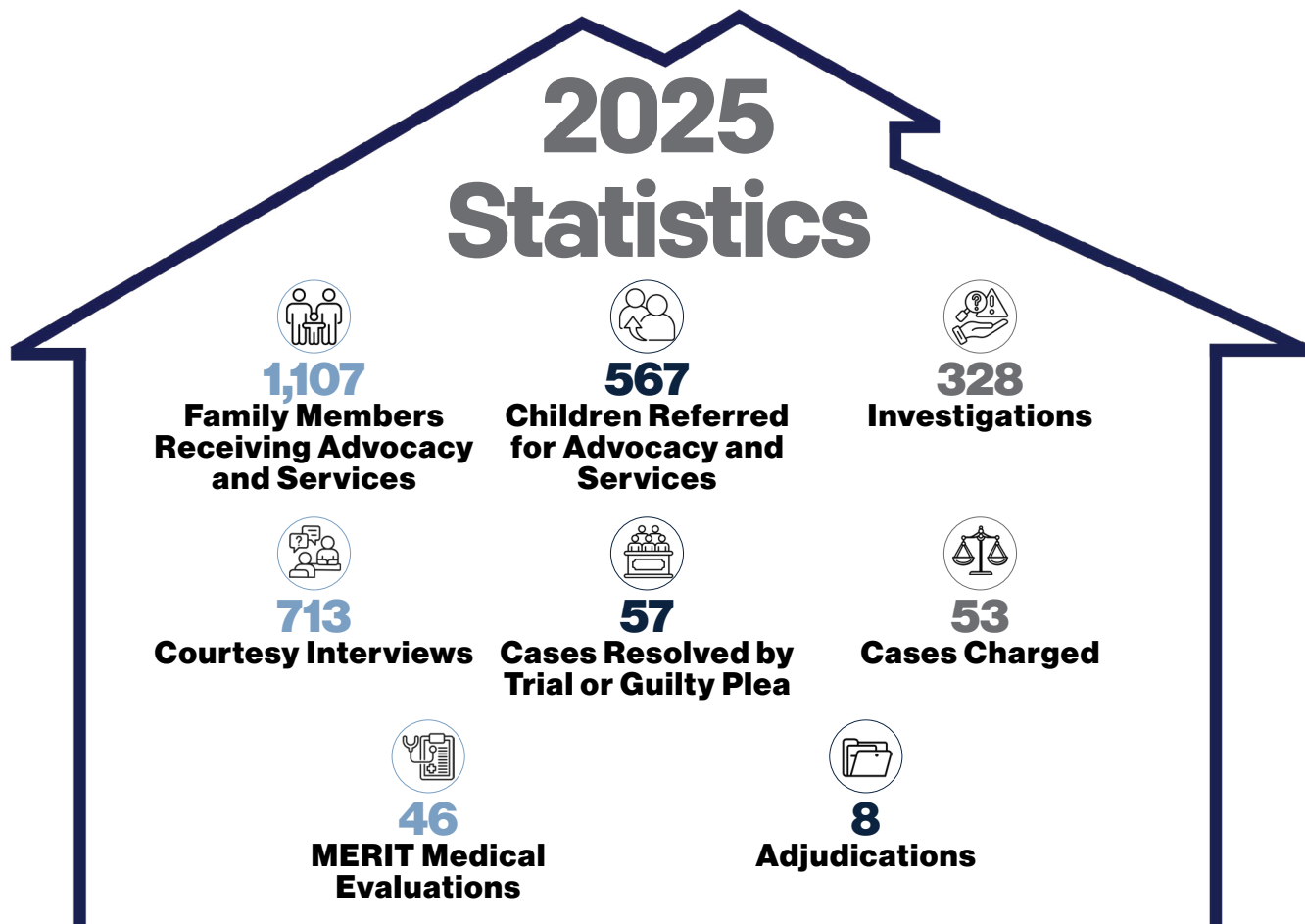
Julie Pohlman | Deputy Director

The Kane County Child Advocacy Center (CAC) was established in 1994 to serve children who have experienced sexual abuse or severe physical abuse. The Center itself is a house in the residential area of downtown Geneva, making it a confidential, secure, and child-friendly environment for the families served. The CAC is accredited by the National Children's Alliance, which awards accredited membership based on compliance with 10 national standards designed to ensure the effective, efficient, and consistent delivery of services to child victims.

The CAC utilizes a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to conduct investigations. This allows professionals to coordinate their efforts on the child's behalf from the beginning of an investigation through its conclusion. The MDT includes an assistant state's attorney, a law enforcement investigator, a DCFS investigator, a case manager or family victim advocate, an MDT coordinator, medical professionals, and mental health professionals. The MDT is comprised of bilingual, bicultural professionals with fluent Spanish language skills.

The CAC is one of 939 centers nationwide and one of 41 in Illinois. Officers from the Aurora and Elgin Police Departments are assigned to the CAC to assist with investigations. The CAC maintains strong partnerships with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, medical providers from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and its Medical Evaluation Response Initiative Team (MERIT) in Rockford, and community mental health professionals.

The CAC is led by Executive Director ASA Lori Schmidt and Deputy Director Julie Pohlman. They supervise five ASAs, five victim advocates, five investigators, two forensic interviewers, two administrative assistants, the operations manager, and two MDT coordinators.



Notable Case Resolutions

JAN

ASA Morgan Wilkinson

In January, the SAO secured a sentence of 12 years in prison for **Jose Molina Acevedo**, 45, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to the offense of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child. Over a period of two years, Molina-Acevedo sexually abused a minor victim multiple times by touching them under their clothing.

FEB

ASA Stacey Wittman

In February, the SAO secured a sentence of 23 years in prison for **Jose Garcia Zepeda**, 40, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to two counts of criminal sexual assault of a minor.

MAR

ASA Lori Schmidt

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of 109 years in prison for **Ronald J. Lye**, 54, of Aurora, after a judge found him guilty of manufacturing child pornography and aggravated criminal sexual abuse. Lye picked up the victim—a 13-year-old child whom he had met on a social media app—from the victim's home, brought the victim to his house in Aurora, and sexually abused the victim while video recording the abuse.

MAR

ASAs Stacey Wittman and Alexandra Storto

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of 27 years in prison for **Jacob R. Gutierrez**, 35, of Elgin, after a judge found him guilty of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child and aggravated criminal sexual abuse of a child. Gutierrez assaulted the child repeatedly over many years until the child disclosed the abuse to a trusted adult who also happened to be a mandated reporter. The State advocated for a sentence of 65 years, but the judge imposed the minimum sentence in the case.

JUL

ASAs Stacey Wittman and Alexandra Storto

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of six and a half years in prison for **Timothy Rutherford**, 33, of Lincoln, Nebraska, after he pled guilty to criminal sexual assault with force or threat of force. Rutherford unlawfully restrained and then sexually assaulted the victim, who was a minor.

AUG

ASA Alex Storto

In August, the SAO secured a sentence of 30 days in jail and 36 months of probation for **Noel Tavizon**, 45, of Aurora, after a judge found Tavizon guilty of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

SEP

ASA Morgan Wilkinson

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of 11 years in prison for **Adolfo Garcia**, 27, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to aggravated criminal sexual assault. Garcia solicited a minor using the social media app Snapchat, provided the minor with alcohol and marijuana, and then sexually assaulted them.

SEP

ASA Morgan Wilkinson

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of 48 months of probation for **Antonio Garcia**, 32, of Elburn, after a jury found him guilty of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and aggravated battery to a child.

OCT

ASA Alex Storto

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of one day in jail and 48 months of probation for **Abukadir Mohamed Haji**, 43, of Aurora, after a judge found him guilty of aggravated criminal sexual abuse.

OCT

ASA Morgan Wilkinson

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 18 years in prison for **Norman Hoel**, 67, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to the offense of predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

NOV

ASAs Stacey Wittman and Alexandra Storto

In November, the SAO secured a sentence of 10 years in prison for **Karlief Posey**, 32, of Taylorville, after he pled guilty to predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

DEC

ASA Lori Schmidt

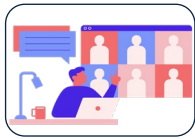
In December, the SAO secured a sentence of 20 years in prison for **Eulalia Vences**, 55, of Elgin, after she pled guilty to aggravated battery causing great bodily harm. As a live-in caretaker, Vences severely neglected and starved a child. The child's mother was also charged. The child, age 7, who survived, was brought to an emergency room for cardiac arrest and unresponsiveness. There, the child was found to weigh only 14 pounds, and their condition was described by doctors as being consistent with severe intentional physical torture, psychological torture, and medical neglect.

DEC

ASAs Stacey Wittman and Alexandra

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of 14 years in prison for **Jesus Garcia Contreras**, 44, of Batavia, after Garcia Contreras pled guilty to predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

CAC Outreach Events



**Kane County Health Department Webinar -
Protecting Children: Recognizing, Reporting
and Responding to Child Abuse**



**Annual Youth
Resource Fair at Gail
Borden Public Library**



**CASA Kane County's
Fall Conference and
Resource Fair**



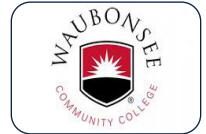
**Family Resource Fair
at DeLacey Education
Center**



**Montgomery Police
Department**



**Village of
Montgomery's Child
Abuse Awareness
Month Declaration**



**Waubesa
Community College's
Illuminate Career
Pathways Fair**



Courtroom Anchors

Ryan Ahern | Supervisor



The Courtroom Anchors Unit prosecutes felony offenses that do not fall within the Major Crimes, Guns & Gangs, Narcotics, Special Victims, Child Advocacy Center, DUI & Major Traffic, or Domestic Violence units. The Anchor Unit specializes in a wide range of felony offenses that include, but are not limited to, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, burglary, criminal damage to property, forgery, home invasion, mob action, residential burglary, retail theft, robbery, theft, and unlawful possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

The role of an anchor ASA is to prosecute felony cases and to provide support and coverage for the entire Felony Criminal Division. Anchor ASAs are assigned to courtrooms 211, 305, 311, 313, and 319.

Assistant State's Attorney Ahern supervises five ASAs and one administrative assistant.

Notable Case Resolutions

MAY

ASAs Ryan Ahern and Robert Kinsella

In May, the SAO secured sentences of four years in prison and three years in prison for **Daniel McSweeney**, 35, of St. Charles, after he pled guilty to possession of a stolen motor vehicle and violating a stalking/no contact order.

MAY

ASAs Heena Patel and Steven Lester

In May, the SAO secured a guilty verdict after a bench trial and a sentence of 30 months of probation for **Jorge Soto**, 35, of Woodstock, for the offense of criminal trespass to residence with persons present.

JUN

ASAs Heena Patel and Michael Pettet

In June, the SAO secured a guilty verdict after a jury trial for **Lidia Ballines**, 25, of Joliet, for the offense of possession of a stolen motor vehicle. Ballines was sentenced to five days in jail, 18 months of probation.

JUN

ASA Steven Lester

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of three years in prison for **Daniel Jenkinson**, 28, of South Elgin, after he pled guilty to aggravated cruelty to an animal for intentionally causing serious injury to a dog.

SEP

ASAs Kathryn Wuerstl and Heena Patel

In September, the SAO secured a guilty verdict after a bench trial for **Hina Patel**, 55, of Elgin, for the offense of criminal damage to property over \$500 but less than \$10,000. Patel was sentenced to 12 months of conditional discharge and ordered to pay restitution to the victim.

SEP

ASA Heena Patel

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of seven years in prison for **Deonte Wilkins**, 33, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to the offense of aggravated robbery. Wilkins and codefendant Kyra Carr entered the victim's home and robbed the victim at knifepoint, stole the victim's car and committed several more thefts.

SEP

ASA Ashley Jenkins

In September, the SAO secured a sentence of four years in prison for **Kyra Carr**, 26, of South Elgin, after she pled guilty to the offense of residential burglary. Carr and codefendant Deonte Wilkins entered the victim's home and robbed the victim at knifepoint, stole the victim's car and committed several more thefts.

OCT

ASAs Kathryn Wuerstl and Elizabeth McKinney

In October, the SAO secured a guilty verdict after a jury trial for **Morgan Lang Rios**, 26, of Aurora, for the offense of aggravated battery in a public place, causing bodily harm to the victim. Lang Rios was sentenced to 12 months of conditional discharge, fines and fees, and evaluation by the Kane County Diagnostic Center (KCDC).

NOV

ASA Ryan Ahern

In November, the SAO secured a sentence of 12 years in prison for **Jeffrey Ware**, age 52, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to committing multiple theft-related crimes, which were committed throughout Kane County.



