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Sent by email only

Re: Sexual Assault Law Enforcement Appropriation found at
Public Act 22 of 2025,

Dear Representatives, Senators, and Directors;

The Michigan Legislature appropriated \$1.4 million in funds to the Attorney General for sexual assault enforcement efforts. In PA 22 of 2025, the Legislature directed the Attorney General to provide a report concerning the use of those funds. Such report is to include the number of sexual assault kits across the state that remained untested as of January 31, 2026, and a detailed work and spending plan outlining anticipated litigation and expenditures resulting from the findings of the sexual assault kit testing. This report is submitted in compliance with that directive.

The Michigan State Police advised that testing for previously unsubmitted kits collected during their statewide inventory in 2016 is complete. The last kit completed testing in August 2018. After the statewide inventory was completed, an additional 500 unsubmitted kits were located by the Detroit Police Department. Those kits were shipped to a vendor in early February 2019 for testing under a Michigan State Police contract. This contract is covered by federal grant money. Those kits were never tested by the contracted lab and have been received back by the Michigan State Police to be tested by state laboratories.

The Attorney General has entered into several agreements with county prosecutors to fully investigate and prosecute cases identified through the testing of submitted sexual assault kits. Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) agreements were in place in 2025 with the Ingham County Prosecutor, Kalamazoo County Prosecutor, Washtenaw County Prosecutor, and Wayne County Prosecutor. The MOU with Wayne County ended at the end of fiscal year 2025.

The agreements enable the prosecutors to supplement their respective staff with an experienced sex crimes prosecutor, several investigators and part time victim advocate who are dedicated to investigating and prosecuting cases arising from the previously untested sexual assault kits.

Under a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Attorney General and each of these county prosecutors, the prosecutor's office is reimbursed for the costs of salary and benefits for up to three investigators and one part-time community-based victim advocate. The prosecutor's office is also reimbursed for the costs of equipment, travel and other expenses related to the SAKI program.

Each of these SAKI teams is led by an experienced sexual assault prosecutor, paid under contract with the Attorney General but working under the supervision of the local county prosecutor. These four women who worked these projects in 2025 have a combined total of almost 70 years of prosecution experience with specialties in sexual assault prosecutions. In these projects, the Special Assistant Attorney General (SAAG) exclusively handles cases arising from the previously untested sexual assault kits. It should be noted that the investigators for Ingham are funded through the Michigan State Police and a federal grant they administer.

The longest standing SAKI projects are within Kalamazoo County, Ingham County, and Washtenaw County. The SAKI project in Wayne County and newest prosecutor position was created in October of 2023, ran through the end of fiscal year 2025, and that prosecutor was embedded within the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. This prosecutor, unlike those from the other projects who are classified as SAAGs, is officially an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) with the

Department of Attorney General. This AAG has been working under the supervision of the local prosecutor in Wayne County, has to date assisted with handling warrants and taking on the in-court prosecution of backlogged, actively charged, and currently submitted SAK-based sexual assault cases.

The SAKI program in Ingham County in previous years followed a modified protocol that created a “Regional SAKI Program.” The SAAG previously split her time between Ingham, Jackson, and Calhoun Counties. With the Calhoun County project closing its cases in 2023, Jackson County closed out its case investigations soon thereafter in 2024. Jackson County ended its project with 61 total cases, 51 of those cases were closed by investigation, and six others then returned to agency for investigation. The project also had three jury trial convictions.

In addition to the payments made to the various law enforcement agencies and the SAAG attorneys, the Attorney General has budgeted an FTE victim advocate to provide help as needed to SAKI programs that are in operation.

The current 2026 MOUs with the Ingham, Kalamazoo, and Washtenaw County Prosecutor’s Offices expire sat the end of September 2026. The contracts with the existing SAAG in each of the projects run through September 2026. It is unlikely that investigation and prosecution of cases arising from the previously untested sexual assault kits will be completed by the end of those terms, and it is almost certain that extensions will be necessary.

Kalamazoo County

Kalamazoo SAKI has 221 total cases. Currently, the project had three charged cases pending in the court system for the year 2025, that being one new case charged, one case bound over for trial after preliminary hearing, and one case sentenced, resulting in a 12–50-year prison sentence for the offender. As of 2025, there were 10 pending investigations, eight of which were newly started in 2025. Seven more cases were closed in 2025, bringing the total of closed cases to 159 cases. To date, the project has had 22 convictions, 18 by pleas, and four by jury trials. There were two acquittals. In 2025, there were three appellate cases started by appeals from convicted defendants.

