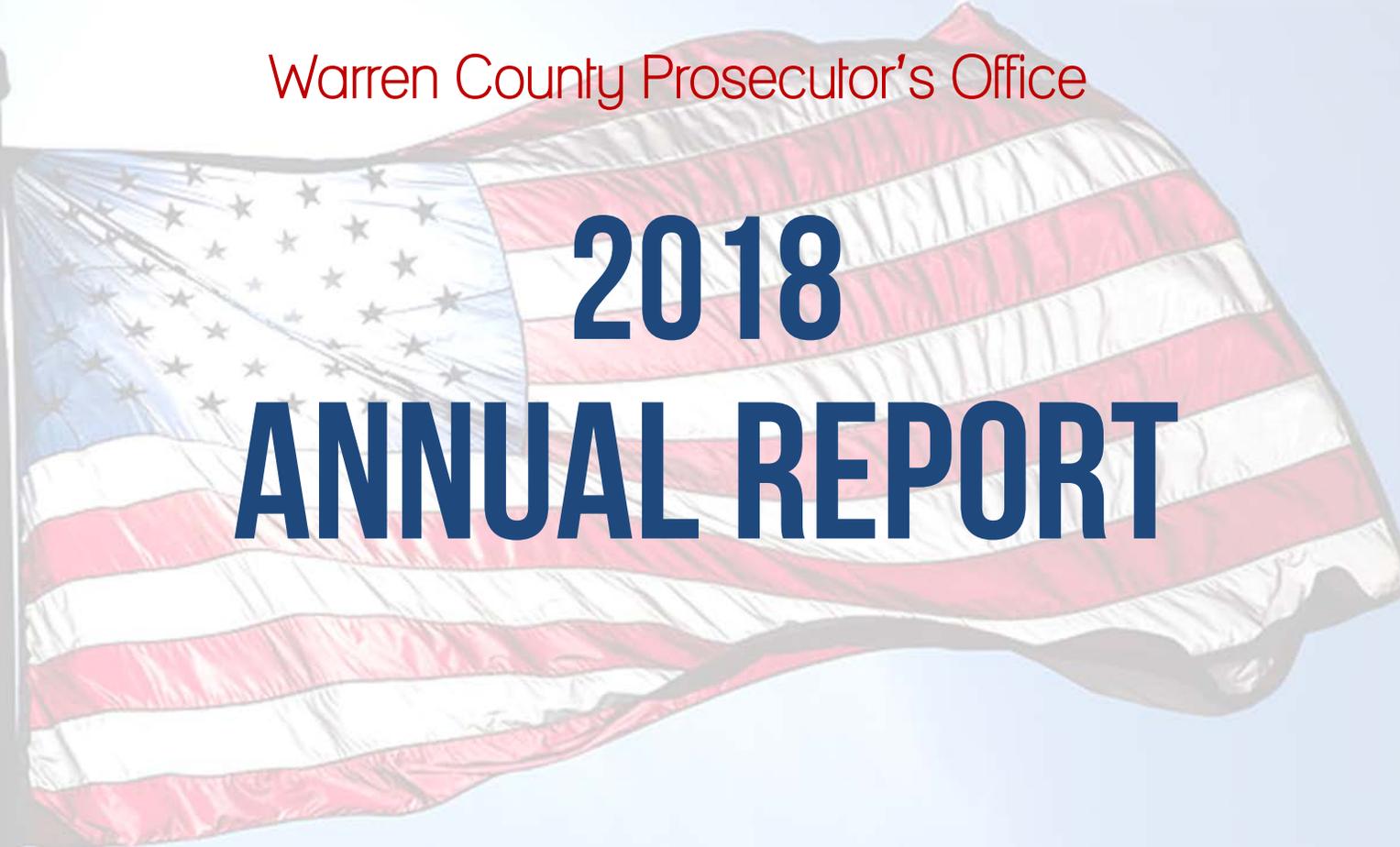




Warren County Prosecutor's Office



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



DAVID P. FORNSHELL

Prosecuting Attorney
Warren County, Ohio



A Message from the Prosecuting Attorney

Thank you for your interest in the Warren County Prosecutor's Office and for taking the time to read our 2018 Annual Report. I am honored to be completing my seventh year as Prosecuting Attorney and to serve the community where I was raised.

Every year in the Prosecutor's Office comes with its own set of challenges, and 2017 was no different. Terry Froman was convicted of aggravated murder after kidnapping Kimberly Thomas of Mayfield, Kentucky, killing her 17 year old son, Michael Eli Mohny, in front of her, beating her as she laid naked in the backseat of his SUV for over seven hours, before shooting and killing her on the side of I-75 in Turtlecreek Township. A jury unanimously recommended the death penalty for Froman, and Judge Joe Kirby sentenced him to death. Froman holds the distinction as the only defendant in the state of Ohio in 2017 to receive the death penalty.

I also had the opportunity in 2017 to argue in the Ohio Supreme Court in support of upholding the death penalty conviction against Austin Myers for his role in the brutal murder of Justin Back of Wayne Township in January of 2014. The justices are expected to announce their decision sometime this year. Video of the argument can be viewed at <http://www.ohiochannel.org/video/case-no-2014-1862-state-v-myers>.