Special Victims

Matthew Rodgers | Supervisor

The Special Victims Unit is tasked with prosecuting criminal cases with victims that require special attention. The unit prosecutes cases of criminal sexual assault and abuse, sex offender registration violations, child pornography offenses, exploitation of the elderly and disabled offenses, arson offenses, and a variety of aggravated battery offenses.

Many of these cases involve sophisticated investigations that require assistant state's attorneys to work closely with local, state, and federal authorities for the duration of the case. Many cases also entail the use of specialized technology.

Training

The unit conducted training seminars for police, firefighters, and the Kane County Arson Task Force. The unit also provided training to various community groups regarding financial exploitation of the elderly and elder abuse.

Assistant State's Attorney Rodgers supervises three ASAs.

2025 Statistics



Child Sexual Abuse Material Case (CSAM*)



30 Cases
Charged



22 Cases
Reached Disposition

*previously referred to as Child Pornography.



Sexual Assault and Abuse Cases



21 Cases
Charged



13 Cases
Reached Disposition

Notable Case Resolutions

JAN

ASAs Amanda Busljeta and Ken Hudson

In January, the SAO secured a sentence of five years in prison for **Edward T. Izenstark**, 38, of St. Charles, after he pled guilty to indecent solicitation of a child, traveling to meet a minor, grooming, and solicitation of a sexual act. Izenstark drove from his home in St. Charles to Epic Air Trampoline Park in South Elgin to perform sexual acts on a juvenile for money. After the defendant confirmed he was in the parking lot, the child called police, and the defendant was later arrested. At the time, Izenstark was president of the Thompson Middle School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) in St. Charles.

JAN

ASAs Matthew Rodgers and Bridget Carlson

In January, the SAO secured a sentence of 13 years in prison for **Ricardo Lemos**, 42, of Aurora, after a jury found him guilty of criminal sexual assault. Lemos provided cocaine to the victim, a person he knew at the time, and then assaulted her when she was unable to consent to sexual activity.

FEB

ASA Ken Hudson

In February, the SAO secured a sentence of eight years in prison for **Jacob M. Baker**, 23, of Algonquin, after he pled guilty to dissemination of child pornography (now referred to as child sexual abuse material).

MAR

ASAs Matthew Rodgers and Hillary Sadler

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of 25 years in prison for **Isaiah Fields**, 24, of Batavia, after he pled guilty to aggravated criminal sexual assault. The victim was a resident of the Marklund Home in Geneva, a facility for adults with severe and profound developmental disabilities. At the time of the sexual assault, Fields was employed as a caretaker at the facility. When the victim became pregnant and gave birth to a child, a DNA test confirmed Fields was the biological father. Fields' sentence was later reduced by the assigned judge to 15 years in prison.

NOV

ASA Amanda Busljeta

In November, the SAO secured a sentence of 30 years in prison for **David Leonard**, 25, of Rockford, after he pled guilty to solicitation of child pornography (now referred to as child sexual abuse material). During a six month span Leonard exchanged messages with the 15 year old victim where Leonard directed the minor child to record herself engaging in sexual acts, requesting her to send the videos once completed. Leonard also met with the victim in person on more than one occasion.

APR

ASAs Matthew Rodgers and Amanda Busljeta

In April, a jury found **Paul Bocska**, 58, of St. Charles, guilty of criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse. On multiple occasions in April and May of 2021, Bocska sexually abused the victim. Bocska had been hired as the victim's driving instructor through his company, Drive Now, located in St. Charles. Bocska failed to appear at trial, and a jury found him guilty in his absence. The SAO is currently seeking the extradition of Bocska, who is believed to be in custody in Hungary.

JUL

ASA Ken Hudson

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 11 years in prison for **Aaron L. Latham**, 46, of North Aurora, after he pled guilty to dissemination of child pornography (now referred to as child sexual abuse material).

OCT

ASA Hillary Sadler and Matthew Rodgers

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 15 years in prison for **Victor D. Perez**, 25, of South Elgin, after he pled guilty to dissemination of child pornography (now referred to as child sexual abuse material).

OCT

ASA Ken Hudson

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 180 days in jail and 48 months of probation for **Shanna Ball**, 41, of Berwyn, after she pled guilty to arson.

OCT

ASAs Jacqueline Kliment and Amanda Busljeta

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 24 months probation for **Maria Ruiz De La Cruz**, 63, of Aurora, after a judge found her guilty of aggravated battery and domestic battery at a bench trial. Ruiz De La Cruz grabbed the victim, a woman who she lived with, causing the victim to fall on a stairway. The victim was six months pregnant at the time.



Domestic Violence

Bridget Carlson | Supervisor

Jilian Burns | Deputy Supervisor



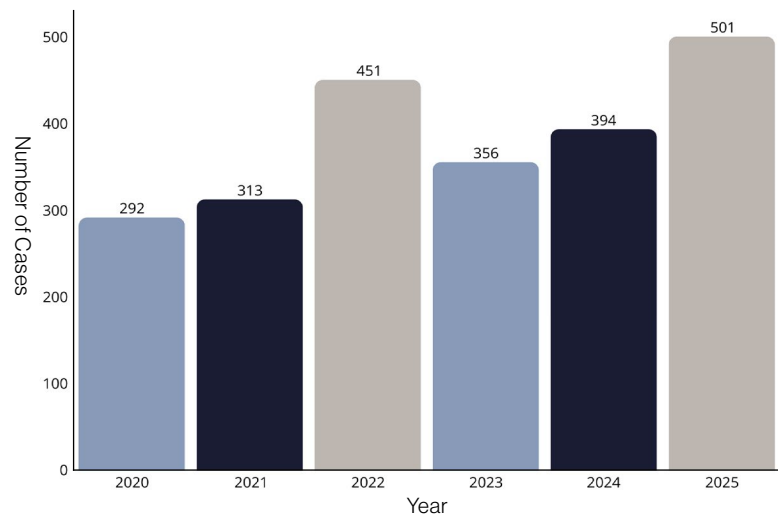
The Domestic Violence Unit is tasked with prosecuting cases of abuse and violence between household members, family members, and intimate partners.

At the center of every domestic violence case handled by the unit is a focus on the best interest of the victim. The unit's attorneys work closely with victim advocates to ensure that the victim's voice is heard throughout the prosecution of the case. The unit seeks resolutions that balance the interests and desires of the victim with the need for justice.

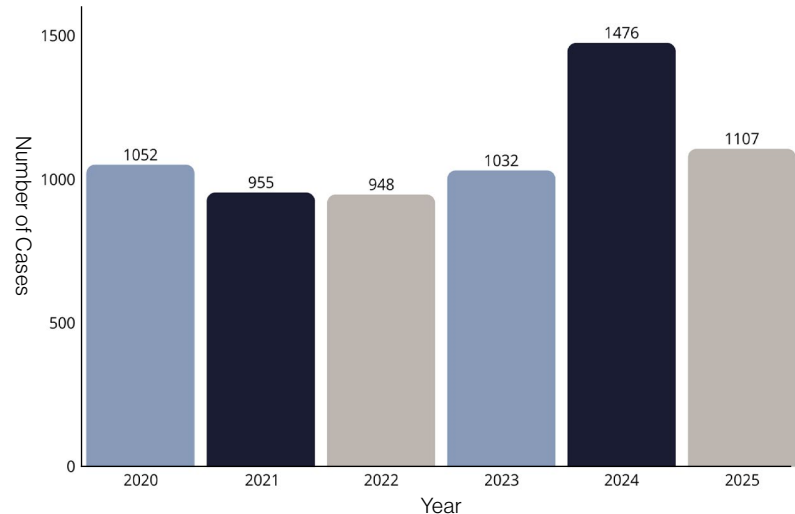
The unit's attorneys understand that the most effective way to address domestic violence is to get to the root of the problem. To do so, they look at every case individually, knowing that each one requires something different. They focus their efforts on treatment to ensure healthy relationships for everyone in the community. The attorneys are strong problem solvers and fierce advocates for survivors of domestic violence.

Assistant State's Attorney Bridget Carlson oversees six felony ASAs who also handle DUI & Major Traffic cases and four misdemeanor ASAs. The unit's Deputy Supervisor is Jilian Burns. Tyler Cox was Deputy Supervisor through September 28, 2025.

Total Felony Domestic Violence Cases Filed



Total Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases Filed



Notable Case Resolutions

FEB

ASA Jilian Burns

In February, the SAO secured two concurrent sentences of six and a half years in prison for **Luis Ortiz**, 32, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to residential burglary and domestic battery. The victim in both cases was the defendant's dating partner. In the first case, the defendant entered the victim's home through a closed window, without authority, while the victim was asleep. In the second case, the defendant struck the victim in the face and strangled them.

MAR

ASA Robert Harden

In March, the SAO secured a sentence of 18 months of conditional discharge for **Kevin Wilson**, 33, of Hampshire, after a jury found him guilty of domestic battery and battery. Wilson and his ex-girlfriend had met in a restaurant parking lot to exchange custody of their minor child. Upon arrival, Wilson observed the ex-girlfriend in her vehicle with a male friend and became enraged. Wilson sucker-punched the male in the head and then shoved the ex-girlfriend in an attempt to continue fighting with the male friend. Both cases were consolidated for jury trial, and, despite contentious legal argument mid-trial regarding the admissibility of restaurant surveillance video, Wilson was found guilty and convicted in both cases.

MAY

ASA Jilian Burns

In May, the SAO secured three concurrent sentences of four and a half years in prison for **Randy Addison**, 34, of Bartlett, after he pled guilty to aggravated battery to a pregnant person, aggravated battery strangulation, and domestic battery. In two of these cases, the defendant battered his dating partner. In the first case, when the victim was eight months pregnant with his child, the defendant struck her face with such force that it caused the imprint of a hand to appear. In the second case, shortly after she had given birth to their child, the defendant strangled the victim while their newborn was lying on her chest. In the third case, the defendant threw a bottle of alcohol that struck his adult niece.

MAY

ASA Jilian Burns

In May, the SAO secured two concurrent sentences of nine years and four years in prison for **Randy Brady**, 47, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to unlawful delivery of a controlled substance and aggravated battery causing great bodily harm. In the first case, the defendant was observed to have delivered cocaine to an individual on more than one occasion. In the second case, the defendant struck the victim in the face multiple times because the victim intervened in an argument between the defendant and a third party. As a result of the beating, the victim sustained a fracture to his maxillary sinus and a fracture to his right orbital floor.

MAY

ASA Nick Sciarrino

In May, the SAO secured a sentence of three years in prison for **Anthony Robledo**, 30, of Elgin, after he pled guilty to aggravated battery to a disabled victim. Robledo and the victim, his dating partner, were at Robledo's house with friends when Robledo saw the victim receive a Snapchat from another male. In response, Robledo slapped the victim twice across the face, bashed the victim's head against a wooden board, and slapped her again. The victim suffered from a permanent disability prior to this incident.

JUN

ASAs Matthew Picton and Robert Harden

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of 60 days in jail and 18 months of probation for **Ricardo Hernandez Ponce**, 34, of Roselle, after a judge found him guilty of aggravated domestic battery by strangulation. Hernandez Ponce and his girlfriend got into a verbal argument about ending their relationship. The argument continued while the parties travelled to a liquor store. Once there, the defendant grabbed the victim by the neck and strangled her until she was able to escape and flee on foot. At trial, the defense presented multiple independent witnesses and the defendant's own testimony, claiming that the defendant never grabbed the victim's neck or strangled her. The prosecution was able to impeach each of the defense witnesses, and the defendant was found guilty on all counts.

JUL

ASAs Nick Sciarrino and Austin McNaul

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of one year in prison for **Michael Wenberg Jr.**, 46, of Aurora, after a jury found him guilty of domestic battery. Wenberg and the victim, his girlfriend, were coming home from a bar when an argument started over a cigarette. Wenberg pushed the victim multiple times in the midsection while in the car. Wenberg had a history of domestic violence, including aggravated stalking from 2019.

OCT

ASA Alexis Gamboa

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of three years in prison for **Maquanna Barksdale**, 41, of DeKalb, after a jury found him guilty of criminal trespass to residence, violation of pre-trial release conditions, and violation of order of protection. On December 27, 2024, Barksdale entered the victim's house in the early morning hours while she was sleeping and against an active court order prohibiting him from entering. While inside the residence, a verbal altercation occurred during which he grabbed the victim about the body until the victim was able to escape and call the police. The case proceeded to jury trial, and during the lunch break, Barksdale called the victim from the jail, urging her to "get the f--- up outta there" and not to testify on behalf of the State. Barksdale was ultimately convicted and sentenced.

OCT

ASAs Michael Pettet and Heena Patel

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of four years in prison for **Christopher Becerra**, 29, of South Elgin, after a jury found him guilty of aggravated domestic battery by strangulation. On May 26, 2025, Becerra got into an argument with his girlfriend over his drinking. During the argument, he pushed her, slapped her, and strangled her, impeding her breathing for five seconds. Responding officers observed the victim to have popped blood vessels, red marks, and scratches on her neck and chest. Even though the victim recanted during her testimony, Becerra was convicted at a jury trial and sentenced.

