

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

BRUCE P. BLOCHER
Chief Public Defender

CLASINA HOUTMAN
First Assistant

YORK COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER
45 NORTH GEORGE STREET
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INTERVIEW HOURS

Monday:	8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Tuesday:	8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Thursday:	8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Friday:	8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. NO PM HOURS

WHO QUALIFIES

Application for representation must be made in person. You will need a copy of your charging papers when applying (generally a criminal complaint and affidavit of probable cause). Applications will not be accepted without proper paperwork. Application should be made at least ten (10) days prior to your preliminary hearing. If applying for representation on a case that is already scheduled before the Court of Common Pleas, the application should be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to any scheduled court appearance. This is to ensure we have time to gather any necessary information about your case or request a continuance.

The Office of the Public Defender makes the determination of whether one qualifies for representation. You will need to disclose your income and your assets and provide proof of your income. A public defender will be appointed to represent you if it is determined that you do not have the ability to retain a private attorney. Eligibility is assumed for juvenile proceeding, and revocation and contempt cases where the person is incarcerated. Each case is evaluated individually. The public defender may decline services if you appear to have the ability to retain your own lawyer.

If you qualify for representation by a public defender, there will be no charge to you for their services. Furthermore, there will be no filing fee charges for any legal papers filed in your case.

If you qualify, but it is determined that a conflict of interest exists preventing the Public Defender's Office from serving on a particular case, the County Court of Common Pleas appoints and compensates a private attorney from outside the Public Defender's Office to represent you. There is still no charge to you for any service or filings.

If you are in jail because of your charges, one of our Inmate Coordinators will interview you after the proper request is received.

****Please Note: The Public Defender's Office does not offer representation for traffic citations or summary offenses unless you are facing jail as a result of these charges****