

ARTICLES FOR 11-24-17 ROUNDUP

AG FOX ANNOUNCES STATEWIDE PSA CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Attorney General Tim Fox, in partnership with Georgia non-profit organization Street Grace and the Montana Broadcasters Association, announced his agency's participation in the child sex trafficking awareness public service announcement campaign, "Demand an End."

Statistics released earlier this year by the Montana Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation show the number of juvenile human trafficking victims rescued here between 2015 and 2016 increased by 400%. "The demand for child sex trafficking is ever-present across our country, including during the holiday season. Montana is no different," said Attorney General Tim Fox. "While our ongoing outreach efforts regarding human trafficking have resulted in greater public awareness, this time, we want to direct our message toward the purchasers of sexually exploited children and demand an end to their victimization of our young people." Attorney General Fox also thanked agency partners Street Grace, the Montana Broadcasters Association, and Video Express Productions for making it possible to air the PSA free of charge.

The PSA, entitled "Unmasked," targets the customers of child sex trafficking and conveys they are not anonymous. In addition to Montana, other attorneys general offices participating in the Demand an End Campaign include: Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Nebraska, New Mexico, and South Carolina.

"Street Grace's mission is to end domestic minor sex trafficking. We know this cannot be accomplished without a strategic, coordinated effort to address demand. We need to utilize awareness, data, and research that supports the pursuit, prosecution, and restoration of those who buy," said Bob Rodgers, President and CEO of Street Grace. "Through this partnership with Attorney General Fox and the Montana Department of Justice, we are closer to our goal of ending the horror of child sex trafficking in America."

Dewey Bruce, President/CEO of the Montana Broadcasters Association, said, "The Montana Broadcasters Association is proud to help the Montana Department of Justice get the word out on the issue of child sex trafficking prevention. We thank our member TV stations for their commitment to running the PSA free of charge through next spring in the hopes of raising awareness of viewers statewide."

Human trafficking awareness and prevention have been key initiatives of the Montana Department of Justice since Attorney General Fox took office four years ago. Montana's laws now have clear definitions and penalties to protect children and help sex trafficking victims on the road to recovery. Last week, Shared Hope International rated Montana at an "A" for its work to prevent human trafficking. Two years ago, the organization ranked Montana as one of the top three states in the country for its efforts to prevent child sex trafficking, citing Montana's successful commitment to advancing legislation that year to ensure children are not for sale within our borders. During the 2015 legislative session, House Bill 89 was drafted by and introduced at the request of Attorney General Tim Fox, and was sponsored by Rep. Kim Dudik (D) of Missoula.

Effective July 1, 2015, this important legislation updated Montana's human trafficking laws to reflect the model state human trafficking act.

More information on human trafficking, including how to request an awareness presentation, is available on the Attorney General's Office website at www.dojmt.gov/stopht. For more information, or to join the "Demand an End" National initiative, go to www.DemandanEnd.org. To report suspected human trafficking cases or to request help, call local law enforcement or 1-888-3737-888 or text BeFree (233733).

AG FERGUSON, JOINED BY THE STATE PATROL AND PROSECUTORS, RELEASES OPIOID REPORT RECOMMENDING STRATEGIES TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC

AG proposes legislation based on report's recommendations

OLYMPIA — Attorney General Ferguson today released a report recommending specific policies to reduce the supply of opioids in Washington state. The report recommends a comprehensive approach to the problem, addressing prevention, treatment and enforcement. Ferguson is also unveiling three opioid-related bills he will take to the Legislature in January.

The Attorney General's Office, Washington State Patrol and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys developed the report based on information shared at the Summit on Reducing the Supply of Opioids in Washington State in June 2017.

"The opioid epidemic is devastating Washington families," Ferguson said. "This report makes it clear we have a crisis, and provides concrete, evidence-based solutions. I am proposing some of these common-sense changes as legislation in the upcoming session, including limiting new opioid prescriptions and using the existing Prescription Monitoring Program to empower providers with a more complete picture of their patients' history before writing new prescriptions. It is time for the Legislature to take action."

