

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO  
MINISTRY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

**CROWN POLICY MANUAL**

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March 21, 2005

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CONSENTS**

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**PRINCIPLES**

As a precondition to the institution of certain steps in criminal proceedings including, but not limited to, initiating specific prosecutions, restarting a prosecution where jurisdiction has been lost, preferring a direct indictment, laying informations in support of specific recognizances to keep the peace, and initiating dangerous and long-term offender applications, the consent of the Attorney General, as Chief Public Prosecutor of the Province of Ontario is required. In certain instances, the consent required is either that of the Attorney General or the Deputy Attorney General.

In making decisions to consent or refuse to consent to certain steps in criminal proceedings, consideration of the public interest is paramount. The Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General exercise this discretion in a just, honourable and conscientious manner, unmoved by irrelevant considerations or partisan motives. Individual cases must be assessed rigorously, objectively and dispassionately.

The Attorney General has the power to delegate and in certain instances, has delegated the power to consent to the Assistant Deputy Attorney General, the Director of Crown Operations, the Crown Attorney or to Crown counsel. In all instances where the Attorney General has delegated consent, the decision to consent or to refuse to consent must be made in the same way, and on the same basis, that the Attorney General exercises this discretion.