

Attorney General

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

“Our mission is to serve the citizens 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 right of its citizens to be free from corruption in government and fraud in the use of public funds.

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

❖ *Results of outcomes*

FY99 results of outcomes included:

- 106 criminal appeals;
- 49 post conviction writs/actions;
- 209 Enrolled Act reviews;
- 116 extradition/detainers;
- 26 reviews of requests for pardons/restoration of rights;

Litigation cases;

- 164 prisoner case filings being tracked;
- 617 consumer complaints
- 3,157 consumer telephone inquiries;
- \$110,652 refunds recovered for consumers;
- \$25,679 money saved for consumers;
- 39 new tort lawsuits opened;
- 91 new governmental claims files opened;
- 877 contested workers’ compensation matters;
- 37 workers’ compensation appeals;
- 25 Internal Hearing Unit and Miscellaneous

Litigation cases;

- 57 new Medicaid fraud cases opened;
- nine new patient abuse in Medicaid-funded facility cases opened;
- 1,743 cases handled by the crime laboratory;
- 18,314 items handled by the crime laboratory;
- 33,796 examinations of items by the crime laboratory;
- 95,688 persons indexed in criminal history file;
- 45,832 fingerprint card submissions;
- 1,776 concealed firearm permits issued;
- 395 criminal investigations, which included 301 controlled substances investigations;
- 55 Crime Victims’ Compensation awards totaling \$1,442,150;
- 191 law enforcement officers attending basic training for 48,291 basic training hours;

General information

Gay Woodhouse, Attorney General

Agency contact

Vicci M. Colgan
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

174 full-time, two part-time

Organizational structure

Law Office, Criminal Investigations, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, Victim Services Division

Clients served

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

Budget information

General fund	\$ 9,936,053
Federal	6,880,079
Other	4,977,796
Total	\$21,793,928

- 1,611 law enforcement officers attending advanced training for 29,756 advanced training hours;
- 42 uses of Law Enforcement Academy facility for training 5,992 occupancy days; and
- three new Capitol Police hired, trained and on duty.

Law Office

General information

Gay Woodhouse, Attorney General

Agency contact

Vicci M. Colgan
307/777-7844
123 Capitol Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Other locations

Casper

Year established

1886

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 9-1-601, et seq.

Number of authorized personnel

59 full-time, one part-time

Organizational structure

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

Clients served

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

Budget information

Objective A	\$2,864,534
Objective B	2,882,735
Objective C	118,121
Objective D	\$337,811

❖ Results of outcomes

During FY99, the Law Office continued to handle in-house the majority of contested matters.

The consumer affairs attorney handled 617 consumer complaints and 3,157 consumer telephone calls. The attorney obtained \$110,652 in refunds for consumers and saved approximately \$25,679 for consumers.

The criminal division handled 106 criminal appeals and 49 post-conviction writs/actions. The litigation division handled 24 workers' compensation appeals in the Wyoming Supreme Court.

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

Personnel disputes continue to be an important field as the office now has three full-time attorneys devoted to this area of practice.

The Administrative Law Division was formed in early 1999. It provides ongoing advice to four major agencies, two elected officials and other smaller agencies and represents them in hearings, trials and appeals in state and federal courts. The division has prepared approximately 40 legal opinions and memos and has been involved in at least 507 court and administrative cases.

The Civil Division provides ongoing legal advice to all or part of three major state departments. The Civil Division also represents a number of separate operating agencies and 26 professional licensing boards and commissions. It is estimated that the Health Section of this division reviews approximately 1,000 contracts per year for the Departments of Health, Family Services and Education. The Civil Division handled 187 requests for opinions during FY99 and reviewed 139 bills for the Governor.

The Litigation Division provides legal advice to client agencies in several significant areas. Like other attorneys in other divisions, Litigation Division staff are called upon to track legislation during the session and to advise the Governor on bills that are passed in areas affecting their client agencies or on subjects in which they have expertise. Three attorneys in this division act as legal advisor to all state department directors, administrators and personnel officers for all of state government in matters of employment and personnel law.

The number of referrals to the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit during FY99 was consistent with the number of referrals in the previous two years. Following national trends, the case complexity has increased, often involving detailed analysis of voluminous computer records and documentation. With increased public awareness of health care fraud and abuse, it is anticipated that the number of inquiries and referrals of suspected fraud will continue or increase. With only one attorney, who is also the unit's director, one investigator, one auditor and one clerical employee, the Wyoming Medicaid Fraud Control Unit meets the minimum requirements of the federal law and is the smallest Medicaid fraud control unit in the nation. The unit is actively involved in the investigation and prosecution of Medicaid fraud and abuse as well as the investigation and prosecution of abuse, neglect or misappropriation of patient funds in Medicaid-funded facilities.

The increased workload in the area of contested cases, the review of complex contracts for agencies and the increased numbers of personnel cases place a significant burden on existing resources.