On average, two people die each day from opioid overdoses in Washington state. In 2011, at the peak of overall sales in Washington, more than 112 million daily doses of all prescription opioids were dispensed in the state — enough for a 16-day supply for every woman, man and child in Washington.

At the opioid summit in June, Ferguson pledged he would put forward legislation consistent with the report's recommendations. Today Ferguson announced he is introducing three agency request bills this session consistent with policy recommendations in the report.

One bill requires health care providers to check the state's prescription-monitoring database before prescribing opioids. Another limits the number of opioids a provider can initially prescribe. A third bill gives the Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit more authority to investigate and prosecute opioid-related Medicaid fraud cases.

Prescription-monitoring program

Washington currently has a prescription-monitoring program in place to collect records when patients receive controlled substances such as opioids. This program, funded by public dollars, can flag misuse or dangerous prescribing patterns. Although pharmacies are entering all controlled substance prescription information into the database, only 30 percent of providers have registered to use it.

Ferguson's legislation, sponsored by Senator Kevin Van De Wege, D-Sequim, requires health care providers to check the prescription-monitoring database for a patient's prescription history before prescribing opioids.

The report notes that some patients visit multiple providers to feed their addiction or to sell opioids for profit, a tactic known as "doctor shopping." Requiring providers to check the prescription-monitoring program allows doctors to spot this behavior and refer these patients to treatment.

Currently, 30 states require providers to check their prescription-monitoring program before issuing prescriptions of opioids. After New York instituted a prescription-monitoring mandate, doctor shopping decreased by 90 percent. Research found no indication that those with legitimate medical needs had difficulty accessing medication.

Prescription limits

Ferguson is also proposing legislation, sponsored by Senator Annette Cleveland, D-Vancouver, and Representative Eileen Cody, D-Seattle, limiting initial opioid prescriptions to prevent overprescribing.

Prescribing more than a week's supply of opioids approximately doubles the chance that the person will still be using the drugs one year later. Overprescribing leads to unused pills. If not disposed of properly, these opioids are available for misuse by teens and young adults. Prescribing only the lowest effective dose can prevent misuse, addiction and overdose, according to the report.

Based on the report's recommendations, the proposed law limits initial opioid prescriptions to a three-day supply for those under 21 and a seven-day supply for those 21 and older. The bill makes Washington's laws consistent with state Medicaid policy and CDC guidelines. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for most conditions, a three-day supply of opioids will often be sufficient; more than seven days is rarely needed.

The bill exempts cancer patients, as well as palliative, hospice and other end-of-life care. Providers will have discretion to issue greater quantities of opioids if a patient's medical condition requires it.

Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

Ferguson is introducing a third bill, sponsored by Representative Roger Goodman, D-Kirkland, and Senator-Elect Manka Dhingra, D-Kirkland, that gives the Attorney General's Office Medicaid

Fraud Control Unit authority to issue search warrants and make arrests in Medicaid fraud cases, including those involving opioid misuse.

For example, one Medicaid fraud case involved a pharmacy technician who used his access to the pharmacy's patient records to obtain opioids with high street value. These illegally diverted drugs were billed to the government.

Currently, since Washington's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is one of the few Medicaid fraud control units in the country lacking these critical law enforcement powers, it must rely heavily on the assistance of local law enforcement to carry out investigations. Providing these critical law enforcement powers will assist the unit's investigations of dangerous 'pill mill' operations.

Other report recommendations

In addition to the Attorney General's request legislation, the report outlines a range of recommendations for Washington state policymakers that address law enforcement, addiction treatment and prevention. These strategies include:

Encouraging pain relief alternatives. For most conditions, non-opioid pain treatments such as ibuprofen and acetaminophen are equally or more effective with significantly less risk than opioids.

Expanding drug take-back initiatives. One study of medicine take-back events found more than 60 percent of opioids originally dispensed go unused. Secure drop boxes, particularly those conveniently located at pharmacies, help keep unused drugs out of the hands of youth or criminals. Drug courts. Drug courts can reduce prison sentences for those who receive drug treatment, making them less likely to reoffend.