A great amount of attention has been given to the increase in drug-related cases in our criminal justice system. In 2017, we experienced some disturbing trends. Whereas in the past, many opiate-related cases involved property offenses like burglary, breaking and entering, and theft, we are now seeing cases where opiate use is resulting in more violent behavior. In 2017, our office sought and obtained an indictment in an aggravated murder case where the defendant is alleged to have killed the victim, and attempted to kill a second victim, solely to steal their property to exchange for heroin.

Additionally, as statutory legal counsel for Warren County Children Services, our office is seeing a substantial increase in the number of cases we are handling where children must be removed from homes because one or both parents are addicted to drugs. On the appeals side alone, from 2016 to 2017, our office experienced over a 400% increase in the number of cases where action was taken against parents for the abuse or neglect of their children, the overwhelming majority of which were due to drug addiction.

Despite all of these challenges, Warren County remains one of the safest communities around. While our local law enforcement officers deserve great appreciation for this, I also give tremendous credit to members of our community who volunteer their time serving at-risk populations, who serve on juries and grand juries, and who cooperate with law enforcement agencies investigating crimes. Although it is the defined mission of the men and women of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office, it takes the commitment of everyone in our community to make Warren County the safest place to live, work, and raise a family.

David P. Fornshell
Prosecuting Attorney
Warren County, Ohio

Warren County Prosecutor's Office Honored by Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

On May 25, 2017, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections presented the Warren County Prosecutor's Office with the 2017 DRC Impact Award during a ceremony held at Lebanon Correctional Institution. The award is in recognition of the office's efforts in two cases involving Warren Correctional Institution.

In 2016, Assistant Prosecutor John Arnold successfully prosecuted 11 inmates who participated in a riot occurring at Warren Correctional Institution on July 22, 2015. A group of inmates who were in the dayroom area of their cell block argued over the use of telephones. This escalated to a large scale riot involving a number of inmates, many of whom were affiliated with two prison gangs, the Aryan Brotherhood and Cincinnati Wild Boys. The 11 inmates were convicted of aggravated riot.

Also in 2016, Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Delnicki successfully prosecuted a former Warren Correctional Institution corrections officer, Robert Dunson, for bribery. Dunson accepted money in the form of Kroger gift cards from inmates' families, and in exchange, Dunson would bring tobacco into the prison and give it to the inmates. During the period of January 2016 through May 2016, Dunson received a total of \$30,386 for the tobacco.

"We have close to a thousand male and female prison employees who work at Warren Correctional Institution and Lebanon Correctional Institution. These facilities hold approximately 3,000 'Level 3' inmates, over 40% of which are gang members. It's a very demanding and dangerous environment," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

"When inmates riot, or when corrections officers sneak tobacco, drugs, or other contraband into these facilities, it greatly affects the safety of the prison staff. Our goal is to make sure the men and women who work there are able to safely go home to their families every night, which is why we prosecute these types of cases as aggressively as possible.

This recognition that the state has given to Assistant Prosecutor John Arnold, Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Delnicki, and Chief Investigator Scott Male for the successful outcomes they achieved in these cases is well-deserved," Fornshell said.



Assistant Prosecutors John Arnold (left) and Christopher Delnicki (right) accept the 2017 DRC Impact Award

Criminal Division

In 2017, the Criminal Division continued its aggressive prosecution of violators of the laws of the State of Ohio, handling 1,235 felony cases and 6,420 misdemeanor cases. These cases included violent felonies, thefts, sexual assaults, drug trafficking, domestic violence, driving under the influence, traffic offenses, and watercraft and fish and wildlife violations. The prosecutors of the Criminal Division represent the State of Ohio in Common Pleas Court and Warren County Court.

Some of the significant criminal cases prosecuted in 2017 are listed below:

Violent Crimes



Terry Froman, 44, of Paducah, Kentucky, was sentenced to death for the kidnapping and aggravated murder of Kimberly Thomas. In the early morning hours of September 12, 2014, in Mayfield, Kentucky, Froman went to the home of his ex-girlfriend, Kimberly Thomas, and proceeded to kidnap her. During the kidnapping, Ms. Thomas yelled for her son Michael “Eli” Mohny to help her. As Eli attempted to help his mother, Froman shot him one time in the abdomen before firing another shot, execution style, in the back of his head, killing him instantly. Froman then forced Ms. Thomas, in a state of undress, into his SUV where he transported her against her will for over seven hours to Warren County, Ohio. During the time that Froman drove her from Kentucky to Ohio, he humiliated her, tortured her, and inflicted numerous injuries. When Froman was finally pulled over on Interstate 75 in Warren County, he shot Thomas numerous times resulting in her death. A Warren County jury unanimously recommended that Froman be sentenced to death for the aggravated murder of Ms. Thomas.



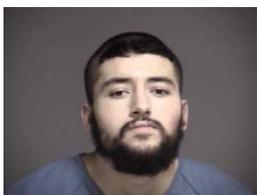
Mercedes Robb, 35, of Turtlecreek Township, Ohio, pled guilty to aggravated murder, a special felony, with an agreed sentence of 25 years to life in prison. In November 2016, Mercedes Robb called the Warren County Communications Center and told the dispatcher that she had shot and killed her ex-husband, Jason Robb, on purpose. Jason Robb was scheduled to pick up their children that morning and take them to school. Mercedes Robb intentionally did not wake up the children because of her plan to kill her ex-husband. When he arrived and exited his car, she shot him multiple times.