Notable project update: Kalamazoo SAKI Victims continue to consistently express to the SAAG that the opportunity to have their case re-opened, and to have the re-investigation and prosecution handled in a victim-centered, trauma-informed way by a coordinated multi-disciplinary team has been life changing for them. The victims have reported that finally feeling believed, having their voice heard and having the opportunity to pursue justice has had significant positive impacts on

their mental health, their sense of self, their personal relationships, and their careers/academics.

Ingham County

In Ingham County, 125 previously untested kits were tested and 127 cases in total were referred to the SAKI team. Two cases were added to the project after its inception. Each of these cases has been reviewed whether a suspect was identified through testing. To date, Ingham County has obtained seven felony convictions in Circuit Court. One of these convictions came in 2025. There were no acquittals. Sixty-three cases have been closed for various reasons following team review. Of these closures, there have been 11 closed cases in 2025. There were 18 new investigations opened in 2025. There was one new case charged in 2025. The SAKI Team has conducted various training courses in the field as well. They have additionally been asked to assist in a Jackson County Special Prosecution case. Currently, the team has one case on appeal (*People v Curtis*).

Notable case and project update: In a recent Ingham County SAKI prosecution in 2025, *People v Veal*, defendant was convicted of CSC 3rd degree, after being charged with three counts of CSC 1st degree. In this case, defendant was extradited back to Michigan. These case facts included a violent sexual assault resulting in injuries to the victim. Defendant pled guilty to CSC 3rd degree and Habitual Offender Second on September 17, 2025. Defendant was sentenced on December 3, 2025, to 72-270 months in MDOC, along sex offender registration.

The SAKI team also has a pending investigation being worked on in 2025 identified as Human Trafficking, involving a 14-year-old survivor that was abducted in Lansing and trafficked into a marriage in Grand Rapids. In 2025, the investigators travelled out of state for victim notification. The offender is a repeat offender. This case remains pending for possible charging.

Washtenaw County

There is a total of 154 kit cases that have been referred to the Project in Washtenaw County. Washtenaw County achieved their first conviction in October of 2023, at the time the current SAAG came on board the project. There are three convictions that have been obtained in this project to date, one of which came in 2025 by way of a plea. Currently, there are three charged cases pending in the court system, and there are 14 active investigations ongoing. In 2025, 19 cases were closed without charges, bringing the total number of closures with no charges since 2023 as 47 total cases. There were approximately 78 cases total closed without charges over the life of the project.

Notable Case Update and Project Update: In Washtenaw County in 2025, Defendant Smith plead in his second SAKI case, after being sentenced following a trial on the first case. This first case resulted in 28-46.5 years in the MDOC with SORA and lifetime electronic monitoring. In preparing for a second trial with a second victim, this victim already testified as “other acts” in the first trial and felt satisfied that she had her day in court. This victim was also exhausted by the process of it all, and instead of another trial with more testimony, she agreed with a plea of CSC 1st degree, with 5-15 years to be served in MDOC, lifetime sex offender registration and lifetime electronic monitoring. Smith was sentenced to that agreement in 2025. The cases involving defendant Smith were of the variety that many prosecutors still hesitate to charge, because they involve difficult facts. The first victim was a heroin user at the time of the assault, and the second victim struggled with alcoholism and was “off the wagon” at the time of the assault. Both women made choices the nights they were assaulted that made them vulnerable to the assailant as well as increased their likelihood of being disbelieved and even mistreated by the system. Without the SAKI program, defendant Smith, a low-level drug dealer and frequent flyer in the criminal justice system, would very likely still be on the streets, and put bluntly, was quite likely to continue to sexually assault vulnerable victims, particularly ones who are unlikely to report the crime to authorities. Cold case units are especially useful in a case scenario like this, because both women were now in a better place in their lives thanks to the passage of time.

The SAAG of this program notes that the cases that are currently being investigated and prosecuted by the Washtenaw County SAKI team involve victims that disproportionately reside in the lower opportunity-index areas of the County with many involving sexual assaults that occurred in the 48197 and 48198 ZIP Codes. Continuing the work that has already been started, prosecuting cold-case sexual assault cases, will also allow the office to effectively and efficiently continue its work in facilitating a fairer and more equitable justice system. Many victims of sexual assault—particularly in older, unsolved cases—tend to have been vulnerable victims; it is not uncommon for cold-case sexual assault victims to have been suffering from addiction, poverty, or other vulnerabilities. Allowing the Prosecutor’s Office to continue its SAKI work will help ensure justice for sexual-assault survivors, including those who are most vulnerable.

