



Office of Attorney  
General  
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# I WANT TO FILE A COMPLAINT ...

Although the Attorney General is designated the chief law enforcement officer of the state, this office does not have jurisdiction or authority over any state or local government official or agency, or over the states attorneys and local law enforcement agencies; therefore we cannot take complaints relating to those entities or individuals. In addition, the office is prohibited by law from giving legal advice or providing legal services to members of the public or private businesses. However, for your convenience we provide the following reference guide:

<b>Complaint</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>Attorney</b>	If you believe your lawyer did a poor job on your case, you first should discuss the concerns with the attorney and then pursue alternative methods of settling attorney-client disputes. If you believe your attorney acted unethically, you can contact the Supreme Court Disciplinary Board at (701) 328-3925.
<b>Bank</b>	Department of Financial Institutions, (701) 328-9933.
<b>Child Support</b>	Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement Division (701) 328-3582, or an attorney.
<b>City/County</b>	Cities and counties are local government entities. The Office of Attorney General does not have jurisdiction over local government entities or officials and therefore cannot take a complaint. If you disagree with a city/county decision or the actions of a city/county commission, you should contact your commissioner or an attorney in private practice.
<b>City or County Commissioner</b>	A city or county commissioner is an independently elected local government official. The Office of Attorney General does not have jurisdiction over local government entities or officials and therefore cannot take a complaint. Complaints about an elected official should be directed to that person.
<b>Civil Rights Violation</b>	American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) serving ND and MN at (651) 917-3880 or www.aclund.org.
<b>Collection Agency</b>	The Office of Attorney General does not have authority over collection agencies. You have certain rights under the federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act (online at www.ag.nd.gov on the Publications link). If you believe a collection agency has violated those rights, contact the Department of Financial Institutions at (701) 328-9933.
<b>Contract, Breach of</b>	The Office of Attorney General is prohibited by law from providing legal services to members of the public. Please contact an attorney in private practice.
<b>Contractor, workmanship</b>	Complaints about the <i>quality of work</i> performed by a licensed contractor or subcontractor do not fall under the authority of the Office of Attorney General. Please contact an attorney in private practice.
<b>Discrimination</b>	For Housing or Employment discrimination, contact the ND Department of Labor at (701) 328-2660. For other types of alleged discrimination, contact an attorney in private practice.
<b>Door to Door Sales</b>	Transient merchants must have a state license and may also be required to obtain a city permit. Contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection division at (701) 328-3404 or local law enforcement.
<b>Elected Official</b>	An elected public official is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Office of Attorney General. Your complaint should be directed to the elected official.
<b>Employment</b>	Department of Labor at (701) 328-2660.
<b>Fraud, local business</b>	Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (701) 328-3404 or toll free 1-800-472-2600.
<b>Fraud, Government agency or employee</b>	City: City Attorney or Police Department; County: State's Attorney or Sheriff's Department; State Agency: Office of Management and Budget, or State Auditor, or ND Highway Patrol.
<b>Gas Prices</b>	There is no state law restricting the amount of profit a retailer can set for gasoline or any other retail product. Therefore, a retailer can charge any price above wholesale cost for the product. Because there is no state law limiting the retail price of a product, the Attorney General's office cannot take a complaint. You can contact the ND Petroleum Marketers Association at (701) 223-3370.
<b>Government employee</b>	To complain about a government employee (city, county, state or federal), contact the employee's supervisor or the head of the agency.

<b>Insurance Agent</b>	ND Insurance Commissioner at (701) 328-2440.
<b>Judge</b>	A judge is an elected official. The Office of Attorney General does not have jurisdiction or authority over elected officials and therefore cannot take a complaint. If your complaint relates to a judge's decision or ruling on a case, contact an attorney to discuss options for appeal.
<b>Land rights</b>	The Office of Attorney General does not have jurisdiction over transactions relating to lease or sale of oil, mineral or wind rights, and therefore cannot take a complaint. For legal advice, contact an attorney in private practice.
<b>Land sales</b>	The Office of Attorney General does not have jurisdiction or authority real estate transactions and therefore cannot take a complaint. Contact an attorney in private practice.
<b>Landlord</b>	The Office of Attorney General is prohibited by law from providing legal advice to members of the public. Contact an attorney in private practice. You also may find it helpful to review information about Tenant Rights, available online at <a href="http://www.ag.nd.gov">www.ag.nd.gov</a> on the Publications link.
<b>Licensed professional</b>	Licensed professional (e.g. realtor, accountant, doctor, etc.), contact the state regulatory board or commission. Find contact information at (701) 328-2200 or <a href="http://governor.nd.gov/boards/">http://governor.nd.gov/boards/</a> .
<b>Misuse of public funds</b>	Misuse by a city or county government agency—contact the local law enforcement. Misuse by a state agency-contact Office of Management and Budget, or State Auditor, or ND Highway Patrol. Misuse by a city, county or state employee— contact the agency head or local law enforcement.
<b>Pawn Shop</b>	Pawn Brokers are licensed by the Department of Financial Institutions at (701) 328-9933, and the city in which they are located.
<b>Payday Loans</b>	Department of Financial Institutions at (701) 328-9933.
<b>Police Chief/Police Department</b>	The Chief of Police is the head of his agency; complaints should be directed to him, or to the city commissioner who handles the Police portfolio.
<b>Police Officer</b>	The city police department is a local government agency. The Office of Attorney General does not have jurisdiction or authority over local government agencies and therefore cannot take a complaint about a police officer or police department; complaints should be directed to the Chief of Police.
<b>Price Gouging</b>	There is no state law restricting the amount of profit a retailer can set for gasoline or any other retail product; therefore, a retailer can charge any price he wants over wholesale. Because there is no state law restricting or limiting retail prices, the Attorney General's office cannot take a complaint.
<b>School Board/district</b>	School district or attorney in private practice.
<b>Sex offender</b>	There is no state law restricting where a sex offender may live or work; these are conditions of the offender's parole and probation, set by the court on a case-by-case basis. You can find information about registered sex offenders online at <a href="http://www.sexoffender.nd.gov">www.sexoffender.nd.gov</a> . If you have concerns about a specific offender or public notification about an offender, contact your local law enforcement.
<b>Sheriff or Sheriff's Department</b>	The county sheriff is an independently elected local government official, not subject to the jurisdiction or authority of the Attorney General or any other state agency. The Sheriff is the head of his agency; complaints should be directed to the Sheriff or the county commission.
<b>Sheriff's Deputy</b>	The deputy's supervisor or the county sheriff.
<b>State's Attorney</b>	The state's attorney is an independently elected local government official not subject to the jurisdiction or authority of the Attorney General or any other state agency. By law, a state's attorney has "prosecutorial discretion" to decide whether to file charges and which cases to prosecute. The Attorney General cannot overrule the state's attorney. Your complaint should be directed to the state's attorney. If the State's Attorney has declined to prosecute a case, you may wish to contact an attorney in private practice to discuss civil options.
<b>Unpaid Wages</b>	Department of Labor at (701) 328-2660.
<b>Whistleblower</b>	Whistleblower complaints can be filed with the government agency, county state's attorney, or the Office of Attorney General BUT the Attorney General does not represent the employee. For legal advice and representation, contact an attorney in private practice.
<b>Workforce Safety &amp; Insurance (WSI)</b>	Workforce Safety & Insurance. The Office of Attorney General does not have authority over any other state agency. For legal advice, contact an attorney in private practice.
<b>Workmanship</b>	Complaints about the <i>quality of work</i> performed by a licensed contractor or subcontractor do not fall under the authority of the Attorney General. Please contact an attorney in private practice.