OCT

ASA Jilian Burns

In October, the SAO secured four concurrent sentences of five years in prison for **Jovany Alarcon**, 27, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to aggravated battery to a peace officer, aggravated battery in a public place, and two counts of domestic battery. In the first case, while in booking at Aurora PD, the defendant punched an officer in the chest. In the second case, while in the Kane County jail, the defendant struck his cellmate in the face, requiring him to receive medical attention. In the last two cases, the defendant punched his brother in the face.

OCT

ASA Bridget Carlson

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of 12 years in prison for **Larry Martin**, 47, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to aggravated battery by strangulation and domestic battery. The defendant strangled his intimate partner, causing her great bodily harm. The police were called to the scene after witnesses at the apartment complex observed and recorded the defendant beating the victim in the parking lot.

OCT

ASA Bridget Carlson

In October, the SAO secured a sentence of six years in prison for **Mitch Rexford**, 34, of Aurora, after he pled guilty to domestic battery for striking his girlfriend in the face. The SAO secured additional concurrent sentences of six years and seven years in prison for Rexford because he was already on probation at the time of the offense for aggravated domestic battery by strangulation and criminal sexual abuse committed previously against a different victim.

Post-Conviction/Appeals

Greg Sams | Division Chief



ASA Greg Sams is Chief of the Post-Conviction Unit (PCU). Individuals who have been sentenced to prison and who believe their constitutional rights have been violated may challenge elements of their conviction or sentence under the Illinois Post-Conviction Act. When the SAO receives a post-conviction petition, it researches the case and reviews transcripts. The SAO then files a response to the petition or a motion to dismiss the petition. In both cases, the petition is set for hearing in front of a judge. The burden is on the defendant to prove the alleged constitutional violation. The unit addressed approximately 50 post-conviction matters.

The Post-Conviction Unit handles petitions filed by defendants who have previously been convicted of major crimes and, usually, remain in prison. These filings take the forms of two different types of petitions: either what are termed Post-Conviction Petitions (PCPs) or Petitions for Relief from Judgment (commonly referred to as 2-1401 petitions based on the statute that authorizes the petitions). PCPs raise issues of alleged deprivations of constitutional rights that a petitioner could not raise on his direct appeal, such as ineffective assistance of his trial attorney. The 2-1401 petitions, on the other hand, raise factual issues unknown to the petitioner at the time of trial that would allegedly, if known at the time, have changed the outcome. Almost all PCPs and 2-1401 petitions filed by defendants concern major crimes that have been prosecuted—either murder, attempt murder, or other crimes of physical violence such as sex crimes against both children and adults or other weapons offenses.

The three attorneys in this unit spend much of their day reviewing pertinent case law regarding issues raised and reading transcripts of the defendant's trial and other hearings in an effort to analyze the issues. These transcripts often number in the thousands of pages. The PCU attorneys then must fashion a written response to a defendant's petition, which is usually in the form of very extensive and detailed Motion to Dismiss the petitions. Therefore, unlike other ASAs in the office, the PCU attorneys must use their writing skills quite extensively. However, the PCU attorneys also must make oral arguments on the motions, which means that their persuasive speaking skills must also be honed. Oftentimes, the hearings they participate in are evidentiary hearings, so the PCU attorneys must also be proficient in evidentiary presentation skills.

The PCU was successful in getting more than 30 petitions for new trials or new sentencing hearings dismissed. At least a dozen of those were first-degree murder convictions, while the rest involved criminal sexual assaults, home invasions, armed robbery and armed habitual criminal charges, or other similar high-profile crimes.

The PCU attorneys also act as the state's attorney's office's liaison with the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor, whose task it is to defend appeals filed by defendants or to argue in favor of appeals brought by the SAO.

Assistant State's Attorney Sams supervises two ASAs and one administrative assistant.





DUI & Major Traffic

Katy Flannagan | Supervisor
Tyler Cox | Deputy Supervisor



The DUI & Major Traffic Unit prosecutes misdemeanor DUI offenders, felony DUI offenders, and traffic offenders who are involved in crashes that cause fatalities or serious injury. The unit also prosecutes cases involving aggravated fleeing and eluding of the police.

This year our office again saw a rise in offenders being charged as habitual DUI offenders. In 2025, there were 33 defendants charged with being habitual repeat DUI offenders (three or more prior DUI dispositions in their past criminal history), compared to 32 defendants in 2024. The office also saw an increase in felony leaving the scene of a crash cases, with 24 cases charged in 2025 compared to 23 in 2024.

In 2025, the office charged a total of nine new cases of aggravated DUI causing death or aggravated DUI causing great bodily harm. The office charged two defendants with aggravated reckless driving causing great bodily harm. The office further charged 73 new cases for aggravated fleeing/eluding a peace officer.

Assistant State's Attorney Flannagan supervises six felony ASAs who also handle Domestic Violence cases and two misdemeanor ASAs. The unit's Deputy Supervisor is Michael Pettit. Tyler Cox was Deputy Supervisor through September 28, 2025.

2025 Statistics

	Aggravated Fleeing and Eluding	73
	Felony DUI Non- Probationable due to Priors	33
	Felony Leaving the Scene of an Accident	24
	Aggravated DUI Causing Death or Great Bodily Harm	9
	Aggravated Reckless Driving Causing Great Bodily Harm	2
	Reckless Homicide	0

Notable Case Resolutions

JUN

ASA Katy Flannagan

In June, the SAO secured a sentence of six years in prison for **Aanomeya Henry**, 19, of Elgin, after she pled guilty to aggravated driving under the influence resulting in a crash causing death. Henry was unlicensed and under the influence of marijuana when she drove a car containing three passengers on Route 25 in Bartlett and failed to yield to incoming traffic when performing a left turn. An oncoming dump truck struck the passenger side of the car, killing two of the passengers, both of whom were minors. The third passenger suffered great bodily harm, and the dump truck driver suffered minor injuries.

JUL

ASA Katy Flannagan

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of seven years in prison for **Robert S. Lord**, 54, of St. Charles, after he pled guilty to aggravated fleeing and eluding a peace officer and driving under the influence. Lord was involved in a domestic dispute to which police officers were called. Lord attempted to flee by entering a vehicle while intoxicated and leading officers on a high-speed, lengthy pursuit. He was eventually stopped and arrested.

JUL

ASA Katy Flannagan

In July, the SAO secured a sentence of 180 days in jail and 30 months of probation for **Judith Chavez**, 33, of Aurora, after she pled guilty to aggravated driving under the influence causing great bodily harm. Chavez was under the influence of alcohol when she drove her car containing one passenger into a pole. The passenger suffered great bodily harm.

AUG

ASAs Mark Stajdohar and Katy Flannagan

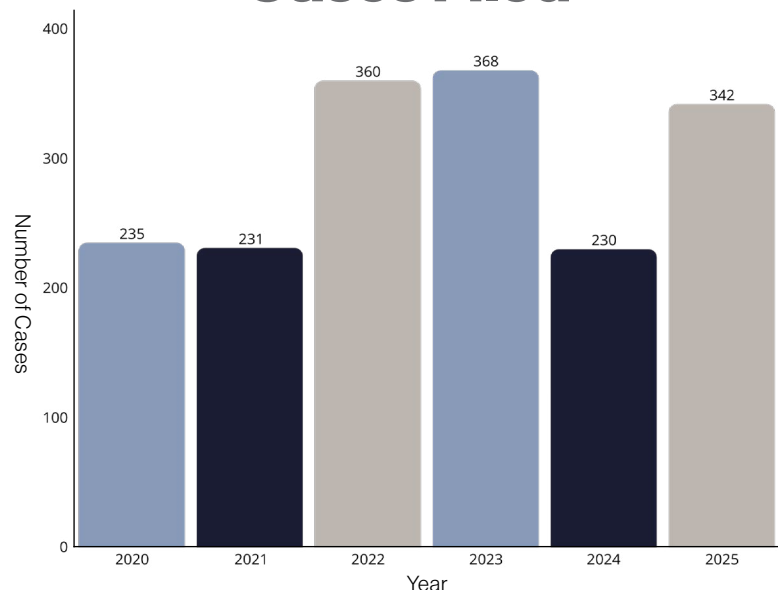
In August, the SAO secured a sentence of four years in prison for **Darci L. Klomhaus**, 23, of Aurora, after she pled guilty to aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol resulting in a crash causing death. Klomhaus, while intoxicated, drove her car on the wrong side of Route 56 in Sugar Grove and crashed head-on into the vehicle of 67-year-old Sergey P. Ageyev of Naperville, killing him.

DEC

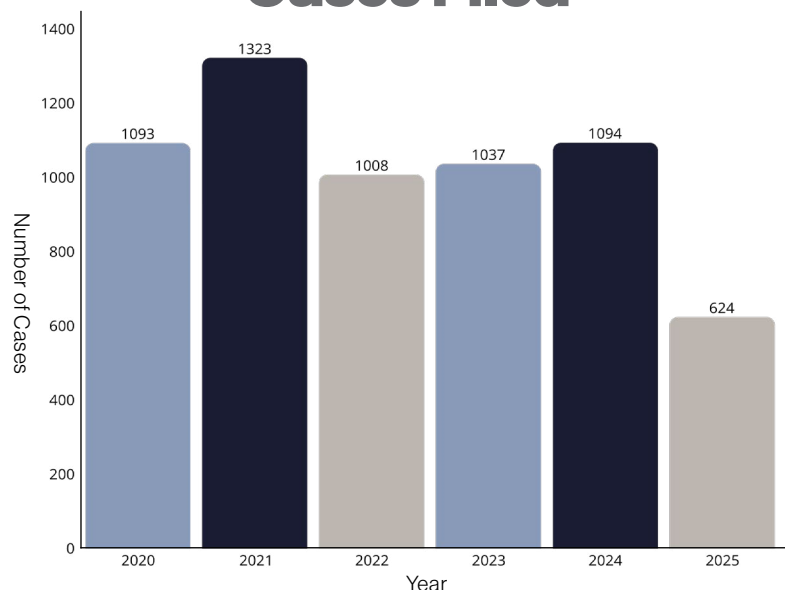
ASAs Tyler Cox and Katy Flannagan

In December, the SAO secured a sentence of five years in prison for **Samuel Garcia**, 39, of Carpentersville, after he pled guilty to aggravated driving under the influence causing great bodily harm. In 2024, Garcia drove his SUV into a parked car, struck a village sign, drove through a park, drove through a red light, and collided in an intersection with two more cars. Two adults and one child were taken to the hospital with severe injuries, which included broken ribs, fractured skull, spine fracture, and lacerated organs. Garcia had a BAC over two-times the legal limit.

Total Felony DUI Cases Filed



Total Misdemeanor DUI Cases Filed





Juvenile Delinquency

Dana Fortunato | Supervisor

The Juvenile Delinquency Unit prosecutes crimes committed by individuals who were under the age of 18 at the time of the offense. These prosecutions are governed by the Illinois Juvenile Court Act, which requires the court to balance the need for public safety with a minor's best interest, working to rehabilitate the minor and prevent them from engaging in future criminal behaviors.

In practice, the court, state, and defense collaborate with several stakeholders, which can include parents, mental health professionals, substance use counselors, probation officers, educators, and mentors. Our goal is to identify and address factors that contribute to criminal behaviors, to provide essential services and help the minor implement positive changes, and, ultimately, to reduce crime. If community-based services fail to stop delinquent behavior, or if probation is not appropriate, a minor may be sentenced to juvenile prison for felony offenses.

By law, offenders 16 years of age or older who are charged with first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, or aggravated battery with a firearm are automatically prosecuted in adult court. If a child is at least 13 years of age at the time of an offense, the court may order a transfer if it finds, following a hearing regarding the seriousness of the crime and the minor's circumstances, that prosecution in adult court would be in the public's best interest.

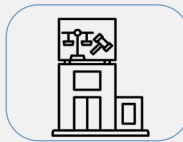
In recent years, the State's Attorney's Office has seen a disturbing increase in the number of children committing extremely serious, violent crimes, including first-degree murder, attempt murder, drug-induced homicide, aggravated discharge of firearms, and aggravated batteries resulting in serious bodily harm. In these cases, the State's Attorney's Office will continue to prosecute offenders to the fullest extent of the law, prioritizing public safety and the concerns of victims.

Assistant State's Attorney Fortunato supervises two ASAs and one administrative assistant.



