
From: Gary Bruce <gbruce@berriencounty.org>
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 11:15 AM
To: ADMcomment
Subject: Minimum Standards for Appointed Counsel under the MIDC Act

The Berrien County trial court supports and encourages adoption of Standards 1, Education and Training of Defense Counsel, Standard 2, Initial Interview, Standard 3, Investigation and Experts and Standard 4, Counsel at First Appearance and other Critical Stages. We do have some concern in Standard Four concerning continuous representation. While we are very supportive of the concept of continuous representation and a requirement of such is included in our county's current indigent defense contract, we feel it could be difficult to require the same attorney appearing at an initial arraignment to continue to represent each defendant continuously through all proceedings including trial.

Gary J Bruce
Chief Judge
Berrien County Trial Court