

Report on Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance

Calendar Year 2022



Administrative Office of the Courts

February 2023

Report on Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance

This is the 44th report submitted pursuant to § 10-409(c) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article. The report covers Calendar Year 2022.

The Administrative Office of the Courts received reports concerning 41 new requests for electronic surveillance in 2022, a decrease of 2.4% from the 42 requests reported for Calendar Year 2021. The State's Attorney for Carroll County also submitted a supplementary report for a wiretap reported in 2021 reporting on the arrest of 12 persons in 2022. The 41 applications for surveillance in 2022 were received by judges in seven jurisdictions, including 19 in Anne Arundel County, six in each of Baltimore City and Howard and Washington Counties, two in Dorchester County, and one each in Baltimore and Montgomery Counties. Several investigations involved multiple wiretaps, as indicated in the accompanying tables.

During Calendar Year 2022, most reported surveillances involved investigations concerning possible violations of drug laws. Specifically, drugs - illegal was noted in 31 of the requests (74%), drug kingpin in six (14%), and narcotics in two of the requests (5%). The remaining requests for surveillance involved murder (two requests, 5%).

Nearly all of the reported applications for interceptions during Calendar Year 2022 involved cellular phones carried by or on an individual (95%) and text messaging (90% involved both). An additional 2 included an app or social media account and 2 involved microphones / eavesdropping. One application noted the application involved with no location specified in the order, but this application also listed a cellular phone, text messaging, and app.

There were 175,576 total communications reported intercepted, including 25,586 (15%) reported to be of an incriminating nature. For comparison, in Calendar Year 2021, 160,643 communications were reported intercepted of which 24,461 (15%) were reported to be incriminating. The reported Calendar Year 2022 surveillances resulted in the interception of the communications of 6,585 individuals. While results from many investigations are still pending, and results of several investigations were unknown or unreported, thus far there have been a total of 30 arrests, not including the 12 noted in footnote 1, above, and 10 persons convicted. Overall, \$1,558,381 was reportedly spent on electronic surveillance, personnel, and resource costs during Calendar Year 2022. This does not include unknown or unreported costs. Comparatively,

\$1,897,226 was reported expended in Calendar Year 2021 and \$869,767 in Calendar Year 2020. In 2021, the State's Attorney for Baltimore City reportedly expended the greatest amount of money on a single investigation, \$1,365,000, followed by the State's Attorney for Washington County with \$120,702 expended on a single investigation. The other reported costs were \$45,734 (Office of the Attorney General) and \$26,945 (State's Attorney for Montgomery County).

A detailed breakdown of each 2022 request is appended to this report. Reporting numbers listed in the appendix are used to relate reports submitted by prosecuting officials to those submitted by judges.

**WIRETAPPING AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-409(c) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022**

REPORTS BY JUDGES

Reporting Number	Official Authorizing Application	Offense Specified	Type of Intercept	Location	Date of Application	Original Order (Days)	Number of Extensions	Total Length (Days)
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County								
1	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	07/13/2022	30	0	30
2	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	07/13/2022	30	0	30
3	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	07/13/2022	30	1	59
4	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	07/13/2022	30	1	59
5	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	08/04/2022	30	2	77
6	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	08/04/2022	30	0	30
7	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	08/10/2022	30	4	144
8	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	08/10/2022	30	0	30
9	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	08/25/2022	30	3	115
10	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	08/25/2022	30	1	57
11	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	09/06/2022	30	3	117
12	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	10/18/2022	30	1	60
13	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	10/18/2022	30	0	30

REPORTS BY JUDGES

Reporting Number	Official Authorizing Application	Offense Specified	Type of Intercept	Location	Date of Application	Original Order (Days)	Number of Extensions	Total Length (Days)
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County (Continued)								
14	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	02/15/2022	30	1	60
15	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	02/28/2022	30	1	60
16	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	03/15/2022	30	0	60
17	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	03/15/2022	30	0	60
18	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	02/15/2022	30	1	60
19	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	02/15/2022	30	0	30

