



MICHIGAN INDIGENT
DEFENSE COMMISSION

To: Chief Judges of Circuit and District Courts
CC: Court Administrators of Circuit and District Courts
From: Judge James Fisher (retired), Chair, Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC)
Re: MIDC Survey
Date: July 8, 2015

Appointed by Governor Rick Snyder, the MIDC is charged with:

Developing and overseeing the implementation, enforcement, and modification of minimum standards, rules, and procedures to ensure that indigent criminal defense services providing effective assistance of counsel are consistently delivered to all indigent adults in this state consistent with the safeguards of the United States constitution, the state constitution of 1963, and this act. (PA 93 of 2013)

The MIDC appreciates the assistance of the State Court Administrative Office in distributing a survey to courts that will help the MIDC achieve this mandate.

As required by statute, the MIDC is collecting data on indigent criminal defense systems statewide. MCL 780.989(1)(f), MCL 780.993(1). Through this survey, the collection of such data will facilitate development and implementation of indigent defense best practices.

More specifically, the survey gives courts the opportunity to provide information about types of indigent defense systems, eligibility for counsel, process for appointment of counsel, and public defense expenditures. The questions only involve trial level indigent criminal defense for adults.

We anticipate that the survey will take less than 30 minutes, although some questions may require you to gather data that is not immediately accessible or collaborate with other staff members or departments. A PDF copy of the survey is attached to enable you to gather the necessary data prior to taking the online survey.

Once you are ready to take the survey, please click [here](#).

For assistance with the survey, please contact Jonah Siegel, MIDC's Research Director, at [517-898-5489](tel:517-898-5489) or jsiegel@michiganidc.gov. For any general questions about the MIDC, please contact Executive Director Jonathan Sacks, 517- 899-1354, jsacks@michiganidc.gov. Thank you very much for your anticipated cooperation in helping us fulfill our responsibility to the courts and citizens of our state.