Wayne County

In Wayne County, the project had executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and hired an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) in October of 2023. This prosecutor was an official AAG with the Department of Attorney General and worked with the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office under the MOU to prosecute case work on this SAKI project, while also remaining an AG employee. Unlike the other SAKI projects where the prosecutors are Special Assistant Attorneys General

(SAAGs) and work on contracts with the Department of the Attorney General, this prosecutor on the Wayne County project is an official AG employee, working the project under an MOU. This AAG came to SAKI's most recently created project with years of experience prosecuting cases of both sexual assault and domestic violence and being well versed in handling these particular cases in a victim-centered, offender-focused, and trauma-informed manner. This specially assigned AAG, then assigned to Wayne County, worked this project in collaboration with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office from October 2023 through the end of the fiscal year of 2025, when the MOU expired and came to an end. And even though the MOU expired, the AAG as a courtesy has continued to handle several sexual assault cases for Wayne County here in 2026, as she transitioned over from the MOU into a full-time prosecutor for the Department of Attorney General. She continues to prosecute seven cases involving four different defendants for the Wayne County SAKI project.

From 2023 through 2025, this AAG handled sexual assault cases involving both old and new sexual assault kits, cold cases, and new, current cases. The AAG took on actively charged cases and assisted in the backlog of investigations involving sexual assault kit-based assaults.

2025 was a tremendously busy year for the Wayne County project and the AAG at its helm. The total number of cases assigned to her under the MOU at Wayne County in 2025 was 56 cases, and she retains seven of those cases today even with the expiration of the MOU. Eight of those cases were resolved in 2025, either by convictions, acquittal, or trials where verdicts couldn't be rendered. The AAG had five convictions in 2025, three by jury trial, and two by way of guilty pleas. She also conducted two other jury trials that resulted in a hung jury, unable to deliver a verdict, and a mistrial was granted. There was one acquittal in 2025. The SAAG also charged 11 cases in 2025, reviewed 37 open SAKI investigations, and closed three SAKI cases without charges.

Notable Case Updates: The Wayne County specially assigned AAG had many notable cases in 2025, as she pushed through an extremely busy year of warrant reviews and jury trials. We will highlight only a few of the more notable cases of 2025 as below:

- The AAG prosecuted Defendant *Junell Mobley* who robbed a victim at gunpoint outside the Motor City Casino. Defendant, armed with a handgun, took the victim by force, and sexually assaulted her behind a building in an alley. In January of 2025, this case was resolved with a guilty plea to CSC 1st degree and also a count of Weapons - Felony Firearm. The Victim was in tears, truly so happy that this case resolved short of trial and pleased with the amount of accountability the defendant would be accepting. The Court

sentenced to defendant to 22-40 years in the MDOC, lifetime electronic monitoring, and lifetime sexual assault registration pursuant to SORA.

- The AAG prosecuted the case of the *People v Defendant Anthony Clark*. A Jury trial held in August 2025, after a first mistrial in March 2025, and defendant was found guilty of all 19 of his charged counts, including Torture, two counts of CSC 1st degree, CSC 3rd degree, Unlawful Imprisonment, Felon in Possession of a Weapon; Assault & Battery, Felonious Assault, Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm in a Building causing injury, Witness Interference, and eight counts of Felony Firearm. These assaults occurred in January 2024, when Defendant shot at victim three times, one bullet gashing the side of her head. Defendant then sexually assaulted the victim and terrorized her until she finally escaped to the hospital. On September 22, 2025, the Court sentenced defendant to 32 years + 2 consecutive years for the Felony Firearm charge. Defendant's earliest release date is 12/31/2067 – max life.
- In the case of the *People v Defendant Jaime Crook*, the AAG conducted a jury trial in September of 2025, and defendant was ultimately convicted of two counts - CSC 3rd degree. Defendant was originally charged with two counts of CSC 1st degree and Kidnapping. Once assigned to the case, the AAG added two counts of CSC 3rd degree. The trial in this matter took a total of three weeks to try, and the jury found defendant guilty of the two added CSC 3rd counts, which was a very positive outcome. The Victim, who lived in adult foster care, was very happy with the outcome, after having to testify for two days in this trial. The Court sentenced the defendant to 12-30 years in the MDOC. His earliest release date is 9/13/2037.

In addition to providing funding and assistance to the SAKI programs herein discussed, the Attorney General continues to offer advice, assistance, and support to any county seeking help in the investigation and prosecution of crimes identified by the testing of previously untested sexual assault kits. This matter remains a priority for this department.

Sincerely,



Ashley Steffen
Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Department of Attorney General