Freddie Green, 43, of Lebanon, Ohio, was found guilty by a jury of murder with a firearm specification and sentenced to 18 years to life in prison. In December 2016, Green shot his father, Sydney V. Green, in the back of the head during an argument. Green then waited several hours before calling 911. Green informed the dispatcher that he had shot his father in the head and that his father was dead. When Green was taken into custody, he had both heroin and cocaine in his system.



Casey Pigge, 29, pled guilty to aggravated murder and was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole in connection with the death of Luther Wade, 26, of Springfield, Ohio. Pigge and Wade were cellmates at Lebanon Correctional Institution in Turtlecreek Township where Pigge was serving a sentence for aggravated murder out of Ross County. On February 23, 2016, Wade was found in the cell face down on his bed with a large amount of blood beneath him. Pigge told investigators that he offered to show Wade a card trick where he covered Wade’s eyes with a blindfold. Pigge then took a cinder block he had taken from the cell wall and struck Wade multiple times in the head.



Mohammed Abdou Laghaoui, 20, of Deerfield Township, Ohio, was sentenced to 36 years in prison after being found guilty by a jury of one count of attempted aggravated murder, and a specification for discharging a firearm at a peace officer; two counts of attempted murder, with firearm specifications; three counts of felonious assault, with firearm specifications; one count of tampering with evidence; and one count of domestic violence. In June 2016, Deputy Katie Barnes of the Warren County Sheriff's Office was dispatched, for the second time that evening on a domestic complaint, to 8525 Jonathan Lane, Deerfield Township. Upon arrival, Deputy Barnes approached the residence and was immediately confronted by Laghaoui. Laghaoui fired at least seven shots from an AK-47 style assault rifle at Deputy Barnes, striking her in the abdominal region, and fled from the area. Laghaoui also fired two shots at a neighbor who attempted to follow him from the scene. The neighbor was not struck and received no injuries from the attempt on his life. Laghaoui's father, Abdessadek Laghaoui, sustained a major gunshot wound to his hand when Laghaoui shot through the door of his father's apartment when he could not gain entry. Numerous police agencies responded to the area to assist with the search for Laghaoui. All area businesses and locations were placed on lock down due to the active shooter situation.



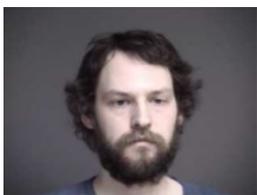
Robert Ritchie, 33, of Franklin, Ohio, was sentenced to seven years in prison after being convicted by a jury of involuntary manslaughter and endangering children for his role in the death of his four year old son, Austin Cooper. On March 15, 2016, Ritchie's wife, Anna Ritchie, admitted that she intentionally ran Austin's bath water hotter than normal as a form of punishment. Anna held Austin in the boiling hot water to the point that Austin's skin was falling off in the water and his feet were bleeding. She then clothed Austin and put him in his crib in his bedroom even though it was only approximately 5:00 in the evening. Anna called Robert and told him that Austin had been injured in the bath and that some of his skin had come off and that his feet were bleeding. Robert spent the entire evening home alone with his son but never went into the bedroom to check on Austin even though he could hear his son in his room whimpering and crying. That evening, Anna continued to text Robert, giving him more specific information about his son's injuries, but Robert still did not check on his son. The next morning, over 15 hours after someone last laid eyes on Austin, he was found dead in his crib. Had Robert Ritchie sought medical treatment for his son, consisting primarily of IV fluids, burn experts testified that he would have had a 95% chance of surviving the scald injuries.



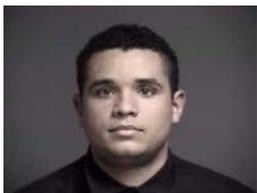
Nekghanta Jones, 25, of Lebanon, Ohio, pled guilty to two counts of child endangering and was sentenced to seven years in prison. In June 2016, Jones' mother called the Lebanon Police Department to report injuries sustained to her four year old grandson, Jones' son. The child victim had many "C" shaped marks and other injuries on his torso, legs, and penis. The child disclosed to the detective that his father punished him with a cord. The child and his six year old brother stated Jones was punishing the child for wetting his pants.



Walker Wilson, 20, of South Lebanon, Ohio, was sentenced to four years in prison for robbing the First Financial Bank in Lebanon, Ohio. Wilson passed a note to the teller stating, "This is a robbery. Give me your 50's and 100's." Wilson was stopped in his vehicle a short time later with the money he had stolen.



Thomas Delong, 30, of Lebanon, Ohio, pled guilty to felonious assault and firearm specification with an agreed sentence of eight years in prison. In September 2016, at his residence in Lebanon, Delong shot and seriously injured a male relative after a verbal dispute. Delong went upstairs, retrieved a rifle, and fired the weapon three times, striking the victim twice. The victim was struck in the arm and the groin causing serious physical harm, including amputation of his left arm at the elbow, removal of his spleen, partial removal of his pancreas, damage to his genitals, and the necessity of a colostomy.