Circuit Court for Baltimore City								
1	State's Attorney	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	01/07/2022	30	3	120
2	State's Attorney	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	01/07/2022	30	0	30
3	State's Attorney	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	01/07/2022	30	3	120
4	State's Attorney	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	01/18/2022	30	2	90
5	State's Attorney	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	03/11/2022	30	0	30
6	State's Attorney	Murder	Cellular Phone; Microphone / Eavesdrop; Text Messaging; App	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	01/28/2022	30	0	30

REPORTS BY JUDGES								
Reporting Number	Official Authorizing Application	Offense Specified	Type of Intercept	Location	Date of Application	Original Order (Days)	Number of Extensions	Total Length (Days)
Circuit Court for Baltimore County								
1	State's Attorney	Narcotics	Cellular Phone	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	02/22/2022	30	3	120
Circuit Court for Dorchester County								
1	State's Attorney	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	01/31/2022	30	0	30
2	State's Attorney	Narcotics	Cellular Phone	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	08/30/2022	30	0	30
Circuit Court for Howard County								
1	Attorney General	Drug Kingpin	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	03/31/2022	30	2	87
2	Attorney General	Drug Kingpin	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	03/31/2022	30	1	59
3	Attorney General	Drug Kingpin	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	04/08/2022	30	0	30
4	Attorney General	Drug Kingpin	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	04/08/2022	30	0	30
5	Attorney General	Drug Kingpin	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	04/29/2022	30	1	58
6	Attorney General	Drug Kingpin	Microphone / Eavesdrop	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	05/18/2022	30	0	30
Circuit Court for Montgomery County								
1	States' Attorney	Murder	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging; App	No Location Specified in Order	06/01/2022	30	0	30

REPORTS BY JUDGES

Reporting Number	Official Authorizing Application	Offense Specified	Type of Intercept	Location	Date of Application	Original Order (Days)	Number of Extensions	Total Length (Days)
Circuit Court for Washington County								
1	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	09/27/2022	30	2	90
2	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	09/27/2022	30	1	60
3	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	09/27/2022	30	2	90
4	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	09/27/2022	30	1	60
5	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	11/22/2022	30	0	30
6	Attorney General	Drugs - Illegal	Cellular Phone; Text Messaging	Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	11/22/2022	30	0	30

**WIRETAPPING AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-409(c) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022**

REPORTS BY PROSECUTING OFFICERS										
Reporting Number	Number of Days in Operation	Average Number of Intercepts Per Day	Number of			Costs		Number of		
			Intercepts	Conversations of Individuals Intercepted	Incriminating Intercepts	Total Cost(\$)/ Non-Personnel Cost(\$)	Persons Arrested	Trials	Motions to Suppress Intercepts	Persons Convicted
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County										
1	28	60.6	1,698	177	692	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
2	15	8.5	128	45	32					
3	30	78.1	2,344	275	891					
4	43	150.2	6,460	409	1,768					
5	61	378.5	23,088	518	2,546					
6	13	39.6	515	88	16					
7	127	138.2	17,555	555	4,338					
8	28	117.2	3,281	130	1,113					
9	112	83.9	9,399	382	474					
10	40	6.9	274	34	46					
11	100	121.5	12,152	483	1,255					
12	58	128.0	7,424	624	1,615					
13	30	3.6	107	25	17					

