

# The Agency

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## Attorney General

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### 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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Recommended	FY 2011 Recommended
<b>Expenditures by Program</b>					
Criminal	14,628,614	14,892,520	14,572,581	14,536,950	14,700,468
Civil	4,591,253	4,539,679	4,973,822	4,831,601	4,963,337
Bureau of Criminal Identification	1,036,827	1,052,123	1,056,744	1,112,836	1,131,596
General	2,616,554	2,789,152	2,904,066	3,392,922	2,988,249
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$22,873,248</b>	<b>\$23,273,474</b>	<b>\$23,507,213</b>	<b>\$23,874,309</b>	<b>\$23,783,650</b>
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>					
Personnel	21,422,285	21,763,167	21,575,692	21,183,033	21,841,318
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,191,675	1,224,584	1,657,635	1,772,733	1,600,337
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$22,613,960</b>	<b>\$22,987,751</b>	<b>\$23,233,327</b>	<b>\$22,955,766</b>	<b>\$23,441,655</b>
Capital Purchases and Equipment	259,288	285,723	273,886	918,543	341,995
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$22,873,248</b>	<b>\$23,273,474</b>	<b>\$23,507,213</b>	<b>\$23,874,309</b>	<b>\$23,783,650</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>					
General Revenue	20,550,412	20,811,424	21,099,743	20,070,966	21,132,161
Federal Funds	1,298,123	1,397,373	1,274,540	1,946,361	1,248,830
Restricted Receipts	867,559	843,798	932,930	1,130,135	1,202,659
Other Funds	157,154	220,879	200,000	726,847	200,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$22,873,248</b>	<b>\$23,273,474</b>	<b>\$23,507,213</b>	<b>\$23,874,309</b>	<b>\$23,783,650</b>
<b>FTE Authorization</b>	<b>234.8</b>	<b>231.1</b>	<b>231.1</b>	<b>231.1</b>	<b>231.1</b>
<b>Agency Measures</b>					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	13.8%	13.8%	15.2%	15.2%	17.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	57.3%	57.3%	59.7%	59.7%	59.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	3.0%	2.6%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

# The Program

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## **Attorney General Criminal**

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### **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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Recommended	FY 2011 Recommended
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>					
Personnel	13,887,304	14,087,485	13,588,259	13,391,051	13,617,570
Operating Supplies and Expenses	689,567	748,728	937,038	1,010,665	970,801
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$14,576,871</b>	<b>\$14,836,213</b>	<b>\$14,525,297</b>	<b>\$14,401,716</b>	<b>\$14,588,371</b>
Capital Purchases and Equipment	51,743	56,307	47,284	135,234	112,097
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$14,628,614</b>	<b>\$14,892,520</b>	<b>\$14,572,581</b>	<b>\$14,536,950</b>	<b>\$14,700,468</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>					
General Revenue	13,107,452	13,253,240	13,010,243	12,236,221	13,094,716
Federal Funds	1,201,533	1,343,896	1,218,040	1,859,102	1,192,280
Restricted Receipts	319,629	295,384	344,298	441,627	413,472
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$14,628,614</b>	<b>\$14,892,520</b>	<b>\$14,572,581</b>	<b>\$14,536,950</b>	<b>\$14,700,468</b>
<b>Program Measures</b>					
Percentage of Cases Dismissed	7.8%	12.1%	10.6%	10.6%	9.0%

# The Program

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## **Attorney General Civil**

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### **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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Recommended	FY 2011 Recommended
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>					
Personnel	4,289,850	4,260,557	4,537,684	4,282,135	4,579,031
Operating Supplies and Expenses	298,244	275,963	413,696	502,024	358,692
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,588,094</b>	<b>\$4,536,520</b>	<b>\$4,951,380</b>	<b>\$4,784,159</b>	<b>\$4,937,723</b>
Capital Purchases and Equipment	3,159	3,159	22,442	47,442	25,614
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,591,253</b>	<b>\$4,539,679</b>	<b>\$4,973,822</b>	<b>\$4,831,601</b>	<b>\$4,963,337</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>					
General Revenue	4,043,323	3,991,265	4,385,190	4,143,093	4,174,150
Restricted Receipts	547,930	548,414	588,632	688,508	789,187
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,591,253</b>	<b>\$4,539,679</b>	<b>\$4,973,822</b>	<b>\$4,831,601</b>	<b>\$4,963,337</b>
<b>Program Measures</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

# The Program

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## **Attorney General Bureau of Criminal Identification**

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### **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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Recommended	FY 2011 Recommended
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>					
Personnel	953,637	991,085	948,720	1,033,425	1,056,982
Operating Supplies and Expenses	35,958	56,852	105,924	72,451	72,451
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$989,595</b>	<b>\$1,047,937</b>	<b>\$1,054,644</b>	<b>\$1,105,876</b>	<b>\$1,129,433</b>
Capital Purchases and Equipment	47,232	4,186	2,100	6,960	2,163
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,036,827</b>	<b>\$1,052,123</b>	<b>\$1,056,744</b>	<b>\$1,112,836</b>	<b>\$1,131,596</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>					
General Revenue	940,237	998,646	1,000,244	1,025,577	1,075,046
Federal Funds	96,590	53,477	56,500	87,259	56,550
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,036,827</b>	<b>\$1,052,123</b>	<b>\$1,056,744</b>	<b>\$1,112,836</b>	<b>\$1,131,596</b>
<b>Program Measures</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA



# The Program

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## **Attorney General General**

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### **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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Recommended	FY 2011 Recommended
<b>Expenditures By Object</b>					
Personnel	2,291,494	2,424,040	2,501,029	2,476,422	2,587,735
Operating Supplies and Expenses	167,906	143,041	200,977	187,593	198,393
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,459,400</b>	<b>\$2,567,081</b>	<b>\$2,702,006</b>	<b>\$2,664,015</b>	<b>\$2,786,128</b>
Capital Purchases and Equipment	157,154	222,071	202,060	728,907	202,121
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,616,554</b>	<b>\$2,789,152</b>	<b>\$2,904,066</b>	<b>\$3,392,922</b>	<b>\$2,988,249</b>
<b>Expenditures By Funds</b>					
General Revenue	2,459,400	2,568,273	2,704,066	2,666,075	2,788,249
Other Funds	157,154	220,879	200,000	726,847	200,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,616,554</b>	<b>\$2,789,152</b>	<b>\$2,904,066</b>	<b>\$3,392,922</b>	<b>\$2,988,249</b>
<b>Program Measures</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA