



# Douglas R. Lloyd

## EATON COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Chief Assistant Prosecutor: Christopher N. Anderson

Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys:

Sharon S. Park  
Adam H. Strong  
Ryan J. Tetloff

Brenna J. Hedrick  
Jolina O'Berry  
Robin L. Narlock

Christopher R. Candela  
Jacob W. Hoppe  
M. Katie Pabich

Victim/Witness Unit: Jody Strang & Marissa Shook

Investigators: Bryan Seratt (Main Office) & Rod Beals (ECU)

Dear Parents:

As I wrote to you last spring, my office always takes threat to the safety of community, and the schools within our communities, very seriously. Because of tragic and violent events recently within schools, communities across the country share increased concerns for the safety of the students and staff of their local schools. Every parent, student, teacher, and staff member deserves to feel comfortable knowing that their school is a safe place for children to learn and grow. Unfortunately, some individuals engage in conduct, with full intent or not, that destroys that feeling of safety.

In the last year, we have seen a rise in threats against the schools in our community and across the country as a whole. **My office, law enforcement, and each school district want to make this abundantly clear – we take these threats seriously.** Each threat **must** be treated as a true and intentional threat, regardless of whether an individual was joking, did not mean to scare people, did not mean to actually carry it out, etc. To treat these threats any other way would diminish the safety and security of our most vulnerable citizens: our children. My office, together with law enforcement and the schools, will investigate such threats to the fullest extent in order to protect our community.

In an effort to address each threat of violence within the school community, the Eaton RESA and its member districts have established guidelines and procedures for schools to follow in addressing and evaluating threats or violence within schools throughout Eaton County. These guidelines are intended to assist schools, law enforcement, and my office in evaluating threats to our schools and identifying those individuals who seek to destroy the safety and comfort of our schools. I applaud the schools for taking the initiative to formulate the guidelines and procedures being put into place this school year. While not every “fist-fight” poses a threat to the safety of a school building or its students, identifying patterns of behavior and working to prevent the escalation of a “fist-fight” or “tough-talk” to something more dangerous is absolutely crucial to ensuring the safety of our communities.

I reach out to you again as we embark on a new school year to encourage you to talk with your kids about the choices they make and the words they use. Remind them that their statements, comments, social media postings, etc. that can be interpreted as threatening to cause harm to a student body, a school, a teacher, or school staff can lead to very serious criminal charges. Encourage your kids to seek alternatives to physical or violent confrontations, and to be willing to speak up if they are concerned about the actions or words of a fellow student, or their safety at school.

We are a community, and communities must stand together as one to remain safe. Only by working together can we ensure that our children can learn and grow in safety. Eaton County is an amazing place to raise a family, and I am proud to work with our schools, law enforcement, and most importantly you to ensure that Eaton County remains a safe place to live, work, and raise your family.

Respectfully,

Douglas R. Lloyd  
Eaton County Prosecutor

[www.prosecutingattorney.info](http://www.prosecutingattorney.info)