

Office of the Attorney General

• *Mission and philosophy*

The Attorney General's mission is to serve the residents of Wyoming by providing the highest quality services, including legal advice and representation to state and local government, criminal investigation, statewide law enforcement training and certification, and assistance to victims of crime; and by protecting the state's resources and the rights of its residents to be free from corruption in government and fraud in the use of public funds.

The Attorney General's office will carry out its duties in an ethical, professional and timely manner. It is committed to using taxpayer resources efficiently and effectively, while providing quality professional services. Its most valued resource is its staff, which is prepared to meet future challenges and responsibilities with a strong work ethic and common sense.

• *Results of outcomes*

FY 98

- 98 criminal appeals
- 39 post conviction writs/actions
- 119 Enrolled Act reviews
- 127 extradition/detainers
- 13 reviews of requests for pardons/restoration of rights
- 51 prisoner case filings being tracked
- 762 consumer complaints
- 3,603 consumer telephone inquiries
- \$73,948 refunds recovered for consumers
- \$56,849 money saved for consumers
- 65 new tort lawsuits opened
- 80 new governmental claims files opened
- 770 contested Worker's Compensation matters
- 37 Worker's Compensation appeals
- 41 new Medicaid fraud cases opened
- Eight new patient abuse in Medicaid funded facility cases opened
 - 1,590 cases handled by the crime laboratory
 - 20,931 items handled by the crime laboratory
 - 38,549 examinations of items by the crime laboratory
 - 90,791 persons indexed in criminal history file
 - 39,849 fingerprint card submissions
 - 806 concealed firearm permits issued
 - 349 criminal investigations, which includes 229 controlled substances investigations
 - 244 Crime Victim Compensation awards in the amount of \$577,987
 - 191 law enforcement officers attended basic training for 48,291 basic training hours
 - 1,611 law enforcement officers attended advanced training for 29,756 advanced training hours
 - 42 uses of facility for training for 5,992 occupancy days
 - Two new Capitol Police

General information

William U. Hill, Attorney General

Agency contact

Gay Woodhouse
(307) 777-7844
123 Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Other locations

Douglas, Casper, Riverton, Jackson, Green River, Gillette

Year established

1886

Number of authorized personnel

Full-time 186, part-time 2

Organization structure

Law Office, Criminal Investigations, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, Crime Victims Compensation Commission

Clients served

State agencies, boards and commissions, elected and appointed state officials, law enforcement agencies, legislators, prosecutors, consumers and crime victims.

Budget information

General fund	\$ 7,401,543
Federal	2,435,024
Other	1,191,915
Total	\$11,028,482

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

The law office will make changes to the outcome measures. The outcome measures will be evaluated through surveys to agency heads, district and Supreme Court judges.

Law Office

General information

William U. Hill, Attorney General

Agency contact

Gay Woodhouse
(307) 777-7844
123 Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Other locations

Casper

Year established

1886

Number of authorized personnel

Full-time 58, part-time 1

Organization structure

Civil Division, Criminal Division, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Tort Litigation, Water and Natural Resources Division

Clients served

State agencies, boards and commissions, elected and appointed state officials, law enforcement agencies, legislators, prosecutors, consumers and crime victims.

Budget information

Objective A	\$1,111,254
Objective B	1,116,462
Objective C	73,431
Objective D	\$348,175

❖ *Results of outcomes*

During FY98, the Law Office continued to handle in-house the majority of contested matters.

The consumer affairs attorney handled 762 consumer complaints and 3,603 consumer telephone calls. The attorney obtained \$73,948 in refunds for consumers and saved approximately \$56,849 for consumers.

The criminal division handled 98 criminal appeals and 39 post-conviction writs/actions. The litigation division handled 37 worker's compensation appeals.

The law office published the Rules Handbook for state agencies. The handbook was prepared in order

to ensure that agencies use proper and consistent guidelines to promulgate rules. All agencies received a copy of the handbook. More than 300 individuals from 44 agencies attended training on use of the handbook.

As people become more litigious and the costs of litigation increase, it remains a challenge to handle all of the contested cases and litigation with existing staff and resources.