Christopher Evans, 25, of Loveland, Ohio, was sentenced to three years in prison after being convicted by a jury of felonious assault and child endangering. In October 2015, Evans was home alone with his three week old son while his wife went to the store to get medicine for their son's upset stomach. During the time that the mother was at the store, the baby started crying and Evans could not get him to stop. Evans admitted that out of frustration and anger, he started forcefully bouncing the child in an attempt to get him to stop crying. At some point, claiming that he did not realize his own strength, he acknowledged that he threw his son onto the changing table and that the child struck his head. Upon the mother's return from the store, the baby was observed to have facial swelling and bruising and then became limp and unresponsive. The mother sought emergency medical attention for her child. At the hospital, the baby was diagnosed with subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhages, contusions to the brain, shearing injury to the blood vessels within the brain, retinal hemorrhages, and multiple fractures to his legs. All injuries were determined to be consistent with abusive head trauma and the result of an inflicted injury.



Marshall Dutton, 21, of Waynesville, Ohio, pled guilty to aggravated vehicular assault and was sentenced to five years in prison. In August 2016, the Ohio State Highway Patrol was dispatched to a crash that occurred on Interstate 75 near the Middletown exit. Prior to the crash, there were multiple 911 calls stating that a driver was driving erratically at high rates of speed and was falling asleep at the wheel. When the trooper arrived on scene, he found the victim, Elliot Feltner, 22, of Park Hills, Kentucky, trapped in his vehicle. Witnesses were holding Dutton down on the side of the interstate because he was attempting to flee. Feltner sustained a severed spinal cord and is now classified a quadriplegic. He also suffered severe damage to his windpipe and esophagus. Toxicology lab reports concluded that Dutton was under the influence of several drugs at the time of the crash, including marijuana, cocaine, Xanax, and morphine.



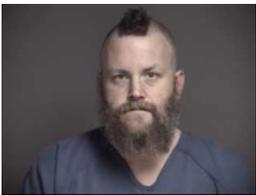
Andre Wright, 37, of Dayton, Ohio, pled guilty to two counts of robbery and two counts of kidnapping with an agreed sentence of 15 years in prison. In June 2016, Wright and his co-defendant, James Shell, entered a Verizon store in Germantown and brandished a toy gun. They assaulted the clerk, tied him up in the rear bathroom, and stole cell phones, iPads, and other electronic equipment. Subsequently, in July 2016, the pair robbed a Verizon store in Deerfield Township, again brandishing a toy gun, assaulting the clerk, tying him up with a power cord in the rear bathroom, and stealing cash, cell phones, and other electronic devices. Shell is serving a 15 year sentence for his role in the robberies.



Douglas Gearhart, 44, of Franklin, Ohio, was found guilty of felonious assault and two counts of domestic violence and sentenced to four years in prison. In February 2017, Gearhart assaulted his wife and her daughter in their Franklin home. Gearhart grabbed his stepdaughter by her head and neck and shoved her into a door. When his wife tried to intervene, Gearhart grabbed her by the hair and shoved her to the ground, hitting her head on the kitchen island. A few moments later, he pulled his wife into the garage. When the children found their mother, she was on the garage floor semi-conscious next to a puddle of blood, and three of her front teeth were on the garage floor. Gearhart fled the scene, but was later apprehended. At the time of the incident, Gearhart was employed as a Montgomery County deputy sheriff.



Robert Blevings, 50, of Lebanon, Ohio, pled guilty to three counts of aggravated robbery with firearm specifications, one count of possession of criminal tools, and one count of improper handling of a firearm in a motor vehicle and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Within a three week span, Blevings robbed three Lebanon businesses at gunpoint – The Black Barn, LaRosa’s, and Domino’s. In August 2017, Lebanon Police observed Blevings driving a vehicle with an obstructed license plate. When officers attempted to initiate a traffic stop, Blevings fled at a high rate of speed, but stopped shortly thereafter. Upon search of the vehicle, a gun was found under the passenger seat, along with money and clothing worn during the most recent robbery.



Larry Fields, Jr., 39, of Lebanon, Ohio, was convicted of two counts of felonious assault with firearm specifications following a bench trial to the court. Fields shot Charles Burke once in the back following a dispute over personal property. Fields was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Sex Offenses



Brian Sundin, 58, formerly of Mason, Ohio, was sentenced to 10 years in prison and classified a sexual predator after pleading guilty to one count of rape for the 2000 rape of a severely developmentally disabled adult female resident at the Brookside Extended Care Center in Mason. The case had been unsolved for 16 years until officials from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office tested a diaper and, in addition to blood, discovered the presence of semen. BCI officials tested the semen for DNA, entered the DNA testing results into the nationwide CODIS database, and approximately 16 years later, the testing results “hit” on Sundin’s DNA profile that was entered by the Florida Department of Corrections. Sundin is believed to have made entry to the facility through a single doorway that was discovered to be unsecured at the time.



Gerald Rowe, 66, of Milford, Ohio, pled guilty to five counts of burglary and five counts of voyeurism and was sentenced to four years in prison. Rowe was a maintenance man at the Steeplechase Apartments in Deerfield Township. In May 2016, a female resident contacted law enforcement after discovering a hidden camera mounted in the vent of her bathroom. Subsequently, detectives discovered videos from four other females’ apartments from February, March, April, and May of 2016. Based on the videos, Rowe mounted the cameras to capture the female residents’ activities in their bathrooms. In each of the apartments, the camera captured the female residents in states of undress. One video recovered by detectives showed images of Rowe’s face while installing the camera. Rowe is classified as a Tier I sex offender.



