



**Office of the Attorney General
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.**

**Department of Commerce and
Insurance**

Commissioner Leslie Shechter Newman

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	CONTACT:
Jan. 15, 2008	Sharon Curtis-Flair
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STATE SUES LA VERGNE MAN FOR ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW IN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

The Tennessee Attorney General's Office has filed suit on behalf of the Division of Consumer Affairs against a Rutherford County man who has allegedly been doing legal work without a license for several members of the Laotian immigrant community in La Vergne.

The State alleges Christopher Mountry violated the unauthorized practice of law and consumer protection statutes by misrepresenting he is a licensed attorney in Tennessee; claiming he could provide legal services such as immigration document preparation for consumers when he could not; and promising to provide goods or services but failing to do so and then failing to provide refunds.

"We will not tolerate anyone taking advantage of vulnerable consumers by offering false promises," Attorney General Cooper said.

"The Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs is here to help consumers in any way we can," said Mary Clement, director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. "To file a complaint or to seek more information please visit our website at www.state.tn.us/consumer."

Mountry is alleged to have worked as a paralegal for a Nashville attorney but distributed business cards claiming he was a “State License Assist Attorney.” To obtain a copy of the State’s filings, go to www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us and then click on Office Information and Cases of Interest.

Mountry told members of the Laotian community he could help them with immigration, divorce and disability issues or legal problems, according to the lawsuit. Consumers complained Mountry claimed he could get them such legal documents as Social Security cards, green cards, work permits and driver’s licenses. The suit also alleges Mountry falsely claimed he could expedite consumers’ citizenship because of connections in Memphis.

The State is asking the Court to enjoin Mountry from the unlawful conduct and order Mountry to pay civil penalties, attorneys’ fees, court costs and refunds to consumers. Mountry is believed to have been paid between \$300 and \$2,000 from each consumer for the promised services. If you paid Mountry for services, please contact the State Attorney General's Office at (615) 741-1671 or toll free within Tennessee at 877-275-7396.

The State is still trying to determine how many consumers may have paid Mountry for services he allegedly did not provide. If you know of an individual or company that may be practicing law without a license, please file a complaint with this Office by downloading a complaint form from <http://www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us/cpro/upl.htm> and mailing it back to this Office at:

Tennessee Attorney General's Office
Consumer Advocate and Protection Division
Attn: UPL Complaint
P.O. Box 20207
Nashville, TN 37202-0207

To find out if an attorney is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, and to find out if the attorney is in good standing, call the Board of Professional Responsibility at (615) 361-7500 or go to the website at <http://www.tbpr.org/> .