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**Office of the Attorney General: Overview**  
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
January 27, 2021

The duties of the Attorney General are established by [statute](#)<sup>1</sup> and common law, and include: representing the State and its agencies in civil actions; advising professional licensing boards; handling child protection matters; prosecuting claims to recover money for the State; enforcing child support obligations; investigating and prosecuting homicides, drug-related crimes, tax evasion, welfare fraud, securities violations, public corruption, and other crimes; consulting with and advising the district attorneys; overseeing public charities; and giving written opinions upon questions of law submitted by the Governor, Legislature, or state agencies.

The leading case on the powers and duties of the Attorney General is *Superintendent of Insurance v. Attorney General*, 558 A.2d 1197 (Me.1989). The essential principle stated by the Court in this landmark decision is that the Attorney General possesses constitutional and common law authority, independent of the agencies represented by the Office that may be exercised by the Attorney General in the public interest.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is organized into 10 divisions: Administration, Child Protective, Child Support, Consumer Protection, Criminal, Health & Human Services, Investigation, Litigation, Professional and Financial Regulation, and Natural Resources.

Among the programs administered by the OAG are the Civil Rights Team Project, the Victims' Compensation Program, and the Tobacco Enforcement Program.

The budget for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, who is appointed by the Governor, as well as the payroll and benefits for the eight elected District Attorneys and the Assistant District Attorneys, are administered by the OAG.

The OAG engages on the national level with other states in litigation, rulemaking, and other activities which may have an impact on Maine and its citizens.

Contacts

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<sup>1</sup> MRS Title 5, Chapter 9. ATTORNEY GENERAL