

The Agency

Attorney General

Agency Operations

The Attorney General is established under the Rhode Island Constitution as one of the five general officers subject to election by the voters. As the State's central legal agency, the Attorney General is responsible for the prosecution of all felony criminal cases, misdemeanor appeals, and misdemeanor cases brought by state law enforcement action in the various district courts.

The Attorney General initiates legal action to protect the interests of the citizens of Rhode Island regarding compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the Access to Public Records Act, and protection of the public from deceptive business practices and anti-trust violations. Additionally, the Attorney General provides legal advice to state officers and represents all agencies, departments, and commissions in litigation. The State Bureau of Criminal Identification, the central repository for all criminal records in the State, is operated and maintained by the Attorney General.

The Office of Attorney General is divided into four programs: Criminal, Civil, Bureau of Criminal Identification, and General.

Agency Objectives

To represent the State with regard to the investigation, prosecution, and trial of all felony matters, misdemeanor cases, and appellate matters within its jurisdiction.

To provide public protection on behalf of the people of Rhode Island as citizens, consumers, and taxpayers.

To provide criminal history information and descriptive data on demand to federal and local law enforcement agencies seven days a week, 24-hours a day.

Statutory History

Article IV, Section 1 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 42-9 establish the Office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extradition; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-57 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Recommended	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Criminal	13,849,949	14,628,614	14,992,360	14,835,282	15,247,581
Civil	4,630,021	4,591,253	4,797,213	5,043,855	4,973,822
Bureau of Criminal Identification	1,014,496	1,036,827	1,066,099	1,045,689	1,056,744
General	2,420,142	2,616,554	2,875,842	3,385,037	2,904,066
Total Expenditures	\$21,914,608	\$22,873,248	\$23,731,514	\$24,309,863	\$24,182,213
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	20,088,655	21,422,285	21,705,979	21,676,325	22,250,692
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,585,255	1,191,675	1,665,330	1,814,017	1,657,635
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$21,673,910	\$22,613,960	\$23,371,309	\$23,490,342	\$23,908,327
Capital Purchases and Equipment	240,698	259,288	360,205	819,521	273,886
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$21,914,608	\$22,873,248	\$23,731,514	\$24,309,863	\$24,182,213
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	19,799,874	20,550,412	21,212,039	21,134,410	21,774,743
Federal Funds	1,274,491	1,298,123	1,263,609	1,313,294	1,274,540
Restricted Receipts	678,356	867,559	980,866	1,114,433	932,930
Other Funds	161,887	157,154	275,000	747,726	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$21,914,608	\$22,873,248	\$23,731,514	\$24,309,863	\$24,182,213
FTE Authorization	234.8	234.8	231.1	231.1	231.1
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	13.7%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%	13.8%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	59.4%	57.3%	57.3%	57.3%	57.3%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	2.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

The Program

Attorney General Criminal

Program Operations

The Criminal Program, with offices in Providence, Kent, Washington, and Newport counties, is responsible for the prosecution of felony cases and misdemeanor appeals from the district courts. The Narcotics and Organized Crime Prosecution Unit is composed of legal and support staff. This unit prosecutes all narcotics and organized crime cases. The Forfeiture Unit handles all asset forfeiture cases. The Information-Charging Unit prepares information for all felony cases filed in Providence County, with the exception of Grand Jury indictments. The Victim/Witness Unit administers a comprehensive assistance program for victims and state witnesses; this unit's existence is mandated by the Victim's Bill of Rights. The Diversion Unit provides alternatives to court prosecution for selected first-time, non-violent felony offenders. The Juvenile Unit is responsible for prosecuting all juveniles charged with felonies by local police and state agencies, and all adults charged with criminal child abuse. The Appellate Unit represents the State in all criminal appeals before the Rhode Island Supreme Court and post-conviction cases filed in federal court. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit prosecutes fraud and abuse by providers of Medicaid services to Rhode Island and the Welfare Fraud Unit investigates and prosecutes all cases of welfare fraud.

Program Objectives

To represent the State with regard to the investigation, prosecution, and trial of all felony matters, misdemeanor cases brought by state law enforcement, and appellate matters within its jurisdiction.

Statutory History

Article IV, Section 1 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 42-9 establish the Office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extradition; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-57 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General Criminal

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Recommended	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	12,893,194	13,887,304	13,920,924	13,878,036	14,263,259
Operating Supplies and Expenses	899,914	689,567	1,014,844	911,339	937,038
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$13,793,108	\$14,576,871	\$14,935,768	\$14,789,375	\$15,200,297
Capital Purchases and Equipment	56,841	51,743	56,592	45,907	47,284
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$13,849,949	\$14,628,614	\$14,992,360	\$14,835,282	\$15,247,581
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	12,468,412	13,107,452	13,441,955	13,252,171	13,685,243
Federal Funds	1,216,434	1,201,533	1,207,109	1,243,744	1,218,040
Restricted Receipts	165,103	319,629	343,296	339,367	344,298
Total Expenditures	\$13,849,949	\$14,628,614	\$14,992,360	\$14,835,282	\$15,247,581
Program Measures					
Percentage of Cases Dismissed	8.1%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%

The Program

Attorney General Civil

Program Operations

The Civil Program is comprised of six units, each with very different responsibilities. The General Litigation Unit handles most lawsuits brought against the State and its employees. There are approximately 1,500 active cases, ranging from small claims to issues involving millions of dollars and constitutional claims. Additionally, this unit acts as the legal advisor for 11 boards and commissions, state departments, and agencies. The Regulatory Unit represents the interests of consumers before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, and the Rhode Island Insurance Commissioner. The Charitable Trusts Unit maintains records relating to the registration of charitable trusts in Rhode Island. The Environmental Advocacy Unit enforces civil and criminal environmental laws of the State and acts as an environmental advocate on public policy issues. The Attorney General's Office provides specialized legal counsel to the Department of Human Services. The Consumer Protection Unit monitors activity in the marketplace and represents the consumer's interest where patterns of fraud or deception have been identified. The unit investigates allegation of improper business operation and initiates settlements and enforcement actions designed to provide restitution, if required. Attempts are made to resolve consumer complaints through a mediation process.

