

## **CARBON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER GUIDELINES**

The following financial guidelines established by the Public Defenders Office of Carbon County are to be used in determining eligibility for free legal counsel.

An individual may apply for free legal counsel in the following situations; such as

- Criminal charges, misdemeanor, and/or felony charges,
- Summary cases only when there is a likelihood that the court will impose imprisonment,
- Parole or probation violation.
- In Situations where representation is constitutionally required. 16 P.S.A. § 9960.6

The following application(s) are presumed indigent and eligible for free legal representation:

- Any individual presently detained in a correctional facility or state hospital facility that does not have assets and is unable to pay for private counsel.
- Any individual whose GROSS income is below the maximum income limit. In determining the GROSS income of the applicant, criteria that will be considered, but not limited to the following will include:
- **ALL INCOME COMING INTO THE HOME: Unemployment, workers compensation, social security, pensions, stocks, bonds, interest earnings, rents received, lawsuits, etc.**
- **WE WILL REQUIRE PROOF**
- **Assets: home, property, car(s) etc.**
- **WE WILL REQUIRE PROOF.**
- If the applicant is married and living with a spouse, both incomes will be considered.
- Dependents are children under 18 years of age who are living with natural parents or legally adopted.
- Single parents, who claim children as dependents, must be paying support by Court Order or have children living with him/her. Proof of Court Ordered support will be required.
- Any occupant of the home over age 18 shall have his/her income determined and MUST be considered for TOTAL household income.

<b><u>FAMILY</u></b>	<b><u>GROSS INCOME</u></b>		
	<b>YEARLY</b>	<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>WEEKLY</b>
<b><u>1</u></b>	<b>\$11,170</b>	<b>\$931</b>	<b>\$215</b>
<b><u>2</u></b>	<b>\$15,130</b>	<b>\$1,261</b>	<b>\$291</b>
<b><u>3</u></b>	<b>\$19,090</b>	<b>\$1,591</b>	<b>\$367</b>
<b><u>4</u></b>	<b>\$23,050</b>	<b>\$1,921</b>	<b>\$443</b>
<b><u>5</u></b>	<b>\$27,010</b>	<b>\$2,251</b>	<b>\$519</b>
<b><u>6</u></b>	<b>\$30,970</b>	<b>\$2,581</b>	<b>\$596</b>
<b>Each additional person</b>	<b>\$3,960</b>	<b>\$330</b>	<b>\$76</b>

If you feel you are eligible, call the Public Defender's Office to set up an appointment to complete an application. This must be done in person. You must apply at least **SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE YOUR HEARING.** Please bring with you all of the paperwork you have received to date and copies of proof of any and all income as stated above. Our phone number is (570) 325-2343. The Public Defender's Office hours are from Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30p.m. except holidays. We do not accept applications after 4:00p.m., since it takes approximately 20-30 minutes to fill out an application. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT COLLECT CALLS.**

**DO NOT** have any alcohol on your breath or look to be under the influence of any substance or you will be asked to return at another time to complete the application. We are not responsible for any delays if you do not call for an appointment or if you are asked to return because you appear to be under the influence of any substance or if you have not brought the required copies of any and all proof mentioned above.

**Please remember statements made on the application must be true and correct. Any false statements that are made are subject to penalties of 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.**