

## **Department of Justice State Documents**

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Finding aid written in English

Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

Forum Building  
607 South Drive  
Harrisburg, PA, 17120

## Summary Information

**Repository:** Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of the State Library

**Creator:** Pennsylvania. Department of Justice.

**Title:** Department of Justice State Documents

**Identifier:** JUSTICE

**Date:** 1923 - 1980

**Date:** Majority of material found within 1965 - 1967

**Physical Description:** # Megabytes (# PDF files)

**Language of** English

**Materials:**

## Scope and Contents

The Department of Justice served as the law office and corrections program for the Commonwealth. From 1923, the Department of Justice was headed by the Attorney General. The department formerly housed the Bureau of Corrections, responsible for running the Pennsylvania correctional institutions. The Department was also responsible for providing legal advice to the Governor and all departments, boards, and commissions, and acting as legal counsel during legislative sessions.

The publications of the Department of Justice contain magazines. Selected topics from these publications include corrections and prisoner opinion. The bulk of the current material is dated from 1965 to 1967.

## Biographical / Historical

In 1923, the Attorney General became the administrator for the new Department of Justice by act of the Administrative Code. Prior to 1923, the Department of Justice was known as the Attorney-General's Department. Included in the Department of Justice were the Board of Pardons, first established in 1874, and the Bureau of Correction, which was created in 1953 to administer the state correctional institutions formerly maintained by the Department of Welfare. In 1980, the State Attorney General became an elected rather than an appointed position, becoming its own agency rather than the leader of the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice transferred the Bureau of Corrections to the newly created Office of General Counsel, within the Governor's office. Subsequent to these transitions, the Department of Justice was abolished.

## Legacy Agency Names and Related Agencies

Office of the Attorney General (successor agency); Department of Corrections (successor agency); Office of General Counsel (successor agency)

## General Note

The Office of the Attorney General in its current independent status began in 1981. Records of the Office of the Attorney General prior to this date may be included in these publications, if the records are specifically of that office and not of a related agency such as the Department of Justice, an agency that formerly held control of the Office of the Attorney General in organizational hierarchy. If the record does function as a part of the larger agency rather than of the specific Office of the Attorney General, it may be included in the publications of that controlling agency.

## **Other Finding Aids**

For more information concerning the records of the Department of Justice at the Pennsylvania State Archives, please visit: <https://gencat.eloquent-systems.com/pennsylvania-state-archives/permalink.html?key=class442>.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Publication Statement**

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### **Controlled Access Headings**

- Justice, Administration of
- Pennsylvania Politics and government
- Politics and government
- State government publications