

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

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ANGELA C.
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FAYETTE COUNTY ATTORNEY

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A MESSAGE FROM ANGELA C. EVANS



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude and pride in the work we've accomplished together in the Fayette County Attorney's Office. It has been another remarkable year, and I remain as passionate and committed to serving you as the day I took office. I am proud to share this year's accomplishments of the Fayette County Attorney's Office, guided by our commitment to transparency, community engagement and the pursuit of justice. Together, we've achieved significant milestones across all divisions, strengthening our office's impact and connection to the community. Your encouragement and belief in our mission fuel our efforts to create a more just, transparent, and compassionate community.

In 2024, we delivered on a key campaign promise of transparency by publishing our 2023 annual report. It provides an honest look at our progress and serves as a foundation for accountability. We also made strides in providing better access and convenience to services by reopening our satellite courthouse office and relocating services like Diversion and Private Complaint.

Our commitment to collaboration also remains strong. We've partnered with the Lexington Police Department to train new recruits on citation writing and testifying in court proceedings, provided crisis intervention training to help officers better respond to mental health crises and shared our expertise at events like the Kentucky Access to Justice Commission's Legal Aid Conference, Leadership Lexington and schools, from elementary to college, throughout the region. These efforts strengthen our partnerships and ensure that we are helping others better serve Fayette County citizens.

We've also prioritized the growth and well-being of our staff, increasing salaries to retain experienced prosecutors, hiring a human resources director to support our team and redesigning our internship program to foster meaningful professional development. Our Child Support Enforcement division has also seen tremendous growth, from implementing phone payment options and internet capabilities for public

convenience to reorganizing leadership and strategies for better performance and increasing wages by an average of 20%. In the spring, we named an interim director of Child Support Enforcement, which allowed the opportunity to reorganize and establish new strategies for improving performance in collections. The division also remains in compliance with all federal and state regulations, passing the annual office inspections conducted by the state. The General Prosecution and Juvenile divisions are now fully staffed and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant was renewed for our victims' advocates.

Community engagement has been at the heart of our work this year. From hosting an information table at the Antonio & Anita Franklin Peace Walk to participating in the LEXCount census of unhoused individuals, we've sought to meet people where they are, providing resources and showing compassion for those facing challenges. Events like the Lexington Humane Society Dog Walk allowed us to connect with residents in new ways, demonstrating our commitment to fostering a better community. Participating in the Federal Medical Center Resource Fair for inmates soon-to-be-released, sharing information about child support to help them in advance to know where to go, what questions to ask their caseworkers and help put them on the path to responsible parenting.

These accomplishments are only possible because of the collective effort of our team and the support of the Fayette County community. As we look to 2025, I am committed to ensuring accountability, equity and excellent service in all that we do.

It is an honor to serve as your Fayette County Attorney, and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

Sincerely,

Angela C. Evans
Fayette County Attorney

MISSION STATEMENT

To fairly and impartially enforce the law, actively pursue justice, and diligently safeguard the rights of crime victims and defendants on behalf of the citizens of Fayette County; and promote good governance by providing expert legal advice to the constitutional officers of Fayette County.

