



## **Public Defense Commission Rules**

The Idaho Public Defense Commission is making rules. These rules set the standards for public defense in Idaho. The Commission needs to hear directly from people who have are dealing with that system. You should have a big role to play in fixing that system. Tell the Commission what you think of the rules. The deadline is October 25, 2017.

### **What would the rules do?**

1. **Set standards:** The “Performance Standards” explain what public defenders must do. Each county has to make sure that public defenders are able to meet the standards. The standards would:
  - Require public defenders to do their own investigations.
  - Require public defenders to use experts when necessary.
  - Say that public defenders must have the same access as prosecutors have to investigators, experts, and testing.
  - Set the skills and experience that lawyers must have to work on death penalty cases.
2. **Say how the rules are enforced:** Rule “61.01.06” explains how the Commission can make sure the counties are following the standards and other rules.

### **What is missing?**

- The rules do not require the Commission to listen to people going through the system.
- The rules do not make sure the Commission will ask people charged with crimes about how the public defense system is working.
- The rules do not include clear limits to make sure public defenders are not overworked.
- There are no rules to keep politicians from firing public defenders who do a good job.
- There are no rules to keep public defenders from focusing on their paying clients.
- There are no rules to make sure that public defenders are able to have private meetings with their clients.

### **How can I get a copy the full rules?**

- Write to:

**Idaho Public Defense Commission  
816 W. Bannock Street, Suite 201  
Boise, ID 83702**



ACLU of Idaho  
PO Box 1897  
Boise, ID 83701  
(208) 344-9750  
[www.acluidaho.org](http://www.acluidaho.org)

- You can also visit the Commission's website at [www.pdc.idaho.gov](http://www.pdc.idaho.gov). Or call the Commission at (208) 332-1735. Or you could email them at [info@pdc.idaho.gov](mailto:info@pdc.idaho.gov).

### Will these rules affect my case?

- They might not affect your case. They are not final yet. They will be very important in the future, though.

### How can I share my feedback?

- You should tell the Commission what you think about the rules. When you do, you should be careful not to share confidential details about your case or your communications with your public defender.

1. Write to:

**Idaho Public Defense Commission  
816 W. Bannock Street, Suite 201  
Boise, ID 83702**

2. By email to [info@pdc.idaho.gov](mailto:info@pdc.idaho.gov).
3. Online at [www.pdc.idaho.gov](http://www.pdc.idaho.gov). Visit the page titled "Proposed and Pending Rules" and use the online forms.
4. In person at a public hearing:
  - October 11, 2017 - Boise - 4:00 PM: The Grove Hotel, 245 S. Capitol Blvd, Boise, 83702, The Riverfork Room, 3rd Floor
  - October 12, 2017 - Caldwell - 6:00 PM: Canyon County Administration Building, 111 N. 11th Ave, Caldwell, 83605, 1st Floor Public Meeting Room
  - October 17, 2017 - Idaho Falls - 6:00 PM: Residence Inn, 635 West Broadway, Idaho Falls, 83402
  - October 17, 2017 - Lewiston - 6:00 PM: Red Lion Hotel, 621 21st St, Lewiston, 83501, Port 1 Room
  - October 18, 2017 - Pocatello - 6:00 PM: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 200 Via Venitio, Pocatello, 83201, Scout Mountain Room
  - October 18, 2017 - Coeur d'Alene - 6:00 PM: Best Western Plus, 506 W. Appleway Ave, Coeur d'Alene, 83814, Idaho Room
  - October 19, 2017 - Twin Falls - 6:00 PM: Hilton Garden Inn, 1741 Harrison St N., Twin Falls, 83301, I.B. Perrine Room