



MARY JANE BURTON (MJB) CASE FILE REVIEW UPDATE

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BACKGROUND

- Mary Jane Burton (MJB) was a forensic examiner at the Department of Forensic Science (DFS) from 1973 to 1988.
- The majority of her work was in serology.
- Many of the cases she examined were violent crimes, such as murder and sexual assault, but she also worked a wide array of other offenses.



BACKGROUND

- The Crime Commission was previously involved in the *Virginia Post-Conviction DNA Testing and Notification Project*, relating to biological evidence retained in archived DFS case files from 1973-1988.
- In January 2023, a podcast was released alleging misconduct by MJB:
 - Discrepancies, errors, and alterations of test results; and,
 - Misleading testimony in court.
- The Crime Commission is conducting two distinct reviews:
 - *MJB Case File Review* – 2024 budget language; and,
 - *MJB Review Panel* – 2025 legislation.



MJB CASE FILE REVIEW

- The Crime Commission is directed to determine the scope of MJB's work at DFS, including the total:
 1. Case files that contain at least one named suspect.
 2. Named suspects who were convicted of an offense where testing was performed by MJB, categorized by:
 - Incarcerated;
 - On DOC supervision (probation or parole);
 - Deceased; or,
 - Executed.
 3. Cases where MJB testified.

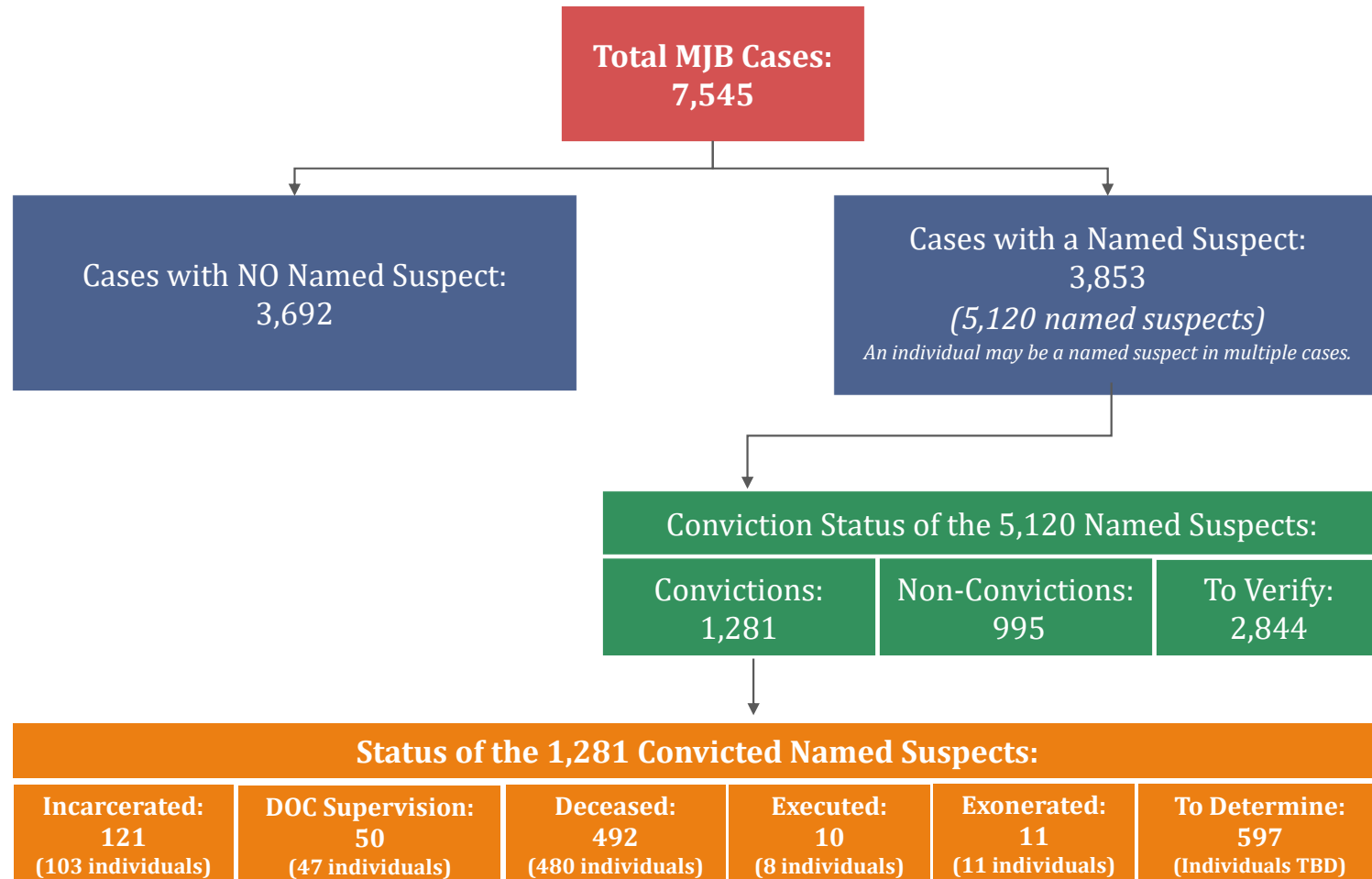


MJB CASE FILE REVIEW

- All known MJB cases have been reviewed and cross-validated.



MJB Case File Review Status (September 2026)



Source: Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Historic Case File Project, 1973-1988, MJB certificates of analysis only. Analysis by Virginia State Crime Commission staff. Staff identified at least 199 cases with an indication that Ms. Burton testified.



MJB CASE FILE REVIEW – NEXT STEPS

- Request assistance from clerks of court to determine the conviction status of the 2,844 named suspects.
- Continue to work and share information with stakeholders, such as DFS and the Innocence Project of the University of Virginia School of Law (UVA-IP).
- Provide an update in January 2027.



DISCUSSION