Agencies are increasingly aware of the need to have expert legal advice as they handle sensitive personnel issues. Therefore, the law office experienced increased demands on the attorneys who are experts in personnel law. Another position was added bringing the total to three attorneys who handle this critical need. The addition of this position will enable the law office to keep existing personnel who were extremely over-burdened with the current work load and to expand the office's ability to promptly deal with personnel issues throughout the state. This will help avoid much greater costs to deal with these matters in litigation.

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is experiencing an upturn in referrals of Medicaid fraud both by providers and recipients as well as continuous referrals of patient abuse in Medicaid funded facilities. With only one attorney who also acts as the unit's director, one investigator, one auditor and one clerical employee, it is difficult to sort through the massive amounts of documents necessary to determine which cases should be pursued. The unit is actively involved in the prosecution of the cases both locally and federally. This consumes additional time and resources and makes it more difficult to address new cases as they arise.

The increase in criminal appeals by approximately 33 percent over the past two years also placed significant additional burden on existing staff.

The increased workload in the area of worker's compensation contested cases, the review of complex contracts for the Department of Administration and Information as well as other agencies, increased numbers of contested cases and increasing criminal appeals place a significant burden on existing resources. In order to handle these matters efficiently and at a reasonable cost, additional attorney and paralegal personnel are needed. Two general fund positions for attorneys were shifted to the Workers' Compensation fund. The Workers' Safety and Compensation Division also agreed to fund a third attorney position.

Division of Victim Services

General information

Sharon Montagnino, director

Agency contact

Sharon Montagnino
(307) 777-6271 or (307) 635-4050
123 State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Year established

1998

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 1-40-102 through 119; 1-40-201 through 210; 1-40-303 through 1-40-308; 9-1-636 through 9-1-638

Number of authorized personnel

Nine

Organization structure

Division of the Attorney General's Office

Clients served

All victims of crime

Budget information

Objective A	\$2,537,792
Objective B	\$1,183,784

☛ *Mission and philosophy*

The Division of Victim Services administers programs designed to provide direct benefits to victims of crime. These programs include assistance to local crime victim service programs and assistance to the criminal justice system to ensure that offenders are held responsible for the effects of their crimes.

Crime Victims Compensation

The Crime Victims Compensation program compensates residents who suffer personal injury and the families of residents who are killed as a result of a crime. The intent of the program is to assist the innocent victim as quickly as possible by easing the burden of the financial crisis caused by the crime. This is accomplished by investigating and verifying applications and seeking collateral sources of payment. The goal of the division is to process approved applications for crime victims compensation matters in a timely, effective and efficient manner. In FY98, 453 claims were received into the office. Of those, 244 were awarded, 27 were denied, 49 were considered ineligible and 133 are being processed and awaiting a determination. A total of \$577,986.66 was awarded in compensation.

Family Violence/Sexual Assault Program

The division is responsible for administering state funds appropriated for a coordinated network of shelter and crisis intervention services for victims of family violence and sexual assault. The state funds along with the previously mentioned federal grant programs provide the funding necessary for a family violence/sexual assault program in each of the 23 counties and on the Wind River Reservation.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

The division distributes federal grant monies to eligible public and/or non-profit organizations to provide direct services to crime victims/witnesses as set forth in the Victims' Bill of Rights. The federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) mandates that all victims of crime have equal access to direct support services as well as compensation. Direct support services are provided by victim assistance programs. The purpose of the Victims of Crime Act victim assistance program is to encourage the reporting of crimes and facilitate the victim's cooperation with authorities. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 60 percent of crimes are not reported. The Victims' Bill of Rights, enacted in 1991 as Wyo. Stat. § 1-40-201, mandates that certain basic services be provided to victims in Wyoming and that the criminal justice system adopt reforms to accommodate the special needs of crime victims. The Division of Victim Services passed on federal funds to 20 victim assistance programs in the state providing services to victims of crime other than family violence/sexual assault.

