8.16 ATTORNEY GENERAL; ADMINISTRATIVE SUBPOENAS.

Subdivision 1. **Authority.** (a) The attorney general, or any deputy, assistant, or special assistant attorney general whom the attorney general authorizes in writing, has the authority in any county of the state to subpoena and require the production of:

(1) any records of:

(i) telephone companies, cellular phone companies, and paging companies;

(ii) subscribers of private computer networks, including Internet service providers or computer bulletin board systems;

(iii) electric companies, gas companies, and water utilities;

(iv) chemical suppliers;

(v) hotels and motels;

(vi) pawn shops;

(vii) airlines, buses, taxis, and other entities engaged in the business of transporting people; and

(viii) freight companies, self-service storage facilities, warehousing companies, package delivery companies, and other entities engaged in the businesses of transport, storage, or delivery;

(2) books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, and other documents or records related to a law enforcement investigation where there is probable cause to believe a crime has been committed involving a financial crime or fraud, including but not limited to fraud involving state funded or administered programs or services as defined in section 299C.061, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and insurance fraud in violation of section 609.611. Nothing in this clause limits the attorney general's authority under section 8.31 or under other law;

(3) wage and employment records relating to an investigation conducted under the attorney general's authority under section 256B.12;

(4) records of the existence of safe deposit box account numbers and customer savings and checking account numbers maintained by financial institutions and safe deposit companies;

(5) insurance records related to claim settlement relating to an investigation conducted under the attorney general's authority under section 256B.12; and

(6) banking, credit card, and financial records, including but not limited to a safe deposit, loan and account application and agreement, signature card, statement, check, transfer, account authorization, safe deposit access record, and documentation of fraud, that belong to the subject of an investigation conducted pursuant to the attorney general's authority under section 256B.12, whether the record is held in the investigation subject's name or in another person's name.

(b) Subpoenas may only be issued for records that are relevant to an ongoing legitimate law enforcement investigation.

[See Note.]

Subd. 1a. **Subpoenas.** The attorney general may in any county of the state subpoena and require the production of any records relating to the location of a debtor or the assets of a debtor, as that term is defined

in section 16D.02, subdivision 4. Subpoenas may be issued only for records that are relevant to an investigation related to debt collection and exclude the power to subpoena personal appearance of witnesses unless the attorney general is so authorized by other statute or court rule.

Subd. 2. **Enforcement.** The subpoena shall be enforceable through the district court.

Subd. 3. **Expenses.** The person directed to produce the records must be paid reasonable expenses incurred in producing the records.

Subd. 4. **Disclosure prohibited.** The subpoena must state that the person to whom the subpoena is directed may not disclose the fact that the subpoena was issued or the fact that the requested records have been produced except:

(1) insofar as the disclosure is necessary to find and disclose the records; or

(2) pursuant to court order.

Subd. 5. **Penalty.** The willful failure to produce the documents required by the subpoena is a misdemeanor.

Subd. 6. **Ex parte order.** Upon the ex parte request of the attorney issuing the subpoena, the district court may issue an order directing the production of the records. It is not necessary for either the request or the order to be filed with the court administrator. Failure to comply with the court order subjects the person who fails to comply to civil or criminal contempt of court, or both.

History: *1989 c 336 art 2 s 1; 1993 c 326 art 7 s 1; 1995 c 254 art 5 s 1; 2001 c 197 s 1; 2026 c 97 art 3 s 1; 2026 c 118 art 4 s 1,5; 2026 c 127 art 7 s 1*

NOTE: Subdivision 1 was also amended by Laws 2026, chapter 97, article 3, section 1, which was repealed by Laws 2026, chapter 118, article 5, section 5, to read as follows:

"Subdivision 1. **Authority.** (a) The attorney general, or any deputy, assistant, or special assistant attorney general whom the attorney general authorizes in writing, has the authority in any county of the state to subpoena and require the production of:

(1) any records of:

(i) telephone companies, cellular phone companies, paging companies, subscribers of private computer networks including Internet service providers or computer bulletin board systems;

(ii) electric companies, gas companies, and water utilities;

(iii) chemical suppliers;

(iv) hotels and motels;

(v) pawn shops;

(vi) airlines, buses, taxis, and other entities engaged in the business of transporting people; and

(vii) freight companies, self-service storage facilities, warehousing companies, package delivery companies, and other entities engaged in the businesses of transport, storage, or delivery;

(2) books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements, and other documents or records related to a law enforcement investigation where there is probable cause to believe a crime has been committed

involving a financial crime or fraud, including but not limited to fraud involving state funded or administered programs or services as defined in section 299C.061, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and insurance fraud in violation of section 609.611; and

(3) records of the existence of safe deposit box account numbers and customer savings and checking account numbers maintained by financial institutions and safe deposit companies.

(b) Subpoenas may only be issued for records that are relevant to an ongoing legitimate law enforcement investigation."