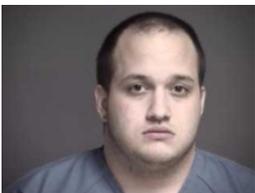
David Cross, 30, of Middletown, Ohio, pled guilty to rape and was sentenced to seven years in prison to be served consecutive to a nine year sentence Cross is currently serving for a sexual assault conviction in Butler County. In July 2016, Cross, who was 28 years old at the time, forced the 13 year old victim to engage in sexual conduct at Kings Island. Cross started communicating with the victim on an app called “Meow Chat” and told the victim he was 15 years old. Cross arranged a meeting with the victim and forced her to engage in sexual conduct on a walkway in a wooded area between Kings Island and Great Wolf Lodge. Cross is classified as a Tier III sex offender.



John Hopkins, 61, of West Chester, Ohio, pled guilty to three counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor and two counts of illegal use of a minor in nudity oriented material and was sentenced to 54 months in prison. In March 2017, Hopkins met a 13 year old juvenile on an app called “Grindr.” The two began communicating through various forms of electronic communication for several days. Subsequently, Hopkins met the juvenile two times in a parking lot in Lebanon where the sexual conduct occurred. The parents of the juvenile found texts between Hopkins and the juvenile on the juvenile’s phone and called the police. A detective then began to play the part of the 13 year old boy over a couple of weeks and arranged a meeting in which he and Hopkins would go to a hotel under the ruse that the detective was the juvenile. Lebanon police were able to stop and arrest Hopkins at the meeting place. After the arrest, detectives found nude photos of the juvenile on Hopkins’ phone. Hopkins is classified as a Tier II sex offender.



James C. Erion, 49, of Madeira, Ohio, pled guilty to one count of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor and one count of pandering obscenity involving a minor and was sentenced to 48 months in prison. In the summer of 2014, Erion made contact with the then 15 year old victim through the "Whisper" app. They began an online relationship using "Whisper," "KIK," and texting. In December 2014, Erion and the victim began meeting in person. Erion and the victim engaged in sexual conduct, as well as exchanging sexually explicit photographs. Erion supplied the victim with a phone so she could continue to communicate with him secretly. In the fall of 2015, the victim's mother discovered the secret phone and reported it to the Clearcreek Township Police Department. The Clearcreek Township Police Department and the FBI executed a search warrant on Erion’s home and place of employment. A forensic examination of the victim and Erion’s electronic devices revealed the history of contact and photographs. Erion is classified as a Tier II sex offender.



Sean Patrick O’Neil, 25, of Oxford, Ohio, was sentenced to 42 months in prison after pleading guilty to extortion, illegal use of a minor in nudity oriented material, aggravated menacing, telephonic harassment, and contributing to delinquency of a minor related to his online relationship with a 14 year old victim. When the victim learned that O’Neil was an adult, she tried to break off the relationship. O’Neil told her he would kill her and her family if she did not send him nude photos. O’Neil’s computer revealed searches and saved data of the victim’s school schedule, home address, and personal information about her family. O’Neil is classified as a Tier I sex offender.



Joseph Plummer, 37, of Franklin, Ohio, was found guilty of two counts of gross sexual imposition and sentenced to 48 months in prison. Plummer sexually assaulted a child who was under the age of 13 on more than one occasion during the time period of June 2013 – December 2015. The abuse occurred while the child was sleeping. Plummer is classified as a Tier II sex offender.



Jason Fletcher, 40, of Franklin, Ohio, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for possessing pictures and videos of child pornography. In September 2013, Fletcher was convicted of importuning and was placed on five years’ probation. In May 2017, probation officers met with Fletcher prior to one of his sex offender treatment meetings. Fletcher’s phone was ultimately searched by authorities who discovered numerous images and videos of child pornography. Fletcher’s previous probation was revoked, and he was convicted of several additional counts of pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor and illegal use of a minor in nudity oriented material. Fletcher is classified as a Tier II sex offender.

Drug Offenses



Andrew M. Lutz, 30, of Lebanon, Ohio, pled guilty to one count of involuntary manslaughter and one count of aggravated trafficking in drugs and was sentenced to five years in prison. In September 2016, Lutz sold to Charles Boswell, Jr. what Boswell believed to be heroin. Shortly thereafter, police discovered Boswell in a vehicle on U.S. Route 42 in Mason. Boswell was unresponsive and later pronounced dead. Investigation revealed that the cause of death was an overdose from fentanyl and carfentanil. A search of Lutz’ residence found drug trafficking paraphernalia and quantities of fentanyl and carfentanil.



Walter Richardson, 23, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a former Lebanon Correctional Institution corrections officer, was sentenced to a mandatory prison term of 12 months. Richardson pled guilty to illegal conveyance of drugs into a detention facility and possession of drugs. In August 2016, Richardson reported to duty at LeCI and was subjected to a routine administrative inspection. LeCI officials discovered that he had 100 Suboxone strips, a Schedule III controlled substance, concealed in the finger of a rubber glove in his pocket. Further investigation revealed that an inmate paid Richardson \$1,000 to deliver a package of drugs into the institution. Richardson immediately resigned his employment and was placed under arrest. Because Richardson was an employee of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, a mandatory prison term was required.



