

**Lenawee County Public Defender's Office**

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MIDC

[Comments@Michiganidc.gov](mailto:Comments@Michiganidc.gov)

Re: Minimum Standards

Dear Sir/Madame:

Our office has been fortunate enough for the County to establish a full time Public Defender's office. Being full time allows us to concentrate on our clients and concentrating on the criminal law.

Here is our concern; we are underfunded to comply with the standards:

Standard 1: Payment for four attorneys at a CDAM conference once a year is paid for by county and the cost is significant. This does not include the need for additional inside training for technology or access to Westlaw that is beyond the basic subscription. The need for additional funds from the state will be needed to fully comply with this standard.

Standard 2: Our jail has no confidential area to meet with a client before his/her arraignment. We have very limited/shared confidential space at the courthouse. I believe a room at the jail, and two rooms at the courthouse will have to be constructed which will cost a considerable amount of money, that the County does not have in their budget.

Standard 3: We do not have an investigator or enough money in our budget to hire one. If the State funds an investigator for our office, will the funds come every year so we can meet this standard?

Standard 4: To be able to be at the first appearance for every client our office will need an additional attorney and office staff. Again, until we receive additional funding we cannot comply with this standard.

So our question is, if the State does not fund our office so that we can comply with the standards, where do we get the money to comply?

Sincerely,

John T. Glaser  
Chief Public Defender