

**DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**STATE OF MONTANA**

**Austin Knudson**  
Attorney General



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RE: Legislative Report on Major Case FY 23

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**-Major Case Section-**

Declinations: 16  
Cases referred: 2

**-Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU)-**

Cases referred: 1

**-Social Security Fraud/Cooperative Disabilities Unit (SSI/CDU)-**

Cases referred: 7

**-Office of Consumer Protection (OCP)-**

Cases referred: 1 case pending federal indictment (details may not be disclosed)

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Below are the 16 cases DCI was asked to lead and/or participate in an investigation in the prior fiscal year, but due to resource constraints were declined:

7/22: Fraud allegations	Jefferson County
7/22: Tax fraud	Jefferson County
8/22: Sexual misconduct	Mineral County
8/22: Gravel theft	Roosevelt County
10/22: Bank Fraud	Carter County
1/23: Official misconduct	Lincoln County
2/23: Official misconduct	Mineral County
3/23: Funds misappropriation	Carbon County
3/23: Insurance premium theft	Rosebud County
3/23: Inmate assault allegation	Gallatin County
3/23: Pre-prosecution assistance	Lewis and Clark County
3/23: Unintentional firearm discharge	Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
3/23: Forgery/Theft	Fergus County
3/23: County road shop theft	Valley County
5/23: Reserve officer misconduct	Carter County
6/23: County surplus auction allegation involving one vehicle	Big Horn County

The number of investigations by DCI that were referred to federal prosecutors that resulted in charges being filed in federal court, the names of the defendants, and the crimes charged are as follows:

Major Case had the following two (2) cases:

- Santana LEDEAUX – Robbery Affecting Commerce, Two Counts of Carjacking, Attempted Carjacking, and two counts of Using, Carrying and Brandishing a Weapon in Furtherance of a crime of Violence.
- Tara DURNELL – Wire Fraud/Bank Fraud by Embezzlement.

MFCU had the following case:

- Heather Marie BUGNI - Theft of Government Money, Health Care Fraud, False Statement or Representation Made to a Department or Agency of the United States

SSI/CDU had the following seven (7) cases:

- Janel JONES -Theft, SSA Fraud, Wire Fraud
- Keith PENDILL - Theft, Wire Fraud, False Statements, SSDI Fraud, SSDI False statements
- Cedric NEAL - Theft, False Statements, Wire Fraud, SSDI Fraud and SSDI Medical improvements
- Larry ROBERTS - Theft, Wire Fraud, False Statements, SSDI False Statements, SSDI Fraud
- Angelo BIANCO - Theft, False Statements, Wire Fraud, SSDI Fraud, SSDI Medical Improvement
- Sabine HINDMAN - Theft, Theft of Healthcare, Wire Fraud, False Statements, SSI Fraud, SSI Fraud Conceal
- Julie SULLIVAN - Theft, SSI Fraud, Wire Fraud, Theft of Healthcare

OCP has one case pending federal indictment, (details may not be disclosed).

Elder Justice and the Fire Marshal had zero cases federally referred.