Criminal appeals continue to increase. In its 1999 session the Legislature funded an additional attorney to handle death penalty cases.

Victim Services Division

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

Organizational structure

Division of the Attorney General's Office

Clients served

All victims of crime

Budget information

Objective A	\$4,256,915
Objective B	\$810,813

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

Improve the treatment of all victims and witnesses of crime by providing them with assistance, financial compensation, information, referral, support services and advocacy, which are essential to their restoration.

The division achieves this through the Victims' Compensation Program and by promoting the development of a comprehensive range of quality services for all victims and witnesses of crime at the state, county and local levels.

The Victims' Compensation Program

The compensation program is committed to helping victims and their families by easing the financial burdens caused by the emotional and physical devastation of a crime. This is primarily accomplished through the processing of compensation claims submitted for the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses the victim has incurred due to the crime. Many of these expenses are medical, counseling, loss of earning or support, or funeral and are for expenses that remain after all other resources have been exhausted. The program consists of an application and review process through which eligible victims of crime receive compensation. Every effort is made to seek restitution from the offender and subrogation

from the claimant. The statute requires that the division inform the public about the compensation program available to victims of crime. The division has developed a partnership with victim service advocates to participate in community awareness programs about the existence of the division's services, including compensation.

Victim Services Program

The Victim Services Program provides training and technical assistance, manages federal funds to address all victims of crime and violent crimes against women and administers grants under both state and federal victim statutes. The division provides resources — either in the form of financial support or technical assistance — to enhance services to victims, improve victim service agencies and enhance communities' awareness. The division also distributes both VOCA (Victims of Crime) and VAWA (Violence Against Women's Act) funds to local service providers through a competitive grant process. These funds support victim/witness advocates, family violence advocates and special programs in 50 different locations throughout the state. These funds further help support system-based victim programs at the local level, bringing these providers together to participate in training, discussions on restorative justice and other victim/offender issues. All of these programs provide important resources to help victims through the disruption in their lives caused by crime. The division monitors the grants by site visits, regular meeting/training and through program standards and federal grant requirements.

By statute, the division is required to provide a statewide system of shelter programs for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The VAWA funds administered by the division specifically provide funding to law enforcement officials, prosecutors' offices and victim service professionals, so they may work to improve the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and to enhance the services available to women who are victims of violent crime, particularly domestic and sexual crimes. The general funds administered by the division are distributed through a formula to the 23 family violence programs that serve as primary advocates for the needs of domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Funds are used to provide shelter services, crisis intervention, referral services, prevention education and services to children. All family violence programs, in order to receive and maintain state funding, must be in compliance with the minimum standards set forth by the division.

Likewise, the division is working toward a statewide system of victim assistance programs to improve the delivery of service to victims of crimes other than domestic violence and sexual assault. These programs generally operate out of the county/district attorneys' offices or law enforcement offices. Their work involves working with the victims as the case moves through the criminal justice system.

The division's participation in both the AmeriCorps and VISTA programs provides for placement of volunteers in programs across the state. They may work directly with victims as advocates in the AmeriCorps Victim Assistant Program, assist shelter programs in fund-raising, develop volunteer recruitment and training and serve as leaders in prevention education programs within schools and communities. Having these programs available in each county attempts to ensure that victims of crime receive information and direct services and are referred to other appropriate community resources.

❖ *Results of outcomes*

The division reviewed and awarded 33 VOCA grants totaling \$814,315 and 32 VAWA grants totaling \$627,835.

The Division Advisory Committee has developed protocols for both prosecution and law enforcement dealing with domestic violence.

The division sponsored the first annual Victim Services Conference with 170 attendees representing law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates and child advocates. This conference was co-sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming with a major focus on providing services to children who are abused or are witnesses to violence.

The compensation program reviewed 469 claims, awarded 228 and denied 106. There are 125 claims being processed or awaiting a decision.

Training was offered on the compensation program, victim services and victims' rights to law enforcement, courts, shelter programs, Sheriffs and Chiefs Association and community groups.

The division sponsored the statewide Silent Witness Memorial in October of 1998, bringing all 42 silhouettes to the State Capitol for a day of honoring those who have been victims of domestic violence.

The division continues to maintain its Web page providing information on compensation, training and technical assistance to providers, a statewide listing of crime victims service providers and links to other victim-oriented sites.

The division is working with the newly formed DoVE Council on legislative issues around domestic violence, orders of protection and how domestic violence effects children and our community.

The division was successful in obtaining enhancements to the compensation statute that increase the overall amount of an award from \$10,000 to \$15,000, increase the lost wages/support from \$500 a month to a maximum of \$800 per month and establish a catastrophic injury category.

❖ *Strategic plan changes*

Ensure, through technical assistance, training and funding, that baseline services to all victims of crime exist in all 23 counties and on the Wind River Reservation.