Law enforcement assisted diversion programs. A King County law enforcement program diverts those arrested for nonviolent offenses, such as drug possession, into treatment and support services. Program participants are 87 percent less likely to go to prison than those within the traditional criminal justice system.

Enhanced penalties for trafficking strong synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, can be deadly even in small doses—a few salt-sized grains—and is more than 100 times more potent than heroin.

Increased funding for drug-gang task forces. In 2014, Washington's drug task forces disrupted or dismantled more than 150 drug trafficking organizations. However, since 2015, they have received no state funding.

WISCONSIN'S DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM NATIONAL LEADER; DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN WINS AWARDS

MADISON, Wis. – Today, Attorney General Brad Schimel announced the official collection numbers for October's Drug Take Back events reached 63,941 lbs. of unused medications, the largest fall drug take back collection to date. Once again, Wisconsin had more law enforcement agencies participate in the biannual event than any other state in the country. The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) was also recognized by Madison Media Professionals with three WAVE awards for "Drugged Driving: One and the Same," a drugged driving prevention ad DOJ

produced jointly with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) as part of the ongoing Dose of Reality campaign to end prescription painkiller abuse in Wisconsin.

“The message that prescription painkillers can be deadly has spread throughout our state and folks have been taking action to remove these drugs from their medicine cabinets in order to safely dispose of them,” said Attorney General Schimel. “The recognition we recently received from Madison Media Professionals for the Dose of Reality campaign reinforces the fact that our message is educational and causing folks to take action.”

266 police and sheriffs’ departments hosted 130 Drug Take Back events on October 28 and have provided 349 permanent drug disposal drop boxes, giving citizens a convenient, environmentally-friendly, and anonymous way to dispose of unused medications all year long. Wisconsin has more drug disposal sites than 46 other states, falling behind only California, Texas, and Pennsylvania. Earlier this year, AG Schimel announced the installation of a permanent drug collection site in the lobby of the Risser Justice Center in downtown Madison. Proper drug disposal is essential to preventing prescription painkiller abuse. 70% of initial painkiller abuse starts when drugs are obtained improperly from family members or friends.

The 63,941 lbs. of prescription drugs were boxed, palletized, shrink wrapped, and secured in three Fuchs Trucking semi-trailers before being incinerated at Covanta Energy Corporation in Indianapolis, Indiana. The initial drug collection total of 60,257 lbs., provided on November 1, 2017, was a preliminary weight. An official weight was assigned by Covanta Energy last week, prior to destruction.

Drug Take Back Day is a collaborative effort between public and private sector partners and would not be possible without the support of Covanta Energy, Fuchs Trucking, Indiana State Police, Waukesha County, Waukesha County Sheriff’s Office, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin National Guard, Wisconsin State Patrol, U.S. DEA, and the 266 law enforcement agencies who participated in this October’s Drug Take Back Day.

Dose of Reality, is a statewide prevention campaign designed to raise awareness about prescription drug abuse and its effect on the opioid epidemic. The campaign was launched in September 2015, and has prevention messages for the medical community, students, coaches, parents, educators, and employers. This new message for seniors and caregivers, which was created through a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), will include information and resources unique to seniors and caregivers, including posters and flyers for senior centers and elder healthcare facilities. Anyone can download these free materials and share with their community at doseofrealitywi.gov/program-materials.

Madison Media Professionals is an organization made up of individuals who work in disciplines that contribute to the creation of visual communication. DOJ and DOT won the following recognitions for the “Drugged Driving” commercial: Sound Design, Broadcast Commercial, and Judge’s Choice Award.

ATTORNEY GENERAL BALDERAS ANNOUNCES SENATOR GRIEGO CONVICTED ON FIVE COUNTS IN CORRUPTION TRIAL

Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that a Santa Fe jury found former Senator Phil Griego guilty on five counts in the corruption trial prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General.

