



# Community Safety and Justice

Nicole Gorle

Council Initiated:

Yes

No

**ECAF:** 2024-1877

**Motion:** 24-331

**Type:**

- Contract
- Board Appt.
- Code Amendment
- Budget Action
- Other

**Requested Handling:**

- Normal
- Expedite –  
08.23.24
- Urgent

**Fund Source:**

- General Fund
- Other
- N/A

**Executive Rec:**

- Approve
- Do Not Approve
- N/A

**Approved as to**

**Form:**

- Yes
- No – State  
Contract
- N/A

**Subject:** Office of Public Defense – Interagency Agreement between State and County

**Scope:** This motion would approve an interagency agreement between the County and the Washington State Office of Public Defense under which the State OPD agrees to provide partial or full reimbursement for expenses for assignment of dependency cases in Snohomish County, contingent on available funding. The County must apply for reimbursement by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year.

**Duration:** July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026

**Fiscal Impact:**  Current Year  Multi-Year  N/A

The revenue to the County from this agreement indeterminate as there is no way to know how much funding the State will have available, and how much the County will be awarded.

Expenditures	Current Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
<b>Total's</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Revenue	Current Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
	***	***	***	***	***	***
<b>Total's</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>	<b>***</b>

**Authority Granted:** Authorizes the Executive to execute the agreement.

**Background:** The [Sixth Amendment](#) of the United States Constitution states that the accused has the right to the assistance of counsel for their defense in criminal prosecutions. As not every defendant can afford an attorney, in 1989 Washington State implemented [Chapter 409 \(RCW 10.101\)](#) stating that “legal representation should be provided for indigent persons and persons who are indigent and able to contribute.” This chapter also requires counties and cities to establish standards for the delivery of defense services to indigent defendants. Part of the County’s current role is the assignment of cases to lawyers which is handled by two attorneys in the County’s OPD.

**Requested Action:** For Council to consider taking action.