



OFFICE OF
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**Statement Regarding Attorney General Rokita's Lawsuit Against the
Monroe County Sheriff's Office**

On July 11, 2024, Attorney General Todd Rokita filed a lawsuit against Sheriff Marté and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. The complaint argues that the Office's Standard Operating Procedure MCSO-12, relating to enforcement of immigration laws, conflicts with state law. In particular, the Attorney General challenges the aspect of the policy that people will not be held in detention solely based on an administrative request from the federal government, when that request is not supported by probable cause that a crime has been committed or a detention order from a judge.

The Sheriff's Office crafted the Standard Operating Procedure to comply with all applicable laws, including the 4th Amendment. The Attorney General's argument to the contrary directly conflicts with a 2021 ruling from the Indiana Court of Appeals. *City of Gary v. Nicholson*, 181 N.E.3d 390 (Ind. Ct. App. 2021), *dismissed for lack of jurisdiction*, 190 N.E.3d 349 (Ind. 2022).

Sheriff Marté stated the following:

My office takes seriously our obligation to enforce the laws while respecting everyone's constitutional rights. Our Standard Operating Procedure does exactly that. We are prepared to defend vigorously the policy in court.

The Sheriff's Office is represented by attorneys from the Monroe County Legal Department and the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University Law Center. Further inquiries may be directed to legal counsel at ReachICAP@georgetown.edu.