

LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE INDIGENT

In 1983, this portion of the position was broadened to include civil as well as criminal proceedings.

For several years, the League has been actively examining how legal representation in Criminal and Family Court matters is provided at public expense under New York statutory law. We have found that reform is greatly needed, and have been working toward improving the system.

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Statement of position

Adopted by the League in 1975:

The rights of the defendant should be protected at every stage of a criminal proceeding. At present, indigent defendants must be provided counsel at full public expense. The quality of defense provided for the indigent should be improved by better training and screening of attorneys. Funding for indigent defense should come from all levels of government.