After a two and half week trial, the jury found Griego guilty of Violation of Ethical Principles of Public Service, Violation of Ethical Principles of Public Service (Requesting or Receiving Thing of Value), Bribery, Fraud (Over \$20,000), and Unlawful Interest in a Public Contract (Over \$50). The case involves the 2014 sale of a state-owned building in downtown Santa Fe wherein Griego received a \$50,000.00 commission.

“Holding the powerful accountable is how we ensure our government truly serves the citizens of New Mexico and that no one is above the law, regardless of their political status,” said Attorney General Hector Balderas. “Public officials are elected to do the work of the people, not to enrich themselves from their official duties while New Mexicans struggle just to get by. New Mexico families deserve the highest level of ethics and service from their elected officials.”

The defendant is facing 1-17 ½ years in prison for today’s convictions and sentencing will be scheduled in 90 days. This case was prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Sharon Pino, Special Prosecutions Director Clara Moran, Assistant Attorney General Zach Jones, and Assistant Attorney General Mark Probasco.

Phil Griego is also facing 22 felonies and misdemeanors in a second case being prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General which includes charges of Embezzlement, Fraud, Perjury and Filing a False Campaign Report.

FCC TO OUTLINE PLAN TO ROLL BACK NET-NEUTRALITY RULES

By John D. McKinnon, WSJ

WASHINGTON—Federal regulators this week are expected to unveil their plans for reversing Obama-era rules that require internet-service providers to treat all web traffic equally, a move that could fundamentally reshape the internet economy and consumers’ online experience.

The changes, expected to be adopted at the Federal Communications Commission meeting in mid-December, would open the door to a wide range of new opportunities for internet providers, such as forming alliances with content firms to serve up their webpages or video at higher speeds and quality than those without such deals.

Such “paid prioritization” was explicitly blocked under the 2015 rules, which required internet service providers to keep all corners of the internet equally accessible to consumers, and limited the providers’ ability to favor content, including their own.

The new rules are expected to thoroughly dismantle the “open internet” plan adopted by the Obama administration’s FCC, say industry officials familiar with them. Advocates of the current approach,

including consumer groups and big internet companies, argued that such regulation is needed to curb the power of the broadband providers to unfairly dominate the online environment through their control over the pipes.

Proponents of reversing them, including current FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, say hard-and-fast rules can stifle investment and innovation in a fast-moving industry. Internet service providers worried the Obama administration rules could open the door to eventual rate regulation and other heavy-handed oversight. They also viewed the rules as a solution in search of a problem, given the internet's relative openness historically.

"The winners are clearly the network operators," said Recon Analytics Inc. researcher Roger Entner. He said the internet service providers would be able to more aggressively pursue specialized services for medical customers and self-driving cars, both of which could benefit from faster broadband speeds.

It remains to be seen how much the rules' demise might help the telecommunications industry's bottom line, however, said Cowen Co. analyst Paul Gallant.

The big internet service providers declined to comment.

Big internet companies, which supported the Obama administration rules, protested the move through their industry trade association.

"There is simply no reasonable justification for repealing the net neutrality protections currently on the books," said Michael Beckerman, president and chief executive officer of the Internet Association. "Consumers are paying for access to the entire internet, and [internet providers] should not be able to discriminate against websites and apps."

If the rollback survives likely legal challenges, it has the potential to reorder the online business environment. It could give internet providers such as AT&T Inc., Comcast Corp., Charter Communications Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. more flexibility to use bundles of services and creative pricing to make their favored content more attractive to consumers.

FCC to Outline Plan to Roll Back Net-Neutrality Rules

These companies generally profess support for basic principles of "net neutrality," such as not blocking content or throttling its delivery. But with the Obama-era bright-line rules widely expected to be eliminated, many experts predict the industry will experiment with new services.

The FCC's expected announcement is surfacing just as the Justice Department is filing a suit to block AT&T's planned merger with Time Warner Inc., suggesting that the Trump administration's support for big telecom combinations has limits.

The change would affect not only how the internet is regulated, but who regulates it. Under the new plan, legal experts say, oversight responsibility would shift to include the Federal Trade Commission as well as the FCC.