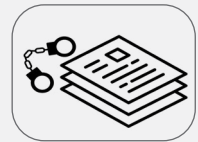
62

Petitions* filed for use or possession of a firearm, armed violence, or robbery



5

Minors committed to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ)



2

Minors with Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile Prosecution (EJJ) sentences to be served in adult prison in the event of a violation of their juvenile conditions

Notable Case Resolutions

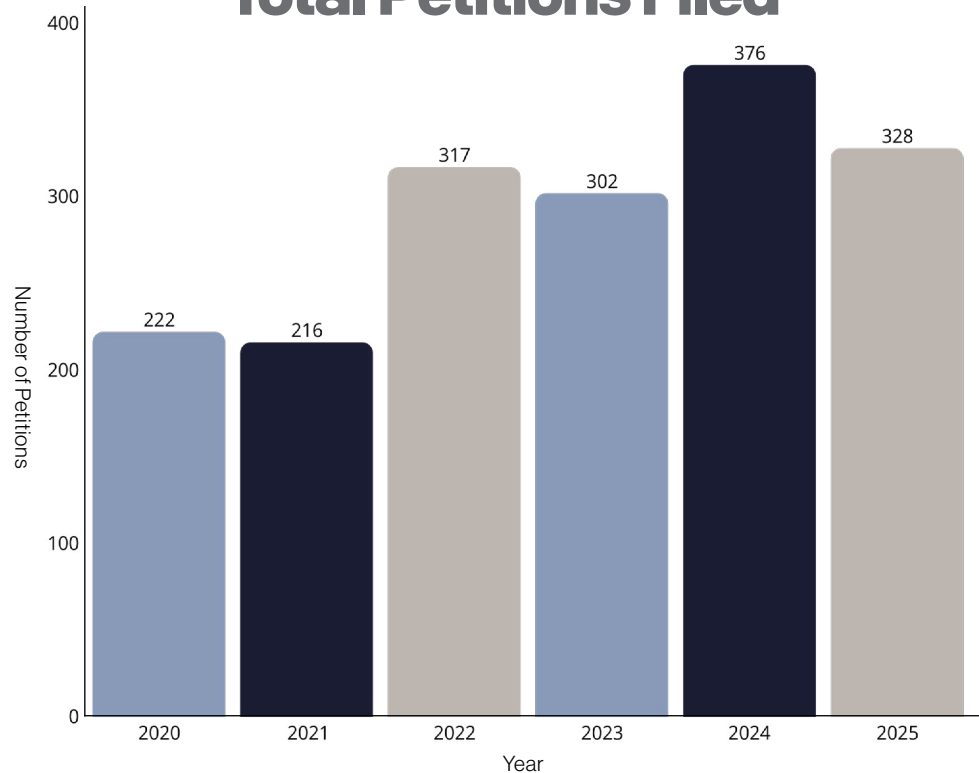


A minor who sextorted at least six (but likely more than 10) victims over the course of several months was adjudicated delinquent for unlawful dissemination of CSAM and will register as a sex offender for a minimum of five years.

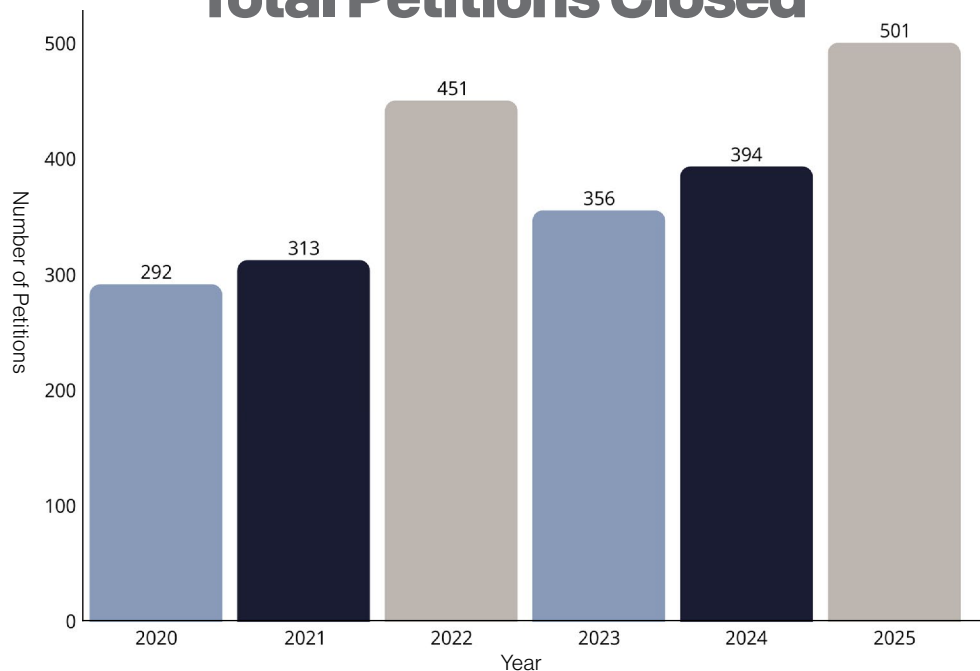


A minor pled guilty to murder for a shooting that occurred when he had just turned 14; he was committed to youth prison for a statutory five years plus an additional stayed 30-year EJJJ sentence.

Total Petitions Filed



Total Petitions Closed





Misdemeanor & Traffic

Robert Kinsella | Supervisor

Prosecutors in traffic and misdemeanor courtrooms hold offenders accountable for misdemeanor offenses, advocating for victims of misdemeanor offenses and advocating for traffic safety through enforcement of traffic laws.

In 2025, seven prosecutors and three administrative personnel addressed these offenses in the three branch courts: Aurora Branch Court, Elgin Branch Court, and Kane Branch Court. These courtrooms see the greatest volume of cases and are where the public has the most access to the criminal justice system.

Offenders in these courtrooms face many sentencing options in addition to fines and jail: mental health counseling, victim impact panels, substance use counseling, chemical testing, deferred prosecution, traffic safety courses, and community service. In addition, new prosecutors gain experience in these courtrooms, developing litigation skills with guidance and supervision from veteran prosecutors.

Misdemeanors

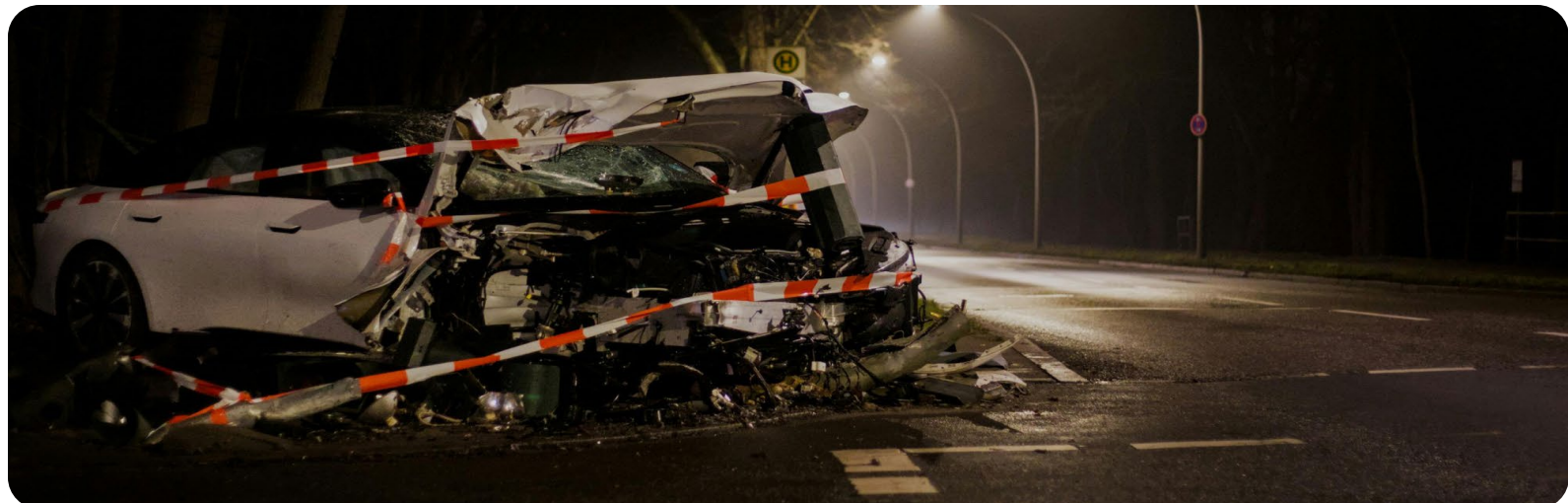
Our office in 2025 charged 1,848 new misdemeanor cases, a decrease of 18.7% from 2,244 new misdemeanor cases charged in 2024. Despite an increase in new misdemeanor cases filed in 2024, the number of new cases charged in 2025 supports the trend that misdemeanor cases had been on a steady decline for more than a decade.

Most Common Offenses

The most common misdemeanor offenses in 2025 not involving DUIs or domestic batteries were driving while license suspended (1,464 counts), battery involving physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature (206 counts), disorderly conduct (189 counts), resisting or obstructing a peace officer (125 counts), and battery involving bodily harm (125 counts).

Traffic Court

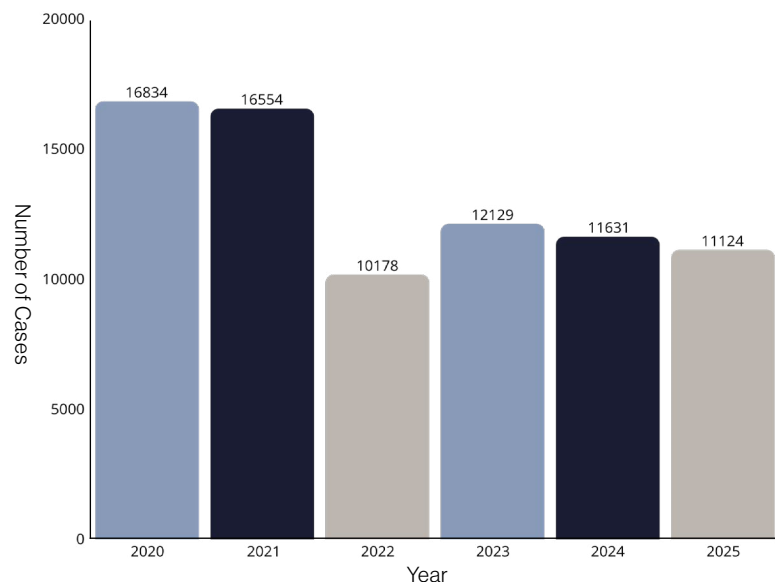
We prosecuted 11,124 new traffic citations. This does not include 27,679 traffic citations that were prosecuted by the municipality in which they occurred. Our office may allow individual municipalities to prosecute traffic and misdemeanor cases upon request. This past year represented a slight decrease in the number of traffic cases prosecuted by the State's Attorney's Office as more traffic citations are managed by local prosecutors.



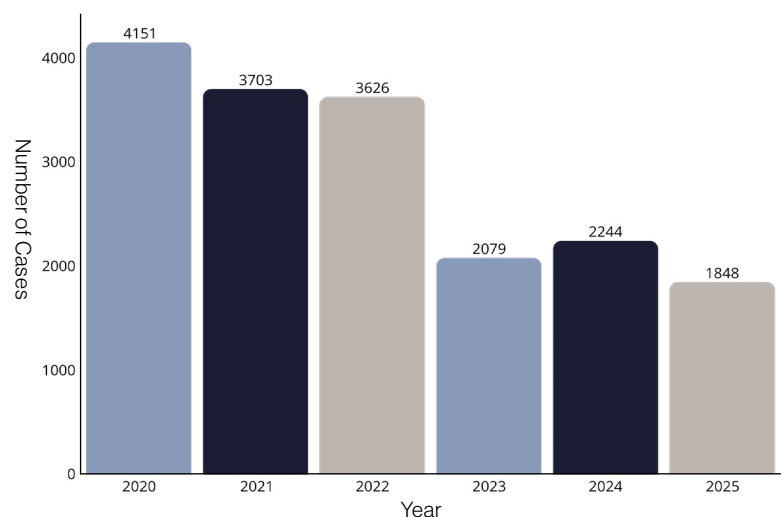
2025 Statistics

	Counts of Driving While License is Suspended	1,464
	Counts of Battery Involving Physical Contact of an Insulting or Provoking Nature	206
	Counts of Disorderly Conduct	189
	Counts of Resisting or Obstructing a Peace Officer	125
	Counts of Battery Involving Bodily Harm	125

Total Traffic Citations Issued



Total Misdemeanor Cases Filed





Child Protection

Jessica Michels | Supervisor

The Child Protection Unit is responsible for safeguarding children in Kane County who have experienced abuse or neglect. Most cases arise after the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) investigates and finds that a child has been abused, neglected, or is otherwise dependent. When such a finding occurs, DCFS notifies the State's Attorney's Office to review the case for possible legal action or to report that the child has been placed in protective custody. The SAO may also receive abuse and neglect referrals from law enforcement agencies, social service organizations, probate court, and juvenile delinquency court.