Garey Faulkner, 33, of Amelia, Ohio, pled guilty to trafficking in marijuana and possession of marijuana and was sentenced to three years community control. Faulkner is known as the Bengals and Reds “beard guy” and is also known nationally for his creative beard styles. In July 2016, Faulkner contacted an undercover officer indicating he wanted to meet and purchase marijuana. Later that day, the undercover officer met with Faulkner to purchase five pounds of marijuana for \$10,000. Once the transaction was made, officers moved in and arrested Faulkner. Faulkner admitted that he intended to sell the marijuana he was attempting to purchase from the undercover officer. Faulkner also admitted that he has trafficked marijuana, on and off, for most of his life.



Vincent Kremer, 20, of Kings Mills, Ohio, was sentenced to 13 years in prison for multiple offenses related to drug trafficking, drug possession, and extortion. While on juvenile probation for drug trafficking, Kremer, then an adult, sold LSD and psilocin to an undercover officer. The day before a scheduled plea in July 2016, Kremer slipped off his electronic monitor and went to a local hotel with his girlfriend where he had other drugs available for sale. After being arrested, Kremer threatened an associate and the associate’s family if the associate did not put money on his books.

Parole Watch

In addition to prosecuting current cases and appeals, our office is advised by the Ohio Parole Board when convicted felons are eligible for parole. In 2017, the Prosecutor's Office responded to 18 such notifications. Under current statutes, only the most serious offenses are eligible for parole. In other cases, offenders were convicted of serious offenses some years ago, but are still serving life sentences or very lengthy prison sentences. Our office routinely reviews these cases and opposes the release of violent felons.

The public can follow the status of these cases by accessing the "Parole Watch" function on the Prosecutor's website: www.warrencountyprosecutor.com. This function also allows the public to directly communicate its views regarding parole to the Ohio Parole Board. Users can also share Parole Watch information directly to their social media contacts. In our experience, a demonstration of public concern is frequently the factor that keeps these dangerous criminals behind bars.

In 2017, we continued to review and oppose cases where inmates were being considered for parole. Among the worst of those cases are the following:

Kevin Walter Smith, Inmate A186511, and **James Bradford Kerr**, Inmate A186512 – Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Robbery, and Kidnapping

In August 1985, Smith and Kerr were convicted of aggravated murder, aggravated robbery, and kidnapping for the death of Richard Dickson, Jr. Dickson, who was 30 years old at the time, was working the front desk at the Travel Lodge Motel in Mason, Ohio. Both Smith and Kerr entered the motel and one of them distracted Dickson while the other took money out of the cash register. After committing the robbery, they took Dickson to the lobby bathroom where he was stabbed in the heart and left to die on the bathroom floor. Smith and Kerr were each sentenced to life in prison on the aggravated murder charge, as well as an additional 10-25 years for the aggravated robbery and kidnapping charges to be served consecutively to the aggravated murder sentence.

Our Victim Witness Services Division initiated community outreach to encourage the public to write the Parole Board on our Parole Watch site. Both Smith and Kerr were denied parole in 2017. Their next parole hearings are scheduled for April 2022.

Paul Reed, Inmate A732686 – Aggravated Murder

In 1994, Reed was convicted of aggravated murder for the shooting death of 18 year old Christopher Petit. Leading up to this premeditated murder, Reed found out that Petit was going to testify against Reed and his wife concerning their involvement in a burglary and theft ring which operated in Kentucky and Ohio. Once Reed discovered that Petit was acting as an informant with law enforcement, he formulated a plan where he tricked Petit into driving up to Ohio to hang out for a couple of days. While traveling north in Ohio, Reed pulled the car over and shot Petit approximately eight times. Reed then dragged Petit's body into some weeds and tried to cover it with a branch. Petit's body was discovered later that afternoon by an Ohio highway road crew. Reed was convicted of kidnapping in federal court and was sentenced to 324 months in federal prison. Reed has already served the entirety of his federal sentence. Reed was also convicted of aggravated murder in Warren County and is serving life in prison.

Our Victim Witness Services Division initiated community outreach to encourage the public to write the Parole Board on our Parole Watch site. Reed's parole was denied in 2017. His next parole hearing is scheduled for March 2027.

James Hunt, Inmate A171210 – Voluntary Manslaughter

In August 1982, Hunt was a prisoner at the Lebanon Correctional Institution serving a sentence for involuntary manslaughter and aggravated robbery out of Scioto County, Ohio. While in prison, Hunt stabbed another inmate in the chest numerous times with a sharpened butter knife and slammed his head against the sink multiple times. The other inmate died as a result of a stab wound to the heart. Hunt was convicted after a jury trial of voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to seven to twenty-five years in prison to be served consecutively to the sentence he was already serving out of Scioto County.

Hunt's parole was denied in 2017. His next parole hearing is scheduled for July 2020.

Appellate Division

The Appellate Division is responsible for researching and writing all appeals in criminal and civil cases handled by the Prosecutor's Office. The Appellate Division also assists with briefing at the trial court level, and argues cases before the Twelfth District Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court. In 2017, assistant prosecutors handled more than 100 appeals filed with the Twelfth District Court of Appeals and the Ohio Supreme Court.

