



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

of Colombia





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Foreword

The Office of the Attorney General (Fiscalía General de la Nación) is an entity that was born with the Colombian Political Constitution of 1991, and as of its stating date, July 1, 1992, has been complying with an ongoing improvement process to fight criminality challenges.

For the purpose of offering citizens an opportune, efficient and full of guarantees justice, nowadays the Office of the Attorney General counts on more than eighteen thousand officials who work at the National Direction of Prosecutors' Offices, the National Direction of the Prosecutor General's Corps of Technical Investigators, C.T.I., and the Administrative and Financial Direction throughout the Colombian territory.

In order to go in-depth in its constitutional mission, the entity has nine National Units which facilitate the investigations of offenses that range from informatics and telecommunication crimes - going through abduction, extortion and drug-trafficking – to infractions of Human Rights and humanitarian regulations.

Similarly, and to watch the disciplinary aspect of its officials, the Institution has at its disposal the Inspector's Office and Disciplinary Control Office that works jointly with State control organisms, and whose goal is to guarantee transparency in the officials' management.

With regards to providing invaluable support in training and updating of human resources, the entity counts on the School of Studies, Criminal Investigations and Forensic Sciences, which in the last few years has turned into the academic bastion of the Institution.

Then, we invite you all to explore and see through this brochure: who we are, how we work and what services we offer in our inevitable constitutional mission of providing justice with quality for all those who dwell on Colombian territory. Welcome!



Office of the Attorney General of Colombia

Mission

To assure access to an opportune and effective justice for the purpose of finding the truth, and respecting the due process and constitutional guarantees.

Vision

To be acknowledged as a State Institution, effective in criminal investigation, finding the truth of the punitive behavior with subordination to the law and respect for the due process, seeking for the reinstatement of law and restorative justice, and strengthening the confidence of the citizens in the administration of justice.

Policy

To guarantee an efficient, effective, transparent, ethical and timely performance in attaining our Institutional mission to find the truth in criminal investigations and to reach a qualified institutional management with continuous improvement of processes to meet the needs of the community.

Corporate Purpose

To strengthen the criminal investigative capacity of the State to fight criminality, ensuring access to an efficient justice, full of guarantees, and participating efficiently in the design of the State policy in criminal matters.

Integration and Competence

The Office of the Attorney General is made up by the Attorney General, the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Delegate Prosecutors and Officers of the Office of the Attorney General.

The Attorney General is elected by the Supreme Court of Justice for a four-year term from a list of three candidates proposed by the President of the Republic and shall not be reelected.

The Office of the Attorney General is part of the judicial branch and has administrative and budgetary autonomy. The Attorney General and his/her delegates have jurisdiction throughout the Colombian territory.

The Delegates of the Attorney General are the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, the National Director of Prosecutor's Office, the Sectional Directors of Prosecutor's Office, the Prosecutors attached to Special Prosecutors' Units and Special Delegate Prosecutors.

Jurisdiction

The Attorney General, the Deputy Assistant Attorney General and the Delegate Prosecutors exercise, before the different hierarchies of criminal order, the jurisdictional functions established by law.

Functions

The Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia is compelled to file the criminal action and carry out the investigation of facts described as crime and reported to the Institution through claims, special requests, complaints or ex-officio (sua sponte or on its own motion), provided that there is reasonable evidence and circumstances to prove the existence thereof.

In consequence, it shall not suspend, interrupt or waive the criminal prosecution, save in cases provided by law in accordance with the principle of opportunity ruled within the criminal policy of the State and subject to the legality control through the supervising and controlling guarantee judge.

With the exception of offenses perpetrated by members of the Public Force while on duty and connected to the service thereof.

Likewise, the Office of the Attorney General accomplishes the following functions:

1. To request the supervising and controlling guarantee judge the necessary steps to assure that defendants appear in criminal processes, the conservation of the evidence, the protection of the community, and specially the victims.
2. To carry out registers, searches, seizures and wiretappings.
3. To safeguard the material evidence by guaranteeing the chain of custody while assuring the right to challenge.
4. To file an indictment or formal accusation before the judge who heard the case in order to start a public and oral trial, with the immediate submission of evidence, right to challenge and all guarantees.

5. To request the judge who heard the case the estoppel or dismissal of the investigation when according to the provisions of law, there is not enough reasonable evidence to accuse.
6. To request the judge who heard the case to release the judicial measures required to assist the victims and reestablish their rights and the indemnification of those affected by the offense.
7. To protect the victims, jurors, witnesses, and all parties of the criminal process.
8. To direct and coordinate the judicial police functions carried out by the Colombian National Police and other law enforcement agencies as provided by law.

Office of Attorney General of Colombia

The Attorney General represents the Institution before the authorities of public order, private citizens, governments and foreign agencies and fulfills his/her functions according to the Constitution and Law.

He/she is in charge of releasing regulations, orders, memorandums, organizational procedures and manuals concerning the administrative organization and efficient performance of the functions of the entity. Likewise, he/she is entitled to modify the staff in accordance with the institutional needs and without affecting the treasury.

