

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Lake County criminal justice system is charged with maintaining social control, minimizing crime, enforcing laws and administering justice. The State's Attorney, Public Defender, Courts and Sheriff's Office, which includes Corrections, are the primary agencies responsible for these activities.

Local governments across the country are being challenged with a growing issue called recidivism, which is when an individual habitually commits crimes. This has an impact on the entire community. Reducing the jail population makes sense from a moral perspective, as well as economically. It is clearly in the community's best interest to minimize and prevent crime. From an economic perspective, it costs significant tax dollars to house criminal offenders in the jail and it benefits the community for offenders to be productive citizens and support their families.

As a strategic priority, Lake County is continuing to implement new criminal justice programs and enhance existing ones, as well as explore alternatives to incarceration. This includes working with criminal justice agencies to coordinate technology, augment programs like the drug and mental health courts and probation, assist inmates with job skills and training and implement community based programs.