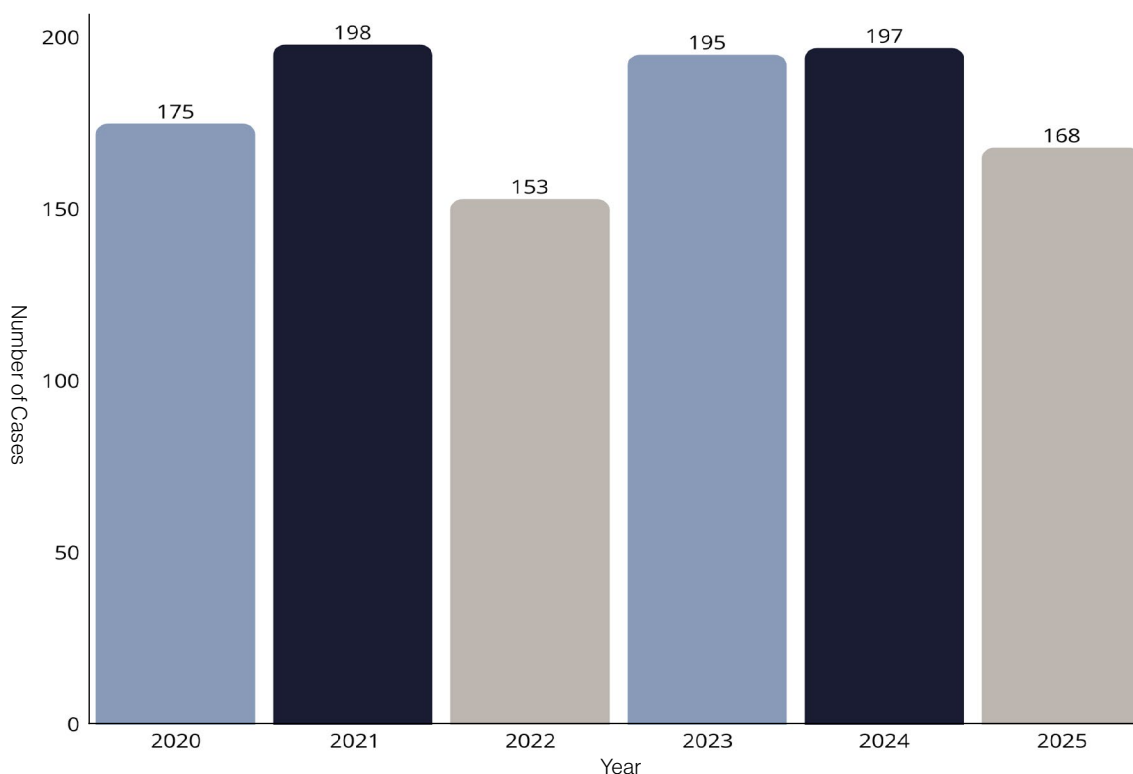
When a case begins, the process starts with a shelter care hearing, during which the judge decides whether the child should be placed in the temporary custody of DCFS. The child stays with a relative or with a foster family until the parents resolve the problems that led to the child's removal. The next stage is an adjudicatory hearing—similar to a trial—where the State's Attorney's Office must show that the children listed in the petition were abused, neglected, or are dependent. Finally, at the dispositional hearing, the judge identifies the issues the parents must address for the child to be safely returned home.

Child Protection Court aims to support families in improving their circumstances so children can return to a safe and healthy home. Everyone involved shares the primary goal of preserving the family whenever possible. If a child cannot safely be reunited with their parents, the court works to secure a permanent, stable future for the child through options such as guardianship, adoption, or assisting the child in becoming independent.

The Child Protection Unit used to be called the Abuse & Neglect Unit. It received a name change in 2025.

Assistant State's Attorney Michels supervises four ASAs and two administrative assistants.

Total Cases Filed



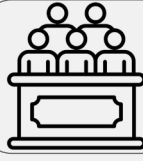
2025 Statistics



238
Cases
Reviewed



95
Shelter Care
Hearings



91
Adjudicatory
Hearings



75
Dispositional
Hearings



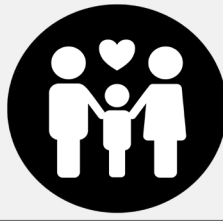
25
Termination
Hearings



220
Closed Cases



96
Children Returned Home



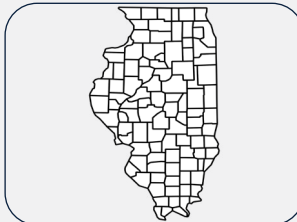
79
Children Adopted



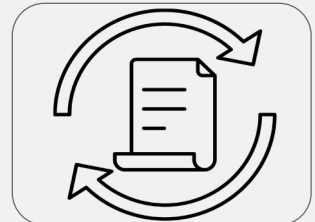
24
Children Placed Under
Guardianship



11
Children Achieved
Independence, Aged Out, or
Were Emancipated



7
Children Transferred to
Other Counties



3
Petitions Withdrawn



Specialty Courts

Kim Klein | Supervisor

The Specialty Courts Unit oversees four problem-solving courts and three courts that focus on specialized areas of the law. The unit is supervised by Assistant State's Attorney Klein, who oversees four ASAs and two administrative assistants.

The four problem-solving courts are Drug Rehabilitation Court, Treatment Alternative Court, Veterans Court, and DUI Court. The three courts focused on specialized areas of the law are Mental Health Court, Forfeiture Court, and Expungement/Sealing Court.

Learn more about each court below.

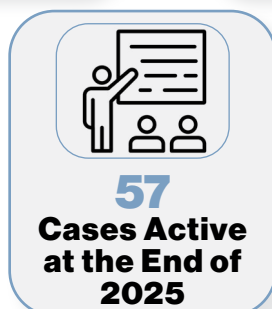
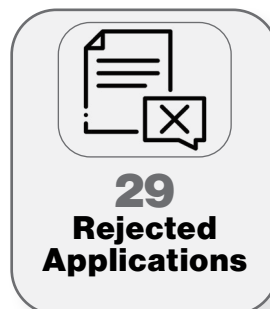
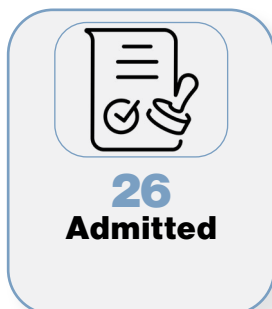
Problem-Solving Courts

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, almost 60% of individuals charged with a crime test positive for one or more illegal drugs at the time of arrest, 80% of incarcerated offenders abused alcohol or other drugs before their arrest, and 50% of all inmates are clinically addicted to substances. Additionally, the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that nearly 15% of men and 30% of women booked into jails have a serious mental health condition.

The 16th Judicial Circuit offers problem-solving courts, which allow individuals to address these concerns as an alternative to incarceration. These courts must meet specific standards and obtain certifications as required by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) and the Special Supreme Court Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning. Length of time in the program varies based on each participant and can exceed two years.

Drug Rehabilitation Court

This court is designed to reduce recidivism and substance use among nonviolent offenders and to promote rehabilitation through intense treatment, mandatory drug testing, community supervision, and appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation services. Participants work with a team of substance use professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge, and court staff in an intensive non-adversarial program designed to address their substance use concerns and the criminal case. This approach requires frequent court appearances, treatment, and testing.

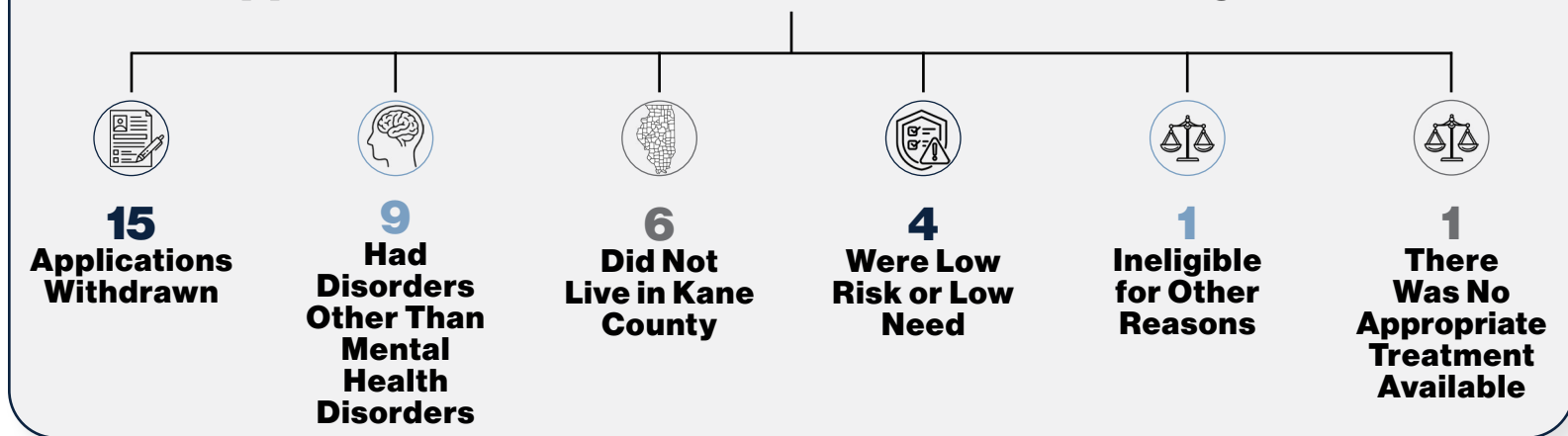


Treatment Alternative Court

Treatment Alternative Court (TAC) is for defendants with serious mental health issues. Participants work with a team of mental health professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge, and court staff in an intensive, non-adversarial program to address their concerns and the criminal case.



36 Applications Did Not Enter TAC for the Following Reasons:



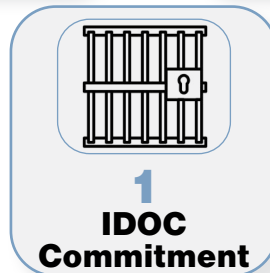
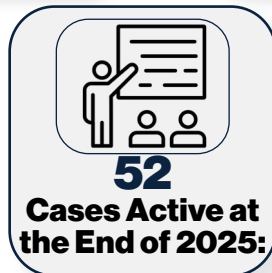
Veterans Treatment Court

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is for defendants who have been on active military duty and who have serious mental health or substance use concerns. Participants work with a team of mental health professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge, and court staff in an intensive non-adversarial program designed to address these concerns.



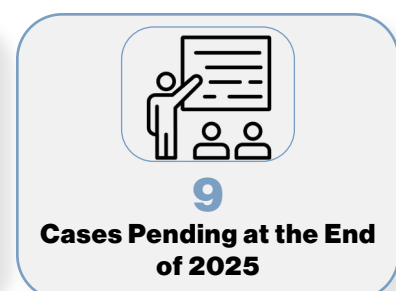
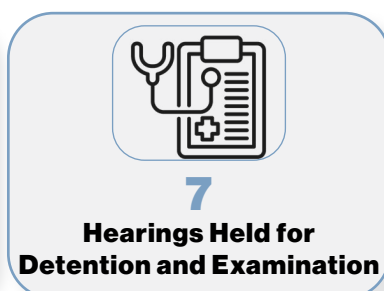
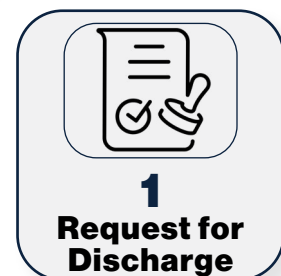
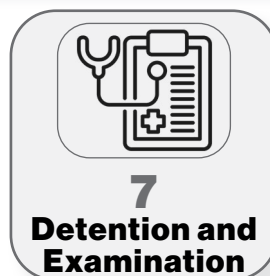
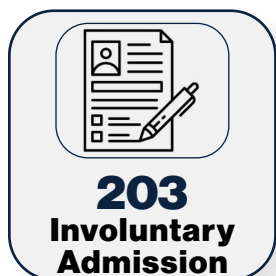
DUI Court

This court is designed to reduce recidivism and alcohol use among nonviolent offenders and to promote rehabilitation through intense treatment, mandatory alcohol testing, community supervision, and appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation services. Participants work with a team of substance use professionals, local service providers, attorneys, the judge, and court staff in an intensive non-adversarial program designed to address their alcohol use concerns and their criminal case. This approach requires frequent court appearances, treatment, and testing.



