



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D. C. 20530

November 29, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 

SUBJECT: Designation of Opioid Coordinators

To further our Department's response to the opioid crisis, I now direct each U.S. Attorney to designate an Opioid Coordinator by the close of business on December 15, 2017.

The ongoing opioid epidemic is destroying the lives of countless Americans. Many victims abuse prescription opioids and heroin, and more and more of our citizens are killed by fentanyl, a lethal synthetic drug.

Enforcement of our drug laws saves lives by keeping dangerous drugs off our streets and away from our children. We must prevent unlawful prescribing and illegal diversion of highly addictive drugs. We must stop the illegal importation of heroin and fentanyl into our country. We must target those internet and dark web vendors that are distributing illicit opioids.

Each USAO Opioid Coordinator will be responsible for:

- facilitating your office's intake of cases involving prescription opioids, heroin, and fentanyl;
- convening a task force of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement to identify opioid cases for federal prosecution, facilitate interdiction efforts, and tailor your district's response to the needs of the community it serves;
- providing legal advice and training to AUSAs regarding the prosecution of opioid offenses;
- maintaining statistics on the opioid prosecutions in your district; and
- developing and continually evaluating the effectiveness of your office's strategy to combat the opioid epidemic in your district.

In September 2016, the Department directed each U.S. Attorney to consult with local stakeholders and draft a district-specific strategy to combat the opioid epidemic. I now direct each Opioid Coordinator to take a fresh look at any existing strategy to measure its effectiveness and determine whether any additional steps or actions can be taken to confront this crisis. If you believe your district-specific strategy should be updated, I direct your office to complete this revised strategic plan by February 1, 2018. Please provide any updated plans to the Office of the Deputy Attorney General.

The Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys will maintain a list of USAO Opioid Coordinators and report to the Deputy Attorney General about their progress.