

Criminal Law Referrals

1. **Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office (SPD)** – <https://www.wisspd.gov/>

Contact the SPD office in the county in which you live to determine if that office can represent you. In Milwaukee, the Public Defender's Office for:

- Adult cases is located at 819 North Sixth Street, Room 908, (414) 227-4130.
- Juvenile and mental health cases is located at 10930 W. Potter Road, Suite D, (414) 266-1182.

2. **Court Appointed Representation.** If the Public Defender's Office cannot represent you, you may apply to the court for the appointment of an attorney at the county's expense. You must complete the [Petition for Appointment of An Attorney, Affidavit of Indigency and Order form GF-152A](#). The form should be filled out completely and then signed in front of a notary BEFORE you go to court.

3. **Retain a Lawyer.** If you are not appointed an attorney by the court, you can contact:

- **Central Wisconsin Community Law** (2266 N. Prospect Ave., Suite 312, Milwaukee, WI, (414) 755-3419). Low-cost sliding-scale representation in criminal defense cases. Call for intake information.
- **Centro Legal** (611 W. National Ave., #103, (414) 384-7900, www.centrolegalwisconsin.org) provides low cost representation for criminal misdemeanors, diversions, and deferred prosecution agreements. Services in English and Spanish. Free consultations by appointment only. Call to schedule.
- **State Bar Association Modest Means Panel** is designed to assist people whose income is too high to qualify for free legal services, but too low to pay a lawyer's standard rate. The panel assists on misdemeanors, ordinance violations, and pre-charging consults. For more information and to see if you qualify for these reduced fee services, fill out the questionnaire on their website: <https://www.wisbar.org/forpublic/ineedalawyer/pages/modest-means.aspx>
- **Milwaukee and State Bar Associations.** When receiving a referral from one of these organizations, clients are guaranteed an initial consult of ½ hour for no more than \$20.00. After that, the fee would be determined by the attorney.
 - Milwaukee Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service (<https://findmilwaukeeelawyers.org/>): (414) 274-6768 or Iris@milwbar.org; Monday to Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM
 - [State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Referral and Information Service](#): (800) 362-9082