

Our Mission

WHY WE ARE HERE

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Office of the Public Defender is to provide superior legal representation to indigent defendants in the State of Maryland by safeguarding fundamental individual rights and ensuring access to the guaranteed protections afforded by the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Maryland Constitution and Declaration of Rights, and the laws of Maryland.

1-877-430-5187

www.opd.state.md.us

*Apply in-person for services **at least 10 business days** before your court date.*

Know Your Rights

When in Custody

1. You have the right to remain silent. Never talk to the police unless your lawyer is present. Say, "I want an attorney."
2. If you cannot afford an attorney, ask the police to contact the Office of the Public Defender.
3. Do not think it will be "too late" if you wait for an attorney - you can always give a statement later.

At Home

1. You don't have to let the police enter your home unless they have a warrant. Officers must give you a copy of the warrant and a list of anything they take.
2. Only in emergency situations or if you have consented may the police enter and search your home without a warrant.

Vehicle Stops

1. Upon request, show the police officer your driver's license and registration.
2. If the police ask to search your car, say "no". If they search it anyway, make it clear you did not agree to the search.
3. If an officer gives you a ticket, sign it. It is not an admission of guilt. You can still fight it in court.
4. If you are a driver and an officer orders you out of a vehicle, you must obey the order.
5. A passenger in the car may be ordered out of the vehicle, but does not have to answer questions/provide information.

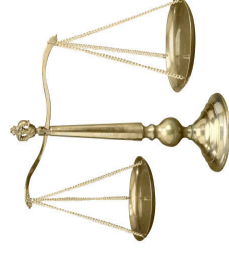
Street Encounters

1. If you are stopped, it is not a crime to refuse to answer questions or to refuse to identify yourself.
2. Police cannot lawfully require that you identify yourself or produce identification unless they reasonably suspect you are involved in a crime.
3. You can ask if you are under arrest or free to leave. If you are free to leave, walk away.
4. An officer may do a "pat down" search of clothing if he suspects you have a weapon. Do not resist but make it clear you do not agree to be searched.

MD Office of the Public Defender

ANNE ARUNDEL
COUNTY OFFICE
OF THE PUBLIC
DEFENDER

*Because the Constitution
is Not a Technicality*



STATEWIDE

1-877-430-5187

www.opd.state.md.us

Maryland Office of the Public Defender

WHO WE ARE

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) is a State Agency and a member of the executive branch of government. We are the largest criminal defense firm in Maryland; We employ approximately 1000 individuals, including over 500 attorneys.

Our attorneys are “real lawyers.” They are law school graduates and licensed to practice law in the State of Maryland. Many have years of criminal experience.

We also employ investigators, legal assistants, secretaries, intake specialists, and social workers who help our attorneys do the best job possible for our clients.



WHAT WE DO

We represent defendants charged with committing **OPD Attorneys are Among the Best Criminal Defense Attorneys in Maryland** and for which the penalty is jail or a fine over \$500.

We also represent individuals charged with contempt for not paying child support, parents in Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) proceedings, and children in juvenile court.

WHEN AND HOW TO APPLY

If you want to obtain an attorney through The Office of the Public Defender, you must apply in-person for our services at one of our offices at least **ten business days** (do

not count holidays or weekends when counting the 10 days) **before** your court date. This application process is called **Intake**. **You can apply for OPD services in any Maryland county**. Do not wait until the last minute to come in for Intake or we might not have enough time to complete the application process. **You do not need to wait for a court date to apply**. Each office has its own hours for Intake. Call 1-877-430-5187 for more information about office locations and hours, or visit www.opd.state.md.us

You will be required to sign a written application and provide documentation of your income. To obtain OPD services, you must first qualify financially. Each office uses the same guidelines to determine eligibility. **You must provide your proof of income**. If you are working, bring your two most recent paystubs (not more than 30 days old), or a letter from your employer, on company letterhead, stating the hours you work per week and the amount you make per hour. If you are not working and someone supports you financially, you may provide a letter, signed and dated, from the person, stating that you are unemployed and that he/she supports you. If you are self-employed, provide your ledger or a letter from your accountant or your bank statements. If you receive Social Security, pension, social services, unemployment, workmen’s compensation benefits, alimony and/or child support, you must bring verification of that income with you.

Also, **bring your charging documents** (if you have these), all documents you have received from the Court, and any witness contact information.



At intake, You Will Complete an Application for Services

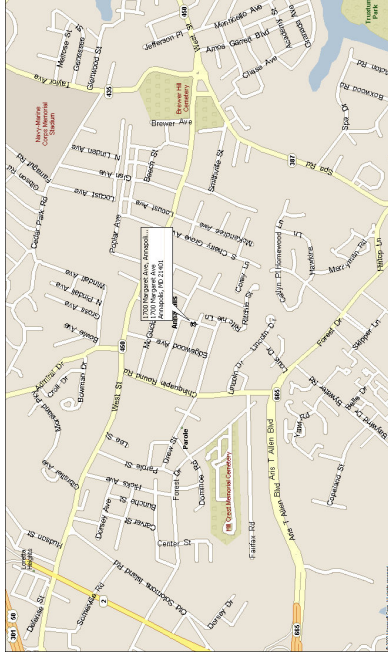
WHERE ARE WE LOCATED

Anne Arundel County, Main Office

1700 Margaret Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-295-8800

Walk-In Intake Hours

Monday—Friday
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
&
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM



Annapolis District Court

Robert F. Sweeney District Courthouse Office

251 Rowe Boulevard, Rm. 122
Annapolis, MD 24101
410-260-1325

Walk-In Intake Hours

Monday—Friday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
&
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

