

The State's Use of Legal Services

Follow-up report highlights

March 2016

State agencies have made significant progress to address our recommendations. Three recommendations are completed, three are in process, and one had no change.

Risk Management

35%

of Risk Management's cases went to the Attorney General's Office in fiscal year 2015—up from an annual average of 7% for fiscal years 2011–2014.

Progress has been made to improve communication and use available resources at the Attorney General's Office.

County prosecutors

20

requests were received from county prosecutors to the Criminal Division of the Attorney General's Office in fiscal year 2015—an all-time low.

16

of those requests were accepted; 1 request was declined because of a lack of resources and 5 for other reasons.

County prosecutors only receive assistance from the Criminal Division for large, complex cases. They rely on other prosecutors for smaller cases.

Cost allocation

\$1

of general fund spending at the Attorney General's Office has cost agencies between \$0.82 to \$1.48 in 2014.

The Division of Financial Management believes that modifying the statewide cost allocation plan to reduce the inequities discussed in our report is feasible but not cost-effective.

Child protection and child support

The Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Health and Welfare will propose legislation during the 2017 session to make the department a legal party to child protection proceedings, represented by the Attorney General's Office. This legislation would clarify the roles of county prosecutors and the Attorney General's Office and make available federal funding.

Child protection requires legal staff in seven regions of the state, and once these offices are established, the Attorney General and the department would consider expanding the role of the Attorney General in child support enforcement.



Transportation

All outstanding cases are being handled by the Attorney General's Office.



View the report: www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/