The Office of the Attorney General is made up by offices and directions. The National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences is a public establishment attached to the Office of the Attorney.

Delegate Unit to the Supreme Court of Justice

It undertakes the criminal proceedings and carries out investigations of facts considered an offense according to the Constitution, the law and the Organic Statute of the Office of the Attorney General, and whose alleged perpetrator has constitutional or legal immunity.

It performs as commissioned by the Colombian Attorney General in criminal cases whose alleged perpetrator has constitutional or legal immunity.

In accordance with Act 600 of 2000, it solves competence conflicts arising among Delegate Prosecutors to National and High Courts of the same or different districts. Besides, it untangles appeals and remedies of facts filed against interlocutory resolutions released at first instance by Delegate Prosecutors before the Superior and National Courts. It advises the Attorney General in the design of the Criminal Policy of the Institution

National Prosecutors' Office for Justice and Peace

It was incorporated by Act 975 dated June 25, 2005 for the purpose of carrying out the proceedings assigned by competence to the Office of the Attorney General within peace processes and individual or collective resocialization into civil life of members of outlaw groups, by guaranteeing the rights of the victims to truth, justice and reparation.

It has the permanent support of a special unit of judicial police with exclusive dedication and jurisdiction, with competence throughout the national territory.

Planning Office

This Direction advises the Attorney General on planning and scheduling programs, projects and activities regarding the present and future of the entity.

It guides different offices in preparing manuals of processes and procedures, and their implementation and continuous up-dating.

It coordinates the preparation of the Development Plan of the Office of the Attorney General, and once it is approved, it advises its implementation. It is in charge of designing methodology and evaluation procedures to assess the management of the Office of the Attorney General

Legal Office

It represents the entity - through power conferred by the Attorney General or his/her delegate - in those processes in which the entity is part of.

It advises the Attorney General on analyzing and emanating concepts in reference to legal aspects of the Institution or those external aspects which might eventually affect it. Besides, it appraises the offices of the Institution throughout the Colombian territory on legal issues of administrative nature.

It carries out collection proceedings by coercive jurisdiction and instructs the Attorney General or the competent official in the execution of decisions and settlements.

It is in charge of addressing and controlling the activities and processes related to administrative contracting under the competence of the Office of the Attorney General

Internal Control Office

This office plans, runs and assesses the internal control system of the entity, looks after the execution of laws, norms, policies, procedures, plans, programs, projects and goals of the Institution.

It supervises the intrinsic exercise of the functions of all posts, particularly those that imply management and control positions, and also verifies that such controls – defined for the processes and activities of the Office of the Attorney General - are fulfilled by those responsible for their execution and that the divisions or public servants in charge of applying the disciplinary regime exercise their function properly.

It encourages a self-control culture which contributes to an ongoing improvement in the execution of the institutional mission.

It looks after claims, accusations and reports filed by citizens concerning the attainment of the entity duties be responded according to legal regulations in force. It also leads the elaboration of the Institution Risk Map and seeks for the application of actions to lessen hazards.

Witnesses' Protection and Assistance Office

It advises the Attorney General on assessing policies, regulations and procedures of the entity, plans and programs regarding the Victims and Witnesses' Protection Program.

The purpose of the Witnesses' Protection and Assistance Program is to safeguard the life and integrity of victims, witnesses and participants within criminal processes. Thereby, the Office organizes – in coordination with the National

Direction of Prosecutors' Office, the Corps of Technical Investigators and State security agencies, the protection of victims, witnesses, jurors, officers and participants within investigations and processes filed at the Office of the Attorney General.

Likewise, it manages surveys on the truthfulness, origin and seriousness of threats against officers of the Attorney General's Office, victims, witnesses, and participants in criminal investigations and processes. It establishes links with agencies, and state and private institutions in order to collect and verify information relevant for the program.

Inspector's Office and Disciplinary Control Office

It advises the Attorney General on aspects of disciplinary nature under its competence and pursuant to law. It practices preventive control, follow-ups and evaluation of disciplinary behavior of public servants of the Office of the Attorney General in furtherance of their duties.

This office coordinates the reception, red tape and decisions due to violations of the Constitution or law within investigations or processes carried out by officers of the Office of the Attorney General, in any one of its divisions, or by the inefficient rendering of such service.

Press Office

It advises the Attorney General on defining policies, plans and programs regarding disclosure of information which is of public or the Institution officials' interest.

In addition, it arranges with different mass media interviews and issues to be dealt with duly authorized officers in order to give statements, reports or press releases.

Likewise, it contributes to projecting a good institutional image and leads the different offices of the Institution in elaborating prints and documents to be released by the entity.

It is responsible for managing the institutional protocol and organizing events presided by the Attorney General or the senior staff, and advises other offices on these issues.

Informatics Office

It advises the Attorney General on designing plans and programs as to the management of informatics and telematics resources available at the entity.

It prepares – along with the mission and support fields and the Planning Office – the Master Plan of Informatics and Systems Development, and coordinates surveys and documents required to carry out such purpose. Furthermore, it administers the informatics resources of the Office of the Attorney General.

