

## **OPD PUBLIC DEFENSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – CONTRACT ATTORNEY TIME REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

All attorneys providing public defense services under contract to a county or city, must make an annual report to the contracting jurisdiction on the extent of their private caseload, if any.

As used in RCW 10.101.050, non-public defense cases are an attorney's private cases worked on during the previous year.

Attorney reports are required to provide the following information annually:

- (1) The number and type of cases in their private practice. (i.e. cases handled outside a defense contract including but not limited to retained cases of any type),
- (2) The number and type of other public defense contracts, if any, and
- (3) The total hours billed for non-public defense cases, if any.

Number and type of non-public defense cases handled: Case types may be indicated by general category, e.g. family law, retained criminal case or personal injury. The number of cases for each type should be reported.

Total hours billed for non-public defense cases: Attorneys who bill for some or all of their non-public defense representation on an hourly basis must report the total number of personal hours billed. Attorneys who accept retained cases on a flat fee basis (cases in which a negotiated fee is charged for the entire case) or on a contingency fee basis should indicate the fee types when reporting their cases.

### **COMMENTARY**

Non-public defense case reporting by contract public defense attorneys is mandated under RCW 10.101.050. These reports permit a contract attorney's actual caseload to be monitored and assist in determining appropriate compensation levels for public defense services.

Attorneys are not required to provide client or case names or other identifying information, case fee amounts or hourly billing rates.

This reporting requirement does not apply to attorneys who accept only periodic court appointments to public defense cases.

The jurisdiction must forward caseload reports when applying for public defense improvement funds. OPD will ask contracting jurisdictions to report contract attorneys' case type reports as part of the jurisdiction's case statistics information on the annual RCW 10.101 application.