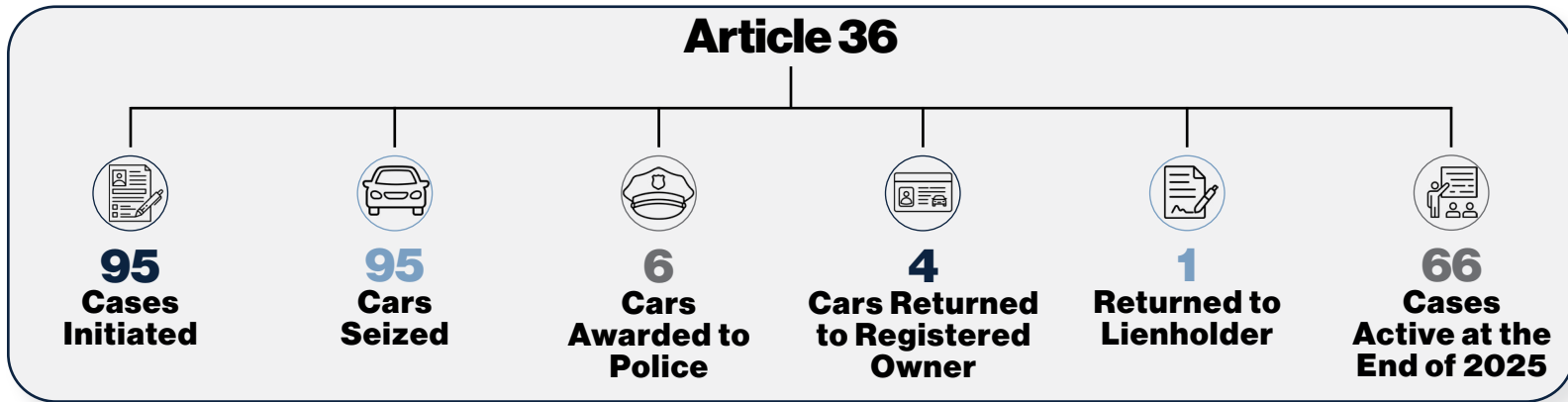
Mental Health Court

Attorneys in this courtroom assist psychiatrists with the preparation of State Petitions for Involuntary Admission and Petitions for Administration of Psychotropic Medication and conduct weekly hearings on those petitions. Most respondents are patients at Elgin Mental Health Center, Ascension Mercy Hospital in Aurora, or Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin. This division also assists family members and social workers in the community with the preparation of State Petitions for Involuntary Admission and subsequent hearings for detention and examination at a mental health facility.

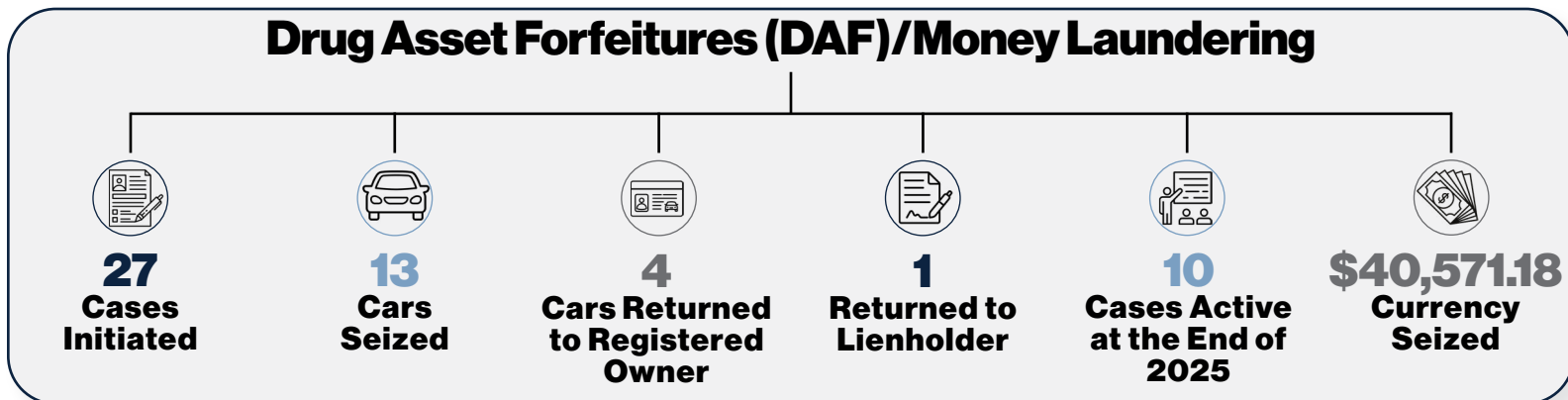


Forfeiture Court

Article 36 Forfeitures – Illinois law allows state's attorneys to seek forfeiture of assets, including cash involved in felony drug transactions, as well as the forfeiture of vehicles used to commit certain crimes. Our office works in conjunction with police agencies on forfeiture proceedings under Article 36 of the Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5/36-1). This law allows police to seize vehicles that were used with the knowledge and consent of the owner in the commission of certain crimes. These include DUI while driving on a suspended or revoked license, felony DUI, aggravated fleeing and eluding, reckless homicide, stalking, and burglary. This law is used in conjunction with the criminal courts and criminal charges. Seized property may be returned upon the presentation of evidence to the court of innocent ownership.



Drug Asset Forfeitures – The Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act (725 ILCS 150) allows for the civil forfeiture of property used to facilitate, or that was acquired from, a violation of felony drug laws. Under this statute, police may seize assets that were profits from drug deals or that were used in the commission of certain drug offenses.



Expungement/Sealing

Illinois law allows individuals with a criminal record the opportunity to have their records cleared or sealed. Expungement removes all records related to the criminal offense, while sealing makes the record inaccessible to the public. In order to have a charge expunged from a criminal record or sealed, an individual must petition the court in the county where the offense occurred. The state's attorney's office is responsible for reviewing those petitions for expungement or sealing and for determining whether the petitioner meets the legal requirements for expungement or sealing.



Civil Division

John Frank | Chief

Erin Brady | Deputy Chief



The Civil Division serves as the legal counsel for the County of Kane, as well as its elected and appointed officials. This includes the County Board and its county departments, State's Attorney, Sheriff, Public Defender, Judiciary, Court Services, Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Coroner, Treasurer, Auditor, Recorder, Supervisor of Assessments, and the Regional Office of Education. The Civil Division does not represent private interests nor individual residents of the county.

As legal counsel for the county, the Civil Division represents and advises officials and staff in all legal aspects of government operations. This includes litigation and risk management, statutory authority and governance, constitutional and statutory requirements, sunshine laws, ethics, parliamentary rules, intergovernmental cooperation, budgets, audits, taxes, federal and state grants, labor and employment, civil rights, the First Amendment, due process, contracts, procurement, bond financing, zoning and development, landfill operations and compliance, emergency planning and response, public health, and elections. The Civil Division even routinely litigates in state and federal court, as well as various state and federal agencies, on all of the topics above. Given the breadth of the clients and practice areas that the Civil Division handles, it utilizes 11 attorneys, two paralegals, and an office manager.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Civil Division is providing legal support for the County Board on any issue that arises throughout the year. Some of the better known and controversial issues in 2025 that the Civil Division helped navigate were special use petitions for solar fields, the passing of an annual budget that included significant cuts across the county, and the appointments of county board seats.

On the litigation front, the Civil Division continued with its ever-growing number of administrative hearings and cases in both state and federal court, from employment matters to deferral lawsuits over constitutional claims. The Civil Division even continues to negotiate labor contracts annually, review and draft contracts and resolutions, and respond to the large volume of Freedom of Information Act requests. In 2025 alone, the Civil Division processed nearly 150 FOIA requests to the SAO and County—many of which were political in nature and required significant resources to process, given the time constraints on such requests.



Child Support

Heidi Baxter | Supervisor



The Kane County State's Attorney's Child Support Unit helps Kane County families by establishing paternity, child support, and medical support; by modifying child support judgments; and by collecting delinquent child support payments. The unit partners with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Division of Child Support Services HFS/DCSS in these endeavors.

The unit began in 1975, when the Kane County State's Attorney's Office entered into its first contract to provide legal services to the State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Public Aid, now known as HFS/DCSS. This collaboration is authorized by Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1975, a federal law that requires all states to provide child support enforcement services to families with dependent children regardless of income. Each state has a Title IV-D agency that operates its child support enforcement program. HFS/DCSS is the official Title IV-D Agency in Illinois and administers the child support program here.

The Kane County State's Attorney's Office is one of only 13 state's attorney's offices throughout Illinois that contracts with HFS/DCSS to provide local judicial enforcement of parentage and child support obligations. The Illinois Attorney General's Office provides judicial enforcement in the remaining 89 Illinois counties.

Kane County taxpayers do not bear the direct burden of paying for the Child Support Unit. The Social Security Act requires that the federal government pay matching funds and incentive payments to the states in order to fund their Title IV-D child support programs. The federal government provides the majority of the unit's operating budget via contractual payments through the State of Illinois.

ASA Baxter supervises three ASAs, four paralegals, and one part-time administrative assistant.



8,469

Families Served



604

New Pleadings Filed



\$24,703,002.14

**Child Support Collected for
Kane County Families**





Investigations Division

Chris Merritt | Chief

The Investigations Division consists of four units: the General Investigations Unit, the Child Advocacy Center (CAC), the Child Exploitation Unit (CEU), and the Courtroom Support Specialist Unit. Four investigators are assigned to General Investigations, five investigators are assigned to the CAC, three investigators are assigned to the CEU, and one investigator is assigned to the Courtroom Support Specialist Unit. There is also a chief investigator who is responsible for performing supervisory and administrative duties, overseeing the efficient day-to-day operation of the division, and supporting the investigators. The division's main function is to support assistant state's attorneys in the prosecution of cases.

General Investigations Unit

The General Investigations Unit supports the successful prosecution of criminal defendants by serving subjects with subpoenas and conducting follow-up investigations. These tasks are critical to ensure that defendants are prosecuted and convicted of the crimes they committed.

In 2025, the unit served over 798 subpoenas. Each subpoena requires research to obtain the most accurate information as to the subject's whereabouts. Follow-up investigations help the assistant state's attorneys prepare for trial. In 2025, the unit conducted more than 45 follow-up investigations. Most of the investigations involve locating and interviewing victims or witnesses to a crime. Investigators are responsible for retrieving evidence from law enforcement agencies and assisting police agencies with investigations when requested.

Child Advocacy Center

The CAC is responsible for investigating cases involving child victims of sexual assault or abuse and ensuring thorough, victim-sensitive investigations and prosecutions. A team that includes a prosecutor, investigator, DCFS child protection investigator, social workers, and a victim advocate collaborates on each case to minimize the stress on the child and the child's family and to ensure that effective medical treatment and counseling are available to every child who experiences abuse.

Child Exploitation Unit

The CEU has two sections: the investigative group and the forensic examiner team. The unit consists of three investigators and two forensic examiners.

In 2025, the CEU partnered with the Illinois Department of Corrections-Sex Offender Supervision Unit. Investigators and forensic examiners are able to assist parole agents with parolees who re-offend and violate the law and their parole. Such individuals are caught and returned to the penitentiary.

The CEU also investigates matters of "sextortion," which is when adults posing as children and teenagers establish relationships with actual children online. These predators then convince the victim to take compromising pictures of themselves. The perpetrator then threatens and coerces the victim into paying money or sending more pictures. These pictures then are distributed in chat rooms and on social media, further exploiting victims. As it was stated earlier about international impact, many of these adults committing the act of "sextortion" are located overseas, especially in Africa and Russia.

Investigators have established partnerships with Homeland Security Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Interpol, and other agencies to combat child exploitation when the investigation crosses national and international boundaries.

Investigators recently needed to travel to North Carolina, and with the assistance of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the unit was able to identify a service member disseminating child sexual abuse material and identify several victims this offender sexually assaulted.

As part of the Illinois Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, CEU investigators are able to assist other agencies within our state. The unit has assisted over 30 agencies with child exploitation investigations. Due to their expertise in investigations and forensics, investigators routinely seek the knowledge of the unit to assist them. The unit recently assisted the Carol Stream Police Department in creating a Child Exploitation Team.

Many of the CEU's investigations are generated by what are known as "cybertips." These cybertips are reported to and managed by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, or NCMEC. Cybertips are assigned to the CEU via the ICAC Task Force. As of July 8th, 2025, there are approximately 420,000 cybertips reported weekly to NCMEC that lead to approximately 22 million per year. Some cybertips represent multiple separate instances of suspected child sexual exploitation. Since the inception of NCMEC's cybertip program, more than 211.6 million cybertips have been reported.