STOP/Violent Crimes Against Women Act (STOP)

The division distributes federal funds to agencies and programs working with domestic violence and sexual assault victims through a competitive grant process. The Department of Justice provides the STOP grant to encourage strategies to combat violent crimes against women. STOP dollars are distributed in four categories: victim services, prosecution, law enforcement and discretionary. The primary goals of the federal STOP grant program are: 1) development and implementation of effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women; 2) the development and enhancement of victim services involving violent crimes against women.

AmeriCorps Program

During FY98, the AmeriCorps Victims Assistance program placed 20 members in various placement sites throughout Wyoming. Placement sites included police departments, sheriffs' offices, prosecuting attorneys' offices, CASA programs, county courts and family violence/sexual assault programs. The AmeriCorps members served a total of 6,001 crime victims and provided a total of 33,849 of services in a variety of categories.

☛ *Results of outcomes*

The Division of Victim Services was established in March 1998 through legislation consolidating programs for crime victims at the state level. The division

is responsible for administering the following:

- Crime Victims Compensation Program
- Family Violence/Sexual Assault Program
- Victim Notification Program
- Victim Services Program:
 - Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
 - Federal Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA)
 - Federal STOP Crimes Against Women Act (VAWA)
 - State Family Violence/Sexual Assault funds

Since consolidation took effect, the division has achieved a great deal. These accomplishments include:

■ The division reviewed and awarded both the 1998 VOCA and VAWA grants. Forty VOCA grants were awarded totaling \$991,007 and 20 VAWA grants were awarded in the total amount of \$323,300.

■ The Implementation Planning Committee developed a comprehensive, statewide implementation plan for the allocation of grant money, training and data collection as they relate to victim services.

■ Rules and regulations were drafted for the new division which will soon be made available for public comment.

■ The division developed a web page that includes information such as state and national conferences and training, victim compensation instructions and application, a statewide listing of crime victim service providers, grant information, silent witness exhibit information and other newsworthy items.

■ The division initiated plans to develop standards for all victim/witness assistance programs and review and update current family violence/sexual assault program standards.

❧ *Strategic plan changes*

The Division of Victim Services has two main objectives:

■ Begin phase one of the implementation plan which will ensure that baseline services to all victims exist in all 23 counties and the Wind River Reservation.

■ Improve the delivery and timeliness of compensation awards to victims.

Division of Criminal Investigation

General information

Thomas J. Pagel, Director

Agency contact

Sandra C. Mays, Deputy Director
(307) 777-7181
316 West 22nd Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Other locations

Casper, Gillette, Riverton, Jackson, Green River
Satellite offices in Sheridan, Powell, Evanston

Year established and reorganized

1973, 1986, 1989

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. § 9-1-611 through 627

Number of authorized personnel

72

Organization structure

Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Information, Crime Laboratory, Executive Protection and Capitol Police

Clients served

Local, state and federal criminal justice agencies, state agencies, governor, legislature, residents of Wyoming

Budget information

Objective A	\$3,955,211
Objective B	400,000
Objective C	695,400
Objective D	\$1,289,849

❧ *Mission and philosophy*

The Division of Criminal Investigation's mission is to continuously provide a cadre of highly motivated professionals, dedicated to ensuring that DCI meets its statutory responsibilities, assists in other appropriate areas, acts as a catalyst in cooperative and coordinated law enforcement efforts among federal, state and local agencies, and provides these exceptional services with a positive attitude and in a timely manner.

The philosophy of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation is that all Wyoming residents should feel safe and secure in their homes and communities. DCI will contribute to this feeling of security by providing quality law enforcement services with employees dedicated to the highest ethical and

professional standards. DCI recognizes its employees as its most valuable asset and utilizes participatory management principles in meeting the challenges of providing timely and exceptional services to the law enforcement needs of the state.

• *Results of outcomes*

The regional enforcement teams have been very successful in enhancing cooperation, coordination and communication among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies investigating drugs and violent crimes. The quick response time has been critical in several homicide and police officer involved use of deadly force investigations.

Wyoming's computer and telecommunications systems maintain compliance with federal and national standards. Much of the increased computerization is the result of federal grants.