Juvenile Division

In 2017, the Juvenile Division worked to ensure that minors who violated the law were punished, rehabilitated, and that they understood the consequences of their illegal actions. The cases handled within the Juvenile Division range from truancy and traffic to rape and homicide charges.

This year, we continued to see serious offenses being handled by the Juvenile Division. Earlier in the year, a 17 year old teenager obtained an AR-15 from the basement of his home and shot his stepfather while he was sleeping. The juvenile was adjudicated a delinquent child for the offenses of attempted murder, felonious assault, and domestic violence, with gun specifications. As a result of his conduct, the juvenile was sentenced to both juvenile and adult sanctions pursuant to the serious youthful offender statute. The juvenile is currently sentenced to the Department of Youth Services. Our office was also involved in the prosecution of a juvenile case involving the purchase of LSD with bitcoins and the subsequent selling of that same LSD to other school students. The juvenile was charged with trafficking in drugs and possession of a controlled substance, both felony level offenses. The juvenile was sentenced to 45 days in the Warren County Juvenile Detention Center and then ordered to successfully complete the Mary Haven Youth Center.

The goal in these cases and all others is to protect Warren County from juvenile delinquency, while at the same time preventing the juvenile offenders from becoming the next generation of defendants in the criminal system. While advocating on behalf of the victims is our primary goal, our office is also of the belief that many youth have the potential to avoid this fate with the right support and rehabilitation. Our office works with the courts to recommend rehabilitative sentences, such as community service, mental health services, and drug treatment, whenever it is appropriate to do so.

Additionally, the Juvenile Division is responsible for handling child protection cases and providing legal representation to Warren County Children Services. Unfortunately, like most other counties around the state of Ohio, Warren County has also seen a significant increase in the number of abuse, neglect, and dependency cases filed in 2017. This increase is attributed to the opioid epidemic, which has also resulted in a larger number of parents having their legal rights to their children permanently divested from them.

Investigative Division

The Investigative Division consists of three Investigators, all of which are certified peace officers. They operate as a close link between law enforcement agencies and the Prosecutor's Office. The Investigative team provides assistance to law enforcement and valuable information to the Prosecuting Attorney from investigation to arrest to trial.

In 2017, the Investigators were responsible for the intake of over 1,100 cases. This includes follow-up investigation, serving subpoenas, and working with prosecutors to ensure successful prosecutions.

Victim Witness Services Division

The mission of the Victim Witness Services Division is to serve victims with compassion while promoting the judicial process. In 2017, this division served victims of crime in Common Pleas Court, Warren County Court, Juvenile Court, Lebanon Municipal Court, Franklin Municipal Court, and Mason Municipal Court. Criminal justice support and services were also made available to physically and sexually assaulted children at the Child Advocacy Center of Warren County. This commitment is currently met through a staff of four full-time and two part-time Victim Witness Coordinators. The victim assistance efforts in Warren County are comprehensive and effective, ensuring victim's rights under Section 2930 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Our team ensures that victims are educated on their statutory and constitutional rights as a crime victim in the State of Ohio. The Victim Witness Program also provides victims, whose offender is incarcerated, VINE information and works closely with Warren County Pretrial Services, Warren County Community Corrections, the Warren County Adult Probation Department, and the Ohio Parole Board regarding offender supervision status and restrictions.

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office and Victim Witness Services Division is actively involved in the following collaborations to provide education, training, and support to coordinating agencies and disciplines: Warren County Coordinating Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Victim Awareness Collaboration, Sexual Assault Response Team, and Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Victim Witness Coordinators offer services to all victims of crime. Some of the services our program offers are:

- 24-hour response to law enforcement requests for intervention and assistance
- Court advocacy, escort, and notification during all stages of the criminal justice process
- Assistance in completing a Victim Impact Statement
- Assistance with VINE registration/State Victim Notification Program
- Referrals to appropriate social service agencies
- Notification and explanation of all court proceedings
- Victims of Crime Compensation application assistance
- Provision of information regarding the Ohio Parole Board

Civil Division and Delinquent Tax Division

The Civil Division represents Warren County in legal matters and litigation where the county is a party. The Civil Division is the county's in-house law firm, providing legal services to county officials, the courts, and to the county's many departments, agencies, boards, and commissions. The Civil Division also provides legal services to eight townships and five public libraries. The Civil Division provides legal services on litigation, employment issues, zoning and land use planning matters, and contract negotiations.

In 2017, the Civil Division assisted and provided legal advice to several agencies in the required changes to their operations. There continues to be private development and government expansion projects that require the legal advice of the office. The Civil Division advised on procurement issues, public bidding, and contracts for the County Jail expansion project, the Juvenile Court expansion and improvements, the fairgrounds event center, a water softening system, and various county engineer projects.

The Delinquent Tax Collection Division represented the Warren County Treasurer and collected over \$9.2 million in delinquent taxes and assessments on real property, manufactured and mobile homes, and personal property. Through the efforts of the Delinquent Tax Collection Division, the rate of delinquent taxes and assessments is one of the lowest in the State of Ohio.