VISION STATEMENT

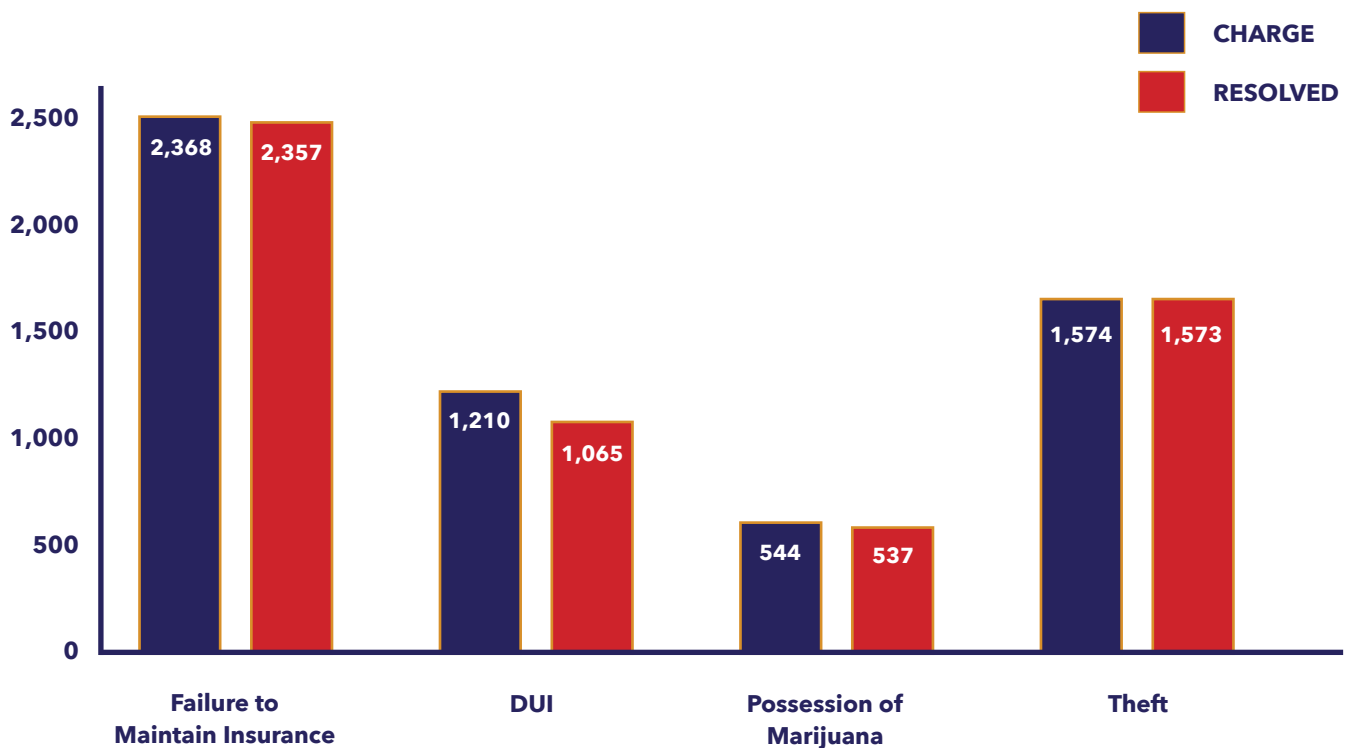
Be smart on crime, promote equity and transparency within the Fayette County Attorney's Office and support evidence-based initiatives that make Lexington a safe place to live and work for everyone.



DISPOSITION OF TOP CHARGES

The Fayette County Attorney's Office strives to fairly and efficiently work through a high volume of cases each year. In 2024, we had a **97% disposition rate** through conviction, dismissal, an issued warrant, and/or indictment when considering the top charges in Fayette County.

5,696 Total Charges
5,532 Charges Resolved



** Based on data from Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts*

COLD CHECKS



The Fayette County Attorney's Office's Cold Check Recovery program is a free service provided by the office to participating merchants.

In 2024, the Fayette County Attorney's Office collected a total of **\$124,638.85**. The two victims who had the largest amount recovered were the Fayette County Clerk's Office and the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government.

● **\$42,735.52** was successfully recovered for LFCUG and the Clerk's Office.

DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES



There are many reasons why individuals might become delinquent in paying their property taxes. As an office, we strive to work with the taxpayer to satisfy the tax delinquency while keeping financial strain at a minimum.

In 2024, our office made **250 payment arrangements** for property owners, allowing them to retain their property.

There were **71 letters of intent** to initiate legal action, however, we are working to resolve these cases as well.

● A total of **3,170 delinquent tax bills were paid in full**, resulting in over **\$3.8 million** in revenue for local government entities.

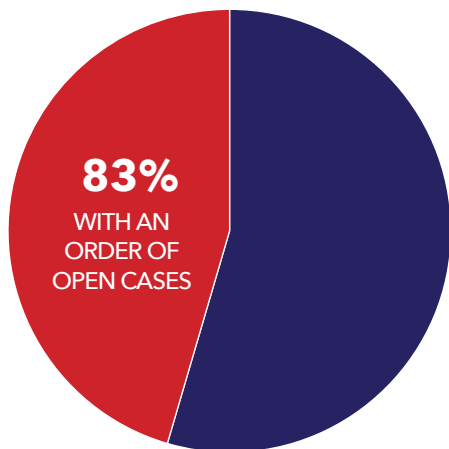
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The Fayette County Attorney's Office continues to work diligently to establish support for thousands of children in the Fayette County area.

Of the over **15,563** open child support cases in Fayette County, over **12,975** have an order of establishment of paternity in place.

