



# Beaufort County Sheriff's Office

## Report on Domestic Violence Charges

September 2021

Since 2015, deputies have filed **1,415** charges in General Sessions court.

As of September 2021, **27 percent** of these charges are awaiting their outcomes in court.

### Outcomes ...

- **Dismissed/not prosecuted:** 70 percent
- **Plea deals:** 29 percent
- **Jury trials:** 1 percent (86 percent ended in not guilty verdicts)
- **49 percent** of plea deals were for reduced or other charges.
- **166** of the domestic violence charges – or **16 percent** – filed by Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and since adjudicated have been expunged.

### Number of Domestic Violence Charges Filed by Year ...

- **2015:** 242
- **2016:** 260
- **2017:** 195
- **2018:** 183
- **2019:** 192
- **2020:** 207
- **2021:** 138

# Supporting Data

*All information has been taken from the 14th Circuit Beaufort County Public Index, which is available to the public. Expungements were accounted for through court reporting.*

Beaufort County law enforcement agencies have filed **1,942** domestic violence charges in General Sessions Court since 2015. Of those, **504** are awaiting adjudication and **1,011** – or **70 percent** of adjudicated charges – were not prosecuted.

Of the **418** domestic violence charges that were prosecuted in Beaufort County since 2015, **392** resulted in suspended sentences, “time served” or fewer than 90 days in jail. **Two** charges resulted in straight sentences of more than 5 years in prison.

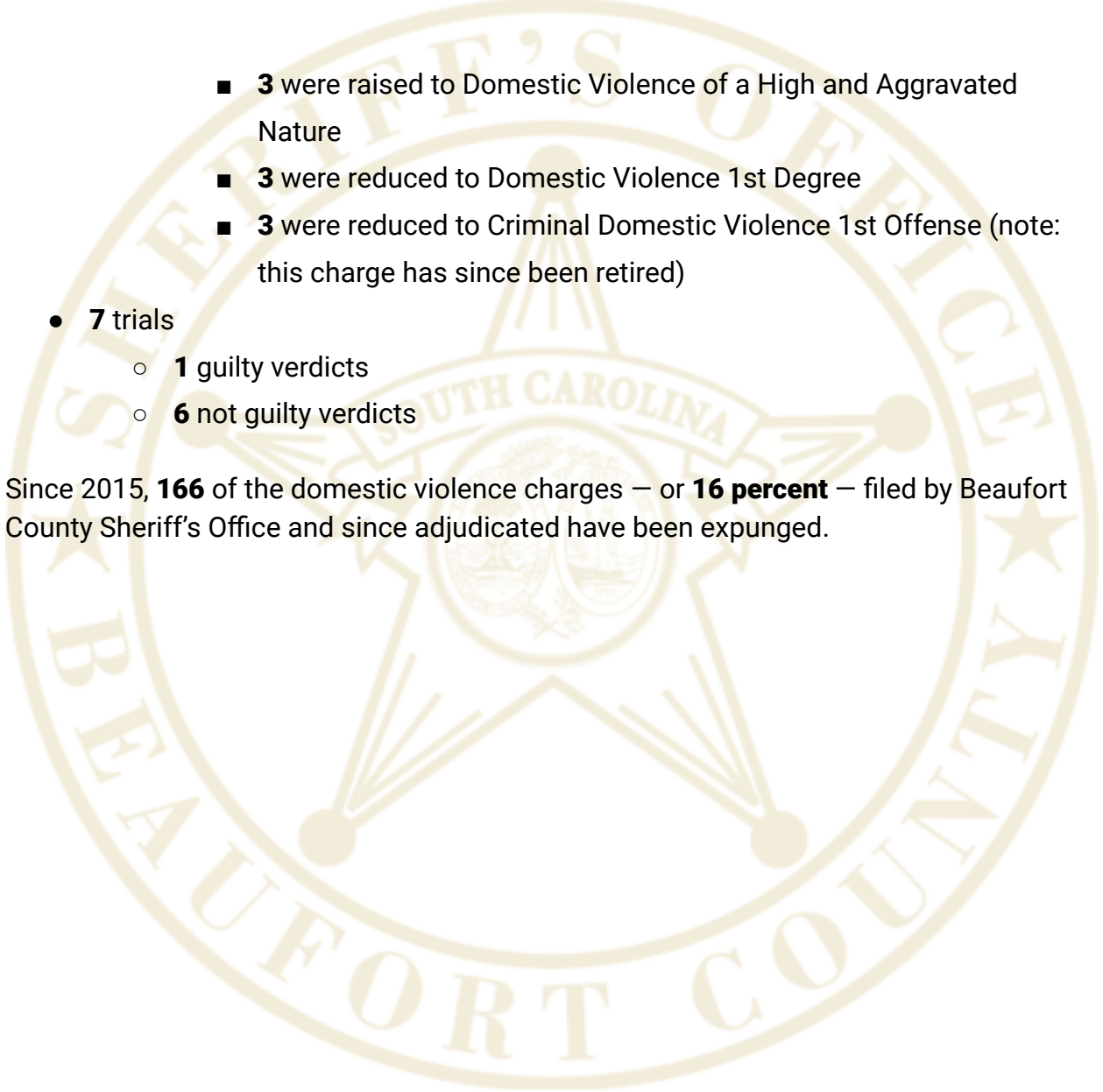
The Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office filed **1,415** domestic violence charges – or **73 percent** of total domestic violence charges in the county. As of September 2021, **377** of those charges are awaiting adjudication. Of those pending charges, **194** are more than 365 days old – **48** of which are older than 730 days. Nine charges are older than 3 years.

Of the remaining **1,037** charges filed by the Sheriff’s Office, **730** – or **70 percent** – were not prosecuted.

- **368** were dismissed
- **253** were Nolle Prossed (not prosecuted after grand jury indictment)
- **95** were sent to a lower court
- **12** were failure to appear
- **2** were failure to comply

The **308** cases that were prosecuted include:

- **301** plea deals
  - **147** pleas were to reduced or other charges
    - **60 charges** were reduced to Domestic Violence 3rd Degree
    - **54** were reduced to Assault and Battery 3rd Degree
    - **20** were reduced to Assault and Battery 2nd Degree
    - **4** were reduced to Assault and Battery 1st Degree

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- The seal of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a five-pointed star with a central emblem containing a scale of justice and a sword. The text "SHERIFF'S OFFICE" is at the top, "SOUTH CAROLINA" is on a banner across the star, and "BEAUFORT COUNTY" is at the bottom. Two stars are positioned on the left and right sides of the seal.
- **3** were raised to Domestic Violence of a High and Aggravated Nature
  - **3** were reduced to Domestic Violence 1st Degree
  - **3** were reduced to Criminal Domestic Violence 1st Offense (note: this charge has since been retired)
  - **7** trials
    - **1** guilty verdicts
    - **6** not guilty verdicts

Since 2015, **166** of the domestic violence charges — or **16 percent** — filed by Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and since adjudicated have been expunged.