Child Support Enforcement Division

The Child Support Division of the Prosecutor's Office handled nearly 12,500 cases and served 16,400 children in 2017 and provided the full range of Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) services, including collection and enforcement of support orders, establishment of paternity and child support orders, location of parents, and modification and termination of orders. In 2017, the Child Support Division collected \$44 million. CSEA collections included over \$3.5 million to recoup public assistance money, and nearly \$9.9 million was collected for 2,500 children of lower-income working families in danger of going on cash assistance. The division also collected \$170,483.73 to reimburse IV-E foster care costs which is an increase of more than 25% over 2016. The Warren County CSEA was again recognized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in two performance categories: Best Performance in Paternity Establishment and Best Performance in Support Order Establishment. The agency continues to be one of the most cost-effective Child Support Enforcement Agencies in the State of Ohio, collecting over \$16.50 per dollar spent on IV-D services, \$10.00 per dollar higher than the State of Ohio's cost effectiveness.

Community Involvement

Ohio Wears Blue

Ohio Wears Blue is a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April, Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ohioans are encouraged to wear blue to work, to school, to a community event – to show support for preventing child abuse and neglect. Warren County Prosecutor’s Office employees showed their support by wearing blue on April 12, 2017.



Miracle Field

In May 2017, employees of the Warren County Prosecutor’s Office participated in the Miracle League Buddy Program. The Miracle League provides the opportunity for children and adults with special needs to play organized baseball on a team. The “Miracle Field” is an all-weather field free of obstacles so players with wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, or mobility issues can play unencumbered. Buddies are assigned a player for each game. The buddy is there to protect the player from balls, assist the player in batting and running the bases, and to be a friend on and off the field.



Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run

In June 2017, employees of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office participated in the Warren County leg of the Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics. In Ohio, Torch Run participants run one of six planned routes covering the state which lead to the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising event benefiting Special Olympics Ohio.



National Night Out

Our office once again participated in National Night Out events held in Clearcreek Township, Franklin, Lebanon, and Maineville, Ohio. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August.



Clearcreek Township

Franklin

Lebanon

Maineville

Warriors BackPack Program

Members of our staff participated in the Warriors BackPack program. This program provides weekend food/snacks to underprivileged children in the Lebanon City School District. The program currently feeds 300-400 students on a weekly basis during the school year. The cost of the program is fully funded by donations from various sources, including local businesses, churches, organizations, and citizens.



10th Annual Blue Ribbon Nite Gala

The 10th Annual Blue Ribbon Nite Gala to benefit the Child Advocacy Center of Warren County was held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio, on November 18, 2017. The event included a cocktail hour, dinner, silent and live auctions, and basket raffles. The live auction this year focused solely on children's handmade artwork, which is always a big hit with the audience. The evening also included a "Warren County's Got Talent" competition featuring five dance groups. Several of the Prosecutor's Office employees who attended the event are pictured below.



Financial Report

One of the primary missions of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office is to provide excellent and efficient service to the citizens of Warren County and our government clients. Since assuming office at the beginning of 2011, Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell has emphasized fiscal responsibility in managing the Prosecutor's Office's budget.

Under the 2017 General Fund budget, the Prosecutor's Office expended \$2,642,118.63 and "returned" \$192,702.37, or 6.8% of its appropriated budget, back to the Warren County Auditor's Office as unused funds.

By comparison, the Prosecutor's Office General Fund budget for 2010, the year before Prosecutor Fornshell assumed office, was \$2,641,179.01. Thus, the Prosecutor's Office has maintained a budget approximately at or below 2010 levels for seven consecutive years. This, despite an over 40% increase in the Prosecutor's Office felony caseload since 2011.

Outstanding Team Member Award

Leanne Massingill recently received the "Outstanding Team Member Award" from Prosecutor Fornshell. The award is based on nominations from members of the Prosecutor's Office and is given to the employee who exhibits outstanding commitment to their colleagues while carrying out the ideals and principles of the Prosecutor's Office. Employees nominated 12 different individuals for the award, with Massingill receiving three times the number of nominations of any other employee.

Massingill has been with the Prosecutor's Office since 2008 and serves as a Legal Assistant in the Criminal Division. In her nominations, Massingill's colleagues noted: "I admire Leanne so much for her ability to deal with so many things at once on a day-to-day basis. Whether it is dealing with phone calls, walk-ins, or attorneys, investigators, victim witness coordinators, or anyone else from the office coming to her needing something, she deals with it quickly and efficiently. She is the rock that keeps things together and is greatly deserving of the award."



Leanne Massingill and Prosecutor Fornshell

Retirements

Legal Assistant **Tonya Colwell** retired from the Warren County Prosecutor's Office in April 2017. Colwell joined the office in 1986. Prosecutor Fornshell presented Colwell with a plaque in recognition of her 30 years of service. Colwell also received a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners in honor of her retirement and proclaiming April 25, 2017 "Tonya Colwell Day" in Warren County.



Tonya Colwell and Prosecutor Fornshell

Deputy Director **Rod Hamilton** retired from the Child Support Enforcement Division of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office in December 2017. Hamilton joined the office in 2005. Prosecutor Fornshell thanked Hamilton for his years of service. Hamilton also received a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners in honor of his retirement and proclaiming December 22, 2017 "Rod Hamilton Day" in Warren County.



Child Support Director Beth Anne Schorr, Rod Hamilton, and Prosecutor Fornshell

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO SERVE YOU.

For More Information, Please Visit:
www.warrencountyprosecutor.com

