

The District Attorney serves as the chief law enforcement official for Mercer County. The District Attorney's office is responsible for representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania within the criminal justice system, prosecuting all criminal offenses and motor vehicle violations that occur within the county. This role necessitates regular appearances in the Magisterial District Justice Courts, the Court of Common Pleas, the Pennsylvania Appellate Courts, and Federal Courts. District Attorney Peter C. Acker fulfills these responsibilities on a full-time basis, supported by a team of Assistant District Attorneys and investigators, in addition to both full-time and part-time support personnel.

The District Attorney's office offers comprehensive 24-hour "on-call" advisory services to all law enforcement agencies within Mercer County and fulfills its obligations related to criminal court appearances. This office plays a vital role in the investigation of homicides and other significant criminal cases by providing on-site legal assistance to law enforcement personnel and facilitating the coordination of their investigative efforts.

In 2024, the District Attorney's office initiated 2,338 cases involving investigations as well as summary, misdemeanor, and felony criminal offenses. The District Attorney and Assistant District Attorneys represented the citizens of Mercer County in 19 jury trials. Over the course of the year, they also represented the Commonwealth at 12,765 criminal hearings. These hearings included preliminary hearings, arraignments, juvenile hearings, parole and probation violation hearings, suppression hearings, pleas, summary appeals, bench warrant hearings, and sentencing hearings. Furthermore, the office conducted investigations into and resolved 98 private criminal complaints.

The District Attorney's Office is engaged in a collaborative effort with Mercer County Children and Youth Services to conduct thorough investigations and prosecutions of cases involving the physical and sexual abuse of child victims. In the year 2024, there were 921 CYS referrals reported.

The District Attorney's Office actively participates in the Mercer County Drug Task Force, a state-funded initiative in collaboration with the Attorney General of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation, and various local law enforcement agencies. This partnership is designed to effectively combat and suppress street-level drug trafficking within the community.

The District Attorney and the Assistant District Attorneys are tasked with presenting cases before the Superior Court and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, as well as at all levels of the United States Federal Court system. In 2024, 19 briefs were filed with the appellate courts.

The Office of the District Attorney's Victim Program comprises the Director, one Victim Witness Coordinator for criminal court, one Victim Witness Coordinator for juvenile court, and two part-time Victim Witness Field Coordinators. The Victim/Witness staff act as liaisons between crime victims and witnesses and the criminal and juvenile justice systems. They offer a range of services, including orientation, courtroom accompaniment, intervention for employers and creditors, assistance in preparing sentencing presentations for court, guidance in calculating restitution owed by defendants, and support in processing claims for state-funded crime victim compensation.

Support staff are essential to the efficient and effective operations of the District Attorney's Office. They provide critical support to the District Attorney, the Assistant District Attorneys, the director, various courthouse partners, and the public. The contributions of the support staff significantly enhance the office's overall productivity and functionality, ensuring that its objectives are achieved with a high degree of proficiency.