



KENTUCKY

General News

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Attorney General Conway Launches Kentucky's First Statewide Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force



A \$50,000 grant from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI) is helping Attorney General Jack Conway launch Kentucky's first statewide prescription drug diversion task force. The Office of the Attorney General was one of only seven law enforcement agencies in the nation to receive NADDI grants this year. NADDI President John Burke presented General Conway with the check at an August 20 press conference.

"We are especially pleased to be a part of the first statewide prescription drug abuse task force ever formed in Kentucky, and applaud Attorney General Jack Conway for his innovative plan to reduce prescription drug diversion in the Commonwealth," said John Burke, president of NADDI.

The NADDI grant will serve as seed money to fund equipment, training and investigative efforts of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Prescription Drug Diversion Task Force, formed by General Conway in April, to help combat doctor shopping, overprescribing physicians, drug trafficking and illegal out-of-state pharmacies.

The task force includes investigators from the OAG's Drug Investigations Branch as well as two additional investigators from Eastern Kentucky law enforcement agencies. General Conway is currently soliciting participation in the task force from law enforcement agencies in communities across Kentucky.

Even facing 20% budget cuts, General Conway has taken a comprehensive approach to tackling prescription drug abuse in Kentucky. He has partnered with both state and federal law enforcement agencies, such as Eastern Kentucky's Operation UNITE, the Appalachian High Intensity Drug Traffic Area (HIDTA) task force, U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER) system. And he lobbied lawmakers to help pass the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Act, a federal law similar to Kentucky's groundbreaking Internet Pharmacy Law.

More information — <http://tinyurl.com/mun2xu>

OAG Drug Diversion Accomplishments Since January 2008:

Prescription Drugs Seized.....	4,397
Cases Opened.....	257
KASPER Requests.....	675
Search Warrants	39
Arrests	68 on 169 counts
Indictments.....	41 on 238 counts
Participated in Drug Round-Ups.....	12

Additionally, the Office of the Attorney General has trained approximately 150 local law enforcement, prosecutors and health care professionals in Prescription Drug Diversion.

Prescription Pill Abuse Robbing Kentucky of Good Kids

In addition to his law enforcement and legislative efforts to address prescription pill diversion, General Conway is partnering with Kentucky families who have lost loved ones to this devastating addiction.

"Prescription pill abuse is robbing Kentucky of good kids, like 19-year-old Sarah Shay and 22-year-old Savannah Kissick, of Morehead. These childhood friends both struggled with addiction and ultimately died from drug overdoses. We need to educate both teens and parents about the dangers of prescription drugs and what can be done to stop the spread of pain pill abuse across the Commonwealth," said General Conway.



Kentucky Attorney General Jack Conway

Dr. Karen Shay and Lynn Kissick have begun to speak out about the epidemic of prescription drug abuse since their daughters' deaths. They have praised the Attorney General for stepping up efforts to combat this problem and both have committed to working with General Conway on a public awareness campaign about prescription pill abuse.



SARAH SHAY, 19

SAVANNAH KISSICK, 22

SureTouch Refund Checks Issued to 1,078 Former Customers in Kentucky

More than 1,000 Kentuckians will receive refund checks as part of a settlement in a telemarketing enforcement action against Direct Connect Consulting, which marketed SureTouch Long Distance service. In May 2008, Attorney General Conway and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filed suit against Direct Connect Consulting alleging the defendants had engaged in deceptive marketing and illegal billing practices.

The Office of the Attorney General recovered \$60,683 in restitution. On Friday, August 28, the Attorney General's Office mailed 1,078 checks to former SureTouch customers in Kentucky ranging from \$5 to \$433.44.

"I am pleased we were able to secure some restitution for Kentucky consumers who were victims of deceptive marketing and illegal billing practices in connection with the sales of SureTouch Long Distance calling cards," said General Conway. "I want to thank our partners at the FTC and also Kentucky State Police Sgt. David Millay who assisted with the investigation. This was a team effort and a fine example of how law enforcement cooperation at the federal and state level can help produce a good result for consumers."