It directs defining policies concerning gathering, registration, analysis and publication of information required to support the progress of investigations filed at the Office of the Attorney General.

National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences

This institute is ascribed to the Office of the Attorney General as a nationwide public entity with legal capacity to sue, own patrimony and administrative autonomy. The Sole Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences all over Colombian territory is organized and controlled by the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences. The director of the institute is appointed by the Attorney General.

The mission of the Institution is to provide technical and scientific assistance and support to justice administration in Colombia concerning legal medicine services and forensic sciences upon the request of district attorneys, judges, judicial police and any other competent authorities. Similarly, it develops assistance, scientific, extra expertise and social duties in the field of legal medicine and forensic sciences.

Moreover, the institute counsels and solves petitions regarding legal medicine and forensic sciences to the different units of prosecutors' offices, courts and any other competent authorities. It defines the technical rules that several organisms and individuals who carry out expertise duties associated with legal medicine and forensic sciences and exercises control on its development and compliance.

Similarly, it works as a control and supervision organism of expert reports and forensic exams practiced by the State Judicial Police Bodies and organisms in charge of crediting and certifying laboratories, experts' tests and experts in legal medicine and forensic sciences conducted by public and private entities.



Office of the Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Its constitutional function is to represent and substitute the Attorney General in the event of his/her absence and exercise his/her functions in accordance with the Constitution, law and criminal proceedings, as well as other functions assigned by legal designation.

It is in charge of advising the Attorney General on developing plans related to the Institution. It supervises meeting the institutional goals in accordance with development plans and policies and in coordination with the respective offices.

It takes the necessary steps to guarantee the timely accomplishment of plans, programs and projects and adopt information systems or channels for the execution and follow-up of plans under its scope.



Office of the Secretary General

It is in charge of advising the Attorney General on defining the institutional policy as to the Institution management and staff.

It coordinates, makes follow-ups and assesses the training program of the Institution. It advises, directs and coordinates issues regarding the administration of the career within the Institution.

It keeps and guards the files containing the administrative acts released by the Attorney General and the Deputy Assistant Attorney General while they are at the Office of the Secretary General, and issues certified copies of the same and of those released by this office.

The Office of the Secretary General is made up by the Personnel Office, the School of Studies and Criminal Investigations and Forensic Sciences, and the Welfare Division.

Office of Personnel

Advises the Secretary General on reviewing and evaluating policies, regulations and procedures to manage personnel, and implement and run the administrative career, which is exercised by Technical Secretary of the National Commission Career Management.

It prepares and updates - in coordination with the different offices at the entity - the manual of responsibilities and minimal requirements to hold posts. It deals with changes; reports personnel movements and administrative situations, payroll and fringe benefits, affiliations to health services, pension and professional risk administrators. It drafts administrative acts and documents related and in case workers quit their posts which shall be signed by the competent official.

It keeps records and control of documents produced by the office in order to provide timely and true information in relation to personal data sheets, payroll, wages, new data, fringe benefits, and releases the corresponding certifications and other documents required

Special Career Regime of the Colombian Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia

The Colombian Political Constitution grants the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia a special and autonomous career regime, which must be governed by the principles ruling the access to public posts in the country according to articles 125 and 253 of the Constitution. The career at the Office of the Attorney General, though it might be different from the administrative or judicial career, it must be governed by the principles of merit, equal opportunities and performance qualification that rule access to public posts or management pursuant to the Constitution; and principles such as excellence, equality, merit,

efficiency, celerity, publicity, specialization, specialty, neatness and labor relationships that support thereof.

National Commission Career Administration

The career management and ruling correspond to the National Commission Career Administration at the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia by virtue of article 60 of the Organic Statute. It is aimed at specialization, efficiency and excellence in rendering services, as well as guaranteeing equal conditions for enrollment, permanence and dismissal of officers and servants based on their merits.

The Commission is made up by the Attorney General or the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, who preside the commission, the Secretary General, the National Administrative and Financial Director; two representatives of the officers and employees elected by servants of the Institution. The head of the Personnel Office acts as secretary of the Commission with the right to speak but not to vote. The Commission enacted its regulations through Agreement No. 002 dated October 27 of the year 2005.

The commission meets once a month; and it counts on a deliberative quorum when it is attended by four of its members and decisions are adopted with votes provided by half of the attendees plus one.

This body releases administrative acts of general nature that are called agreements, or through resolutions in the event of particular situations.

Deliberations and decisions made by the Commission are certified through records or minutes duly approved and signed by the chairman and the secretary of said commission.

In order to facilitate the decision-making process and analytical study of the issues under their consideration, work sub-commissions have been established which are integrated by the technical team that supports the Commission.

School of Studies and Criminal Investigation and Forensic Sciences

It is the main training center of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia throughout the country. Its main function consists of developing the national training and coaching plan for the Office of the Attorney General to reach the cultural transformation which contributes to strengthening the Accusatory Criminal System and knowledge, skills and essential competences to apply it.

