

# 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. The Attorney General defends the State in court and also brings actions and intervenes in cases on the State's behalf.

Opinions of the Attorney General are binding on State government until overturned by court decisions. The Attorney General has supervisory powers over local prosecuting attorneys. The Attorney General serves as head of the Department of Attorney General, which has 42 legal and three administrative divisions. The Department also includes the autonomous (Type I Agency) Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council. The Department has offices in Lansing, Detroit, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, and Petoskey.

## Major Divisions and Programs

**Legal Bureaus.** The Department has recently been reorganized into four bureaus:

### **The Child and Family Services Bureau**

- Children and Youth Services Division
- Child Support Division
- Community Health Division
- Education and Social Services Division
- Health Care Fraud Division

### **Consumer Protection & Criminal Prosecutions Bureau**

- Consumer Protection Division
- Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division
- Tobacco & Special Litigation Division
- Criminal Division
- Alcohol & Gambling Enforcement Division

### **Economic Development and Oversight Bureau**

- Finance Division
- Licensing & Regulation Division
- Insurance and Banking Division
- Public Service Division
- Revenue and Collections Division
- State Operations Division

### **Governmental Affairs Bureau**

- Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Division
- Labor Division
- Public Employment, Elections, and Tort Division
- Transportation Division
- Corrections Division
- Opinions & Municipal Affairs Division

**Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council.** Public Act 203 of 1972 created 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 pertaining to their office. The Council provides training and support services to local prosecuting and assistant prosecuting attorneys.