

# Attorney General



## General Overview

The Attorney General is an elected constitutional officer and serves as the chief law enforcement officer of the State. The powers of the Attorney General are prescribed by the State Constitution, statute, and court decisions. The Attorney General is the legal counsel for State departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and the Legislature. Opinions of the Attorney General are binding on State government until overturned by court decisions. The Attorney General defends the State in court and also brings actions and intervenes in cases on the State's behalf. The Attorney General also has supervisory powers over local prosecuting attorneys.

The Attorney General serves as head of the Department of Attorney General. The Department includes many legal divisions which are listed below and the autonomous (Type I Agency) Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council. The Department has offices in Lansing, Detroit, and Grand Rapids.

## Major Divisions and Programs

**Legal Bureaus.** The Department is organized as follows:

### **Criminal Justice Bureau**

- Assistance with Convictions and Expungements Division
- Criminal Investigations Division
- Financial Crimes Division
- Victim Rights/Services Division
- Criminal Appellate and Parole Appeals Division
- Criminal Trials Division
- Health Care Fraud Division
- Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council

### **Environment & Government Ops Bureau**

- Collections Division
- Corrections Division
- Environment, Natural Resources, & Agriculture Division
- Finance Division
- Public Administration Division
- Revenue & Tax Division
- Special Litigation Division
- State Operations Division
- Transportation Division

### **Consumer & Regulatory Enforcement Bureau**

- Alcohol & Gambling Enforcement Division
- Children & Youth Services Division
- Civil Rights & Elections Division
- Corporate Oversight Division
- Health, Education, & Family Services Division
- Labor Division
- Licensing & Regulation Division
- Public Service Division

**Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council.** Public Act 203 of 1972 created the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council as an autonomous entity in the Department of Attorney General. Responsibilities of the Council include keeping the prosecuting attorneys of the State informed on all changes in legislation. The Council provides training and support to local prosecuting and assistant prosecuting attorneys. It operates the case tracking system to maintain case information, communicate among the prosecutors, State Police, Department of Corrections and generate required notices including victim's rights notifications.