The goal is attained through instruments and tools such as the curriculum design of the National Plan of Education and Training (“Diseño Curricular del Plan Nacional de Formación y Capacitación”) at the Office of the Attorney General; the consolidation of the Educators’ Network (“Red de formadores”); the design and application of an improvement, follow-up and measurement system regarding the management and execution of the study plan, which includes the following programs: enrollment, comprehensive education, basic education, special training, broadcasting and spreading, and the follow-up and assessment program.

Furthermore, it coordinates with judicial police entities, which have schools or academic institutions aimed at training, carrying out joint training and updating events and information sharing.

Social Welfare Division

Coordinates and implements the social welfare plans and programs for the officers of the Office of the Attorney General, its retired personnel and their families for the purpose of improving their quality of life and encouraging social and cultural betterment.

It encourages an adequate interaction between servants and their families through scheduling recreational, sports and cultural activities for the purpose of enhancing creativity, integration and diversion.

Through the Occupational Health Program it guarantees the physical, mental and social welfare of the officers by taking preventive actions and designing strategies at individual, group and organizational level to reduce the negative effects derived from work and to minimize potential and real risks which officers are exposed to in the exercise of their duties.



National Direction of Prosecutors' Office

It advises the Attorney General on formulating State criminal policies and those related to the duties of investigation and indicting.

It designs mechanisms so that district attorneys, in coordination with supervising and controlling guarantee judge, gather and preserve evidence that might serve as anticipated proofs within the process.

The National Direction leads the Sectional Directions, its units of Prosecutors' ascribed and national units of prosecutors' office regarding the duties of investigation and indicting.

It formulates and elaborates projects and programs that support the entity mission endeavor, with the advice of the Planning Office; and makes yearly operation plans pursuant to the methodology designed by the Planning Office and conducts some management follow-up.

In coordination with the Secretary General, the National Directions of the Corps of Technical Investigators, and Administration and Finances, it takes part in preparing the Comprehensive Training Plan ("Plan Integral de Capacitación") at the Office of the Attorney General.

It arranges with the National Directions of the Corps of Technical Investigators, and Administration and Finances those actions intended to the effective development of the investigative responsibility of the Office of the Attorney General.

It directs gathering statistical information on investigations and accusation filed at the Office of the Attorney General, and makes the relevant assessment in support of designing the policy on criminal matters.

Any other duties appointed by the Attorney General and which are related to the nature of this office.

Sectional Directions of Prosecutors' Offices

They consolidate, analyze and report periodically to the National Direction the relevant information to set up the State police regarding criminal issues.

They lead, coordinate and control the investigative activities conducted by the Unit of Prosecutors' Offices ascribed.

These sectional directions carry out activities for the purpose of improving the management of the rooms at the Attorney General's Office.

Besides, they implement programs and projects formulated by the National Direction of Prosecutors' Office.

They elaborate and execute follow-ups regarding the annual operative plans, in arrangement with the sectional directors of the Corps of Technical Investigators and administration and finances.

Sectional directions organize with the Sectional Directions of the Corps of Technical Investigators and Administration and Finances actions intended to reach the effective investigation development.

National Units

National Unit of Prosecutors Against Crimes for Disappearance and Forced Displacement

This Unit, created in 2010, complies with international standards of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in order to investigate the crimes of forced disappearance and displacement and drive forward effective mechanisms to search missing people. It strengthens the action of the Attorney General's Office in the investigation of facts, identification of perpetrators and accomplices of such crimes, and imposition of appropriate penalties.

It is directed from Bogotá and has different offices in the cities of Bucaramanga, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Ibagué, Montería, Pasto, Pereira, Quibdó, Santa Martha and Santa Rosa de Viterbo.

National Unit of Offenses against Public Administration

Its scope comprises the whole Colombian territory for the investigation and prosecution before criminal courts in and for the Circuit of Offenses against Public Administration such as embezzlement, concussion, bribery, undue celebration of contracts (Act 80 of 1993), undue interest in the execution of contracts and illicit enrichment, among others.

To know these crimes, it requires a special appointment by the Attorney General with regards to issues that by the nature or position of the active subject of the illicit behavior are of national interest.

National Unit of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law

This Unit was incorporated through Resolution 2725 dated December 9 of 1994. It carries out investigations due to the most serious violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law which occur in the country and are chargeable to all parties in conflict in agreement with domestic criminal regulations and international treaties ratified by Colombia. The assignment is in charge of the National Direction of Prosecutors' Office.

In order to guarantee the appropriate compliance with its functions, support units were set up in Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Cali, Cúcuta, Medellín, Neiva and Villavicencio. These support units act like Immediate Reaction Units assuming the knowledge of facts committed in their jurisdiction or scope of influence and which attempt against human rights or International Humanitarian Law (IHL), through verbal or written request addressing the National Direction of Prosecutors' Office or Chief of Unit.

National Unit of Delegate Prosecutors' Office against Emergent Bands

It has the objective to investigate punishable behaviors committed by emergent group or bands that act on Colombian territory.

Its creation was due to the need to counter-attack the growth of illegal activities committed by these armed outlaw organizations. It is intended to assure the timely, efficient and effective compliance with the tasks appointed to the Office of the Attorney General.

This Unit counts on branches in the cities of Bogotá, Medellín, Montería and Cali.

