



**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE / JUVENILE DIVISION
GEAUGA COUNTY**

TIMOTHY J. GRENDL— JUDGE

Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor
231 Main Street, Suite 200
Chardon, Ohio 44024
Voice: 440-279-1830
Fax Probation: 440-285-5025
Fax Court: 440-285-8751

Re: **POLICY REGARDING APPOINTED COUNSEL FOR ALLEGED UNRULY,
DELINQUENT AND JUVENILE TRAFFIC OFFENDER COMPLAINTS**

In all cases involving an allegation of delinquency, unruliness, probation violation or juvenile traffic offenders, the child should be aware of their right to counsel. If a child indicates a desire to have appointed counsel, the child and his/her parents(s) are to be advised of the following:

The Ohio Public Defender Commission has established guidelines for the determination of indigent status.

In accordance therewith, juveniles alleged to be unruly/delinquent or juvenile traffic offenders are eligible to receive Court appointed counsel if said juvenile desires to be represented but is unable to retain counsel and said juvenile's parent(s) is/are unwilling or unable to provide representation.

In the event the parent claims inability or unwillingness to provide legal representation for the juvenile, the Court will order the parent to complete a financial disclosure form.

If, upon completion of the form to the satisfaction of the Geauga County Public Defender, the parent is determined to be indigent under the guidelines established by the State Public Defender's Commission, the Court will provide Court appointed counsel at no cost to the juvenile or his parent(s).

In the event the parent(s) are determined to be marginally indigent under the guidelines established by the State Public Defender's Commission, the parent(s) shall be required to sign an agreement to reimburse the County a fixed amount to cover part of the cost of representation.

In the event the parent(s) are determined ineligible for Court appointed counsel, the parent(s) shall be required to provide representation of the juvenile and failure to do so forthwith will result in the Court appointing counsel and ordering the parent(s) to reimburse the County the costs of providing representation. Said cost shall be billed at an hourly rate of \$60.00 per hour for time spent in Court and \$50.00 per hour for time spent out of Court plus any expenses incurred directly.

These cases are to be assigned to the Public Defender's Office for representation. Private counsel will only be assigned to a case if the Public Defender's Office indicates a conflict or an inability to handle such case because of their case load.