More information — <http://tinyurl.com/n9p84m>

Attorney General, Mayor: Avoid Flood Related Scams



Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson and Attorney General Conway cautioned victims of the flash flooding in Louisville to be leery of fly-by-night repair crews and scams designed to exploit people recovering from disasters.

"I appreciate Mayor Abramson partnering with us to help educate consumers about the risks they face after catastrophic flooding like we've seen in Louisville," General Conway said. "It is our mission to protect residents from 'storm chasers,' out-of-state repairmen who travel across the country following disasters and looking to scam storm victims."

Common natural disaster scams include outright fraud, shoddy construction, charity scams, impersonating officials and loan scams.

If you have questions or to file a complaint, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-888-432-9257 or visit www.ag.ky.gov/cp

Doug Wright Among 2009 Outstanding Commonwealth's and County Attorneys

Attorney General Conway presented the awards for the 2009 Outstanding Commonwealth's and County Attorneys at the Kentucky Prosecutor's Conference on August 20 in Lexington. One of this year's recipients of the Outstanding Commonwealth's Attorney award was Doug Wright, Commonwealth's Attorney in the 18th Judicial Circuit representing Harrison, Nicholas, Pendleton and Robertson Counties from 2005 until his tragic death in a traffic crash in June.

"Doug's sudden death was not only a loss for his family and community but a loss for all of us in the prosecutorial system. He was an excellent attorney who served his community with honor, distinction and dedication. Doug will certainly be missed," said General Conway.

Wright is also this year's recipient of the Carroll Redford Award presented by the Commonwealth's Attorneys Association. His wife, children and parents accepted the award on his behalf.

Tim Coleman, Commonwealth's Attorney for the 38th judicial circuit representing Butler, Edmonson, Hancock and Ohio Counties was also recognized as a 2009 Outstanding Commonwealth's Attorney.

2009 Outstanding County Attorney Winners included:

- ▶ Alan George, Woodford County Attorney since 1994
- ▶ Amy Milliken, Warren County Attorney since 2004



Judy Wright



Tim Coleman



Alan George



Amy Milliken

Consumer Protection Alert!

“Grandparents Scam” Preys On Generosity of Kentucky Senior Citizens

Attorney General Conway is warning Kentucky senior citizens not to fall victim to a phone scam that targets grandparents. General Conway’s Office of Consumer Protection has received calls from concerned consumers about the so-called “Grandparents Scam,” and at least one victim in Kentucky was conned out of \$6,000.

The “Grandparents Scam” originated in the early 1990s and preys upon the love and concern grandparents have for their grandchildren in order to obtain money. In a typical scenario, the victim will receive a frantic call from someone claiming to be their grandchild who is in Canada and in an emergency situation. The caller requests that the victim send money through a money transfer company, usually in an amount of several thousand dollars.

“Wiring money is one of the most common ways consumers lose money to con artists. Scams are frequently conducted using money transfer services and the funds are rarely recoverable,” cautioned General Conway.

Consumers who suspect they have been a victim of a scam can call the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-888-432-9257 or visit <http://ag.ky.gov/cp>.

Hopkinsville Couple Face Charges in Phony Investment Scam

Robert and Ann Scarborough, both of Hopkinsville, pled not guilty on August 11 in Christian Circuit Court on more than 80 felony counts related to a phony investment scheme that cost its victims more than \$516,000.

The Scarboroughs, and Kenneth and Sheila Kennedy, both of Clarksville, Tenn., are accused of soliciting investors in purported real estate opportunities in Kentucky, Indiana and Nevada. Investors were allegedly led to believe they would receive as much as five-times their investment amount within a matter of weeks or months.

“Any time you are offered an investment opportunity that promises this type of quick return on investment, be leery,” cautioned General Conway. “Ask for a prospectus and other financial disclosures that are required under federal law and state law, and as soon as you suspect you may have been defrauded, report it.”

Ann Scarborough also faces trial in U.S. District Court in Tennessee on wire fraud, mail fraud and money laundering related to the scheme. Sheila Kennedy pled guilty in March to similar charges and faces up to 30 years in prison.



Ann Scarborough, 64



Robert Scarborough, 66