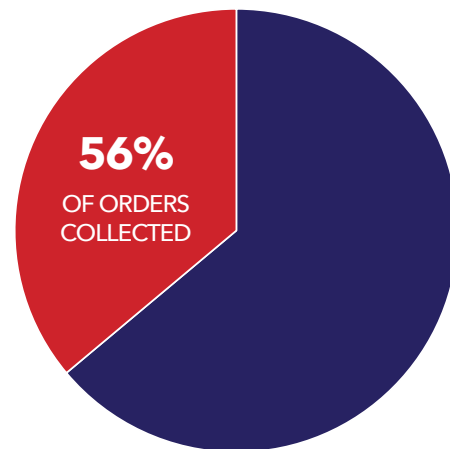
As of June 2024, **\$19,511,459.73** million had been ordered through the county. Of that amount, **\$11,021,136.72** million has been collected.

ORDER OF CHILD SUPPORT IN OPEN CHILD SUPPORT CASES



- **15,563** OPEN CHILD SUPPORT CASES
- **12,975** OPEN CASES WITH AN ORDER

DOLLARS COLLECTED FOR CHILD SUPPORT ORDERED BY COURT

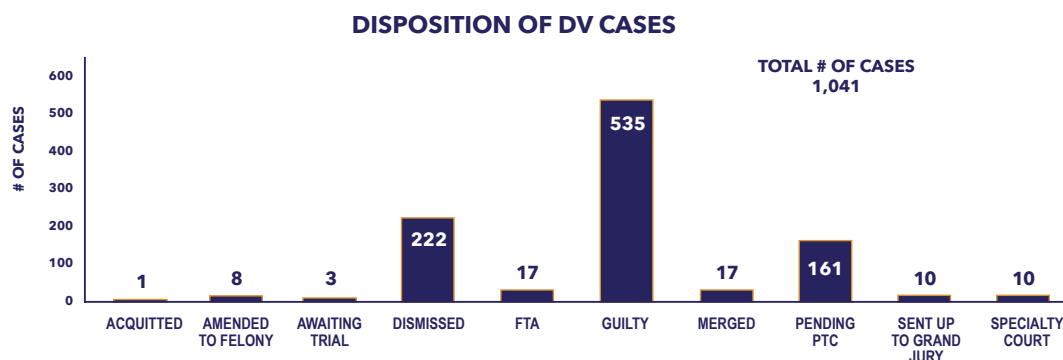
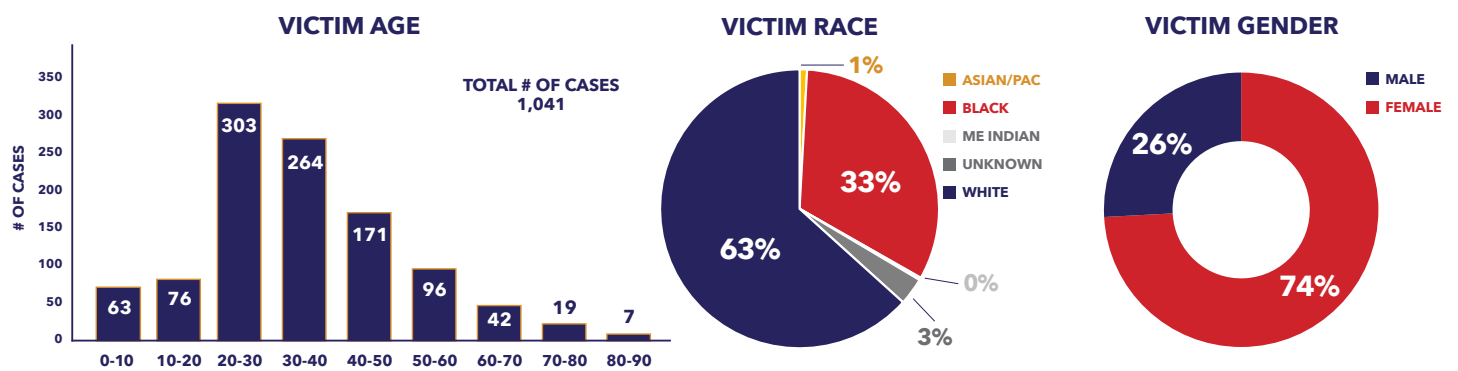
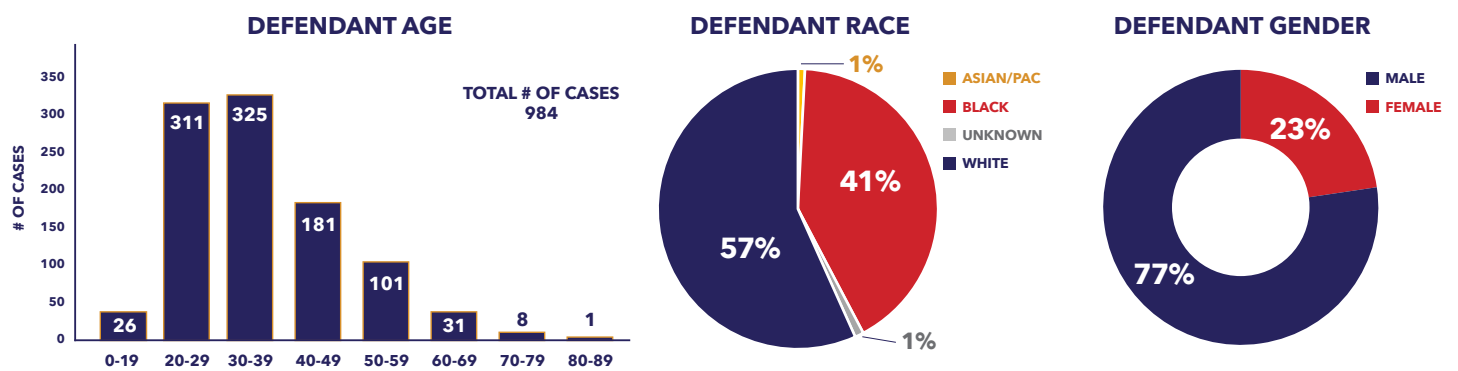


