



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Macomb County Prosecutor's new case management system a game-changer**

Mount Clemens, MI - In a move that promises to transform the way justice is served in Macomb County, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office has rolled out a cutting-edge case management system, leaving behind a decades-old legacy system. The initiative received approval from the County Commission and County Executive in December 2022, and just eight months later, the new prosecutor's office system was up and running on time and on budget.

Prosecutor by Karpel, the new case management system in action, represents a comprehensive and fully integrated software solution. It's making waves nationwide, being adopted by over 600 prosecutor's offices across 31 states. Michigan is no exception to this technological wave, with sixteen county prosecutor's offices currently utilizing it, but an additional 26 slated to go live next year.

"Our new technology is a game-changer, streamlining information flow between the prosecutor's office, detectives, and the courts," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

So, what's in it for the average citizen? When individuals see that the justice system is operating efficiently and transparently, they are more likely to have confidence in its ability to deliver fair outcomes. This can lead to a greater sense of trust in the legal system as a whole.

This monumental shift entails more than just digital paperwork. It translates into a positive impact for every law enforcement agency and the community it serves. Among the practical benefits:

1. Streamlined Warrant Submissions: Law enforcement agencies can now seamlessly submit warrants electronically, and get results electronically, expediting the legal process.
2. Enhanced Transparency: Detectives gain improved transparency regarding their cases, with quick access to case status and a one-stop portal to see all of their upcoming court hearings.

3. **Efficient Subpoena Process:** Integration with district courts' computer systems streamlines the data entry of court hearings and the witness subpoena process, ensuring smoother court proceedings.

4. **More information available to assistant prosecutors:** Assistant prosecutors now have better access to police reports and case information.

Launching a new case management system was a monumental undertaking, integrating decades of inconsistent data entry and managing hundreds of thousands of records, and adjusting decades-old business processes to new technology.

The new case management system is not the only success for Prosecutor Lucido 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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