



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AG Frosh Helps Launch Elder Justice Task Force to Protect Maryland Senior Citizens**

**Baltimore, MD (March 31, 2016)** -- Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh announced that his office is joining a new federal-state initiative to protect Maryland's senior citizens through more aggressive enforcement of nursing home abuse and other elder abuse cases.

The Elder Justice Task Force will include federal, state and local prosecutors, law enforcement and agencies that provide services to the elderly, with the goal of coordinating and enhancing enforcement efforts.

"Maryland's senior citizens and their families shouldn't have to worry whether they are receiving quality care and proper services," said Attorney General Frosh. "Nursing home residents are among the most vulnerable among us, and deserve our strongest protection. This new task force will help ensure that our seniors are protected, and it sends the message to nursing homes and facilities that substandard care is unacceptable. I am glad that so many agencies are coming together to form this important partnership."

The task force includes representatives from the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, state Medicaid Fraud Control Units, state and local prosecutors' offices, the Department of Health and Human Services, state Adult Protective Services agencies, Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs and law enforcement. In the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, resources will be provided by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

"Millions of seniors count on nursing homes to provide them with quality care and to treat them with dignity and respect when they are most vulnerable," said Acting Associate U.S. Attorney General Stuart F. Delery. "Yet, all too often we have found nursing home owners or operators who put their own economic gain before the needs of their residents. These task forces will help ensure that we are working closely with all relevant parties to protect the elderly."

In addition to Maryland, nine other regions across the U.S. are joining the initiative: the Northern District of California, the Northern District of Georgia, the District of Kansas, the Western District of Kentucky, the Northern District of Iowa, the Southern District of Ohio, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Middle District of Tennessee and the Western District of Washington.

Protecting seniors has long been a priority for Attorney General Frosh and the Office of Attorney General. Attorney General Frosh's commitment to the Elder Justice Task Force is another step by which he and his Office are working to continue to protect Maryland's seniors, the fastest growing segment of the population.

The Elder Justice Task Force, part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Elder Justice Initiative, will play an integral role in investigative and enforcement efforts against nursing homes and long-term care entities that deliver substandard care to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. The Elder Justice Initiative will provide litigation support and training to the Elder Justice Task Forces. More information on the Department of Justice's Elder Justice Initiative can be found here: <http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice>.