Computers continue to play an ever-increasing role in crime. Various telemarketing and fraud schemes utilize computers. In addition, child pornography and computer sex investigations are increasing dramatically.

Of great concern is the increasing caseload in the crime laboratory. It is difficult to recruit and retain scientists/analysts because of an inadequate state salary plan. DCI purchased several pieces of top quality equipment with funding from several federal grants. The new DNA database is fully operational and now contains more than 2,000 samples.

Methamphetamine continues to be the major threat facing Wyoming law enforcement. The increasing availability of methamphetamine from Mexico, coupled with the increasing number of clandestine laboratories in Wyoming and the neighboring states, does not bode well for the future.

DCI's response to methamphetamine, and its associated violent crime, must include education, prevention, treatment and enforcement.

DCI continues to upgrade its capabilities and abilities in the area of computer crime. This training is expensive and requires out of state travel but it is necessary to deal with computer fraud and pornography investigations.

The heavy caseload in the crime laboratory creates a backlog that has presented problems. The addition of a chemist and various instrumentation obtained from federal grants is an attempt to deal with this problem.

Increasing licensing and regulatory responsibilities, which include fingerprinting and criminal history inquiries, have created a backlog in the Criminal Justice Information Section.

The recruitment of qualified applicants and the retention of experienced employees is hampered by the fact that Wyoming does not have a salary plan in place. Wyoming's current salary schedule is simply not competitive and DCI is losing good people who are difficult to replace.

Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy

General information

Ernest L. Johnson, Administrator

Agency contact

Michael A. Grinstead, Supervisor/Manager 2
(307) 358-3617
1556 Riverbend Drive
Douglas, WY 82633

Year established

1981

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 9-1-632 through 635

Number of authorized personnel

Full-time 28, part-time 1

Organizational structure

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy is a division of the Attorney General's Office

Clients served

Wyoming law enforcement officers, Wyoming detention officers, Wyoming communications personnel, coroners and deputy coroners. The academy also actively recruits potential pre-service/civilians and practicum/college candidates. Facility users are local, state and federal governmental personnel.

Budget information

Objective A	\$870,475
Objective B	480,262
Objective C	\$150,082

• *Mission and philosophy*

The Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy provides training for law enforcement agencies and coroners throughout Wyoming. These personnel come under the provisions of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Act (Wyo. Stat. §§ 9-3-1901 - 1907), the Coroners Training Courses Act (Wyo. Stat. § 9-1-634) and Communications Training (Wyo. Stat. § 9-1-635). In addition to the basic courses specifically designed for peace officers, detention officers, coroners and communications personnel, the academy offers a wide variety of training courses dealing with any or all specialty areas relative to law enforcement officers, supervisors, mid-management and executive positions. The statutes prescribe basic and advanced training for approximately 2,400 personnel of the county sheriffs' offices, municipal police departments, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Division of Criminal Investigation, college or campus officers,

communications personnel and coroners. Wyoming statutes also prescribe "continuing educational training" every two years for each career group.

• *Results of outcomes*

All of the legislatively mandated basic training responsibilities were met in FY98. Basic Training was conducted for 191 candidates. The total basic training hours scheduled and conducted for FY98 were 48,291. There were no qualified students or pre-service candidates backlogged. The basic training for qualified civilians (Pre-Service Program) was offered to 14 persons in FY98.

The academy trained 1,611 officers through 74 advanced training classes representing 29,756 advanced training hours in FY98.

To assist agencies to be even more self-reliant in meeting their advanced training needs, the academy offered 11 instructor development classes, attended by 234 officers/instructors. Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) statistics indicate Wyoming law enforcement agencies hosted, without academy support, 594 POST certified special schools (in all areas – peace officers, detention, communications and inactive officers) for 111,983 training hours.

The academy received direct reimbursement from 24 governmental users, who used the facility 42 times. The facility usage totaled 5,992 occupancy days.

Academy services are presently delivered at peak levels within the classroom configuration constructed 14 years ago. The academy plans to expand classroom and meeting areas by better utilizing infrequently used space.

