

High Tech Crimes Unit

Background Information-

The Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (the IPAC) invites Indiana's 91 prosecuting attorneys to consider the establishment of a high-tech crimes unit (HTCU) in accordance with House Enrolled Act 1082 (2021).

HEA 1082 added section 33-39-8-7 to the Indiana Code. This provision allows "[t]he [IPAC to] . . . establish high tech crimes units to assist prosecuting attorneys in investigating, collecting evidence, and prosecuting high tech crimes." High tech crimes are defined as "a criminal act that is either: (1) committed with or (2) assisted by digital . . ., network, or communications technology." The IPAC "may select up to ten (10) counties that collectively represent the north, south, east, west, and central geographic areas of Indiana" ensuring state-wide coverage.

Indiana's HTCU's will focus on digital forensics which, according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, is "the field of forensic science that is concerned with retrieving, storing and analyzing electronic data that can be useful in criminal investigations" to include "information from computers, hard drives, mobile phones and other data storage devices."

Delaware County Prosecutor's Office and Muncie Police Department-

The Delaware County Prosecutor's Office High Crimes Unit (HTCU) was established in January 2022. The unit is a regional investigative unit under the supervision of the Delaware County Prosecutor. The region consists of Delaware, Blackford, Fayette, Grant, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union, Wabash, and Wayne counties. The unit provides law enforcement officers and investigators in the region with assistance in criminal investigations where the use of any type of digital media was used as an integral part of the crime. This includes investigation and analysis of digital evidence in our region by conducting digital examinations on computer and mobile media and fostering engagement with local institutions of higher education by developing and maintaining investigator internship programs.

The Muncie Police Department has partnered with Delaware County Prosecutor's Office High Tech Crimes Unit which will provide law enforcement agencies with accurate, reliable, and timely high tech and cybercrime laboratory services. The investigators in the Unit are objective finders of fact. They are impartial, no matter the case being worked on, whether it be for the prosecution or for the defense.