

**OFFICE OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
TUSCOLA COUNTY - STATE OF MICHIGAN**

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October 16, 2026

Amy Grace Gierhart
Circuit Court Judge
440 N. State Street
Caro, Michigan 48723

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted to the presiding judge of the 54th Circuit Court pursuant to MCL 168.205.

After much consideration, I have decided that I can no longer remain in the role of the Tuscola County Prosecuting Attorney as what I have witnessed and been subjected to in this County at the hands of the district court judge and circuit court judge runs afoul of my core personal values and sense of justice. I have witnessed attorneys, both prosecution and defense, treated with hostility, animosity, and vindictiveness. I have witnessed disrespect and unfair practices directed at crime victims.

Further, I have witnessed the hard work, dedication, and extraordinary efforts of law enforcement thwarted with exceptionally lenient sentences and oftentimes little to no accountability for criminal offenders. This has been immensely concerning over the past several years in cases involving offenders convicted of Child Sexually Abusive Material offenses. As a prosecutor, my focus and passion have been to obtain justice for child victims of sexual abuse. The heart-wrenching downward departure sentences given by the Tuscola County circuit court judge in the following cases have left victims without justice and endangered the most vulnerable members of our community:

- *People v. Damiani*, 21-015589-FH (sentenced to 18 months with a sentencing guidelines range of 51-85 months; 33 month downward departure sentence from bottom of guidelines)
- *People v. Kenny*, 21-015616-FH (sentenced to 57 months with a sentencing guidelines range of 78-130 months; 21 month downward departure sentence from bottom of guidelines)

- *People v. Ralston*, 22-015859-FH (sentenced to deferred jail time with a sentencing guidelines range of 45 to 75 months; 45 month downward departure sentence from bottom of guidelines)
- *People v. Knoll*, 25-016934-FH (sentenced to deferred jail time with a sentencing guideline range of 36-60 months; 36 month downward departure sentence from bottom of guidelines)
- *People v. Goudie*, 25-016835-FH (sentenced to a delay of sentence with a sentencing guidelines range of 51 to 85 months; 51 month downward departure sentence from bottom of guidelines)

I have also witnessed cases dismissed without just cause by the circuit court judges and district court judge resulting in years of appeals to get the illegal decisions of these courts overturned. Examples of such cases are: *People v. Perry*, unpublished per curiam opinion of the Court of Appeals, issued August 10, 2023 (Docket No. 363884); *People v. Plain*, unpublished per curiam opinion of the Court of Appeals, issued September 14, 2023 (Docket No. 363297); *People v. Novosad*, unpublished opinion per curiam of the Court of Appeals, issued January 25, 2024 (Docket No. 364356); *People v. Izydorek*, unpublished per curiam opinion of the Court of Appeals, issued January 14, 2026 (Docket No. 372747); *People v. Deblock*, 24-1116-SM; *People v. Mecomber*, 26-0572-FY.

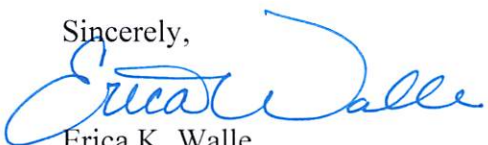
Recent events involving personal attacks have only served as further evidence that it is time for me to make this change for myself and my family. All I have ever wanted to do was my job. All I have ever wanted to do was give a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. All I have ever wanted to do was make Tuscola County a better place to live and work. The cumulative actions of the district and circuit court judges have rendered these objectives an impossibility.

The principle that guides my life and my work ethic has always been: Don't try to change the whole world, the world is far too large for one person to change; instead focus on changing the world around you. In my nearly ten years as a prosecutor in the Tuscola County Prosecutor's Office, I have strived to change the world around me for the better by representing the People of Tuscola County with vigorous passion, dedication, and hard work. Over the last several years, it has become clear to me that no amount of effort from one person can overcome the injustices perpetrated by the district and circuit courts in Tuscola County. These injustices are far too great for one person to change. Change in this community will require the concerted efforts of the citizens exercising their constitutional right to elect leaders that will adhere to the law and stand for principles of fairness, justice, and integrity.

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the Office of the Tuscola County Prosecuting Attorney. My resignation will take effect on October 25, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

Please note that I will not be available to attend court hearings during the week of October 19-23, 2026 as I will be working diligently to prepare my Office for my absence going forward. Criminal dockets in district and circuit court should be adjourned until my successor is appointed.

Sincerely,



Erica K. Walle
Prosecuting Attorney
Tuscola County