



*Division of Public Defender Services
State of Connecticut*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER 2/1/2021

**"SAFELY APPLY FOR A PUBLIC DEFENDER BY PHONE"
NEW "PD HELPLINE" ARRANGES APPLICATIONS FOR
PUBLIC DEFENDER REPRESENTATION STATEWIDE,
FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED, 860.756.7840.**

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONTINUE STATEWIDE SERVICE COMMITMENTS AND OFFER INNOVATIONS AS A RESULT OF SUPPORT RECEIVED UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, & ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT OF CONGRESS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT IN MARCH 2020. THE PD RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC REFLECTS THE CHANGING NATURE OF COVID-19 ON OUR CLIENTS, COLLEAGUES, AND THE COURTS.

LAST SPRING AND SUMMER, OUR PD OFFICES STATEWIDE INTRODUCED SAFETY PROTOCOLS INCLUDING MASKING, DISTANCING, AND TRACING. WE OVERCAME SERVICE BARRIERS AND CREATED NEW PATHWAYS TO REPRESENTATION, WITH NEXT-GENERATION PD'S HOSTING OUTDOOR APPLICATION EVENTS AT COURTHOUSES ACROSS CONNECTICUT.

THIS FALL AND WINTER, CARES ACT DEFENDERS ARE LENDING A HAND AT PD OFFICES STATEWIDE, INCLUDING HARTFORD COMMUNITY COURT, HOME OF "SAFELY APPLY FOR A PUBLIC DEFENDER BY PHONE". THIS NEW "PD HELPLINE" ARRANGES APPLICATIONS FOR REPRESENTATION, FIELDS QUESTIONS REGARDING PD ELIGIBLE CASES IN STATE COURT, AND IS BASED UPSTAIRS FROM THE NEW JUDICIAL BRANCH CALL CENTER.

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC DEFENDERS, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ORIGINAL CARES ACT, CONTINUING AS "THE LEADING FORCE FOR EQUAL JUSTICE."

WEBSITE.....<https://portal.ct.gov/OCPD/COVID/Safely-Apply-For-A--Public-Defender>

FLYER.....<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OCPD/COVID/FLYER2.pdf>

JUVENILE FLYER.....<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OCPD/COVID/Cares-Juvenile-Flyer-1.pdf>

COLLAGE.....<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OCPD/COVID/Safely-Apply-Collage.pdf>

FAQ SHEET.....<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OCPD/COVID/Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

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