



PARTNER WITH SPAR ON DRUG POSSESSION CASES

WE CAN HELP!

- ADDITIONAL FUNDING
- FEWER CASE ASSIGNMENTS
- ATTORNEY RECRUITMENT
- ATTORNEY TRAINING
- STATEWIDE RESOURCES & SUPPORT



**CONTRACTS ANTICIPATED
TO START AS EARLY AS
JULY 1ST**

ABOUT US

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) received funding to assist cities and counties with the cost of representing indigent clients facing drug charges in courts of limited jurisdiction. Our Simple Possession Advocacy & Representation (SPAR) Program administers these funds. Grant funding was awarded to qualifying jurisdictions statewide in December 2023, and grant funding is still available for interested qualifying jurisdictions. We are now expanding the program to contract with attorneys for public defense services on qualifying cases in select jurisdictions.



360-586-3164 ext. 151



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Washington State
**Office of
Public
Defense**

More About Us and Our Programs

If you or someone you know has been assigned a public defender in a criminal case, that attorney is typically provided by either county or city government. However, there are some public defense services that are managed by the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) on a statewide scale. Our programs include:

Parents Representation Program



OPD's nationally recognized Parents Representation Program provides defense services for parents, custodians and legal guardians involved in child dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings. OPD applies professional practice standards and provides access to independent social workers and experts to help clients successfully reunify their families. (About 10,000 clients per year.)

Appellate Program



OPD contracts with attorneys to provide public defense representation to individuals whose cases are appealed to the Washington Courts of Appeals and the Washington Supreme Court. These include criminal appeals as well as appeals involving basic rights such as dependency proceedings, parental rights terminations, criminal contempt convictions, and involuntary civil commitments. (About 1,000 clients per year.)

Chapter 71.09 RCW Civil Commitment Program



OPD-contracted attorneys represent respondents in complex sex offender civil commitment cases under Chapter 71.09 RCW. OPD provides access to expert witnesses, investigators, and independent social workers to help clients succeed in treatment and exit civil commitment. (About 235 clients per year.)

Public Defense Improvement Program



Every year OPD distributes \$6.9 million in state grants to improve trial-level public defense in cities and counties. OPD also conducts training for defense attorneys throughout the state, and consults with local officials on indigent defense standards, contracting, and other public defense quality issues.

Response to *State v. Blake*



OPD supports county public defenders to represent individuals with drug possession convictions who are now entitled to relief under *State v. Blake*. OPD provides funding, contracts with defense attorneys, helps analyze case data, and provides information to help individuals understand and navigate their legal rights.

Youth Access to Counsel Program



Starting in January 2022, whenever police officers ask youth to waive their *Miranda* rights or consent to a search of their property, the officers must first connect those youth by telephone with a Youth Access to Counsel (YAC) attorney. OPD contracts with attorneys to provide this 24-7 consultation service, to help youth understand their rights and obligations when making this critical decision.