The FTC has long been a key regulator of most internet businesses, a regime that changed with the FCC's 2015 rules, which had the effect of exempting internet service providers from FTC regulation. The shift is significant because unlike the FCC, the FTC generally doesn't adopt overarching rules, instead developing case-by-case determinations about what business behavior is fair or unfair.

He also said the current debate underscores the need for Congress to step in. The question of who regulates broadband service and how it is regulated has been the subject of debate for the past decade, with little guidance from lawmakers.

"They can pick the forum and they can set the rules," Mr. Spiwak said. "They just need to settle this mess once and for all."

Republicans at the FTC recently have pushed for the FCC rollback to restore their agency's role in overseeing the internet, arguing that consumers might actually benefit from the change.

Integrated services offered by cable or wireless companies could have downsides, but "could also offer pro-competitive and pro-consumer efficiencies," acting Chairman Maureen Ohlhausen said in comments supporting the FCC's planned rollback.

The FTC's authority to police antitrust violations also could help curb unfair dominance by internet service providers, supporters of the switch say.

Consumer groups have pushed back hard, contending the change would give cable and wireless companies far too much leeway. They also say the FTC's case-by-case approach can't keep up with the pace of online change.

Eliminating the FCC's detailed rules "would shift the burden of enforcement against multibillion-dollar corporations onto beleaguered consumers," said Anant Raut, a visiting fellow at Public Knowledge, a consumer group, in testimony at a recent congressional hearing on the shift. The current rules prevent "the discriminatory activity from occurring in the first place."

The FCC likely would retain an important role in overseeing the online economy, by requiring internet providers to disclose their policies when it comes to net neutrality. That could allow both regulators to hold companies accountable when they stray from their own stated principles.

The 2015 rules were the FCC's third crack at solving the problem. Two previous solutions were largely rejected by federal courts. The current rules remain the subject of an industry challenge.

Opponents of Mr. Pai's proposal are holding out hope that it will be struck down in court.

"We have always been of the mindset that this is a legally risky proposal," said Evan Engstrom, executive director of Engine, a nonprofit based in San Francisco that lobbies on behalf of tech startups. "You still have to have a plausible justification for why you are changing the rules."

In particular, Mr. Engstrom said the argument that internet service providers haven't invested in infrastructure because of net neutrality protections has "been debunked."

Mr. Engstrom said he expects industry action, including letter-writing campaigns to Congress, "to start ramping again" once the rules are proposed.

Douglas MacMillan and Drew FitzGerald contributed to this article.

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AG JEPSEN ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD OF PRIVACY & DATA SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Attorney General George Jepsen today announced that he has named Assistant Attorney General Jeremy Pearlman as head of his office's Privacy and Data Security Department.

Pearlman succeeds former Assistant Attorney General Matthew Fitzsimmons, who recently left the Office of the Attorney General for a position in the private sector. As department head, Pearlman will oversee all investigations, multistate work and litigation within the office involving data privacy and security matters, including new and pending data breach investigations.

"We are grateful to Matt Fitzsimmons for his many years of service to the state of Connecticut and the leadership he brought to the very important privacy enforcement work of state attorneys general," said Attorney General Jepsen. "In his more than a decade of service to the Office of the Attorney General, Jeremy Pearlman has distinguished himself with his thoughtfulness, his excellent judgment and his superb ability to manage complex legal matters. Connecticut is a national leader in investigating data breaches and other privacy issues, and I have every confidence that Jeremy's extensive experience will serve our office and the state well as the leader of our privacy enforcement efforts.

In 2011, Attorney General Jepsen appointed a multidisciplinary Privacy Task Force to educate the public about data protection and to focus the office's response to Internet privacy concerns and data breaches that affect consumers. In 2015, Attorney General Jepsen formed the Privacy and Data Security Department as a permanent, stand-alone department within the office with staff dedicated to working on privacy-related matters. Fitzsimmons had previously led both the task force and the department since their inception.

"State attorneys general play an important role in investigating consumer privacy issues, enforcing privacy laws and advocating for policies that protect consumers and their personal information," said Pearlman. "I'm excited to take on this new, challenging role."

