
Performance Measures

Office of Public Defender

Central Management

Continuing Legal Education Attendance

The Public Defender sponsors a continuing legal education (CLE) program for its legal staff. CLE attendance is a proxy indicator of quality delivery of legal services. Although continuing education is offered through the Rhode Island Bar Association and other organizations, the coursework is not specifically related to the criminal defense function. For that reason, the agency provides CLE courses tailored to the needs of its staff. The figures below represent the average percent of the ten-hour CLE requirement fulfilled with Public Defender-sponsored courses. [Note: For 2021 the RI Supreme Court suspended the annual CLE reporting requirements for attorneys. Therefore, no data was collected for that year.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
Actual	--	83%	83%	--	--

Misdemeanor Caseloads

Attorney caseload is a surrogate indicator of the quality of indigent legal representation provided. National caseload standards call for an attorney to handle no more than 400 misdemeanors per year. The figures below represent the percent by which the average attorney caseload exceeds the national standards for misdemeanors.

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Actual	178.5%	136.7%	122.5%	--	--

Timeliness of Legal Visits of Incarcerated Youth

Regular communication is essential to the attorney-client relationship. Not only do youth need to understand the nature of their case and the processes of the juvenile justice system, but they must be in a position to ask questions of counsel in a proper calm setting. Counsel must anticipate that a juvenile client, due to his/her developmental immaturity, may require more frequent and face-to-face contact, especially when recently incarcerated. For those reasons the Public Defender has determined that all recently incarcerated juveniles should have a face-to-face meeting with legal counsel within 72 hours of detention. The figures below represent the percent of incarcerated juveniles that receive a face-to-face meeting with legal counsel within 72 hours of detention.

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Target	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
Actual	94.6%	87.9%	91.4%	--	--
