

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO WSBA Standards for Indigent Defense Services, Standard 3.O

3.O. Implementation of Standards.

Standard 3 shall be implemented in phases and shall go into effect on July 2, 2025, **with the exception of the paragraph of Standard 3.K applicable to appellate caseloads, which shall go into effect upon adoption by the WSBA Board of Governors.** The 2024 revisions to these Indigent Defense Standards shall be implemented on the following schedule:

Until ~~July 2, 2025~~ January 1, 2026, the caseload standards as adopted in pre-existing *WSBA Standards of Indigent Defense Services* and *Court Rule Standards of Indigent Defense* shall apply: The caseload of a full-time public defense attorney or assigned counsel shall not exceed the following:

150 Felonies per attorney per year;

300 Misdemeanor cases per attorney per year or, in jurisdictions that have not adopted a numerical case weighting system as described in this Standard, 400 cases per year;

250 Juvenile Offender cases per attorney per year.

Phase 1:

Beginning ~~July 2, 2025~~ January 1, 2026, within the twelve months following, each full-time felony attorney shall be assigned cases constituting no more than 110 felony case credits and each full-time misdemeanor attorney shall be assigned cases constituting no more than 280 misdemeanor case credits. **Beginning July 2, 2025, family defense attorneys shall not represent more than 45 family defense clients or carry more than 60 open and active cases at any given time.**

Phase 2:

Beginning ~~July 2, 2026~~ January 1, 2027, within the twelve months following, each full-time felony attorney shall be assigned cases constituting no more than 90 felony case credits and each full-time

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1 misdemeanor attorney shall be assigned cases constituting no more than 225 misdemeanor case
2 credits. Beginning July 2, 2026, family defense attorneys shall not represent more than 35 family
3 defense clients or carry more than 40 open and active cases at any given time.

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5 Phase 3:

6 Beginning ~~July 2, 2027~~ January 1, 2028, and for any twelve-month period following, each full-time
7 felony attorney shall be assigned cases constituting no more than 47 felony case credits and each full-
8 time misdemeanor attorney shall be assigned cases constituting no more than 120 misdemeanor case
9 credits.