CEU investigators are routinely contacted for advice and assistance on investigations throughout the county. The investigators recently assisted the Batavia Police Department with the investigation into chiropractor David Hanson. Due to the complexity and time needed to devote to an investigation, it was determined that the CEU would become the lead agency in regard to the investigation. This resulted in the unit following up on over 1,000 tips and leads from potential victims. Investigator Kevin Reynolds has conducted face-to-face interviews with over 150 victims. This investigation is ongoing. The unit would like to highlight Investigator Reynolds's dedication and professionalism throughout this case, as well as the dedication of Examiners Zeus Flores and Hannah Decker, who have provided invaluable support on this complex investigation.

One CEU investigator is also assigned to the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force. That investigator is tasked with investigating officer-involved deaths as well as responding to callouts for other major investigations. His familiarity with handling computer crimes, as well as his expertise in other areas, is a valuable addition to the task force.



Courtroom Support Specialist

The Courtroom Specialist Unit was formed in 2024 to directly support assistant state's attorneys. The investigator assigned to this unit is responsible for creating digital and physical displays to decisively communicate evidence to a jury and ensure the successful prosecution of a case. The investigator is also responsible for maintaining evidence held in the evidence vault, generating necessary paperwork, and creating a procedure to maintain the chain of evidence between police departments and the SAO.

The investigator serves subpoenas in the Judicial Center, as well as outside the office. They also transport witnesses and victims to and from court.

In 2025, the Courtroom Specialist Unit investigator role was expanded to encompass managing the volumes of paper court records maintained by the SAO. This investigator now oversees the organization and destruction of records. Only those approved for destruction by statute and internal policy may be destroyed. This investigator also supervises interns assigned to the Investigations Division.

The Courtroom Specialist Unit investigator has become an administrator for Lexipol, a system the SAO has contracted with to create law enforcement operating policies to ensure that the Investigations Division operates under current state laws and the most modern police procedures. The investigator completes any project deemed necessary to keep the SAO working in an efficient manner.

Forensic Examiner Team

In 2025, the Forensic Examiner Team conducted previews and examinations of approximately 227 digital devices, including mobile phones, tablets, computers, and other digital storage devices. The team provides expert testimony in court, and also provides valuable advice on all types of investigations involving digital devices, not just child exploitation cases.

Agencies from across Kane County have sought the expertise of these examiners. They have assisted the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force with many of their investigations, most notably a murder investigation in the City of Geneva where a mother and her son were fatally stabbed. They routinely assist the North Central Narcotics Task Force. Currently they have examined 11 devices from that agency in regard to complex narcotics investigations and drug-induced homicides. The examiners provide intelligence analysis of mobile phone records for the Human Exploitation Unit.

Advancements in artificial intelligence have already led to the increased proliferation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). Without the right guardrails in place, perpetrators can use generative AI to create CSAM images and videos at the click of a button. It goes without saying that generating CSAM through AI is not a harmless or victimless act, especially since AI is trained on real images of real children. Fortunately, Illinois law has been updated to make this conduct illegal, and the CEU is working hard to adapt to new technological changes and stay ahead of those who wish to prey on innocent children.



Digital Forensics

Zeus Flores | Director of Digital Forensics and Special Investigator

The Digital Forensics Examination Team is integrated into the Kane County Child Exploitation Unit and is aligned with its investigative mission. The team works in partnership with the Kane County Sheriff's Office and the St. Charles Police Department, expanding digital forensic capabilities throughout Kane County.

The team focuses primarily on online-facilitated crimes against children as part of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and other crimes where digital evidence plays a significant role. Digital forensic analysis helps establish facts necessary for establishing probable cause, affecting arrests, and successfully prosecuting offenders. This is especially important in technical cases involving the production, possession, dissemination, and reproduction of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), which may involve encryption, data-wiping, and other privacy-focused technology.

Examiners analyze data obtained through the legal process from electronic service providers such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Google, and others, correlating those records with evidence recovered from devices. They also assist law enforcement on-scene during search warrants, use specialized forensic hardware and software, and maintain the forensic integrity of digital evidence for potential admission in court.

The team serves as a technical resource for municipalities and law-enforcement agencies throughout Kane County, providing consultation on evidence preservation and acquisition, forensic capabilities, investigative strategy, legal process, and emerging technologies. It also regularly assists the Fox Valley Major Crimes Task Force with homicide and officer-involved shooting investigations, the North Central Narcotics Task Force with narcotics and drug-induced homicide investigations, and the Human Exploitation Unit with digital-evidence analysis and intelligence analysis.

In one particularly large 2025 investigation, examiners analyzed substantial volumes of digital evidence after hidden cameras were allegedly used to record more than 180 child and adult victims. Other 2025 investigations involved collaboration with the FBI, Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Elgin Police Department, Batavia Police Department, and Geneva Police Department.

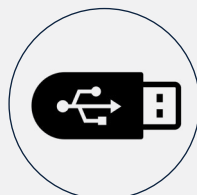
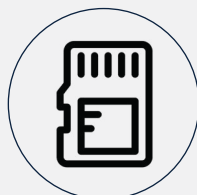
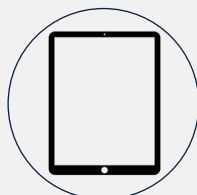


250+
**Digital Devices Forensically
Examined in 2025**



750+
**Digital Devices Forensically
Examined Since 2022**

Types of Devices Analyzed and Examined



Deferred Prosecution

Michelle Halbesma | Supervisor



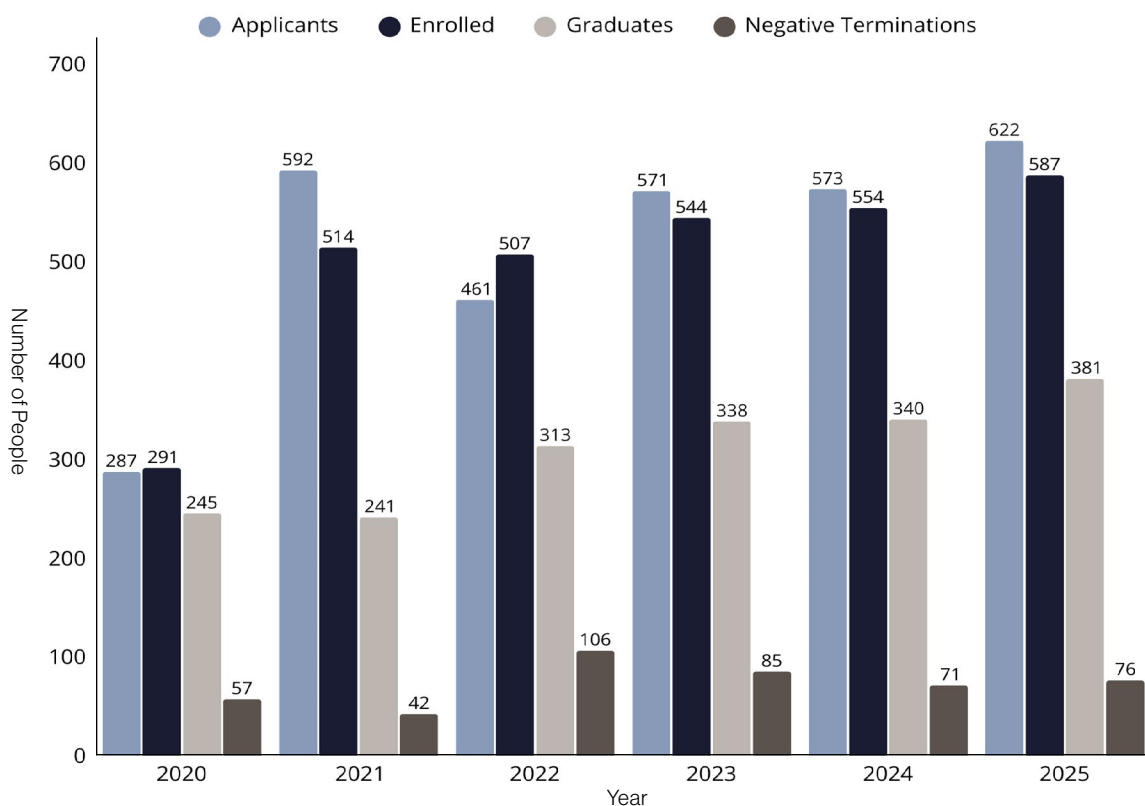
Formalized in 1995, the Deferred Prosecution Program (also known as Diversion) has proven beneficial by allowing eligible offenders to avoid a conviction on their criminal records. The program also helps reduce jail overcrowding and alleviate courtroom caseloads. Its continued success relies on the ongoing support of the criminal justice system and the community.

Deferred Prosecution offers participants the opportunity to avoid the entry of a permanent conviction while still being held accountable for their actions.

The program provides appropriate access to treatment for mental health, substance use, and medical issues, along with case management, education, housing assistance, and job training. Participants are evaluated to determine their risk of recidivism, appropriate levels of supervision, and specific service needs. Program requirements vary but typically include community service, program fees, drug testing, and restitution and may also involve substance use treatment, mental health treatment, employment, and educational components.

Upon successful completion of the program, charges are dismissed. Overall, the program maintains a completion rate above 75%.

Deferred Prosecution by the Numbers



Applications, enrollments, and program completions do not always occur within the same calendar year. Individuals may apply in one year and enroll or complete the program in a subsequent year. As a result so the number of enrollments and completions in a given year may exceed the number of applications/enrollments received during that same year.

Felony/Misdemeanor

Individuals Diverted Per Year: 150-250
Enrolled in 2025: 184
Average age of participants: 29
Year established: 1995

This program is for first-time, non-violent offenders who have not been previously convicted. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,500 and collected in monthly installments. Average participation time is 6-12 months. Restitution is required and must be paid before discharge.

In 2025



- **\$128,836 of Restitution Collected for Victims**
- **1,986 Hours of Community Service at Charitable Organizations Performed**
- **10 High School Diplomas or GEDs Obtained**
- **6 Individual Counseling Programs Completed**
- **13 Substance Abuse Evaluation and Treatment Recommendations Completed**
- **78 Letters of Apology Written**
- **85 Theft Awareness Program Completions**
- **27 Parenting Support Program Completions**
- **26 Decision Pathway Program Completions**
- **14 Anger Management Program Completions**

Since the Program's Inception



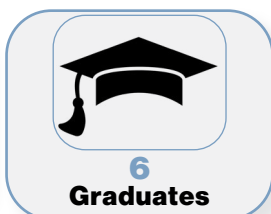
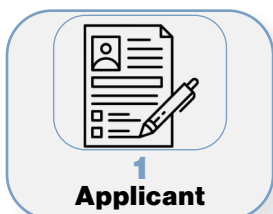
Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol

Individuals Diverted Per Year: 5-10*
Enrolled in 2025: 8
Average age of participants: 20
Year established: 2004

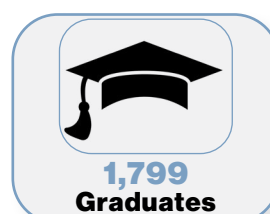
This program is for first-time, nonviolent misdemeanor drug and alcohol offenders. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,000 and are collected monthly throughout the agreement. Participation averages 6 to 12 months.

*The Misdemeanor Drug/Alcohol program has seen a sharp drop in applications due to laws decriminalizing certain amounts of marijuana possession.

In 2025



Since the Program's Inception



Domestic Violence

Individuals Diverted Per Year: 200-300
Enrolled in 2025: 280
Average age of participants: 34
Year established: 2010

This program is for first-time misdemeanor domestic battery offenses. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$400 and are collected monthly. Average participation time is 12 months.

In 2025



Since the Program's Inception

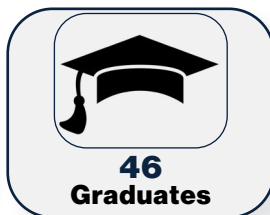


Felony Drug

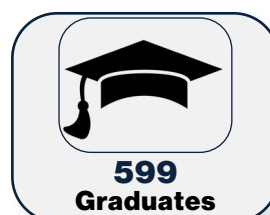
Individuals Diverted Per Year: 50-100
Enrolled in 2025: 98
Average age of participants: 26
Year established: 2012

This program is for first-time nonviolent drug offenses. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,500 and are collected in monthly installments throughout the participant's agreement. Average participation time is 12 months.