National Unit of Money Laundering and Assets Forfeiture

The Units of Assets Forfeiture and Money Laundering were merged on March 20 of 1998 in view of the direct links between the acquisition of property through illicit methods and the need of the State to forfeit property derived from illicit sources.

It adopts effective measures to overcome impunity in all delinquency forms and materializes the forfeiture acquired through illicit enrichment in detriment of public treasury or serious deterioration of social moral.

National Special Prosecutors' Office for Offenses against Intellectual Property and Telecommunications

It carries out investigations in connection with copyright crimes such as illegal reproduction of phonograms, videograms, literary, artistic or film works, radio broadcasting and clandestine TV operation, and it even protects the rights of software designers.

Likewise, it deals with violations of industrial property rights such as Usurpation of Trademarks and Patents (Article 306), Illegal Use of Patents (Article 307) and Violation of Industrial and Commercial Reserve (Article 308); in addition, it deals with behaviors described in articles 372, 373 and 374, against Public Health, and provided by the Criminal Code.

Similarly, it investigates violations of Article 257 of the Colombian Criminal Procedural Code concerning the illegal access or use of telecommunications.

National Unit of Counter-Narcotics and Maritime Interdiction

It knows of and carries out investigations of drug trafficking and connected crimes throughout the Colombian territory. The unit counts on a sub-unit at high sea, which allows us to apply Colombian criminal law on ships and vessels where there is evidence of drug trafficking.

National Unit of Counter-Kidnapping and Extortion

The National Unit of Counter-Kidnapping and Extortion was incorporated on June 21 of 2001 through Resolution 0893. The unit is in charge of investigating abduction, extortion and connected offenses through specially appointment by the Attorney General.

In addition, the following offices are attached to the unit: Delegate Prosecutors' Office to Gaula Bogotá, Delegate Prosecutors' Office to Gaula Cundinamarca and Delegate Prosecutors' Office to Gaula Fusa, which are in charge of kidnapping investigations at their preliminary stage.

The "Grupos de Acción Unificada por la Libertad Personal" (Task Forces for Personal Freedom), Gaula, are elite groups consisting of national police officers and military forces that carry out rescue operations of kidnapped individuals and dismantling of criminal gangs. Nowadays there are thirty-two Gaulas operating in the country.

Through Act 282 of 1996, the creation of a "Consejo Nacional contra el Secuestro" (National Board against Kidnapping), CONASE, was ordered, which is in charge of incorporating and making special groups (Task Forces) to act against perpetrators and participants in the offenses of extortion and kidnapping, and granting special powers to delegate prosecutors.

It assumes the investigations concerning abductions and extortion crimes and coordinates the fight against kidnapping carried out by the Office of the Attorney General with the different Grupos de Acción Unificada por la Libertad Personal, Gaula.

Investigations are assigned through resolution released by the National Direction of Prosecutors' Office taking into account the condition of the subjects, the kinds of kidnapping and the impact on society, among others.

National Unit of Counter-Terrorism

It was incorporated on April 15, 2003 to strengthen the legal and investigative management of terrorism and connected offenses. Prosecutors ascribed to this unit investigate and accuse before Criminal Courts in and for the Special Circuit in crimes of genocide, aggravated homicide, bodily injury, torture, among others throughout the Colombian territory.

National Direction of the Corps of Technical Investigators

This Direction advises the Attorney General on defining policies and strategies associated with judicial police duties concerning criminal investigation issues, forensic and genetic services, and technical and judicial administration of all useful information for criminal investigation conducted by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia throughout the country. Likewise, it coordinates, along with other agencies exercising judicial police functions, under the instruction of the Attorney General, the definition and implementation of operational mechanisms which rationalize and prevent duplicity efforts in furtherance of investigations within the limits set up by the Judicial Police National Council.

In addition, it organizes, directs, controls and executes the judicial police functions of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia.

C.T.I. carries out actions aimed at organizing and implementing scientific investigation laboratories to foster special advice on forensic and genetic services required by the entity; and arranging to render legal medical services in the event the participation of the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences is not possible. Besides, it organizes, collects and classifies technical and scientific support information required in development of criminal investigations.

The C.T.I. Direction fosters information sharing among different state security agencies in order to program and develop operations to counterattack delinquency. Besides, in agreement with the Direction of International Affairs at the Office of the Attorney General, the National Central Office, OCN, of Interpol Colombia (“Oficina Central Nacional, OCN, de Interpol Colombia”), it exchanges information with police liaison officers or foreign governments on matters under the competence of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia.

Furthermore, it encourages training and updating programs on criminal investigation techniques and forensic sciences addressed to all officers of the entity and all those individuals related to the continuous improvement of judicial police service.

The National Director, Sectional Directors, Chiefs of Divisions, Chiefs of Judicial Police Units, professionals and other technical personnel, forensic and scientific personal, operative investigator of the Corps of Technical Investigators at the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia which have judicial police responsibilities.

National Division of Investigations

It is in charge of the development, and operative and investigative control of C.T.I. activities required in carrying out criminal investigation functions by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia throughout the Colombian territory.

