



Department of
State's Attorneys
and Sheriffs

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S ATTORNEYS AND SHERIFFS (SAS) INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE ASSISTANTS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS (2024 Legislative Session)

NOTE: This contents of this document are subject to change. This document was submitted to Legislative Committee Assistants and Legislative Committee Chairs during the 2024 Legislative Session.



SAS OVERVIEW

- 24 V.S.A. § 367 established the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs (“SAS” or “the Department”), consisting of the 14 State’s Attorneys and 14 Sheriffs.
- The Department provides support to the fourteen State's Attorneys, including: budgetary management, allocation of positions, labor relations/contract negotiations, HR functions, staff training, policy and legislative affairs, information and public records, coordination on statewide issues, grant management, intergovernmental relations, service on boards and committees, appellate matters, general legal, IT support, and other matters relating to the offices.
- The Department provides certain types of support to elected Sheriffs. The Sheriffs’ salaries and benefits are paid through the Department and the Department also pays the salaries and benefits and oversees the positions of State Transport Deputies. The Sheriffs’ law enforcement operations, non-State employees, and their contracts, are solely overseen and managed by the Sheriffs themselves, and are independent of the Department.
- The Executive Committees for the State’s Attorneys and the Executive Committees for the Sheriffs appoint an Executive Director who is an exempt employee. The Executive Director’s duties include preparation of budgetary and financial materials for the Department; establishment of allocations for each of the SA offices; budgetary control over the general appropriation for State’s Attorneys; and preparation of the funding request to the Governor and Legislature for General Fund.

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INFORMATION FOR COMMITTEE ASSISTANTS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- John Campbell, Esq. is the Executive Director of the Department. Timothy Lueders-Dumont, Esq., is the primary point of contact for legislative matters concerning the Department. All requests to the Department should be made via email to (timothy.lueders-dumont@vermont.gov) with the subject line, "request for testimony." All requests for legislative testimony should be made as soon as feasible with the requested topic, date, and time. Lueders-Dumont primarily coordinates legislative testimony for the State's Attorneys, the Department, and the Executive Committee of State's Attorneys.
- Annie Noonan (annie.Noonan@vermont.gov), Director of Labor Relations & Operations, is the primary point of contact for the Department's appropriations, budget, Pay Act, labor relations, and workforce matters. Noonan is also the contact person for matters related to the State Transport Deputies.
- For matters relating to the Sheriffs' law enforcement issues, Committee Assistants should contact Windham County Sheriff Mark Anderson and Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux as the primary points of contact: (Manderso@windhamcountylvt.gov) and (Roger.Marcoux@LamoilleSheriff.org). For all Sheriffs' matters, please also copy Annie Noonan (Annie.noonan@vermont.gov).
- State's Attorneys were established in Vermont's Constitution and are elected by county voters to a 4-year term. State's Attorneys serve as county prosecutors and have traditionally been responsible for prosecution of adult criminal conduct, juvenile delinquencies, petitions for Youthful Offender (YO), and "Children in Need of Care or Supervision (CHINS). At present, the majority of criminal dockets, delinquency dockets, YO and CHINS dockets are filed by State's Attorneys. Note, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 152, the Attorney General (AGO) shares concurrent jurisdiction and the same "authority throughout the State as a State's Attorney." Note, a petition to request to terminate parental rights ("TPR") may be filed by the State, through the Commissioner of the Department of Children and Families, or the attorney for the child, in accordance with the following. 33 V.S.A. § 5114. In practice, an assistant attorney (AAG) from AGO generally files TPR petitions. State's Attorneys and their deputies do not file TPR petitions.
- Sheriffs were established in Vermont's Constitution and are elected by the county voters to a 4-year term. Statute also confirms the establishment of sheriff departments, 24 VSA § 290: "A sheriff's department is established in each county consisting of the elected sheriff in each county, and such deputy sheriffs and supporting staff as may be appointed by the sheriff." The Department, under 24 V.S.A. § 367, provides the administrative and budgetary oversight and structure for the Sheriffs for the transportation and extradition work. The State General Fund pays for 14 Sheriffs, 24 State Transport Deputies, 1 Sheriff's Operations Director, and 1 Staff Assistant. Sheriffs provide professional law enforcement services, including for transport of criminal defendants. Under 24 V.S.A. § 290 (b), the Full-time State deputy sheriffs whose primary responsibility is transportation of prisoners, serving civil process, transports for extraditions and court ordered RFA's, and security including during high-risk hearings or trials are paid by the State of Vermont. Transport work is conducted primarily through State-employee Deputy Sheriffs and supplemented through non-State employee Per Diem deputies. The statute also permits the State-paid Transport Deputies to conduct "general law enforcement duties" when not engaged in transports. This "other" work must be cleared through the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs to ensure that there is no conflict, or other issues. Sheriffs may not bill the Department for work performed on any private contracts.



COURTS & JUDICIARY