Pearlman joined the Office of the Attorney General in 2003 after starting his career as a litigator in Boston and was first assigned to the office's Consumer Protection Department. He joined the office's Antitrust and Government Program Fraud Department in 2013, where he managed significant False Claims Act investigations and was part of the team leading the landmark national

effort against Standard & Poor's and Moody's for their conduct leading up to the 2008 financial crisis.

In 2015, Pearlman rejoined the Consumer Protection Department, where he led the office's investigation into crumbling concrete foundations in northeastern Connecticut, co-led the Wells Fargo multistate investigation and is currently leading the office's efforts in the multistate investigation of prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors. He is an expert and regular speaker and instructor on the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA), the statute at the core of the attorney general's privacy enforcement authority.

Pearlman and his family live in Simsbury. He graduated from Boston College in 1996 and earned his juris doctorate from Boston College Law School in 2000.

MILLER APPLAUDS FCC FOR CLEARING WAY TO STOP RAMPANT ILLEGAL ROBOCALLING AND CALL SPOOFING

Federal Communications Commission authorizes telecom providers to block calls that are likely fraudulent; problem is number one consumer complaint nationwide

DES MOINES – Attorney General Tom Miller applauded the Federal Communications Commission's move today that clears the way for phone companies to block certain types of calls that are likely fraudulent, which is the top consumer complaint in Iowa and nationwide.

The FCC approved new rules that allow telecommunications providers to block robocalls that appear to be from telephone numbers that do not or cannot make outgoing calls, without running afoul of the FCC's call completion rules.

“This is something that I, along with my colleagues in other states, loudly and clearly asked the FCC to do, and I’m really pleased the Commission listened,” Miller said. “Iowans call our office every single day to complain about these fraudulent calls they get every day,” Miller added. “Thousands and thousands of Iowans have been scammed out of money because their caller ID display backed up what the caller told them—for example, that the IRS was on the line and they owed money.”

In July, Miller joined a bipartisan group of 30 state attorneys general in a letter to the FCC calling on the agency to adopt new rules to help address the robocall and call spoofing problem. Spoofing occurs when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity.

The new rules will allow providers to block calls purporting to be from a phone number placed on a “do not originate” list by the number’s subscriber. The rules will also allow providers to block calls purporting to be from invalid numbers, like those with area codes that don’t exist, from numbers that have not been assigned to a provider, and from numbers allocated to a provider but not currently in use.

To minimize blocking of lawful calls, the FCC's rules encourage voice service providers that elect to block calls to establish a simple way to identify and fix blocking errors. The rules also prohibit providers from blocking 911 emergency calls.

"I encourage telecom providers to act on this as quickly as they can," Miller said. "These changes can't come soon enough."

Unwanted calls, including illegal robocalls, are the top consumer complaint at the FCC, with more than 200,000 received annually. Some private analyses estimate that U.S. consumers received approximately 2.4 billion robocalls per month in 2016. Advancements in technology make it cheap and easy to make robocalls and to "spoof" Caller ID information to hide the caller's true identity.

The ongoing "IRS scam" is a leading example, which continues to cost victims significant losses in Iowa and nationwide. Aggressive callers—either live or through robocalls—claim to represent the IRS. The callers, who are generally located in foreign countries, demand immediate payment for supposed back-taxes or penalties, and threaten immediate arrest. Caller ID displays are often spoofed to help further the scam, and may show an actual IRS number, fake caller information, or may be blocked.

Such calls appear to be legitimate to those who receive them and can result in fraud or identity theft.

The FCC provides advice to consumers about caller-ID spoofing:

You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be careful about responding to any request for personal identifying information.

Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls or if you are at all suspicious.

If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency seeking personal information, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request.

Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.

If you have a voice mail account with your phone service, be sure to set a password for it. Some voicemail services are preset to allow access if you call in from your own phone number. A hacker could spoof your home phone number and gain access to your voice mail if you do not set a password.