- **\$19,511,459.73** ORDERED BY THE COURT
- **\$11,021,136.72** COLLECTED

* Based on data from the Kentucky Division of Child Support July 2023 to June 2024

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Fayette County Attorney's Office takes the prosecution of domestic violence seriously. In the last year, the Fayette County Attorney's Office **prosecuted 984 complaints** protecting individuals from violence in their homes.



* Based on data from the Fayette County Attorney's Office October 2023 to September 2024

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Fayette County Attorney's Office oversees disability proceedings as well as involuntary hospitalization cases. This continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in the court system. The Fayette County Attorney's Office participated in the proceedings for **2,575 petitions filed in mental health court** in 2024.

JUVENILE AND DEPENDENCY COURTS



The Fayette County Attorney's Office has prosecutorial jurisdiction over juvenile matters. These matters are separated into three categories: status, criminal and dependency. In 2024, a total of **1,507** juvenile matters were prosecuted by our office.

There were **301 delinquency cases prosecuted** to adjudication and **149 status cases to completion**.

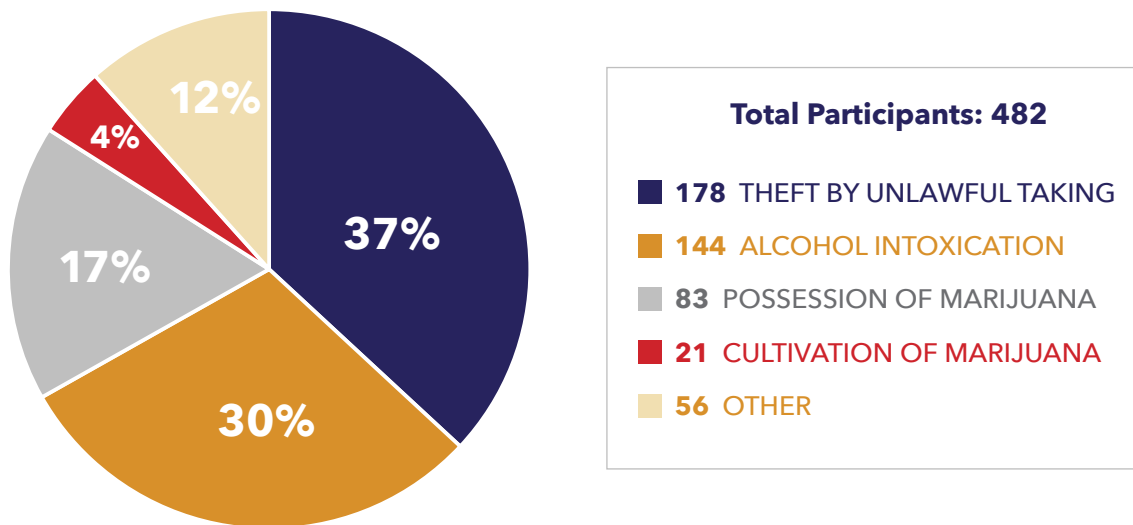
Additionally, the Fayette County Attorney's Office **litigated 145 dependency cases** and **912 abuse or neglect cases**.

