

Setting the Record Straight: Key Facts About the Scott County Attorney's Office

This summary provides a concise review of several claims and the factual information available regarding the Scott County Attorney's Office.

Claim: The Juvenile Division Is Not a Priority

Fact: The Juvenile Division is staffed by experienced professionals with decades of service.

- The Juvenile Prosecutor has served approximately 20 years in the office, with extensive experience in juvenile, child protection, misdemeanor, and felony matters.
- The division's senior legal support professional has more than 23 years of experience.

Bottom Line: Juvenile cases are handled by seasoned professionals, not treated as temporary training assignments.

Claim: Drug Court Was Eliminated Without Regard for Outcomes

Fact: Drug Court was discontinued after an evaluation found outcomes comparable to intensive probation services already provided through Community Corrections.

- Similar results could be achieved through existing programs.
- The decision was supported by the judiciary, Community Corrections, and County Commissioners.
- The change reduced costs while maintaining service levels.

Bottom Line: The decision was based on effectiveness and fiscal responsibility, not a reduction in support for individuals in recovery.

Claim: Veterans Court No Longer Exists

Fact: Veterans Court continues to operate through the First Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court.

- The program serves veterans across multiple counties.
- Court proceedings continue to be available in Scott County.
- The regional model expands access to services for more veterans.

Bottom Line: Veterans Court has evolved and expanded rather than disappeared.

Claim: Scott County Falls Behind in Domestic Assault Prosecution

Fact: Available conviction-rate data shows Scott County performs at or above First Judicial District averages in several domestic assault categories.

- Felony Domestic Assault conviction rates exceed district averages.
- The office uses evidence-based prosecution practices when appropriate.
- Five victim advocates provide ongoing support to victims and families.

Bottom Line: Domestic assault cases are aggressively prosecuted while ensuring victims receive critical support services.

Claim: Scott County Is Unprepared for the African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Act

Fact: Many principles within the legislation already align with existing county practices.

- Strong emphasis on family preservation and prevention services.
- Focus on reunification whenever safely possible.
- One of Minnesota's lower rates of out-of-home placements.
- Early adoption of family resource and prevention-focused services.

Bottom Line: Scott County is well positioned to continue implementing practices that strengthen and support families.

At a Glance

The Facts

- ✓ Experienced juvenile prosecution team
- ✓ Continued Veterans Treatment Court services
- ✓ Data-driven decisions regarding Drug Court

- ✓ Strong domestic assault prosecution outcomes
- ✓ Five dedicated victim advocates
- ✓ Family-centered child protection practices
- ✓ Commitment to public safety, accountability, and taxpayer stewardship

Final Thought

The Scott County Attorney's Office should be evaluated based on facts, outcomes, data, and service to the community. Public discussion is strongest when it is informed by complete and accurate information.