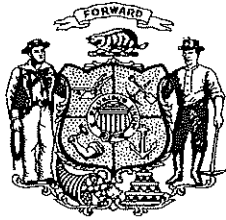


STATE OF WISCONSIN

SENATE CHAIR
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ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Howard Marklein
Representative Mark Born

Date: February 12, 2024

Re: DOJ Report to JFC

Attached is a report regarding money received by the Department of Justice under a court order or a settlement agreement for providing restitution to victims, pursuant to s. 165.25(10), Stats.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

HM:MB:jm



**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Josh Kaul
Attorney General

Division of Management Services
17 West Main Street
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53707-7857

February 12, 2024

FEB 12 2024

J. Finance

SENT VIA EMAIL

Secretary-designee Kathy Blumenfeld, Department of Administration
DOASecretarysOffice@wisconsin.gov

Joint Committee on Finance, C/O Committee Clerk Joe Malkasian
Joe.Malkasian@legis.wisconsin.gov

Re: DOJ Restitution Report

Dear Secretary-designee Kathy Blumenfeld and Members of the Joint Committee on Finance:

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 165.25(10), the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) respectfully submits this semiannual report regarding money received by the department under a court order or a settlement agreement for providing restitution to victims.

DOJ received and disbursed the following amounts related to restitution during the period of July 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Case Type and Name	Received	Disbursed
Consumer Protection:		
<i>State of Wisconsin v. American Tax Solutions</i> , Dane Co. Cir. Ct. Case No. 2022-CX-000022	\$0	\$15,210.00
<i>State of Wisconsin v. Nationwide Transfer, LLC, et al.</i> , Dane Co. Cir. Ct. Case No. 2021-CX-000013	\$231,079.00	\$214,379.00
Wisconsin Medicaid:		
Civil restitution	\$346,117.44	\$273,930.00
Criminal restitution	\$11,954.15	\$10,442.34

American Tax Solutions, Inc., a tax-debt counseling service, allegedly violated Wis. Admin. Code ch. ATCP 127. Pursuant to a consent judgment, restitution will be paid to 39 consumers via multiple payouts. Three consumers received a total of \$1,210.00 on 8/7/23, and one consumer received \$14,000.00 on 9/11/23.

Nationwide Transfer, LLC, a timeshare termination service, allegedly violated Wisconsin law concerning telemarketing and direct mail solicitations. Pursuant to a consent judgment, restitution will be paid to 49 consumers via multiple payouts. Two separate payouts totaling \$214,379.00 were made to 45 consumers during this period. Twenty consumers received \$119,579.00 on 11/22/23 and another 25 consumers received \$94,800.00 on 12/22/23.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) operates the Wisconsin Medicaid program, which provides health care coverage to the elderly, people with disabilities, and low-income children and adults. The disbursements noted in this report are restitution recovered through litigation and pre-litigation resolution by DOJ to reimburse damages to the Wisconsin Medicaid program, as well as other victims. The disbursements represent the cumulative number of single damages against several different parties.

In many instances, in addition to the single damages, DOJ also recovered partial damages based on different multipliers or forfeitures under Wis. Stat. §§ 49.49, 49.485, or 20.931 (repealed July 2015). DOJ does not treat those additional partial damages, based on multipliers, as “restitution” under Wis. Stat. § 165.25(20), and so those figures are not reflected in this report. Please note that the discrepancy between the received and dispersed amounts are the result of the timing of the revenue and payment accounting entries between reporting periods.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at (608) 266-9653 or varesedl@doj.state.wi.us.

Sincerely,

Darcey Varese

Darcey Varese, Financial Manager
Bureau of Budget and Finance