

Public Defender Programs in other New England States
Location within State Government

	Name of Office / Statewide?	Location within Government
<p>Connecticut</p> <p>See Conn. Gen. Stat. ch. 887; https://portal.ct.gov/OCPD</p>	<p>Public Defender Services Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide public defender • Provides representation in criminal, delinquency, appeals, post-conviction matters, child protection cases (parents’ attorneys and attorney or guardian ad litem for child); child protection appeals; guardians ad litem for children of indigent families in contested family custody cases; respondents in contempt and paternity cases in family support matters • Staff attorneys (~200) and contract counsel 	<p>Judicial Branch (nominally): by statute, the commission is an “autonomous body within the Judicial Department for fiscal and budgetary purposes only.”</p> <p>The Public Defender Services Commission is a 7-member body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 trial judges appointed by the Chief Justice; • 1 member each appointed by the Speaker of the House, the minority leader of the House, the President of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate; and • 1 member (the chair) appointed by the Governor. <p>No more than 3 members, plus the chair, may be in the same political party; at least 2 members must be non-attorneys.</p>
<p>Massachusetts</p> <p>See Mass. Gen. Laws, ch. 211D; https://www.publiccounsel.net/</p>	<p>Committee for Public Counsel Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide public defender • Provides representation in criminal, delinquency, youthful offender, child welfare, mental health, sexually dangerous person and sex offender registry cases, appeals and post-conviction matters • 500 staff attorneys and 3,000 private attorneys certified to accept appointments 	<p>Quasi-independent agency</p> <p>The Committee for Public Counsel Services is a 15-member body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 members appointed by the Governor; • 2 members appointed by the President of the Senate; • 2 members appointed by the Speaker of the House; and • 9 members appointed by the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court (with specific expertise required).
<p>New Hampshire</p> <p>N.H. Rev. Stat. tit. 494; https://www.judicialcouncil.nh.gov/; https://www.nhpd.org/</p>	<p>New Hampshire Judicial Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administers indigent defense (through contract with New Hampshire Public Defender) • Administers guardian ad litem services in abuse & neglect and guardianship cases (through contract with Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Hampshire) • Also responsible for guardians ad litem in delinquency cases and 	<p>Quasi-independent agency</p> <p>The New Hampshire Judicial Council is a 23-member body:</p> <p>8 members automatically serve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Justice of Supreme Court; • Chief Justice of Superior Court; • Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court (or deputy);

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	<p>parents' attorneys in abuse & neglect cases</p> <p>New Hampshire Public Defender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonprofit law firm with contract from New Hampshire Judicial Council to provide statewide indigent defense • Provides representation in criminal and juvenile matters as well as appeals • Staff attorneys (min. 116 FT attorneys), contract counsel and, if not available, assigned counsel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Administrative Office of Courts; • Attorney General; • President-elect of NH Bar Association; • Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; and • Chair of the House Judiciary Committee <p>15 members are appointed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Superior Court Clerk (appointed by Chief Justice); • 1 Circuit Court Clerk (appointed by Admin. Judge); • 6 experienced (5 years +) attorneys (3 appointed by Governor and 3 by Chief Justice of Supreme Court); and • 7 non-attorneys (5 appointed by Governor and 2 by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court).
<p>Rhode Island</p> <p>R.I. Gen. Laws Ch. 12-15; http://www.ripd.org/index.html; https://riap.courts.ri.gov/riap/viewFaq.do?subAction=6&faqCategory=3</p>	<p>Rhode Island Public Defender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide public defender • Provides representation in criminal and juvenile cases and to parents in dependency (abuse and neglect) cases, and appeals • Staff attorneys/public defenders (~ 50) and, for conflicts, the courts will appoint attorneys who have been certified for appointment and are on panels maintained by the Rhode Island Supreme Court 	<p>Executive Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor appoints the Public Defender to a 6-year term with the advice and consent of the Senate
<p>Vermont</p> <p>Vt. Stat. tit. 13, ch. 163; https://defgen.vermont.gov/about-us</p>	<p>Office of the Defender General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide public defender but through two delivery systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Defense: in 7 counties, public defense staff provide public defender services in the other 7 counties private law firms have contracted with the Defender General to provide those services ▪ Assigned Counsel: attorneys who are under contract to provide services in conflict cases 	<p>Executive Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor appoints the Defender General to a 4-year term with the advice and consent of the Senate

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides representation in criminal and juvenile cases, appeals, and to parents and children in children in need of care and supervision (CHINS) cases	
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