It analyzes and studies strategies, techniques and proceedings applied by C.T.I.; proposes changes to reach efficiency in its duty of judicial police task; and carries

out through the C.T.I. units the investigation of crimes under the jurisdiction of the units of Prosecutors' offices attached to the National Direction of Prosecutors' Office, as well as those requested by the Attorney General.

National Division of Criminology

It arranges, plans, schedules, manages and advises rendering criminology services required by the Institution on Colombian country. It advises scientifically and technically the criminology activities that are requested in the different quarters of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia throughout the Colombian territory. It carries out ex-officio (sua sponte or on its own motion) activities under its jurisdiction or requested by authorities that administer justice, and coordinates its activities with the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences.

Judicial Police

The Attorney General or his/her delegates are responsible for coordinating and directing the judicial police functions permanently accomplished by the Colombian National Police, agencies established by law and public entities to which in a transitory way the Attorney General has attributed such functions; all of which are exercised according to the law, permanently or through organisms as provided for by law.

The failure to follow orders, mandates, guidelines, and terms established by the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia in compliance with judicial police functions, constitute a case of misconduct without prejudice of the administrative, civil and criminal liability of the offender.

The Attorney General, at his/her discretion, removes immediately from judicial police functions the officer who fails to accomplish the orders, guidelines and terms.

If the servant is neither an officer nor an employee of Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia, the prosecutor in charge of the investigation will report the servant to his/her nominator at the public entity to which he/she might belong to, who shall file a disciplinary process without detriment of other investigations that may rise.

National Council of Judicial Police

The National Council of Judicial Police is made up by the Attorney General, who directs it; the Inspector General; the Comptroller General; the Director General of the National Police; the Director of the Administrative Security Department, D.A.S.; and the Director of the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences. The National Council of Judicial Police rules its own operation.

The National Director of the Corps of Technical Investigators acts as secretary of the Council.

Based on the policy designed by the State, the National Council of Judicial Police analyzes the global needs of human, technical, physical and financial resources required for an efficient and effective investigation and identification of those responsible for offenses, and establishes the commitments that each entity must assume.

Similarly, it periodically reviews the strategies progress designed for different entities with judicial police responsibilities in order to solve coordination difficulties which might emerge among them.

Likewise, the Judicial Police Council advises the Attorney General on establishing norms, systems, methods and proceedings to be followed by the different institutions with judicial police functions in attaining their goals.

Moreover, it counsels the Attorney General on defining competences and responsibilities assigned to different institutions which are part of the Council, seeking for the comparative advantages that each entity has and elimination of duplicity and systems failure considered as a whole.

Entities with judicial police functions have the following:

1. Receive claims or complaints within their scope and jurisdiction and carry out preliminary.
2. Carry out investigations of offenses according to their competence. The proceedings carried out shall have evidentiary value and shall be assessed pursuant to rules of sound critics.
3. Carry out, in agreement with norms and respecting human rights, all activities related to the investigation of punitive that are under their competence.
4. Request units of Prosecutors' Offices and comply with the regulations in force, warrants of arrest, search warrants, wiretappings, mail searches, electronic surveillance and other proceedings required within criminal investigations in course.
5. Guarantee the evidence chain of custody and other evidentiary elements under its responsibility.
6. Hand in reports and statements. The reports deal with information or versions gathered during interviews with informers. The statements deal with evidence, proceedings and other steps performed at the stages of preliminary investigation, instruction and prosecution.

Sectional Directions of the Corps of Technical Investigators

They support the National Direction in formulating the State policy in criminal matters. They enforce investigation policies and strategies, forensic, genetics and administration services of useful information for criminal investigation in the Institution.

They lead offices of the Sectional Office under its competence guaranteeing timely attainment of plans, programs and institutional projects in the criminal investigation field. They coordinate with the National Direction of C.T.I., actions for an efficient development of the criminal investigation carried out at the sectional office under its direction.

They establish, along with judicial police and legal medicine regional agencies, the definition and implementation of operational mechanisms which rationalize and prevent duplicity efforts in furtherance of investigations. They take part in the preparation of the Comprehensive Training Plan of the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to the needs detected at the sectional office under its direction. They support judicial police agencies and foreign governments which require so in development of operations against criminal organizations.

They supervise fulfilling parameters and procedures set up to attest the confidentiality of information; gathering and assurance of evidentiary elements and physical evidence; and look after complying with the chain of custody policy according to the regulations in force.

Sectional Directions of the Corps of Technical Investigators are made up by the Investigation and Criminology Divisions. Besides, they count on analysis laboratories for evidence in cities with high criminal indexes.

San Andrés y Providencia Island office is attached to the Sectional Office of the Corps of Technical Investigators in and for the circuit of Cartagena.



National Administrative and Financial Direction

It advises the Attorney General on designing policies for the management of physical, computerized and financial resources, and their administration. Likewise, it directs and supervises administrative, computing and informatics and financial processes of the entity at all levels, and also organizes and executes activities inherent to the documental administration of the entity.

