The Public Defender provides all clients with high quality legal representation that protects their liberty and constitutional rights. As New Mexico’s indigent criminal advocate, the Public Defender Department is an equal participant in the development of a responsive and fair criminal justice process.
Vision Statement

- The Public Defender Department, through its district office and contract counsel operation, provides zealous and quality legal representation because it has sufficient resources to recruit, retain, and train qualified staff/contract counsel and to provide essential auxiliary case support services.

- New Mexico Public Defender Social Workers help attorney’s in preparing defenses, providing sentencing advocacy in court and helping with mental health issues as necessary.
The Mental Health Division of the Public Defender department supports the Department’s mission by providing specialized services through a statewide perspective and expertise for clients who are at high risk of discrimination in the criminal justice system because of a mental disability.
Mental Health Division Who We Are and What We Do

• The MHD provides training, consultation and support services to attorneys and others around the state regarding competency to stand trial and related issues.

• Our objectives are to insure that our clients receive effective assistance of counsel and other rights in their criminal cases; provide early identification of and intervention with clients with mental disabilities and to assist in obtaining the most appropriate placement for the client, including diversion from the criminal justice system where appropriate.

• We receive referrals, provide training and act as liaison to attorneys (staff, contract and private), judges, detention centers, concerned friends and relatives, Protection and Advocacy, ARC, Department of Health, NM Behavioral Health Institute, mental health workers, law enforcement, and clients.

• Liaison and network sufficiently to ensure NMPD is kept abreast of policy and funding developments at a statewide level as well as developments in programs/services options.

• NMPD has good professional relations with key people in various agencies and service providers in order to facilitate services for clients and assistance in resolving interagency problems.

• NMPD has a voice in policy and funding developments.
Competency Court

- Misdemeanors

Felonies

- Treatment to competency
- Dangerousness
Mental Health Courts

- Felony – JSP Judicial Supervision Program
- Misdemeanor Mental Health Court