

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



JIM HOOD
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Fellow Mississippian,

This letter and the enclosed material are part of our drive to expand public awareness of the many services available through the Mississippi Attorney General's Office. Many citizens know that our office prosecutes various crimes, brings lawsuits in the public interest, and assists consumers in recognizing and dealing with the fraud and many scams that exist today. However, in addition to these activities, the Attorney General's Office provides many other services to the general public. For example, did you know our Victim Compensation Program distributed more than \$3.7 million this past fiscal year to 1,163 victims of crime in Mississippi who were in need of financial support due to injuries related to the criminal acts perpetrated against them?

In order to ensure our citizens are aware of the many services available through our office, the Attorney General's Office is relaunching the ***DID YOU KNOW*** initiative.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- The ***Bureau of Victim Assistance*** increases the effectiveness of the criminal justice system by promoting the fair and compassionate treatment of victims of crime? The Bureau provides financial assistance and support services to eligible victims of violent crimes and serves as a single point of contact for services through advocacy, training, and technical assistance specifically tailored to enhance victim safety and increase offender accountability in the areas of domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, and sexual assault. Additionally, the Children's Division within the Bureau supports collaborative efforts that reduce juvenile delinquency, truancy, drop-out rates, exploitation, and child abuse and neglect, by facilitating initiatives to improve, expand, and promote services for at-risk youth and their families.
- 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 the 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 ***Child Desertion Unit*** criminally prosecutes parents throughout the state for desertion, abandonment, and the failure to pay court-ordered child support?
- The ***Cyber Crime Division*** protects— and, in many cases, rescues— children from computer crimes such as child pornography and other cybercrime scams?
- 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 ***Medicaid Fraud Control Unit*** and the ***Vulnerable Adults Unit*** enforce the laws which prohibit abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults, such as those having mental or physical disabilities?

The Attorney General's Office is here to help you. If there is an upcoming community meeting, local fair, or church event in your area, a representative from our office would be glad to attend to explain our many services and functions. For more information about any of the services described above or if you would like additional copies of materials related to the activities of the Attorney General's Office, please contact our Public Information Officer, Rachael Ring, at (601) 359-3680, 1-833-255-0833, or rring@ago.state.ms.us.

Sincerely,

Jim Hood
Attorney General