A planned academy-housed technical resource center is exploring availability of federal funds through a consortium of users. Due to a partial foundation movement the main academy structure sustained physical damage to the northwest corner. The State Building Commission has authorized the necessary repairs. However, funding for the repairs must come from the existing academy budget.

A national and regional focus to reduce the number of deaths and injuries in law enforcement pursuits will require the academy to purchase a driving simulator. This technology will require a significant investment.

Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission

General information

Donald B. Pierson, Executive Director

Agency contact

Donald B. Pierson
(307) 777-7718
1710 Pacific Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Year established

1976

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. 9-1-702 through 708

Number of authorized personnel

3

Organization structure

Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST) is a division under the Attorney General's Office

Clients served

Law enforcement, Wyoming peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers, coroners and deputy coroners, peace officer applicants

Budget information

Objective A \$120,336

• *Mission and philosophy*

The mission of the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (POST) is to serve the residents of Wyoming by providing the highest quality of services, including statewide law enforcement training and certification.

POST will carry out its duties in an ethical, professional and timely manner. POST is committed to using taxpayer resources efficiently and effectively, while providing quality professional services. POST's most valued resource is its staff, which is prepared to meet future challenges and responsibilities with a strong work ethic and common sense.

• *Results of outcomes*

POST received and processed 267 initial employment forms from agencies throughout the state. Ninety-six were peace officers employed, and 43 of these are still on temporary status. The other 53 have completed their initial training and have been certified at the appropriate level in the certification system. Ninety-eight were detention officers employed,

and 44 of those are still on temporary status. Seventy-three were dispatchers employed, and 33 are still on temporary status. Mandatory employment standards have been developed and are in place for all of the above personnel employed in the state. POST verifies that those standards have been met before temporary certification is issued. Peace officers who are employed in Wyoming, but have completed the required basic training in other states are granted reciprocity, if that training is comparable to Wyoming's basic training. POST makes that determination after reviewing the training files and curriculum. Those officers are then allowed to challenge the Wyoming basic training program. This challenge includes a written exam administered by the POST director; two weeks of Wyoming criminal law at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, a firearms proficiency test, domestic violence course and use of force class at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and proof of CPR certification. Twenty-three officers challenged and were certified at the appropriate level.

POST maintains a recertification process for peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers and coroners, and their deputies. POST issued a total of 1,249 recertifications during FY98. Seven hundred twenty-one were for peace officers, 195 were for detention officers, 283 were for dispatchers and 50 were for coroners and their deputies.

POST sets training standards which establish the requirements for initial certification and for recertification of law enforcement personnel. POST certified nine basic training classes during FY98. POST received and certified a total of 619 applications for in-service training classes throughout the state. POST received 347 applications from law enforcement personnel who want to become certified instructors so they may provide law enforcement training. POST uses an evaluation system from the class attendees in order to evaluate the quality of the training provided. Instructors are also evaluated by POST.

POST decertifies peace officers and detentions officers. During FY98, POST received five requests for officer decertification. After investigation by POST, three of the cases were closed by the Investigative Committee with "No Further Action" necessary and two officers were decertified. Also, during FY98 four officers were placed on medical inactive status. Prior to reactivation an officer placed on medical inactive status must obtain clearance from a medical doctor.

During FY98, 273 exams were given to applicants seeking employment in law enforcement; 231 applicants passed the examination and were placed on an employment hiring list, which is provided to any Wyoming law enforcement agency. An average of 23 applicants were tested each month.

Wyoming recently, along with Montana, Idaho and South Dakota, was invited to partner with the Western Regional Institute for Community Oriented Public Safety (WRICOPS). WRICOPS is funded by a federal COPS grant. Wyoming has already realized numerous benefits from this partnership. The

WRICOPS assessment team conducted a complete assessment of the Douglas and Casper police departments. WRICOPS sponsored two 12-hour training sessions on community policing. Three more training sessions are scheduled on community policing and problem solving. WRICOPS supports the new national trend in law enforcement to transform policing into the community policing concept, either totally or partially as the case may be.

Office of the Attorney General organization chart

