



# MARY JANE BURTON CASE FILE REVIEW STATUS

## Study Highlights

January 2026

Staff identified 7,581 cases where Ms. Burton was the forensic examiner and has reviewed 92% (6,955) of these cases to determine:

- Any named suspect(s) in the case; and,
- Personal and case identifying information of named suspect(s) to ascertain whether they were convicted on that case.

To date, staff has identified 186 cases where Ms. Burton testified.

To complete the directives of the 2024 budget language, staff will:

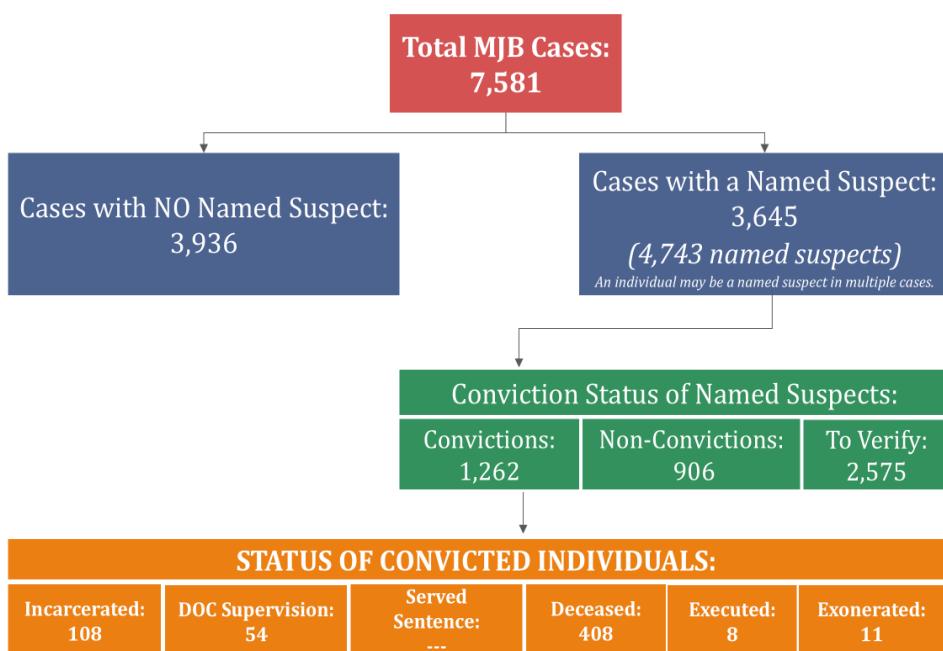
- Review the remaining 626 cases where Ms. Burton was the forensic examiner;
- Verify the conviction status of all outstanding named suspects; and,
- Classify any additional convicted individuals based on their current status (incarcerated, under DOC supervision, served sentence, or deceased).

## Who was Mary Jane Burton?

Mary Jane Burton was a forensic examiner at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS) from 1973 to 1988. The majority of her work involved forensic serology. Many of her cases involved violent crimes such as murder and sexual assault, but she also examined evidence on a wide array of other types of offenses. In 2023, a podcast was released alleging that Ms. Burton engaged in misconduct, including discrepancies, errors, and alterations of test results, as well as providing misleading testimony in court.

## Case File Review Status

Budget language enacted in 2024 directs the Crime Commission to determine the total number of cases where Ms. Burton served as the forensic examiner, including (i) the number of case files that contain at least one named suspect, (ii) the number of named suspects convicted of a crime, and whether those individuals are incarcerated, under Department of Corrections (DOC) supervision, executed, or deceased, and (iii) the number of cases where Ms. Burton provided scientific testimony in court. The Crime Commission, in coordination with DFS, began work on this directive and has identified the following number of cases as of January 7, 2026.



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Source: Virginia DFS, Historic Case File Project, 1973-1988, MJB certificates of analysis only. Analysis by VSCC staff. Status as of 1/7/2026.