DIVERSION PROGRAMS

CRIMINAL

The Fayette County Attorney's Office continues to see success with the online diversion program. Diversion is being completed sooner, which often leads to charge(s) being dismissed and expunged quicker. The program has provided many benefits to the Office as far as data collection and document management and a favorable alternative to the citizens of Fayette County.

TOP 5 CHARGES



* Based on data from the Fayette County Attorney's Office October 2023 to September 2024



Drive Safe Lexington is an alternative to the traditional state traffic school. It allows participants the opportunity to have their case dismissed and avoid additional points on their license.



In 2024, 2,261 drivers took advantage of Drive Safe Lexington

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I want to thank the Prosecutors office more specifically Angela Evans.

First of all I was allowed to enroll in the Drive Safe program having been given a Uniform Citation. What a great program.

The day before I had completed the program I was determined to take the advise or rather follow the law. Up until then I had gotten into some bad following habits on the interstate.

Yesterday I decided to follow at the safe distances recommended even further behind because of the predictive cruise control.

A semi truck took the left lane in front of me. I backed off or the cruise control backed me off. Soon a motorist behind me came up, following extremely close. He was trying to push me forward but I maintained the safe distance.

Suddenly in front of me the semi in front swerved to the left gutter all the while maintaining control. It was then I saw the large easy chair in the road. I swerved to the left gutter knowing that breaking would end up in a strike to the rear of my car from guess who?

The man behind me had no chance to react and hit the chair. I saw he maintained control but sure he had damage.

Because of your course it was not me. Again thanks.

– Testimonial of Program Participant

”

OUR TEAM

ANGELA C. EVANS Fayette County Attorney

Assistant County Attorneys

John Hayne, *First Assistant*
Jill Koenig, *Child Support Enforcement Lead Assistant*
Jade Morgan, *Juvenile Prosecuting Staff Attorney Supervisor*
Elizabeth Bancroft
Janie Boyd
Richard M. Brandon
Brenda Sofia Calleja Parga
James Ryan Chailland
James Dearing
Karema Eldahan
Charles Finley
Russell Greenup

Caroline Herald
Nicholas Hodges
John Jones II
Ashlei McPherson
Daniel Mullen
Brian Powell
Bethany Thompson
Alexander Wheeler
Brittany Wright

Victim Advocates

Kathlee Hartig, *Victim Advocate I*
Jennifer Kelder, *Victim Advocate II*
Susan LeMay, *Victim Advocate I*

Paola Schwartz, *Juvenile Victim Advocate/Paralegal I*
Amy Nicole Smith, *Victim Advocate I*

Child Support Enforcement

Eric Elliot, *Chief Strategy Officer*
Shannon Whitely, *Assistant Director of Casework and Training*
Cari Carter, *Assistant Director*
Bridget King, *Child Support Enforcement Office Manager*
Elizabeth Bartlett, *Child Support Caseworker III*
Hailey Baskin, *Child Support Caseworker I*
Jennifer Berryman, *Child Support Caseworker II*
Shakera Davis, *Child Support Caseworker I*
Dareisha Davis-Jackson, *Child Support Caseworker II*
Christine Dearing, *Child Support Caseworker III*
Margaret Gollahon, *Child Support Caseworker I*
Melanie Hedger, *Child Support Caseworker II*

Julia Johnson, *Child Support Clerk*
Kaitlyn Kelley, *Child Support Caseworker I*
Lesley Lee, *Child Support Caseworker II*
Anna Parsons (Jones), *Child Support Caseworker II*
Cindy Shelton, *Child Support Caseworker I*
Sara Smith, *Child Support Caseworker III*
James Taylor, *Child Support Clerk*
Dana Toler, *Child Support Caseworker I*
Melissa Yeary, *Child Support Caseworker III*

Administrative Staff

Candace Raglin, *Director of HR and Operations*
Ashton Wasson, *CPA/Chief Accountant*
Koti Epperson, *Project Manager*
Dawn Adkins, *Office Manager/Bookkeeper*
Elise Barkman, *Legal Assistant/Administrative Specialist II*
Paula Campbell-Rudd, *Constituent Services/Receptionist/Admin Specialist I*
Damien Phillips, *Diversion Coordinator/Administrative Specialist II*
Hunter Falconer, *Criminal Complaints Intake*

Ashley Houghton, *Receptionist/Runner*
Dianne McKenna, *Delinquent Tax Program Director*
Angela Taylor, *Legal Assistant/Paralegal II*
Howard Florence, *Security*
Bret Goode, *Security*
Mario Russo, *Security*



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