



# PRESS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Macomb County Prosecutor seeks to reduce court adjournments by streamlining police witness scheduling

Mount Clemens, MI - The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office wants to speed case resolutions by reducing some court adjournments using a new system that lets police officers inform the prosecutor's office about their availability, even when they have training or vacations. This state-of-the-art system offers a feature that enables police officers to notify the county prosecutor when they are unavailable due to training or vacation commitments. In turn, the system automatically cross-references these officer availability records with prosecutor's office court event schedules, such as jury trials, preliminary examination hearings, and other legal proceedings. Prosecutor staff gets a notification of scheduling conflicts so that assistant prosecuting attorneys can proactively notify the court to reschedule hearings, or determine whether they may proceed without the officer present. This will significantly reduce the occurrence of last-minute scheduling conflicts, ultimately improving justice for crime victims and the public.

"It's about making it easier for our dedicated police officers to fulfill their court obligations and, in turn, ensuring that justice is served swiftly and effectively," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

Key benefits of the new case management system, include:

1. **Enhanced Efficiency:** The integration of officer availability data with the prosecutor's case scheduling system ensures that court events are scheduled with greater precision. This will reduce last-minute scheduling conflicts, leading to more efficient use of resources and a reduction in adjournments.
2. **Improved Officer Productivity:** Police officers can now focus on their duties with confidence, knowing that the availability information they provide is being considered in the scheduling

process. This results in increased productivity and reduced disruptions to their daily responsibilities.

3. **Faster Case Resolutions:** With fewer last-minute adjournments and scheduling conflicts, cases may progress more smoothly through the legal system. This benefits victims by providing them with quicker resolutions and reducing the emotional toll that prolonged legal proceedings can have.

4. **Better Justice for Victims:** Ultimately, the primary goal of this innovative system is to ensure that victims receive the justice they deserve. By minimizing delays and disruptions in court proceedings, we can better serve the interests of our community and provide closure to those affected by criminal activities.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office remains dedicated to staying at the forefront of technology and innovation in the pursuit of justice. We are confident that this new system will contribute to a more efficient and responsive legal process, ultimately benefiting all residents of our county.

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners and the County Executive approved a new case management system for the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office called Prosecutor by Karpel. The system went live in August 2023.

This is not the only improvement Prosecutor Lucido has made since January 2021. In 2023, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office won seven Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties for enhancing services for Macomb County residents. In addition to successfully prosecuting crimes throughout the county, other progress includes:

- **Child support collections increased.** Prosecutor Lucido's office increased focus to collect child support from parents who owe \$5,000 or more. Thanks to support from the County Commission and County Executive, the office collected over \$323,000 so far this year for the direct benefit of Macomb County children.
- **Mental health assessments sought as a condition of bond in gun crime cases.** With this first-in-Michigan policy to seek mental health assessments as part of bond in *all* gun crime cases, Prosecutor Lucido recognizes that some defendants struggle with mental health issues, which might be addressed through early identification and provision of appropriate services before defendants get an opportunity to commit another crime with a gun.

- **School threats are taken seriously.** Prosecutor Lucido has authorized several school threat cases. "We promise to prosecute every one of these threats," said Lucido.
- **Conviction Integrity Unit exoneration.** This unit investigates claims of innocence to determine whether there is clear and convincing new evidence that the convicted defendant was not the person who committed the offense and to review claims of factual innocence based on new evidence. Thanks to support for this unit from the County Commission and County Executive, a person was exonerated this year.
- **Major Crimes Unit launched:** Prosecutor Lucido organized the top-ranked assistant prosecutors to focus on major crimes, and train more APAs to handle these types of cases.
- **Warrant Appeals Unit launched:** Victims and law enforcement officials are now given the right to have a second set of eyes to review cases where charges are denied, the first known unit of its kind in the state.
- **Digital Evidence Management platform implemented.** With more than 483,000 pieces of digital evidence in the system, the volume of digital evidence is higher than it's ever been, and keeps increasing. Police agencies now upload digital evidence, the Prosecutor's Office reviews it, and defense lawyers can directly download the evidence.
- **More interns equals more justice.** Prosecutor Lucido hosted over 200 law school and college interns, so far! Michigan Court Rules allow law students this exciting opportunity to handle court hearings under supervision, which helps the office move cases forward more quickly.
- **Paperless crime victim rights.** Prosecutor Lucido implemented the county's first paperless system for crime victims to request rights and notification. Crime victims may now request victim information via text message, or entirely online via the Prosecutor's Office Website.
- **Providing police training.** Prosecutor Lucido regularly sends assistant prosecutors to every police agency in Macomb County to provide training, including updates on recent court cases.

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