



*Lynn Fitch*  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## **Completion of Statewide Human Trafficking, Fentanyl, and Sex Offender Operation** *72 Arrests and 29 Victims Recovered*

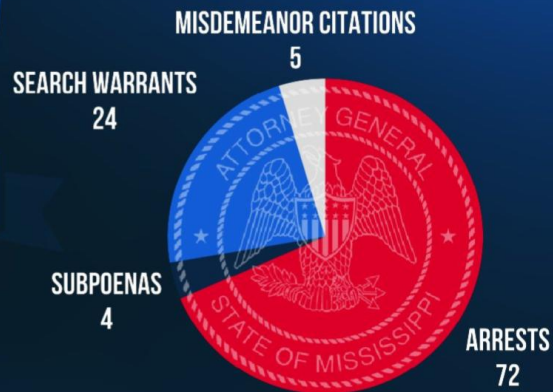
In July, my office conducted Operation Guardian Force, a 2-week statewide law enforcement effort led by our Human Trafficking Task Force, Fentanyl Strike Force, and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. This operation resulted in 72 arrests and the recovery of 29 victims. I was also joined by Acting Assistant Secretary Andrew Gradison with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who observed the work of my office's investigative operations.

Here at the Attorney General's Office, we are committed to taking criminals who traffic people and drugs off the streets and equally committed to setting victims on the road to recovery. I am proud of the dedicated investigators and prosecutors from my office as well as our partners in local, state, and federal law enforcement for their work on this operation and every day to keep our communities safe. And I am grateful to President Trump for making efforts to eradicate human trafficking and fentanyl top priorities. It was an honor to have his team here to see what Mississippi's law enforcement is doing to achieve these same goals.

Operation Guardian Force ran from July 14, 2025, to July 29, 2025, and worked in partnership with 400 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers to effectively coordinate search warrants, arrests, and victim services. The operation also included a sex offender compliance check to locate and identify sex offender registry absconders.

# ★★★★★ OPERATION GUARDIAN FORCE ★★★★★

HUMAN TRAFFICKING • FENTANYL • SEX OFFENDERS



12

DAYS

21

FEDERAL, STATE,  
LOCAL AGENCIES

400

OFFICERS

3

VICTIM SERVICE  
PROVIDERS

29

RECOVERED  
VICTIMS

1

RESCUED  
CHILD

## PARTNERS

• Bay St. Louis Police Department • Biloxi Police Department • Desoto County Sheriff's Office • Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) • Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) • Forrest County Sheriff's Office • Harrison County Sheriff's Office • Hattiesburg Police Department • Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) • Horn Lake Police Department • Jackson County Sheriff's Office • Jones County Sheriff's Office • Lamar County Sheriff's Office • Lee County Sheriff's Office • Mississippi Bureau of Investigation (MBI) • Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) • Mississippi Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) • Mississippi Office of Homeland Security • North MS Narcotics Task Force • Salltillo Police Department • Southaven Police Department • Stone County Sheriff's Office • Tunica County Sheriff's Office • Tupelo Police Department • Wayne County Sheriff's Office • Center for Violence Prevention • Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence • Transformation Garden

## 2025 Human Trafficking Victims Fund Applications Now Open

[Applications for the 2025 Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund](#) are open, and service providers are welcome to begin the application process. So far, my office has distributed \$8.5 million for human trafficking victims services. Working together, we can put an end to human trafficking in our State. Applications must be received by August 28th. You can click the photo below to learn more and apply.

# Applications are now live for human trafficking victim service providers



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## Restoring Female Athletes' Records Wrongfully Erased by Male Competitors

I was proud to lead a coalition of Attorneys General from across the country, urging the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to restore to female athletes the records, titles, awards, and recognitions they earned but were denied because of policies that allowed biological males to compete in female categories.

Female collegiate athletes trained, competed, and triumphed - only to see their recognitions stripped away and devalued by unfair policies that ignored biology. I am proud to work with my colleagues from across the country and the Trump administration as we support these women and urge for their records to be corrected, restoring the honors they earned.

You can read the letter [here](#).

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## Continuing the Fight Against the the Opioid Crisis

I recently announced a \$720 million nationwide settlement with eight drug makers that manufactured opioid pills and worsened the nationwide opioid crisis. Mississippi could receive up to \$6,351,265 in total.

The opioid epidemic has claimed far too many lives in Mississippi, leaving behind lasting pain. But together, we can confront the damage already done and work to prevent more senseless deaths. This settlement marks an important step forward, holding those involved in the opioid crisis accountable and helping us begin the healing process for our families and communities.

The eight defendants and the total amount they will pay in funds as part of the deal are:

- Mylan (now part of Viatris): \$284,447,916 paid over nine years
- Hikma: \$95,818,293 paid over one to four years
- Amneal: \$71,751,010 paid over 10 years
- Apotex: \$63,682,369 paid in a single year
- Indivior: \$38,022,450 paid over four years
- Sun: \$30,992,087 paid over one to four years
- Alvogen: \$18,680,162 paid in a single year
- Zydus: \$14,859,220 paid in a single year



## Prosecuting Medicaid Fraud

Earlier this week, I announced the sentencing of Pearly Youngblood of Taylorsville, Mississippi. Youngblood pleaded guilty to one count of Medicaid fraud.

Medicaid is an important part of our social safety net, providing access to medical services for those who would not otherwise be able to afford it. My office is dedicated to holding those who defraud this program accountable. I am proud of the investigators and prosecutors here who are committed to watching out for the taxpayers and making sure Medicaid is there when our neighbors need it.

Youngblood, an employee of Blessing Hearts Healthcare, knowingly submitted false claims for Medicaid services that she did not provide. Youngblood was ordered to pay full restitution in the amount of \$16,598.40 to the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, as well as \$4,000 in fines and fees. She also received five years of non-adjusted probation through the Mississippi Department of Corrections and will remain on the federal exclusion list, excluding her from participating in Medicaid, Medicare, or any other federal health care program, for five years.

May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Fitch".

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