

# A Quick Reference Guide To The



Office of the  
Attorney General  
**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

[www.agjimhood.com](http://www.agjimhood.com)

# Attorney General Jim Hood



Since his election in 2003, and earlier as Third Judicial District Attorney in North Mississippi, Attorney General Jim Hood has consistently advocated for crime victims and worked to safeguard Mississippi's most vulnerable citizens--children and the elderly.

Attorney General Jim Hood received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in December 1988. After graduation he served as a clerk with the Mississippi Supreme Court , as an Assistant Attorney General for five years, and as a District Attorney for the Third Judicial District for eight years. He was educated in the public schools of Chickasaw County.

He is a fifth generation Mississippian. He and his wife, Debbie have three children --Rebecca, Matthew, and Annabelle.

# The Office of the Attorney General

The attorney general is the state's chief legal officer, legal counsel to state government, consumer advocate and guardian of the public interest. The Attorney General's Office employs 136 lawyers, 56 investigators and 88 support personnel.

The **Address Confidentiality Program (ACP)**, a program by the Bureau of Victim Assistance, can help a victim that moves to a new location to escape domestic violence, sexual abuse, or stalking. The ACP can help the victim in their attempt to keep their address confidential. When a victim becomes an ACP participant, their first class, certified and registered mail is sent to a secure substitute address and then forwarded to their new home.

The **Administrative Division** manages the Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Disability Trust Fund, which provides financial benefits to eligible law enforcement officers and fire fighters injured in the line of duty.

The **Advocacy, Training and Technical Assistance Division** of the Bureau is actively engaged in a number of activities for law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary, as well as advocates and members of the public, which are specifically tailored to enhance victim safety and increase offender accountability in the areas of domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, and sexual assault.

Advocates within this division provide similar victim services for victims who have cases being prosecuted by the following divisions/units within the Attorney General's Office: Criminal Division, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Public Integrity Division, Domestic Violence Division and Vulnerable Adult Division victims and those who have cases pending appeal.

The **Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement Unit** promotes the health of Mississippi citizens by working with local and state law enforcement officers to reduce youth access to tobacco and alcohol products. This unit performs weekly operations in commercial and retail establishments (stores, restaurants, etc.) to ensure full compliance with the State's laws and regulations pertaining to the prohibition of sale and use of alcohol and tobacco products to minors. This unit oversees the issuance of the proper citations upon violations of such laws, and where appropriate, the arrest and conviction through the proper courts of such violators.

The **Bureau of Victim Assistance** has a crime victim centered mission is to facilitate efforts which increase the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, promote the fair and compassionate treatment of victims of crime, ensure victims are afforded the rights and considerations they are entitled, and provide victims of violent crime with financial assistance as well as serving as a single point of contact for services through avenues such as victim compensation, advocacy, training, and technical assistance.

The primary purpose of the **Civil Litigation Division** is to provide trial and appeal court counsel for State agencies, officials, and employees in litigation in state and federal courts. The Civil Litigation Division also defends local district attorneys and judges when those officials are sued. The civil actions include a wide range of constitutional issues, Title VII employment matters, voting rights, prisoner cases, contracts, § 1983 actions for damages, suits for injunctions, audit demands, ethics issues, and many other matters which can arise from the various functions of State government.

The **Children's Division** supports efforts that reduce juvenile delinquency, truancy, drop-out rates, exploitation, and child abuse and neglect, through collaboration with other state agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, by facilitating initiatives to improve, expand and promote services for at risk youth and their families.

The **Crime Victim Compensation Division** provides financial assistance to eligible victims of violent crime and their eligible family members. The Division assists with reducing the financial burden of crime by reimbursing victims for their crime related expenses not covered by any other source of benefits (insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, disability benefits, Workers' Compensation, etc.) Compensation may be awarded to the victim, the dependents of a deceased victim or a person authorized to act on behalf of the victim and/or surviving dependent.

The **Criminal Division** consists of some of the most experienced attorneys in state government. Because they rely so heavily on judicial precedent, these attorneys have a keen interest in the history as well as the future development of the law. All pleadings filed by Criminal Division attorneys are carefully researched and precisely argued to ensure that lawful convictions and sentences are upheld by the courts.

The **Child Desertion Unit** criminally prosecutes deadbeat parents throughout the state for desertion, abandonment and the failure to pay court-ordered child support.

The **Consumer Protection Division** can provide assistance to you if you have a dispute with a business through its mediation process. Also, if you have been a victim of identity theft, home repair fraud, or other consumer fraud the Consumer Protection Division can provide assistance to you on how to respond and combat these issues.

The **Cyber Crime Unit** protects --and in many cases, rescues --children through investigation of computer crimes such as child pornography.

The **Domestic Violence** component of the Bureau of Victim Assistance operates as a central resource for all law enforcement, prosecutors, judges or any other individuals or entities who have legal duties or provide services to domestic violence victims. The Bureau develops and distributes statewide resource materials related to domestic violence laws, policies and practices; provides domestic violence training to meet the needs of court clerks, law enforcement, judges, prosecutors and probation and parole officers; and maintains a statistical data base to include a central registry for domestic violence protection orders and the creation of uniform protection order forms.