This direction is in charge of the operative organization and supervision of activities related to the administration of property and goods at the disposal of the Institution, and guarantees their conservation. Moreover, it coordinates, along with the National Direction of Prosecutors' Office and the Corps of Technical Investigators, actions searching an efficient development of the investigative function of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia, and participates in their coordination.

Administrative and Financial Sectional Directions

They administer the physical, computing and informatics and financial resources required by the different offices under the scope of the Sectional Office. They direct the procurement plans of the division under their competence and their proper execution. These directions coordinate, develop and supervise activities related to staff management.

These directions run the consolidation and assessment of accounting, budgetary and treasury information under their competence. They respond for the operative organization and supervision of activities in connection with management of property owned or at the disposal of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia.

They manage the activities required to guarantee the conservation, proper and timely use of goods and properties at the disposal of the Institution. They order rendering services, acknowledgements and expenses required in accordance with the assignment granted by the Attorney General for such effect.

These directions coordinate, along with the Sectional Direction of Prosecutors' Office and the Sectional Direction of the Corps of Technical Investigators, actions seeking for the effective development of the investigative functions.

Direction of International Affairs

This Direction advises the Attorney General on assessing policies, rules and regulations and procedures of the plans and programs of the Institution, as well as on executing, coordinating, supervising, and controlling activities with regards with foreign relations of the Institution.

Furthermore, it is in charge of fulfilling the goals of the Institution in agreement with the development plans and policies designed by other States, international agencies and the Colombian Justice.

It keeps track and records on the status of human rights investigations by violations and infractions of the International Humanitarian Law and responds to communications submitted by government-run and non-government run, national and international organizations concerning these issues.

Under the coordination and guidelines given by the Attorney General, it arranges the international technical cooperation with different governments and international agencies interested in the development of programs carried out by the Institution. In addition, upon the request of the Attorney General, it takes all administrative steps required in relation to extradition matters and makes follow-ups to all international commitments



Institutional Programs

Futuro Colombia

This is a comprehensive program against delinquency that allows the Office of the Attorney General to approach the community and whose mission is to design, implement and execute a Comprehensive Prevention National Plan Applied to Crime, focused on culture full of respect for the code of laws and stimulation of pacific living.

Its vision is to be a leading program in offense prevention, which might contribute to the sustainable development of the social tissue within the legal framework, and its closeness policy towards the community with quality and attention for crime detention.

Among its modalities to participate we can find sensibilization processes through workshops, discussion groups, conferences, forum, campaigns, working meetings and games, which are emphasized on educating and non-schooled community. Moreover, it concentrates on comprehensive prevention towards educating, marginal and rural communities; participates in mass campaigns in different thematic axes oriented to crime prevention; and develops strategic alliances through different means of communication to produce and broadcast the preventive message.

Goals

- Develop comprehensive prevention activities applied to delinquency.
- Summon the academy to conduct studies on delinquency causes and trends.
- Involve children, the youth, parents, educators, researches and the community in general in its activities in order to strengthen cultural patterns which might lead to daily positive attitudes.
- Foster and develop strategic alliances with the institution that has analogous objectives.
- Generate support networks and obtain inter-institutional cooperation on Colombian territory and overseas.
- Open spaces to offer the community alternatives of expression, acknowledgement and motivation to pass on positive changes.

Thematic Axes

- Culture of respect for the code of laws and regulations of social sharing.
- The youth and law (handling conflicts and values).
- Juvenile delinquency and legal responsibility system.
- Offenses against life and personal integrity and against economic patrimony.
- Intra-family violence.
- Crimes against freedom, integrity and sexual education.
- Traffic and consumption of psychoactive substances.
- Human trafficking.

Attention Rooms to Users, SAU

It is a model which seeks to recover respect and individuals' credibility in the institutions in charge of administering justice. The user goes to a Service Orientation Module where his/her needs are identified and the right time and place where to be attended is also determined. Once the competent

prosecutor files the claim, he/she indicates whether or not the victim requires psychological attention and orders to gather the corresponding evaluation and tests.

The Attention Rooms to Users, in addition to offering specialized attention to the victim, contribute to speeding up the criminal process, decreasing impunity, attaining an effective and prompt application of law, strengthening claim filing and encouraging conciliation as a tool to solve conflicts.

Currently, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia counts on 29 Attention Rooms throughout the country located in Armenia, Barranquilla, Bucaramanga, Barrancabermeja, San Gil, Cali, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Florencia, Ibagué, Manizales, Medellín, Bello, Itagüí and Bosque in Antioquia, Montería, Neiva, Pasto, Pereira, Popayán, Quibdó, Riohacha, Santa Marta, Sincelejo, Tunja, Valledupar, Villavicencio, Bogotá and Soacha.

Thank to this program, 30 out of 100 daily cases consulted become formal accusations before the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia. The remaining is sent to other jurisdictions like civil, juvenile, labor courts or the National Police, among others.

Attention Centers to Victims of Sexual Offenses

It works to offer comprehensive assistance to people affected for such behavior and in prevention campaigns.