If you receive a call and you suspect caller ID information has been falsified, or you think the rules for protecting the privacy of your telephone number have been violated, you can file a complaint with the FCC.

OUT OF STATE MOVING COMPANY BANNED IN NORTH DAKOTA

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem has issued a Cease & Desist order against an out of state moving company operating under several business names, for violations of the state's consumer fraud laws. All in the Family Moving & Storage NE, Inc., also does business as Able Moving & Storage, Inc., and Majestic Movers, Inc., and lists business addresses in Illinois and New York.

The consumer protection division initiated an investigation after a consumer complained that the company refused to deliver her household goods to her new address in North Dakota unless she paid an additional amount that was significantly more than the contract. The company did not respond to the consumer protection division, but investigators were advised that the US Department of Transportation, which regulates interstate moving companies, was also investigating. The US DOT was able to resolve the consumer's complaint. However, the consumer protection investigators learned there are dozens of complaints filed against this company, which regularly changes business names, apparently in an effort to stay ahead of fraud investigations.

The Cease & Desist order prohibits the company, and all its known business names, from providing moving services in North Dakota, including intrastate moving services to or from other states.

"When hiring someone to move your household belongings, carefully research companies and ask for references to avoid any surcharges, storage fees, or undisclosed charges," Stenehjem said. "Before you trust your prized or expensive belongings to a mover, you should have as much information as possible in order to avoid any unpleasant surprises."

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has information on how to find a reliable and reputable moving company and avoid interstate moving fraud, online at Protect Your Move.

COLORADO MAN SENTENCED FOR HIS ROLE IN FLANDREAU MARIJUANA GROW CASE

PIERRE, S.D. – Attorney General Marty Jackley announced that Jonathan Hunt, 44, Colorado, has been sentenced today for his role in the Flandreau marijuana grow case. He received a suspended imposition of sentence on one count of conspiracy to possess more than one-half pound but less than one pound of marijuana. Hunt was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and court costs.

"Jonathan Hunt has been sentenced for his role in the Flandreau marijuana grow case. A marijuana resort is a violation of both state and federal law that would create public health and safety issues across South Dakota," said Jackley.

This case was investigated by the Division of Criminal Investigation and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

INDIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL HILL ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING LEGALITY OF MARIJUANA OILS

“Over recent weeks, I’ve worked with my staff to develop an advisory opinion regarding the status under Indiana law of the chemical compound cannabidiol – better known as ‘CBD.’ Cannabidiol is one of the most prevalent chemical compounds in the cannabis plant, otherwise known as marijuana.

This issue has drawn public attention this year following law-enforcement actions against Indiana stores marketing and selling ‘CBD oil,’ a substance delivered to consumers in dropper bottles, sprays or mists – all generally to be taken orally.

My task at this juncture is not to express my personal view of what I believe the law ought to stipulate. My task, rather, is to help provide clarity regarding what the law already says as written. There is no doubt, as a matter of legal interpretation, that products or substances marketed generally for human consumption or ingestion, and containing cannabidiol, remain unlawful in Indiana as well as under federal law.

Indiana law does allow for a limited and focused exception created by House Enrolled Act 1148, signed earlier this year, aimed at individuals battling treatment-resistant epilepsy. This legislation pertains specifically to individuals properly added to the newly created Indiana State Department of Health Cannabidiol Registry.

Cannabidiol is classified under state and federal law as a Schedule I controlled substance because marijuana (*Cannabis sativa*) is a Schedule I controlled substance. State and federal laws that place cannabidiol in the category of a Schedule I controlled substance do not hinge on the degree or prevalence of pharmacological effects of a substance on a person.

The manufacture, possession, use and sale of cannabidiol – and substances, food products or edible oils containing cannabidiol – are unlawful under both Indiana and federal law. Any individual possessing a substance containing cannabidiol – or anything packaged as such – in plain view of a law enforcement officer is subject to having that property seized. Only upon showing that one meets the limited conditions under Indiana law could one expect to avoid being prosecuted under Indiana law. Further, no one in Indiana is authorized to sell cannabidiol or any substance containing cannabidiol under state or federal law.”