



# MARY JANE BURTON CASE FILE REVIEW STATUS

*Update to the Forensic Science Board*

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# Case File Review

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- ▶ 2024 budget language directs the Crime Commission to determine the number of MJB cases, 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);
    - Executed; or,
    - Deceased.
  3. Cases where MJB provided scientific testimony.



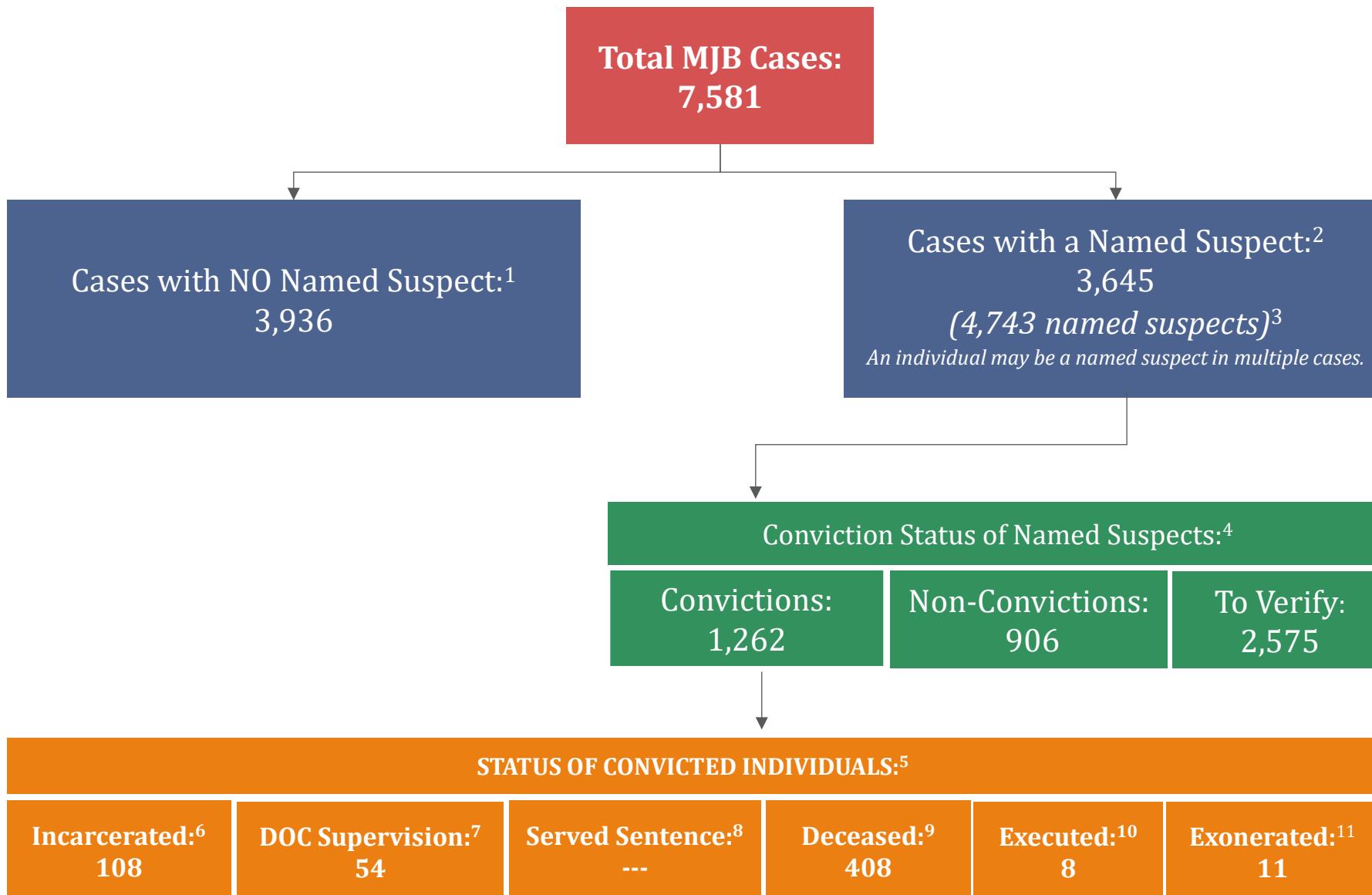
# Case File Review

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- ▶ 92% (6,955 of 7,581) of all known MJB cases have been reviewed and cross-validated.
  - Identified 186 cases with an indication of testimony.
  - Located an additional 552 named suspects.



# MJB Case File Review



Source: Virginia Department of Forensic Science, Historic Case File Project, 1973-1988, MJB certificates of analysis only. Analysis by Virginia State Crime Commission staff. Status as of January 5, 2026.



# Convicted Individuals

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- ▶ DFS notified all individuals who are incarcerated or under DOC supervision.
- ▶ UVA Innocence Project was provided with the names and DFS lab files of all incarcerated individuals:
  - Disseminated questionnaires to incarcerated individuals; and,
  - Assigned approximately 40 cases to pro bono attorneys.
- ▶ Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project (MAIP) conducted an independent review of all cases where an individual was executed.



# Case File Review – Next Steps

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- ▶ Review the 626 remaining MJB cases to collect PII and offense details for cases that require conviction verification.
- ▶ Research the conviction status of the 2,575 named suspects to determine the number of convicted individuals and whether they are currently incarcerated, under DOC supervision, deceased, or have completed serving any type of sentence.
- ▶ Additional cases and convictions will likely be identified as the case file review is finalized.