

At-Risk Youth & CHINS Petitions - Public Defense Services

Description:

By law, your child has the right to an attorney to represent their concerns in the At-Risk Youth Petition and CHINS process. When you file a petition, an attorney is automatically assigned to represent your child. Parents and legal guardians are required by law to pay for the legal costs of their child's defense unless they are unable to pay and qualify for public defense services.

Who is eligible for public defense services?

Your family's income and assets need to be reviewed to see if you qualify for public defense services. In general, your family's income must not exceed 125% of the Federal poverty level. However, a complete screening needs to be completed to see if you qualify. Families who receive public assistance such as food stamps or TANF qualify by law but still need to be screened.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>2011 Maximum Monthly Income</u>
2 people	\$1,532.30
3 people	\$1,930.21
4 people	\$2,328.13

How to qualify:

After filing an At-Risk Youth or a CHINS Petition at Juvenile Court, you would next complete a financial screening at the Office of the Public Defender (see reverse side for locations). You will be charged a **\$25.00 processing fee** at the time of the financial screening. If needed, you may sign a promissory note for this fee. Please bring the following documents with you to the screening:

- Case Number (or copy of the At-Risk Youth Petition)
- Proof that you are receiving public assistance – *or* –
- Paystubs from the last three months
- Last year's tax return
- Any additional information you may have available, such as recent bank statements, etc.

How much does it cost if I don't qualify?

If you don't qualify, you will be billed \$919.73 (plus the \$25.00 processing fee). If desired, you may set up a payment plan by signing a promissory note with King County.

Costs for dismissed cases:

Parents who do not qualify for public defense services at no cost are responsible for the entire cost unless the case is dismissed within one week of filing the petition.

King County Office of the Public Defender

Locations:

Juvenile Court (starting in 2012)

Youth Services Center

1211 E. Alder Street, 3rd Floor

Seattle, WA 98122

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

King County Courthouse

516 Third Avenue, 8th Floor

Seattle, WA 98104

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Maleng Regional Justice Center

401 Fourth Avenue North

Kent, WA 98032

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Additional information about the Office of the Public Defender and financial eligibility may be found at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/OPD.aspx>