In 2025



Since the Program's Inception



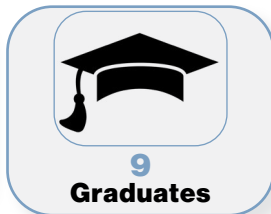
- **18 Drugs of Abuse Class Completions**
- **55 Formalized Substance Abuse Treatment Participants**

Weapons

Individuals Diverted Per Year: 25-50
Enrolled in 2025: 17
Average age of participants: 25
Year established: 2021

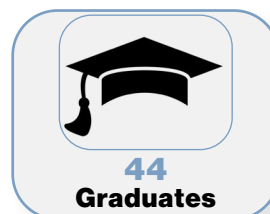
This program is for first-time gun offenders who may have experienced trauma that may have contributed to poor decision-making skills. Application and program fees are assessed on a sliding scale up to \$1,500 and are collected in monthly installments throughout the participant's agreement. Average participation time

In 2025



135 Hours of Community Service and
Cognitive Behavior Therapy Classes

Since the Program's Inception



Deferred Prosecution Team

Collaborative Diversion

Anthony Rigano | Supervisor



The Kane County Collaborative Diversion (KCCD) initiative was launched in 2021 by the Kane County State's Attorney's Office in partnership with the Kane County Sheriff's Office. The program is designed to assist low-level, nonviolent offenders who have untreated mental health needs, substance use disorders, or limited access to resources. KCCD seeks to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism by connecting participants to essential community services, including mental health treatment, substance use treatment, medical care, and housing support.

KCCD is modeled after the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, which emphasizes harm reduction and providing support outside of the traditional criminal justice system. A central component of KCCD is intensive case management, which helps participants access appropriate services while avoiding arrest and prosecution.

State's Attorney Jamie Mosser initiated the KCCD program after hearing from families who expressed a desire for their loved ones to receive help without being arrested. This feedback led to the exploration and implementation of the LEAD model, which facilitates access to services without requiring criminal charges. KCCD continues to expand its partnerships with law enforcement agencies and community service providers to strengthen its reach and effectiveness.

The mission of KCCD is to provide an alternative to the traditional legal process by empowering individuals and connecting them to resources that address their underlying needs. Through a focus on prevention and rehabilitation, the program aims to reduce recidivism, strengthen communities, and alleviate strain on the criminal justice system. KCCD offers a holistic approach that supports individuals in rebuilding their lives while promoting long-term public safety.

The program team consists of a project manager, a community engagement coordinator, three full-time case managers, and a case manager supervisor.

For more information about KCCD, please contact Community Engagement Coordinator Lovi Fields at FieldsLovianna@KaneCountyIL.gov or at (224) 239-2243. Referrals may be made through the 24-hour referral line at (224) 239-5303 or via the QR code below.



Collaborative Diversion Team

2025 KCCD Program Highlights

In 2025, the vision established for KCCD back in 2021 started to become a reality, especially as the unit's mission, community involvement, and the activities of its program participants have become increasingly woven into the community service environment of Kane County.

Over the past year, KCCD observed that many program participants were involved in court proceedings on a frequent basis. Through administrative review and research, it was determined that a significant number of these cases stemmed from missed court dates. KCCD addressed this issue directly and made substantial progress in reducing court-related barriers for program participants. During the second half of 2025, KCCD case managers accompanied an average of 15–19 individuals to court each month. These appearances allowed participants not only to resolve warrants related to missed court dates but also to successfully close their original cases with the 16th Judicial Circuit Court.

A core focus of KCCD has always been achieving housing stability for program participants. As a result of targeted efforts, six participants have achieved stable housing and are now able to concentrate on strengthening other areas of their lives.

KCCD has also developed a broad range of relationships across Kane County. The program has formalized agreements with the City of Aurora and the City of Elgin—the county's two largest population centers—while also addressing the needs of rural and suburban communities through appropriately matched case management intensity and program efficiency.

In 2025, KCCD made a strategic decision to assist program participants in addressing substance use disorders that coincided with significant mental health challenges. This initiative resulted in approximately 200 referrals to community-based providers. The volume of referral activity highlights both the level of need and the depth of community engagement demonstrated by KCCD program participants. This increased involvement in social services and community support systems serves as a measurable indicator of the momentum and impact KCCD is experiencing at this time.

Program Statistics



106
Individuals Referred



100
Referrals Made to Community-Based Service Providers



77
Current Participants



40
Individuals Referred to Employment Services

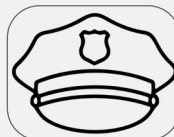
Community Engagement & Education Statistics



317
Law Enforcement Officers Trained



36
Social Service Agency MOUs*



19
Police Department MOUs*



6
Law Enforcement /Fire/EMS Agencies Trained

Notable Case Resolutions

Collaborative Support Leading to Stability

Collaboration across systems is central to the work we do, and one participant's journey reflects the impact of coordinated care. After several years of homelessness compounded by mental health challenges and substance use, "D" is now on a path toward stability. Through sustained partnership with multiple agencies, we connected him to mental health services, supportive housing, and ongoing wraparound care. Today, he resides in supportive housing and continues to receive coordinated support from our agency and community partners. His progress highlights the powerful outcomes that are possible when agencies work together with a shared commitment to client well-being.

Rewriting a Family's Future

"C," a 33-year-old mother of five and grandmother of one, came to the program after a lifetime shaped by systemic and generational challenges. Referred through the Kane County Sheriff's Department, she engaged consistently with KCCD and built a strong foundation of trust with her support team. Despite significant setbacks—including the loss of housing due to gentrification—she demonstrated resilience and determination. With ongoing advocacy and support, she secured full-time employment, transitioned her children to a new school, navigated the birth of her grandchild, and ultimately moved into a new home. Today, she has created a safe and stable environment where her family can thrive, reflecting the strength of sustained, relationship-based support.

Building Confidence Through Consistent Engagement

This year, KCCD also celebrated the progress of several participants who made meaningful strides toward independence and stability. Two individuals secured employment, while another enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at Elgin Community College. Through weekly check-ins, goal setting, and consistent advocacy, participants reported increased confidence, motivation, and trust in themselves. Despite ongoing challenges, including mental health concerns, they continue to move forward, maintaining stability, strengthening self-efficacy, and remaining out of the court system. Their progress underscores the value of steady support and belief in each participant's potential.

Breaking Cycles of Trauma and Instability

Another participant joined the program following a history of check fraud rooted in prolonged housing instability and trauma. A single mother of two, she had spent years cycling through homelessness while recovering from an abusive relationship. With comprehensive support from KCCD, she successfully secured stable housing and employment, critical milestones in rebuilding her life. She is now moving forward with renewed confidence and hope for her children's future. Her journey reflects the heart of KCCD's mission: empowering individuals to break cycles of hardship and create lasting change.

Housing Stability for Multiple Families

This year, we supported housing placements for two families who had experienced prolonged periods of homelessness. One placement included a mother and her teenage son who had been unhoused for more than four years, while the second involved an older adult and her adult son who had experienced homelessness for over a year. Both households have transitioned into stable housing and are beginning to establish a sense of home. One participant was able to retrieve belongings from storage, fully furnish her residence, and celebrate her birthday in her own home for the first time in years. Case managers supported these transitions by assisting with furnishings and providing seasonal support during the holidays. As a result, we observed meaningful improvements in stability, outlook, and overall well-being. Both families continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to maintaining housing, and they express appreciation for the support received.



**Social Contact Referral
Agreement & Consent**



Victim Services

Sheila Gray | Supervisor

Victim Services advocates provide the critical link between crime victims and the assistant state's attorneys prosecuting their cases.

It is the responsibility of the Victim Services advocates to ensure that victims are made aware of their rights as outlined under the Illinois Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. Specifically, the Victims' Bill of Rights, the Illinois Constitution, and other Illinois statutes provide that victims of violent crimes have the following rights:

- The right to be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and privacy and to be free from harassment, intimidation, and abuse throughout the criminal justice process.
- The right to notice of and to a hearing before a court ruling on a request for access to any of the victim's records, information, or communications which are privileged or confidential by law.
- The right to timely notification of all court proceedings.
- The right to communicate with the prosecution.
- The right to be heard at any post-arraignment court proceeding in which a right of the victim is at issue and any court proceeding involving a post-arraignment release decision, plea, or sentencing.
- The right to be notified of the conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release of the accused.
- The right to timely disposition of the case following the arrest of the accused.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process.
- The right to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing the amount of bail, determining whether to release the defendant, and setting conditions of release after arrest and conviction.
- The right to be present at the trial and all other court proceedings on the same basis as the accused, unless the victim is to testify and the court determines that the victim's testimony would be materially affected if the victim hears other testimony at the trial.
- The right to have present at all court proceedings, subject to the rules of evidence, an advocate and other support person of the victim's choice.
- The right to restitution.

Advocates assist victims in filing petitions for Orders of Protection, Stalking No Contact Orders, and Civil No Contact Orders. Advocates work with the ASAs to schedule and attend case reviews and trial prep meetings. Advocates are present with victims in court for trials, hearings, and sentencing. Advocates assist victims in preparing victim impact statements. Advocates provide status letters and other updates as warranted. Advocates also assist victims in completing applications for the Illinois Crime Victim Compensation program and any requests for court-ordered restitution.

The Victim Services Unit is focused on keeping victims engaged for what can feel like a long and protracted process.

Finally, the Victim Services Unit, currently staffed with five full-time advocates and one supervisor, maintains connections with community partners, such as Mutual Ground, Community Crisis Center, Association for Individual Development, and Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, that are committed to supporting victims and ensuring their voices are heard.



10,974

Status Letters
Sent to Victims



3,030

Status Phone
Calls with Victims



2,548

New Cases
Opened to
Support Victims



1,276

Attorney-Victim
Meetings
Facilitated



887

Victims Supported
During Court
Hearings and Trials



533

Filings of Ex Parte,
Status, and Final
Orders of Protection



497

Walk-ins
Assisted

Juvenile Justice Council

Julia Schick | Supervisor



The Juvenile Justice Council (JJC) is the local governing body charged with improving juvenile justice issues in Kane County at a system level. By reviewing data and utilizing input from stakeholders, priorities are identified and addressed through action plans. The council consists of stakeholders from inside and outside the juvenile court system. Public Defender Rachele Conant currently chairs the group. The board of directors meets monthly. The full council meets quarterly.

Over the past year, the JJC began addressing the recommendations that were identified as a result of a project with a national organization, the Council of State Governments (CSG), to take a deeper look at what our local juvenile justice system does well and where there may be opportunities for improvement. The JJC has partnered with the Regional Office of Education to host a four-part Truancy Workshop that will extend into 2026, offering strategies for school district personnel to consider in response to student absenteeism. In an effort to integrate youth voice, the JJC also worked with Dream Academy to host a student panel, where students were given space to share their perspective of the juvenile justice system and supporting families in the community. The JJC also assisted in coordinating two training opportunities for law enforcement around the updates to the Illinois Domestic Violence Act regarding juvenile offenders.

The JJC continues to examine opportunities to lead initiatives that will result in improvements within the juvenile justice system and community as a whole. Anyone interested in contributing can direct inquiries to Julia Schick, the council coordinator.





Community Awareness & Prevention

Pam Bradley | Director

The Community Awareness & Prevention Unit (CAP) serves as a liaison between the Kane County State's Attorney's Office and the community. The unit's goal is to approach public safety proactively. CAP supports the SAO's overall mission by building community engagement and trust among residents and stakeholders. CAP marked its fourth year of operation in 2025.

The overall goal of CAP is crime reduction. It accomplishes this mission by building long-term community relationships, hosting educational events about crime prevention, and increasing youth involvement across the county.

In 2025, CAP hosted the 21st annual Law Enforcement Youth Academy in partnership with the Aurora Police Department, Kane County Sheriff's Office, Kane County Coroner's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the City of Aurora. In 2025, 34 youth participated in the seven-week academy, marking a milestone of approximately 600 total graduates since 2004.

In 2025, CAP partnered with Batavia's faith-based community to host a Senior Scams & Frauds Awareness presentation in collaboration with Fox Valley Christian Church Encore Senior Group. The presentation was led by State's Attorney Jamie Mosser.

The unit also arranged partnerships with City of Aurora Senior Services and Disabilities, Big Rock Senior Community, AHA Senior Estates, and Lazarus House to host Senior Scams & Frauds Awareness presentations given by State's Attorney Mosser.

The unit partnered with Mutual Ground to host a Domestic Violence Awareness presentation. It also attended several community events, including the Aurora University Career Fair, the Elgin Commissioner's Office on Mental Health Court event, the Elgin Police Department Halloween Extravaganza resource event, the Bardwell Senior Estate resource event, St. Charles Kids Outreach, and Aurora National Night Out. Additionally, the unit hosted a Senior Yoga event and an Aurora Housing youth life skills presentation led by State's Attorney Jamie Mosser.

On behalf of the SAO, the unit assembled 100 bags of school supplies, donated by SAO Staff, and distributed them at National Night Out events and to a family working with the Collaborative Diversion Unit. SAO volunteers attended all of the events listed above.

The unit includes Supervisor Pam Bradley, nine SAO support staff volunteers, and 10 SAO ASA volunteers who provided prevention awareness presentations to the community.





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