



Office of the Attorney General

Governor
Dave Freudenthal

Attorney General
Patrick J. Crank

Administration
123 State Capitol
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
307-777-7841 Telephone
307-777-6869 Fax

Chief Deputy
Michael R. O'Donnell

May 14, 2004

:*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****:

Contact: Deputy Attorney General Robin Sessions Cooley
Office 307.777.6397

ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES COMPACT DISC SETTLEMENT

CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Wyoming's county libraries should begin receiving music CDs soon as part of a settlement of a class action lawsuit filed by 40 of the states' attorneys general against various record companies and retailers for allegedly price-fixing CDs.

The record companies named in the lawsuit include Sony, Time Warner, Universal, BMG, Virgin Records and Capitol Records. Retailers named in the lawsuit were Tower Records, Musicland, and FYE. Although the record companies and retailers admitted to no wrongdoing, they all agreed, in July 2003, to a \$143 million settlement to end the legal action. Of the \$143 million settlement, \$67 million went directly to 3.5 million consumers who joined the lawsuit and who each received a \$13.86 check in March.

The remaining amount of the settlement owed in Wyoming is being paid by providing approximately 9,682 CDs at a value of \$130,978.95, to county libraries to benefit music lovers who missed joining the lawsuit, but who might have been affected by companies trying to stop retailers from lowering prices on CDs. All 50 states are eligible to receive CDs under the settlement, although the states individually determined the entities that would receive the music CDs.

Attorney General Patrick J. Crank chose to distribute the CDs to county libraries across the state because they serve such a broad population and will best reach the affected population in the most cost effective way. The approximate 9,682 CDs will be distributed to Wyoming county libraries based on the county population. However, each county library will receive a minimum of 250 CDs representing a proportionate share from eleven genres of music.

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