



Keeping Michigan consumers safe and informed.

Attorney General Bill Schuette's CONSUMER EDUCATION

Back to School with Consumer Programs; Celebrating Milestones

It's September. Back to school. Back to basics. With that, this month we're featuring who we are, what we do, and how we can help you. We're also celebrating some milestones; but first, who we are.

Bill Schuette, Michigan's Attorney General, is the state's top lawyer and law enforcement official. He protects and serves the people and interests of Michigan through a broad range of duties. The Attorney General's responsibilities include safeguarding the public from violent criminals, helping crime victims, leading the fight against human trafficking and opioid abuse, preserving Michigan's spectacular natural resources, protecting consumers, and addressing illegal business practices. By law, the Attorney General cannot provide legal advice to private citizens.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division provides informal mediation for consumer complaints;

processes franchise registrations and landlord security deposit surety bonds; creates public awareness of consumer issues, rights, and remedies; and provides student safety programming for K-12th grades.

Consumer Programs are housed within the Consumer Protection Division and serve to assist in the mission to create public awareness. Specific programs include: Consumer Education; the award-winning Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative; and the award-winning OK2SAY student safety program. We also attend various expo events throughout the state to answer questions and distribute information.

The Attorney General's Consumer Education programming provides educational outreach to citizens to protect them from unscrupulous scam artists and provide information to help make decisions regarding health care and financial matters.



MI DEPARTMENT OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROGRAMS

To that end, Consumer Education offers six, 45-minute seminars on:

- **Identity Theft;**
- **Phone, Mail, & e-Scams;**
- **Online Safety;**
- **Investment Fraud;**
- **Home Repair and Improvement; and**
- **In-Home Care and Senior Residences.**

We also publish a monthly newsletter for consumers and contribute to the [Attorney General's library of consumer alerts](#).

If you want to [host a presentation](#), complete our registration form.

If you are interested in attending a presentation, please review our [calendar of events](#) to determine when we will be in your community.

You may also [register to receive press releases, opinions, consumer alerts, the Consumer Education newsletter, or the OK2SAY newsletter](#).

Consumer Programs is also home to Michigan's Cyber Safety Initiative (CSI) and OK2SAY.

To date, nearly 2 million students have attended one of our student safety presentations.

CSI is the first of two customized education programs to protect children and teach the importance of making safe and smart choices in a technologically evolving world.

It is a feeder program to OK2SAY, and its content is tailored specifically for each grade level, kindergarten through fifth grade.

The two main themes of CSI center on learning rules for being safe online and encouraging students to seek the help of a trusted adult when facing challenging situations.

OK2SAY is a comprehensive program featuring a student helpline mandated by the Student Safety Act of 2013.

It is designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats.



Consumer Education (CE) will mark a milestone later this month to celebrate **100,000 attendees** at CE seminars.

(Details to follow)



In July, OK2SAY reached a milestone when the Michigan Legislature extended OK2SAY through 2021.

OK2SAY was created in late 2013 as a four-year work project under the mandate of the Student Safety Act.

"Extending funding through 2021 ensures this program will be able to help Michigan children for many more years," said Attorney General Bill Schuette.

A Culture of Silence

In the majority of violent incidents that occur in our schools, someone other than the perpetrator of violence knows of a threat before it's carried out but fails to report it. Often, students choose to keep quiet because they fear retaliation, rejection, or stigmatization by their peers.

The result is a culture of silence in which students suffer harm that could have been prevented if another had chosen to speak out.

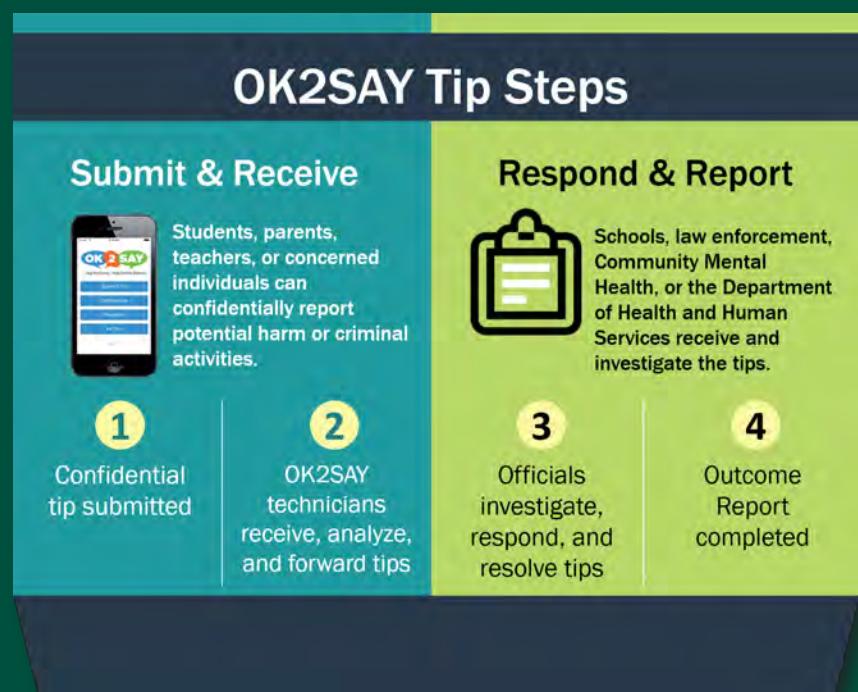
A Commitment to Safety

The goal of OK2SAY is to stop harmful behavior before it occurs by encouraging anyone to report threatening behavior to caring adult authorities who can help. OK2SAY encourages confidential tips 24/7 using the OK2SAY mobile app, online, email, texting, or by calling.

Upon receipt of a tip, specially trained OK2SAY technicians address the immediate need and forward the information to the appropriate responding law enforcement agency or organization. Tips go to schools, local law enforcement agencies, community mental health agencies, or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

In just a few years, OK2SAY has become Michigan's most effective prevention-based reporting mechanism. In its first three years, OK2SAY has logged nearly 9,000 tips. Using OK2SAY, students are stepping up and speaking out, breaking the code of silence, and getting help to their struggling classmates before a situation turns into a tragedy.

To learn more about this vital student safety program or to schedule a presentation, [visit the OK2SAY website](#).



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