

LUZERNE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This changed the landscape of the criminal justice system in 2020. We needed to find another way to continue operating while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all involved in the system.

NEW CASES OPENED

3177 in 2020

CASES CALLED FOR TRIAL BY JUDGE

Judge Augello - 109

Judge Lupas – 811

Judge Skarosky – 699

Judge Vough – 1,386

Of these cases, 40 trials were held (jury and bench).

Juvenile Cases – 264

COVID CHALLENGES

- Use of extensive resources to have COVID trials
- Creating an environment that everyone feels safe during the trials

CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

- 20% decrease in reporting child abuse
- Teachers are reporting to law enforcement what they are seeing during virtual learning

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Drastic increase already seen this year (strangulation, simple assaults and terroristic threats)
- Shelters weren't accepting
- Officers weren't able to enter house to fully assess the situation
- Handle with Care Initiative

DRUG TASK FORCE & GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION TASK FORCE

- Increase due to COVID
- Continue to see fentanyl and meth as drug of choice
- Initiated 261 cases with 126 arrests, seized \$311,552 in drug funds, and seized 34 weapons
- 82 PICS arrests (PA Instant Check System) –

GRANTS

1. DUI Grants
2. International Chiefs of Police Grant
3. Dept. of Community Economic Development

2020 BUDGET

Adopted Budget - \$4,852,095

Expended - \$4,500,002.44

Savings \$352,092.60