The mission of the **Insurance Fraud Unit** is to investigate and prosecute insurance fraud. The unit initiates investigations upon referrals from individuals or insurance companies. Cases range from the prosecution of individuals who file fraudulent claims for compensation/benefits to prosecution of companies for fraudulent denial of claims.

The **Human Trafficking Coordinator** housed within the Bureau of Victim Assistance is responsible for evaluation of state efforts to combat human trafficking; collection of data on human trafficking activity within the state; promotion of public awareness on human trafficking, remedies and services for victims; development and implementation of rules pertaining to management of the Relief for Victims of Human Trafficking Fund; and development of training for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges and others in the legal system, as well as members of the community, on the various forms of human trafficking.

The **Medicaid Fraud Control Unit** and the **Vulnerable Adults Unit** enforce the laws which prohibit abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable persons, such as those with mental or physical disabilities.

The **Opinions and Local Government Division** discharges one of the Attorney General's primary statutory duties, i.e., issuing legal opinions of the Office to state and local officials, boards, agencies, and their attorneys. The Attorney General is the official Revisor of Statutes for the Mississippi Code. This division also reviews legislation, which will potentially impact voting procedures or office holders in the state, submitting the same to the U.S. Justice Department. It provides training and legal assistance to local officials and approves interlocal agreements.

The **Prosecutors' Training Division** develops and coordinates continuing legal education classes and conferences for full-time and part-time prosecutors across the state of Mississippi. Two major conferences and several customized training classes each year provide prosecutors with resources and information that are needed to help prosecutors protect the rights of our citizens who are victimized.

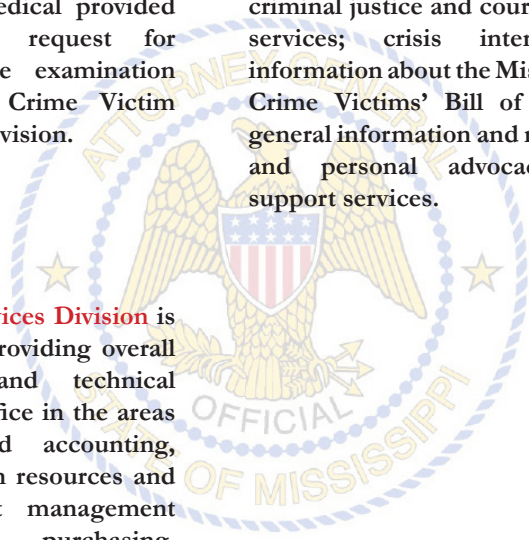
The **Public Information Office (PIO)** is responsible for the preparation of official reports, publication of educational brochures and pamphlets, production of public service announcements, and the periodic publication of informative newsletters for the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. The PIO also assists the public with information requests, with a primary focus on the dissemination of office information to the public through the media.

As its primary mission, the **Public Integrity Division** is charged with the responsibility of investigating and prosecuting public corruption and white collar crime.

The **Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Payment Program**, a program by the Bureau of Victim Assistance, helps Victims of a sexual assault who have had a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination done by a medical professional are not responsible for the bill for the examination. However, the medical provided can submit a request for payment for the examination directly to the Crime Victim Compensation Division.

The **Support Services Division** is responsible for providing overall administrative and technical support to the office in the areas of finance and accounting, budgeting human resources and personnel, grant management and reporting, purchasing, payroll, maintenance of the law library, management of interagency legal contracts and information systems.

The **Victim Assistance Program**, a program by the Bureau of Victim Assistance, serves as the single point of contact for Mississippi crime victims. This program assists victims with obtaining their rights; completing and submitting Crime Victim Compensation Applications; criminal justice and court related services; crisis intervention; information about the Mississippi Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; general information and referrals; and personal advocacy and support services.





# Office of the Mississippi Attorney General

## JACKSON OFFICE

WALTER SILLERS BUILDING  
550 HIGH STREET  
JACKSON, MS 39201

Or  
P.O. BOX 220  
JACKSON, MS 39205-0220

601-359-3680

## HOUSTON OFFICE

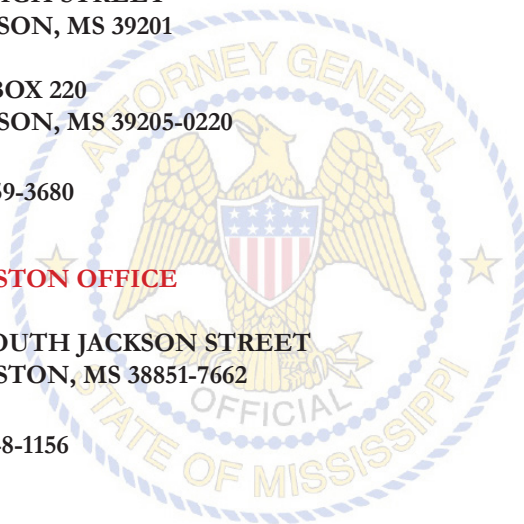
799 SOUTH JACKSON STREET  
HOUSTON, MS 38851-7662

