



# F.O.P. Legal Plan News

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## Are You Protected?



### A Sign of the Times

There has never been a greater need for law enforcement officers to protect themselves from legal action arising out of their professional conduct. Police officers are increasingly becoming the targets of adverse media attention stemming from incidents involving the public. These situations often result in Civil or Criminal allegations that require aggressive and professional legal defense to clear the officers' name and preserve their financial security. **See Civil example below.**

Most commonly, officers are faced with departmental administrative actions that require legal defense to protect their rights and future career opportunities.

For over nine years, the FOP Legal Plan has delivered unmatched coverage benefits backed by qualified attorneys that the members choose to represent them. If you compare the cost, the broad scope of coverage, and the oversight of the National FOP, it's difficult to find a better legal defense value for your money.

### Woman Blames Police for Suicide

Toledo police should have detained a man after his wife told them he was suicidal, according to a lawsuit filed in Lucas County Common Pleas Court.

Wendy Schoenfield of Toledo contends in her suit that she told an unnamed sergeant her husband was suicidal and asked the sergeant to keep him from leaving an Alexis Road parking lot where officers had stopped him.

The sergeant, though, told her he had just come to her house on March 27 to check on her safety and couldn't detain her husband.

On March 27, 2003 Mr. Schoenfield shot himself at the Red Roof Inn near Airport Highway and I-475 with a gun he bought from a Kmart in Toledo.

In addition to the police department, Ms. Schoenfield names as defendants the City of Toledo, Police Chief Mike Navarre, two unnamed police sergeants, and five unnamed officers.

Chief Navarre said shortly after Mr. Schoenfield's suicide, "the officers involved were cleared of any wrongdoing by an internal affairs investigation". "They can't just deprive someone of their liberty on a whim," he said.

The lawsuit states Mr. Schoenfield left his Lyman Avenue home the evening of March 26. At around 1:30 a.m. March 27, Mr. Schoenfield tried to buy a gun at the Meijer store but a manager refused to sell one to him after noticing that Mr. Schoenfield had bleeding cuts and scratches on his hands and arms.

After Mr. Schoenfield left, the Meijer manager called police, who stopped him a short time later in a parking lot near Alexis and Telegraph roads.

When the officers found a shirt or rag with blood on it and Mr. Schoenfield mentioned that he and his wife were having marital troubles, a sergeant went to check on Mrs. Schoenfield.

The Lawsuit claims the officers had the duty to detain Mr. Schoenfield or seek to have him hospitalized because they had reason to believe he was suicidal.

The suit seeks in excess of \$25,000, which is the threshold to file the case in common pleas court.

**You Never Know When You Could Be Brought In On A Suit!!**

**Join the FOP Legal Defense Plan Today!!!**

## Claims Corner

As of October 2003 The FOP Legal Defense Plan has handled over 3,200 cases and currently has more than 500 open case files. Below is a breakdown of benefit payments by line of coverage.

<b>Administrative</b>	\$ 9,688,142	(86%)
<b>Civil</b>	\$ 337,959	(3%)
<b>Criminal</b>	\$ <u>1,239,180</u>	(11%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,265,281</b>	



## Claims Administrator

As of May 2003 Keenan and Associates was hired to be the new claims administrator for the Legal Defense Plan. If you need to report a claim incident or have a question relating to a claim you can call them toll free at 866-920-6600. They will also be able to assist you in enrolling an attorney in your area or help you find one.

## Enrollment Update

The FOP Legal Plan is well into its ninth year of operation with active membership approaching 16,500 participants. Our challenge in the upcoming months is to expand membership of the Legal Plan. If you are interested in obtaining more information or need additional help in marketing in your state, please give us a call and we will be glad to lend our assistance.

### New Client Service Representative

Hylant Group is happy to announce that Maureen Jagos was hired to replace Mai Ryder as the customer service representative of the Legal Plan. If you are in need of additional Plan information or wish to enroll yourself or your lodge, please contact Maureen at the Hylant Group 800-341-6038. You can always visit our web site at [www.fophylant.com](http://www.fophylant.com) for plan information, applications, and news.

## Plan Administration

For marketing and enrollment information, contact **Maureen Jagos** at the Hylant Group P.O. Box 1687, Toledo, OH, 43603. (800) 341-6038, [www.fophylant.com](http://www.fophylant.com)

For attorney information and coverage questions, contact **Cara Webb** at Keenan and Associates 11501 Montgomery Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM. 87191. (866) 920-6600.