Continue to improve the delivery and timeliness of compensation awards to eligible victims.

Division of Criminal Investigation

General information

Thomas J. Pagel, Director

Agency contact

Sandra C. Mays, Deputy Director - Administration
 Stephen J. Miller, Deputy Director - Operations
 307/777-7181
 316 West 22nd St.
 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

Organizational 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	\$6,329,849
Objective B	332,495
Objective C	802,312
Objective D	\$1,355,726

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The Division of Criminal Investigation's mission is to continually 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 uses participatory management principles to meet 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.

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.

Methamphetamine investigations account for over half the drug caseload for the Division of Criminal Investigation. The division has monitored repeat offender drug arrests for several years, and the rate remained fairly constant at about 30 percent. That figure has risen nearly 40 percent over the last few years with the increase in methamphetamine use. DCI is currently investigating approximately 100 meth-related drug cases, including clandestine lab cases, each year. During the last legislative session, the Legislature appropriated funds that cover salary, benefits, supplies, communication costs and in-state travel costs, enabling the division to hire one forensic scientist and one special agent to assist in the division's efforts in this area.

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. 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's current salary schedule is not

competitive, and DCI is losing good people who are difficult to replace in the crime laboratory, investigations and the Capitol Police.

Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy

General information

Ernest L. Johnson, Administrator

Agency contact

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

Year established

1981

Statutory references

Wyo. Stat. §§ 9-1-632 through 635

Number of authorized personnel

28 full-time, one part-time

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 to pay their own way through basic training. Facility users are local, state and federal governmental personnel.

Budget information

Objective A	\$935,570
Objective B	599,422
Objective C	\$120,730

❖ *Mission and philosophy*

The 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 (W.S. 9-3-1901 through 1907) the Coroners Training Act (W.S. 9-1-634) and Communications Training (W.S. 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

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 299 initial employment forms from agencies throughout the state. One hundred thirty-three were peace officers employed, and 54 of these are still on temporary status. The other 79 have completed their initial training and have been certified at the appropriate level in the certification system. Eighty-eight were detention officers employed, and 42 of those are still on temporary status. Seventy-eight were dispatchers employed, and 33 are still on temporary status. Mandated 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 it issues the temporary certification. Peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers and coroners 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 people 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 and use of force courses at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy and proof of CPR certification. Seventeen officers challenged and were certified at the appropriate certification level.

POST has established and maintains a recertification process for peace officers, detention officers, dispatchers and coroners and their deputies. POST issued a total of 1,404 recertifications during this fiscal period. Nine hundred sixteen were for peace officers, 291 were for detention officers, 142 were for dispatchers, and 55 were for coroners and their deputies.

POST has established training standards that accomplish the above initial certification and recertification processes. POST certified nine basic training classes during this fiscal period. POST received and certified 762 applications for in-service training classes throughout the state, with a total of 14,119 training hours. POST received 182 applications from personnel who want to become certified instructors so they may instruct the above training classes. POST uses an evaluation system from the class attendees in order to evaluate the quality of the training being given and also the quality of the instructors certified to deliver the training.

POST has established and maintains a decertifica-

tion process for peace officers and detention officers. During FY99, POST received six requests for officer decertification. POST opened case files on all six and started decertification proceedings. After investigation by POST, two cases were closed by the Investigative Committee with "No Further Action" to be taken and two officers were decertified, with two files pending action. Also, during FY99 six officers were placed into the medical inactive status. That status will require a full clearance from a medical doctor for POST to re-activate their certification.

During FY99, 264 tests were administered to applicants seeking employment in law enforcement; 209 applicants passed the examination and were placed on an employment hiring list, which is provided to any law enforcement agency in the state that wishes to use it as part of its employment procedure. An average of 22 applicants tested per month.

POST conducted two meetings during the year to handle the standard business of the commission. The director met twice during the year with agency administrators to discuss issues relating to training and certification. The director administered four promotional exams during the year. The POST director instructed the POST Regulations class to all basic classes during this year and represented the commission at the graduation ceremonies held at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy.

POST has become a partner with the Western Regional institute for Community Oriented Public Safety (WRICOPS). Wyoming was invited to become a partner with four other states, Washington, Idaho, Montana and South Dakota. It is funded year-to-year by a Federal COPS grant. Wyoming has already realized numerous benefits from this partnership. Casper, Douglas and Sheridan have already completed assessments and were extremely pleased with the outcome. Lovell, Cheyenne, Riverton and Guernsey have requests in to have an assessment team conduct a complete assessment of their department and community. POST has conducted 11 seminars in the state on community policing and problem solving. The new trend in law enforcement all across the country is to transform policing into the community policing concept, either totally or partially as the case may be. WRICOPS has received funding for another year, which just started, and positive things are expected from the partnership for the state.

Attorney General organization chart