662-448-1156

## COAST OFFICE

1141 BAYVIEW AVENUE  
SUITE 402  
BILOXI, MS 39530

228-386-4400

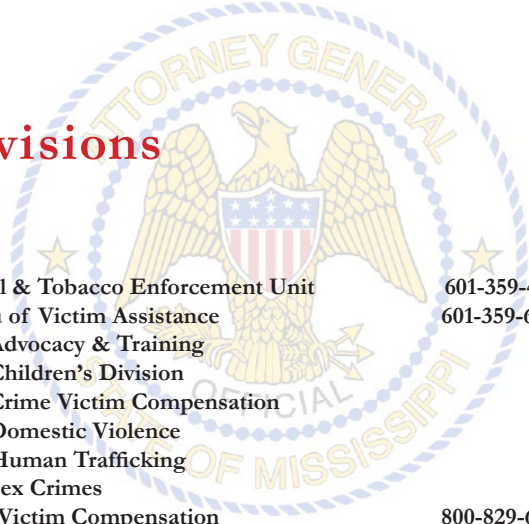


# EXECUTIVE STAFF

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
RECEPTIONIST

DELISA JONES  
MIKE LANFORD  
ONETTA WHITLEY  
ROBERT KERSH  
MARGARET ANN MORGAN  
RACHAEL RING  
MARILYN ROBINSON

## Divisions



Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement Unit 601-359-4159  
Bureau of Victim Assistance 601-359-6766  
\* Advocacy & Training  
\* Children's Division  
\* Crime Victim Compensation  
\* Domestic Violence  
\* Human Trafficking  
\* Sex Crimes  
Crime Victim Compensation 800-829-6766  
Civil Litigation 601-359-9560  
Consumer Protection 601-359-4230 / 800-281-4418  
Cyber Crime 601-576-4281  
Criminal Litigation 601-359-3687  
Habeas Corpus 601-359-3880  
Medicaid Fraud Control 601-359-4220  
Opinions/Local Government 601-359-3167  
Prosecutors Training 601-359-4205  
State Agencies 601-359-4210  
Public Integrity 601-359-4250  
\* Child Desertion Unit  
\* Insurance Fraud  
\* Vulnerable Adult Unit



# Resources

## Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement

Underage Drinking: What Parents Should Know  
Youth Drug Abuse: What Parents Should Know  
“Drug Free” Crossword Puzzle Sheet  
Crime Prevention and Victim Services Division  
Address Confidentiality Program  
A Victim’s Guide  
Crime Victim Compensation Financial Assistance for Victims of Crime in the State of Mississippi  
School Violence Prevention Guide  
Workplace Violence Prevention: A Guide  
Effective Responses to Victims of Violent Crime: A Guide for Law Enforcement  
A Guide to Child Safety: A Parent’s PLAN  
Resource Guide for Combating Senior Financial Abuse in Mississippi (Brochure and Booklet)  
Youth Suicide: What Parents Should Know  
Mississippi Crime Victims; Bill of Rights  
Post Conviction Procedures

## Cyber Crime Unit

A Guide to Child Safety: A Parent’s PLAN  
Keeping you Safe in Cyberspace  
Cyberbullying: What Parents Should Know  
Sexting: What Parents Should Know  
Illegal Downloads: What Parents Should Know  
Online Gaming: A Guide for Parents  
Consumer Protection Division  
Guidelines for Home Repair Contracting  
Identity Theft (Book and Pamphlet)  
Operation Knock Out Knock Offs (Flyer and Pamphlet)  
Resource Guide for Combating Senior Financial Abuse in Mississippi (Brochure and Booklet)  
Consumer Tips for Storm Victims  
What Determines the Price I Pay for Gasoline  
A Consumer Guide to Mississippi’s Lemon Law  
Mississippi Guide to Consumer Protection Laws  
Spanish Brochures (El Fraude en Casa, El Fraude de Automovil, and El Fraude en la Billetera)

## Domestic Violence Prevention Unit

Federal Firearms Law: Domestic Violence Offender Gun Ban  
Responding to a Domestic Violence Call: A Quick-Reference Guide for Mississippi Law Enforcement

Stalking: Prevention and Awareness Guide

Teen Dating Violence

The Mississippi Domestic Abuse Protection Order

Opinions Division

Guide to Mississippi Open Meetings & Public Records Laws

Safeguarding the Vote: Recognizing and Reporting Election Crimes

## Vulnerable Persons

Vulnerable Persons Law Enforcement Guide

## Various

A Quick Reference Guide to the Office of Attorney General, State of Mississippi

Making a Career in Public Service Attainable: A Guide to Student Loan Forgiveness Through Public Service

**WEBSITE:** [www.agjimhood.com](http://www.agjimhood.com)

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