



HOWARD FINKELSTEIN
PUBLIC DEFENDER

Law Office of the
PUBLIC DEFENDER
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BROWARD COUNTY

BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Important Message for Individuals Seeking Legal Representation from the Public Defender Office

There are three ways to apply for a public defender. The first way is if you are *in jail*. Someone from the Public Defender Office will visit you inside the jail and bring you the Application for Criminal Indigent Status or Public Defender application for you to fill out and apply for legal representation. If you qualify for a public defender, our office will send you a letter letting you know the name and telephone number of your public defender.

The second way is if you are *not in jail*. If you are out of jail and cannot afford a private attorney, please bring a \$50 application fee and go in person to the Clerk of Court inside the Broward County Courthouse at 201 Southeast 6th Street and ask for the Application for Criminal Indigent Status or Public Defender application. Room 160 for felonies or room 130 for misdemeanors. Juvenile cases are appointed by the Court, so you can only apply at the time of your next court hearing. If you qualify for a public defender, our office will send a letter to your home address letting you know the name and telephone number of your public defender. If you do not have the \$50.00 application fee, you may still apply for a Public Defender, but you will be held responsible for the fee at the conclusion of the court case.

The third way to apply happens in court. The Application for Criminal Indigent Status or Public Defender application is available for you to complete inside the courtroom. If you qualify, you will be appointed an attorney from our office. You will be responsible for the \$50 application fee.