

From: [Gerry Coleman](#)
To: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
Subject: comment on indigent defense standards
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 9:54:53 AM

You don't often get email from gerrycolemanlaw@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

In regard to Standard 14,
Sections L i and ii have conflicting requirements for youth attorneys and those representing parents. Youth attorneys are required to "abide by" representation standards while parents' attorneys are only required to "be familiar with" their own set of standards.
First, only parents have a right to (effective assistance of) counsel in dependency and termination cases, so if anyone is to be held to a higher standard, it's parents' attorneys.
Second, all parents' attorneys are paid by OPD at a rate that approximates parity with the AGO and provides for administrative assistance and other additional costs. Not all children's attorneys are paid by OCLA at similar rates. Many are still paid by the counties. Abiding by the standards is expensive, and county contracts do not always allow for these additional costs (traveling to visit clients in placement, for example). OCLA contracts require compliance with the standards. One way to resolve this issue is to tie this rule to OCLA's statewide rollout.
Thank you for your consideration.
Geraldine R. Coleman
WSBA No. 24564