

Faulk, Camilla

From: Kessler, Ronald [Ronald.Kessler@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2011 4:05 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Indigent Defense Services Proposed Standard 5.2

This proposed standard requires that defenders have, apparently, a physical office.

It would be better to say "shall have *access to* an office...." There are a number of assigned counsel in King County who do not maintain law offices outside of their homes. It's not reasonable to expect that a lawyer, making \$70 an hour, must lease office space, and certainly not reasonable to expect the lawyer to meet an accused in the lawyer's home. The library downtown has conference rooms with doors that close. In Kent, there are conference rooms for attorneys to use to meet clients. There are excellent lawyers who operate with a cell phone, laptop and no leased office. This standard, as written, tilts against assigned counsel and in favor of law office/agency representation.

Ronald Kessler
Chief Criminal Judge
King County Superior Court