REPORTS BY PROSECUTING OFFICERS											
Reporting Number	Number of Days in Operation	Average Number of Intercepts Per Day	Number of			Costs		Number of			
			Intercepts	Conversations of Individuals Intercepted	Incriminating Intercepts	Total Cost(\$)/ Non-Personnel Cost(\$)	Persons Arrested	Trials	Motions to Suppress Intercepts	Persons Convicted	
Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County (Continued)											
14	50	58.7	2,933	307	162	\$45,734	\$10,767	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
15	3	0.0	0	0	0						
16	50	47.3	2,364	301	58						
17	47	30.8	1,447	145	173						
18	22	4.0	88	8	0						
19	22	22.2	488	185	52						
	879	104.4	91,745	4,691	15,248	\$45,734	\$10,767	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Circuit Court for Baltimore City											
1	106	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	\$420,000	\$420,000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
2	30	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	\$105,000	\$105,000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
3	106	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	\$420,000	\$420,000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
4	80	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	\$315,000	\$315,000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
5	30	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	\$105,000	\$105,000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
6	No Report Received										
	352	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	\$1,365,000	\$1,365,000	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

REPORTS BY PROSECUTING OFFICERS											
Reporting Number	Number of Days in Operation	Average Number of Intercepts Per Day	Number of			Costs		Number of			
			Intercepts	Conversations of Individuals Intercepted	Incriminating Intercepts	Total Cost(\$)/ Non-Personnel Cost(\$)	Persons Arrested	Trials	Motions to Suppress Intercepts	Persons Convicted	
Circuit Court for Baltimore County											
1	93	151.2	14,060	522	1,130	Unknown	Unknown	16	[BLANK]	0	1
	93	151.2	14,060	522	1,130	Unknown	Unknown	16	0	0	0
Circuit Court for Dorchester County											
1	25	Unknown	Unknown	4	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	9	0	0	9
2	30	Unknown	Unknown	1	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	4	Pending	4 Pending	Pending
	55	Unknown	Unknown	5	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	13	0	0	9
Circuit Court for Howard County											
1	76	43.8	3,327	196	3,101	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
2	54	53.4	2,884	238	237						
3	18	12.5	225	37	73						
4	26	14.9	388	45	322						
5	47	12.1	570	164	49						
6	28	26.0	727	Unknown	Unknown						
	249	32.6	8,121	680	3,782	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Circuit Court for Montgomery County											
1	11	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1	\$26,945	\$2,945	1	0	Pending	Pending
	11	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1	\$26,945	2,945	1	0	0	0

REPORTS BY PROSECUTING OFFICERS											
Reporting Number	Number of Days in Operation	Average Number of Intercepts Per Day	Number of			Costs		Number of			
			Intercepts	Conversations of Individuals Intercepted	Incriminating Intercepts	Total Cost(\$)/ Non-Personnel Cost(\$)	Persons Arrested	Trials	Motions to Suppress Intercepts	Persons Convicted	
Circuit Court for Washington County											
1	75	31.1	2,334	51	126	\$120,702	\$12,615	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
2	40	212.2	8,486	88	38						
3	64	345.5	22,115	153	3,573						
4	40	486.4	19,457	261	1,396						
5	20	128.3	2,566	48	80						
6	26	257.4	6,692	86	212						
	265	232.6	61,650	687	5,425	\$120,702	\$12,615	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Total	1,904	92.2	175,576	6,585	25,586	\$1,558,381	\$1,391,327	30	0	0	10

Statewide Summary of Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance for January 1 - December 31, 2022

Offense	Number	%
Drugs - Illegal	31	74%
Drug Kingpin	6	14%
Narcotics	2	5%
Murder	2	5%
Blank or missing	1	2%
Total	42	100%

Location	Number	%
Portable Device - Carried by/on Individual	40	95%
Roving No Location Specified in Order	1	2%
Blank or missing	1	2%
Total	42	100%

(5 Applications listed 2 locations.)

Number of Arrests	30
Number of Persons Convicted	10

Intercept Information	Number
Intercepts	175,576
Incriminating Intercepts	25,586
Communications of Individuals Intercepted	6,585

Type of Intercept	Number	%
Cellular Phone	40	95%
Text Messaging	38	90%
App or Social Media	2	5%
Microphone / Eavesdrop	2	5%
Blank or missing	1	2%
Total	42	100%

(Many applications listed more than 1 type of intercept.)