PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES

REGIONAL TRIAL OFFICES

Appellate Section	973-877-1200
Atlantic	609-625-9111
Bergen	201-996-8030
Burlington	609-518-3060
Camden	856-614-3500
Cape May	609-465-3101
Cumberland	856-453-1568
Essex Adult	973-648-6200
Essex Juvenile	973-648-3470
Gloucester	856-853-4188
Hudson	201-795-8922
Hunterdon	908-782-1082
Mercer	609-292-4081
Middlesex	732-937-6400
Monmouth	732-308-4320
Morris	973-631-6260
Ocean	732-286-6400
Passaic	973-977-4150
Salem	856-935-2212
Somerset	908-704-3020
Sussex	973-383-9445
Union	908-820-3070
Warren	908-475-5183

OFFICE OF PARENTAL REPRESENTATION

Administrative Office 609-341-3832
Capitol Region:
(Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer) 609-599-6900
Central Region:
(Middlesex, Monmouth) 732-545-1530
Northern Region:
(Essex, Passaic, Union) 973-792-1820
Northeast Region:
(Bergen, Hudson) 201-217-5953
Northwest Region:
(Morris, Somerset) 973-656-4488;
(Sussex, Warren) 908-475-1789
Shore Region:
(Atlantic, Cape May, Ocean) 609-909-2780
Southern Region:
(Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem)
856-614-2100
Appeals Office: 973-877-1265

OFFICE OF LAW GUARDIAN

Administrative Office: 609-530-3623
DYFS Conflict Unit: 609-530-3623
Capitol Region:
(Mercer, Hunterdon) 609-530-3623
(Burlington) 609-518-3068
Central Region:
(Middlesex) 732-246-5912
(Union) 908-820-8971
(Somerset) 908-575-3200
Essex Region:
973-648-4572
Northwest Region:
(Passaic) 973-977-4185
(Morris) 973-451-5630
(Sussex and Warren) 973-383-5002
Shore Region:
(Atlantic, Cape May) 609-748-1360
(Monmouth, Ocean) 732-869-2268
Southern Region:
(Camden, Gloucester, Salem) 856-346-8008
(Cumberland) 856-459-7350
Northern Region:
(Bergen, Hudson) 201-996-8065
Appeals Office: 609-530-3623

MENTAL HEALTH & GUARDIANSHIP ADVOCACY

Main: 609-292-1750
Central: 732-869-2262
Northern: 973-648-3847
Southern: 856-346-8020

ALTERNATE COMMITMENT UNIT

973-648-3847 (Newark)

SPECIAL HEARINGS UNIT

Essex (North District 1): 973-877-1622
Mercer (Central District 2): 609-292-7677; 7678
Monmouth (East District 3): 732-869-2269
Gibbsboro (South District 4): 856-346-8060

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT-609-292-1773

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM/ DRUG COURT UNIT

609-292-9350

POST-CONVICTION RELIEF UNIT

973-877-1200

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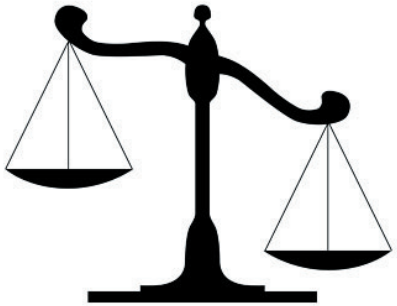
Chris Christie
Governor
Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
Office of the Public Defender



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New Jersey Office of the Public Defender

Since 1967, New Jerseyans have looked to the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender to balance the scales of justice in the criminal courts. Providing attorneys for those people who cannot afford them when charged with a crime, the NJOPD – one of the first offices of its kind in the country – has worked tirelessly to level the playing field in the Garden State's criminal justice system. This pamphlet is designed to provide an overview of Public Defender services from criminal representation in Superior, Appellate and Supreme Courts to Law Guardian and Parental Representation in Family Court. Through a tradition of high-quality legal representation practiced by some of the finest attorneys in our state, NJOPD attorneys have earned a reputation for success in some of the toughest cases.

Veteran criminal defense attorney Joseph Krakora was sworn in as Public Defender on June 28, 2011. He joined the OPD in 1986 and has served as an Assistant Public Defender and Director of Capital and Special Litigation. For many years, he served as both a staff attorney and manager in the agency's Essex Adult Region. He graduated from Princeton University in 1976 and Cornell University Law School in 1983. For a more detailed look at each of the OPD services, **www.thedefenders.nj.gov.**

Criminal Representation

Trial services for adult and juvenile clients are provided through regional offices in each of New Jersey's 21 counties. Defendants who are approved by the courts to receive a public defender are referred to the county OPD for assignment of an attorney. Contrary to popular belief, representation is not entirely free. A fee is imposed on those clients able to make payment at the end of the representation. The office is required to collect costs from clients who cannot pay through judgments and liens.

Appeals

Appeals of trial-level decisions are provided by a central Appellate Section Office which handles all appellate actions statewide.

Office of Law Guardian

Law Guardians serve as attorneys for children in abuse and neglect cases and are appointed solely to protect the interests of the child. Law Guardians also represent children in termination of parental rights cases, through which children in foster care can become available for adoption. As in criminal cases, Law Guardians work with investigators and clerical staff to provide legal representation.

Office of Parental Representation

Parents charged in abuse and neglect cases, or those facing the loss of parental rights, are entitled to counsel through the Office of Parental Representation (OPR). With family reunification the ultimate goal, OPR works to provide the highest quality defense for affected parents to keep families intact in Title 9 and Title 30 matters. Staff and pool attorneys work to ensure proper services are put in place so that affected parents acquire the skills needed to make reunification successful.

Juvenile Defense Services

To provide the best in representation to juvenile clients, the NJOPD's Office of Juvenile Defense Services works to enhance training and coordination among the juvenile attorneys located in each trial region. Among the office's efforts is an emphasis on getting juvenile clients the social services they need to avoid future contacts with the law.

Office of Dispute Settlement

The Office of Dispute Settlement serves as a court-appointed mediator and provides dispute resolution training.

Drug Court Program

Drug Courts are alternatives to traditional criminal courts that allow non-violent drug offenders to avoid prison time by entering a strictly monitored program of substance-abuse counseling and help with such issues as finding and keeping a job. The goal is to free offenders from the influence of drugs and alcohol in their lives so that they may avoid further problems with the law.

Intensive Supervision Program

Clients who apply to the state's Intensive Supervision Programs (ISP) can obtain representation through the NJOPD for those hearings. ISP programs provide alternative forms of correctional supervision, allowing some to serve sentences outside traditional prison settings.

Special Hearings Unit

The Special Hearings Unit provides representation to those convicted sex offenders facing tier classification under Megan's Law, which decides the scope of community notification when they move into a neighborhood. The unit also has filed class actions on behalf of Megan's Law registrants.

Mental Health Advocacy

The Division of Mental Health Advocacy assists people who have a mental illness or who are receiving mental health services. The division also represents many individuals who are facing commitment or denial of liberty, sexually violent predator commitments, and guardianship for people with developmental disabilities under state civil law.