This center allows us to give comprehensive attention to victims of crimes against freedom, integrity and sexual education. There, people are assisted by an interdisciplinary group that offers them psychological, medical-legal orientation

and protection, which avoids their moving to several places and repeatedly narrating the facts to competent authorities.

The Mayor's Office in and for the circuit of Bogotá, the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar), the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, Defensoría del Pueblo (Ombudsman), and the Personería (Auditor's Office) of Bogotá work together to assist users. The joint work performed with the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia has helped the victims to feel better treated and recover trust and credibility in the institutions.

A similar model operates in Villavicencio. This is the Center of Comprehensive Attention for Mistreated and Sexually Abused Minors, CAIMA. This center is the site where all boys and girls who are victims of different sexual offenses receive special attention.

Casas de Justicia ("Houses of Justice")

Houses of Justice were founded as part of a program promoted by the Ministry of Justice for the purpose of contributing to the creation, strengthening, and use of spaces to develop community justice, understood as a solution to conflicts through direct arrangement mechanisms, settlement, mediation, assisted negotiations, claim waivers, transactions and peace jurisdiction.

These multi-agency centers are under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice. Some State institutions such as the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia, the Police Inspection (Local Mayor's Office), "Defensoría de Familia" (Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, Colombian Institute of Family Welfare), non-governmental organizations and universities work jointly

to unite actions and human, technical and physical resources to attain outlined objectives.

Houses of Justice are located in marginal sectors of the cities since these sectors show the highest indexes of coexistence conflicts (within the family and the neighborhood) and commission of minor crimes which can be settled.

Nowadays, there are 48 Houses of Justice throughout the country, which have become the key element to solve conflicts within the community thank to the assistance of an inter-disciplinary team, located at citizens' reach, which means less displacement, fewer steps and timely solutions.

Each House of Justice has its own identity according to its location and its environment. Those who work there agree that intra-family violence, non-compliance with alimony and bodily injuries are the greatest generators of community problems and represent the greatest risk.

District attorneys and prosecutors in charge of these cases understand that they are mediators. Many of them have discovered and shown their community service vocation and they have decided to become psychologists and social workers in order to exercise a less repressive labor and avoid long criminal processes. Their mission involves coexistence mechanisms, conflict resolution, prevention and feasible solutions to create a new of civic culture.

Administrative Division of Criminal Records and Legal Remarks

It assures the Office of the Attorney General reliable information that serves on suitable support in the decision-making process within the criminal cases and general guidance in the entity.

This division provides public and justice management information for the decision-making process in criminal and administrative cases that it knows of.

Legal Service Center

It is a premise where any citizen can have access to justice in criminal related matters and obtain immediate results in urgent issues. These centers offer the following services: Filing of claims; activity of the Office of the Attorney General and Judicial Police; attention provided by the Ombudsman; supervision of the Auditor's Office; legal medical attention; and decision announced by the supervising and controlling guarantee judge, if it were relevant.

Center of Attention to Victims of Intra-family Violence, Cavif

The service rendered by Cavif in the different judicial districts in and for the circuit of Bogotá, Bucaramanga and Cali is restorative model of justice, both in the mixed and accusatory systems. Not only is the aggressor pursued but also the victim and his/her family nucleus is supported to overcome the sequels of the aggression.

The inter-institutional task conducted in this Center makes it possible to carry out prevention programs, and at the same time fight this scourge in order to reach the reinstatement of family rights.

The restorative justice enables the entire reinstatement of the victims' rights because violence is stopped, the aggressor is placed far away, and protection measures are offered. If there is settlement, indemnification for prejudices in favor of the victims, it is also discussed.

District attorneys at Cavif are in charge of coordinating and conducting criminal investigations. If the parties wish to do so, they carry out and arrange hearings or settlement proceedings. When there is an agreement, they supervise the commitments acquired are complied with; otherwise, they start the process again until its final consequences.

Complainers also receive support regarding health and education, if necessary, through the Administrative Department of the District Social Welfare, DABS, which includes them into programs organized by the Major's Office in and for the circuit of Bogotá addressing pregnant mothers; minors with mental problems; entering into Sisbén (Government's Health Program); support for drug abuse or alcoholism; transfer to temporary shelters and providing a place for minors in district schools; among others.

In case the victims are minors, the National Institute of Family Welfare, ICBF, relocates minors in special centers to provide them attention, if necessary, while the custody of the minor is determined.

The Office of the Ombudsmen, which also counts on an office at Cavif, offers attention to accused or indicted individuals when they have no access to a legal advisor they really trust; and offers victims counseling to constitute into a civil party in criminal processes, if required.



General Regulations

- Political Constitution of the year 1991, articles 116, and 249 to 253.
- Legislative Act 03 of the year 2002, amendments to articles 116, 250, and 251 of the Colombian Political Constitution.
- Act 270 of the year 1996, Statutory Law of Justice Administration.
- Colombian Criminal Code, Act 599 of the year.
- Act 938 of the year 2004, issuing the Organic Statute of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Colombia.
- Act 941 of the year 2005, organizing the Colombian System of Public Defense (Ombudsmen).
- Colombian Criminal Procedural Code, Acts 600 of the year 2000 and 906 of the year 2004.





