If you are charged with a crime in Bradford County and would like to apply for public defender representation, please read information below and follow instructions: The application cannot be processed without that information.

1. You must apply in person at the Public Defender’s office in the Bradford County Courthouse at least **one week** prior to your preliminary hearing.
2. You must bring in your Criminal **Complaint and Affidavit of Probable Cause.**  If you do not have these documents, contact the Magisterial District Justice office for a copy to bring to our office.
3. Be prepared to answer questions about your family income and assets. You must bring with you:
4. Your most recent **two months of pay stubs,** and proof of any other household income.
5. Your most recent **Federal Tax Return**.
6. Answer the questions as completely and accurately as possible. The information requested is necessary for the Public Defender’s office to determine your eligibility and to represent you properly.
7. Contact numbers are requested so that we can reach you in the event you miss court or we need to speak to you urgently about your case.
8. If you qualify for a Public Defender, you will receive representation in your criminal case free of charge. If the Public Defender’s Office has a conflict of interest in your case, you will be appointed a private attorney who will also represent you free of charge. Please note, if you are arrested and charged again, even while your case is pending you must re-apply for Public Defender representation on that case. We will not be informed that you have new charges unless you let us know.
9. Representation by the Public Defender’s Office will continue through verdict or plea, sentencing, post sentence motions, and appeal. If you are charged with violating ARD, probation, or parole, you must re-apply for Public Defender representation at that time.

**If you are seeking representation for a juvenile charged with a delinquent act, please contact our office**.

If you are denied public defender representation and would like to appeal the decision of the Public Defender, please fill out the following form and return it as soon as possible to the Bradford County Public Defender’s Office.

Remember, it is your responsibility to inform this office of any change of address, employment, or financial circumstances.