

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

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FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO ANNOUNCES NEW UNITS DEDICATED TO CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA – Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano announced today that he has established two new teams in his office dedicated to crimes against children and domestic violence cases, respectively. The two teams will operate within the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of Fairfax County.

"Crimes against children and crimes of domestic violence are top priorities for my team and it's best practice to have such cases handled by specialists," said Descano. "Establishing these specialized teams will allow us to be more responsive to the unique needs and requirements of victims of these crimes."

Seven Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys are assigned to each of the dedicated teams. The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney added 15 positions in the FY '22 budget after the Board of Supervisors took action to begin correcting a chronic budget shortfall that left the Office under-resourced. This investment helped create the capacity to establish these new specialized teams.

"When advocating for additional resources for our office, I always pledged that we would treat serious crime seriously," said Descano. "In taking this step, we are affirming that doing so is an essential component of building a more fair and just legal system."

CA Descano's announcement comes on the heels of earlier reforms announced by the office that include the restructuring of the office to produce accountability around reforms, the cessation of the prosecution of marijuana possession, no longer requesting cash bail, and a suite of sentencing policies aimed at reducing mass incarceration, among others.

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