Program Objectives

To provide cost effective legal representation to the State, its agencies, boards and commissions.

To provide public protection on behalf of the people of Rhode Island as citizens, consumers and taxpayers.

Statutory History

Article IV, Section 1 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 41-9 establish the office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extraditions; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-47 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General Civil

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Recommended	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	4,209,455	4,289,850	4,436,144	4,422,947	4,537,684
Operating Supplies and Expenses	407,179	298,244	336,556	599,120	413,696
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$4,616,634	\$4,588,094	\$4,772,700	\$5,022,067	\$4,951,380
Capital Purchases and Equipment	13,387	3,159	24,513	21,788	22,442
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$4,630,021	\$4,591,253	\$4,797,213	\$5,043,855	\$4,973,822
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	4,116,768	4,043,323	4,159,643	4,268,789	4,385,190
Federal Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Receipts	513,253	547,930	637,570	775,066	588,632
Total Expenditures	\$4,630,021	\$4,591,253	\$4,797,213	\$5,043,855	\$4,973,822
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Attorney General Bureau of Criminal Identification

Program Operations

The Bureau of Criminal Identification (BCI) is a repository and central clearinghouse for information on individuals who have been arrested or convicted of crimes in Rhode Island. This information includes criminal history records, fingerprints, and warrant information. The unit operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week. This unit receives and processes requests for records from law enforcement agencies across the country. Additionally, BCI issues and maintains pistol permits, issues security guard licenses, and conducts background checks.

Program Objectives

To provide criminal history information and descriptive data on demand to federal and local law enforcement agencies, 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Statutory History

Section 12-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the Bureau of Criminal Identification within the Office of the Attorney General. The duties of this unit are further outlined in Sections 12-1-5 through 12-1-12.

The Budget

Attorney General Bureau of Criminal Identification

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Recommended	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	911,031	953,637	963,829	935,080	948,720
Operating Supplies and Expenses	97,965	35,958	100,170	108,509	105,924
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,008,996	\$989,595	\$1,063,999	\$1,043,589	\$1,054,644
Capital Purchases and Equipment	5,500	47,232	2,100	2,100	2,100
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,014,496	\$1,036,827	\$1,066,099	\$1,045,689	\$1,056,744
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	956,439	940,237	1,009,599	976,139	1,000,244
Federal Funds	58,057	96,590	56,500	69,550	56,500
Total Expenditures	\$1,014,496	\$1,036,827	\$1,066,099	\$1,045,689	\$1,056,744
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Attorney General General

Program Operations

The General Program provides administrative support to ensure that the department operates efficiently. This program consists of six units.

The Executive Unit consists of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and support staff. The function of the Executive Unit is to coordinate the efforts of all parts of the department.

The Fiscal Unit is responsible for all financial operations of the department. This includes the preparation of the departmental budget, monitoring and controlling expenditures, and processing all financial paperwork.

The Personnel Unit processes all paperwork regarding hiring, transfers, promotions, and terminations, and monitors payroll records submitted to Accounts and Control. This unit must ensure that all state and federal laws and regulations are upheld, including equal employment opportunities and affirmative action requirements.

The Operations Unit is responsible for purchasing, maintenance and repair of the department's buildings and automobiles, and monitoring the department's telephone and mail systems.

The Management Information System Unit administers and operates the department's computer systems. The system consists of five central processing units, multiple application servers, over 220 desktop computers, and 30 printers. The Attorney General's computer system is linked to the court's computer system and the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System.

The Public Information/Legislation Unit handles all communication with the media, submits legislation on the Attorney General's behalf, and coordinates the Attorney General's education, and community outreach efforts.

Program Objectives

To provide the infrastructure necessary for the efficient operation of the Office of the Attorney General.

Statutory History

Article IV, Section 1 of the Rhode Island Constitution and R.I.G.L. 42-9 establish the Office of the Attorney General. R.I.G.L. 12-9 relates to extraditions; R.I.G.L. 9-31 relates to governmental tort liability; R.I.G.L. 12-12 relates to indictments and information; R.I.G.L. 12-1 relates to criminal identification; and R.I.G.L. 11-57 relates to weapons.

The Budget

Attorney General General

	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Recommended	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	2,074,975	2,291,494	2,385,082	2,440,262	2,501,029
Operating Supplies and Expenses	180,197	167,906	213,760	195,049	200,977
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$2,255,172	\$2,459,400	\$2,598,842	\$2,635,311	\$2,702,006
Capital Purchases and Equipment	164,970	157,154	277,000	749,726	202,060
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$2,420,142	\$2,616,554	\$2,875,842	\$3,385,037	\$2,904,066
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	2,258,255	2,459,400	2,600,842	2,637,311	2,704,066
Other Funds	161,887	157,154	275,000	747,726	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$2,420,142	\$2,616,554	\$2,875,842	\$3,385,037	\$2,904,066
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA