PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES

REGIONAL TRIAL OFFICES

Appellate Section	973-877-1200
Atlantic Region	609-625-9111
Bergen Region	201-996-8030
Burlington Region	609-518-3060
Camden Region	856-614-3500
Cape May Region	609-465-3101
Cumberland Region	856-453-1568
Essex Adult Region	973-648-6200
Essex Juvenile Region	973-648-3470
Gloucester Region	856-853-4188
Hudson Region	201-795-8922
Hunterdon Region	908-782-1082
Mercer Region	609-292-4081
Middlesex Region	732-937-6400
Monmouth Region	732-308-4320
Morris Region	973-631-6260
Ocean Region	732-286-6400
Passaic Region	973-977-4150
Salem Region	856-935-2212
Somerset Region	908-704-3020
Sussex Region	973-385-9445
Union Region	908-820-3070
Warren Region	908-475-5183

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM/ DRUG COURT UNIT 609-292-9350

POST-CONVICTION RELIEF UNIT
973-877-1200

OFFICE OF PARENTAL REPRESENTATION
Main Office 609-341-3832
Capital Region:
(Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer) 609-599-6900
Central Region:
(Middlesex, Monmouth) 609-655-0741
Northern Region :
(Essex, Passaic, Union) 973-792-1820 and
(Bergen, Hudson) 201-217-5953
Shore Region:
(Atlantic, Cape May, Ocean) 609-407-5215
Southern Region:
(Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem)
856-614-2100
Northwest Region:
(Morris, Somerset) 973-656-4488;
(Sussex, Warren) 908-475-1789
Appeals Office: 201-217-5953

OFFICE OF LAW GUARDIAN
Administration and Appeals Office:
609-530-3623
DYFS Conflict Unit:
609-530-3623
Capital Region:
(Mercer, Hunterdon) 609-530-3623
(Burlington) 609-518-3068
Shore Region :
(Atlantic, Cape May) 609-441-3773
(Monmouth, Ocean) 732-869-2268
Southern Region:
(Camden, Gloucester, Salem) 856-346-8008
(Cumberland) 856-459-7350
Northern Region:
(Bergen, Hudson) 201-996-8065
Essex Region: 973-648-4572
Central Region:
(Middlesex) 732-246-5912
(Union) 908-820-8971
(Somerset) 908-575-3200
Northwest Region:
(Passaic) 973-977-4185
(Morris) 973-451-5630
(Sussex and Warren) 973-383-5002

MENTAL HEALTH and GUARDIANSHIP ADVOCACY
Southern Region: 856-346-8020
Central Region: 609-292-1750
Northern Region: 973-648-3847

GUARDIANSHP UNIT:
Southern Region: 856-346-8020;
Central Region: 609-292-1780
Northern Region: 973-648-3847

ALTERNATE COMMITMENT UNIT:
973-648-3847

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

OFFICE OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
609-292-1773

Chris Christie
Governor
Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

State of New Jersey
Office of the Public Defender

Joseph E. Krakora
New Jersey Public Defender

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New Jersey's 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 $50 administrative fee is imposed on those clients able to make payment. The office is also required to collect additional costs from clients through billings 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 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.