



Michigan Indigent Defense

Mission Statement

Jackson County government, in cooperation with the community and local government units, strives through a planned process to deliver quality services that address public needs.

Activities

Provide services for defense of individuals who declare themselves indigent and are unable to pay for their defense in District Court or Circuit Court.

Strategic Plan Impact

✓ **Safe Community**

The public defender program supports the safe community strategic priority by providing for the criminal defense of indigent persons without legal representation. This program is one of many services citizens have access to when needed.

Accomplishments

- ✓ The State of Michigan approved changes to public defender requiring the Court and Board of County Commissioners to work collaboratively in the award and compensation of public defender services.

A photograph of several coins, including pennies and quarters, scattered on a light-colored surface. The text "Michigan Indigent Defense" is overlaid on the top left of the image.

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- ✓ The Jackson County Board of Commissioners approved an implementation plan for compliance with Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) standards. We have a new Chief Public Defender, who joined our staff in July 2019 to begin the process of hiring staff to comply with the MIDC standards.
- ✓ The Board of Commissioners have approved the acquisition of an office location to house the Indigent Defense staff, near the courthouse. Anticipated move in date is September 2019.

Budget Adjustments

Per state statute, the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission is required to fund services and staffing associated with compliance of their mandates, over and above the required local share contribution. As a result, most costs over and above the local share are covered through the MIDC grant process.



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