

# New York County Law (Article 18B)

## Section 722: Plan for representation

The governing body of each county and the governing body of the city in which a county is wholly contained shall place in operation throughout the county a plan for providing counsel to persons charged with a crime or who are entitled to counsel pursuant to section two hundred sixty-two or section eleven hundred twenty of the family court act, article six-C of the correction law, section four hundred seven of the surrogate's court procedure act or article ten of the mental hygiene law, who are financially unable to obtain counsel. Each plan shall also provide for investigative, expert and other services necessary for an adequate defense. The plan shall conform to one of the following: 1. Representation by a public defender appointed pursuant to county law article eighteen-A. 2. In criminal proceedings, representation by counsel furnished by a private legal aid bureau or society designated by the county or city, organized and operating to give legal assistance and representation to persons charged with a crime within the city or county who are financially unable to obtain counsel. In proceedings under the family court act, representation by a private legal aid bureau or society, or by any corporation, voluntary association, or organization permitted to practice law under the authority of subdivision five of section four hundred ninety-five of the judiciary law. 3. Representation by counsel furnished pursuant to a plan of a bar association in each county or the city in which a county is wholly contained whereby the services of private counsel are rotated and coordinated by an administrator, and such administrator may be compensated for such service. Any plan of a bar association must receive the approval of the state administrator before the plan is placed in operation. In the county of Hamilton, such representation may be by counsel furnished by the Fulton county bar association pursuant to a plan of the Fulton county bar association. 4. Representation according to a plan containing a combination of any of the foregoing. Any judge, justice or magistrate in assigning counsel pursuant to sections 170.10, 180.10, 210.15 and 720.30 of the criminal procedure law, or in assigning counsel to a defendant when a hearing has been ordered in a proceeding upon a motion, pursuant to article four hundred forty of the criminal procedure law, to vacate a judgment or to set aside a sentence or on a motion for a writ of error coram nobis, or in assigning counsel pursuant to the provisions of section two hundred sixty-two of the family court act or section four hundred seven of the surrogate's court procedure act, or in assigning counsel to a defendant when a case has been calendared for consideration of resentencing pursuant to subdivision four of section six hundred one-d of the correction law or when a court is otherwise called upon to consider whether a proper term of post-release supervision was imposed as part of a determinate sentence, shall assign counsel furnished in accordance with a plan conforming to the requirements of this section; provided, however, that when the county or the city in which a county is wholly contained has not placed in operation a plan conforming to that prescribed in this subdivision or subdivision three of this section and the judge, justice or magistrate is satisfied that a conflict of interest prevents the assignment of counsel pursuant to the plan in operation, or when the county or the city in which a county is wholly contained has not placed in operation any plan conforming to that prescribed in this section, the judge, justice or magistrate may assign any attorney in such county or city and, in such event, such attorney shall receive compensation and reimbursement from such county or city which shall be at the same rate as is prescribed in section seven hundred twenty-two-b of this article. When a case has been calendared for consideration of resentencing pursuant to subdivision four of section six hundred one-d of the correction law or when a court is otherwise called upon to consider whether a proper term of post-release supervision was imposed as part of a determinate sentence, the attorney appointed should be the attorney who appeared for the defendant in connection with the judgment or sentence or, if the defendant is currently represented concerning his or her conviction or sentence or with respect to an appeal from his or her conviction or sentence, such present counsel. 5. In classification proceedings under article six-C of the correction law or from an appeal thereof, representation shall be according to a plan described in subdivisions one, two, three or four of this section. If such plan includes representation by a private legal aid bureau or society, such private legal

aid bureau or society shall have been designated to give legal assistance and representation to persons charged with a crime. Upon an appeal in a criminal action, and on any appeal described in section eleven hundred twenty of the family court act, article six-C of the correction law or section four hundred seven of the surrogate's court procedure act, wherein the party is financially unable to obtain counsel, the appellate court shall assign counsel furnished in accordance with the plan, conforming to the requirements of this section, which is in operation in the county or in the city in which a county is wholly contained wherein the judgment of conviction, disposition, or order of the trial court was entered; provided, however, that when such county or city has not placed in operation a plan conforming to that prescribed in subdivision three or four of this section and such appellate court is satisfied that a conflict of interest prevents the assignment of counsel pursuant to the plan in operation, or when such county or city has not placed in operation any plan conforming to that prescribed in this section, such appellate court may assign any attorney in such county or city and, in such event, such attorney shall receive compensation and reimbursement from such county or city which shall be at the same rate as is prescribed in section seven hundred twenty-two-b of this chapter.

### **Section 722-A: Definition of crime**

For the purposes of this article, the term "crime" shall mean a felony, misdemeanor, or the breach of any law of this state or of any law, local law or ordinance of a political subdivision of this state, other than one that defines a "traffic infraction," for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment is authorized upon conviction thereof.

### **Section 722-B: Compensation and reimbursement for representation**

1. All counsel assigned in accordance with a plan of a bar association conforming to the requirements of section seven hundred twenty-two of this article whereby the services of private counsel are rotated and coordinated by an administrator shall at the conclusion of the representation receive: (a) for representation of a person entitled to representation by law who is initially charged with a misdemeanor or lesser offense and no felony, compensation for such misdemeanor or lesser offense representation at a rate of sixty dollars per hour for time expended in court or before a magistrate, judge or justice, and sixty dollars per hour for time reasonably expended out of court, and shall receive reimbursement for expenses reasonably incurred; and (b) for representation of a person in all other cases governed by this article, including all representation in an appellate court, compensation at a rate of seventy-five dollars per hour for time expended in court before a magistrate, judge or justice and seventy-five dollars per hour for time reasonably expended out of court, and shall receive reimbursement for expenses reasonably incurred. 2. Except as provided in this section, compensation for time expended in providing representation: (a) pursuant to paragraph (a) of subdivision one of this section shall not exceed two thousand four hundred dollars; and (b) pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision one of this section shall not exceed four thousand four hundred dollars. 3. For representation on an appeal, compensation and reimbursement shall be fixed by the appellate court. For all other representation, compensation and reimbursement shall be fixed by the trial court judge. In extraordinary circumstances a trial or appellate court may provide for compensation in excess of the foregoing limits and for payment of compensation and reimbursement for expenses before the completion of the representation. 4. Each claim for compensation and reimbursement shall be supported by a sworn statement specifying the time expended, services rendered, expenses incurred and reimbursement or compensation applied for or received in the same case from any other source. No counsel assigned hereunder shall seek or accept any fee for representing the party for whom he or she is assigned without approval of the court as herein provided.

## **Section 722-C: Services other than counsel**

Upon a finding in an ex parte proceeding that investigative, expert or other services are necessary and that the defendant or other person described in section two hundred forty-nine or section two hundred sixty-two of the family court act, article six-C of the correction law or section four hundred seven of the surrogate's court procedure act, is financially unable to obtain them, the court shall authorize counsel, whether or not assigned in accordance with a plan, to obtain the services on behalf of the defendant or such other person. The court upon a finding that timely procurement of necessary services could not await prior authorization may authorize the services nunc pro tunc. The court shall determine reasonable compensation for the services and direct payment to the person who rendered them or to the person entitled to reimbursement. Only in extraordinary circumstances may the court provide for compensation in excess of one thousand dollars per investigative, expert or other service provider. Each claim for compensation shall be supported by a sworn statement specifying the time expended, services rendered, expenses incurred and reimbursement or compensation applied for or received in the same case from any other source.

## **Section 722-D: Duration of assignment**

Whenever it appears that the defendant is financially able to obtain counsel or to make partial payment for the representation or other services, counsel may report this fact to the court and the court may terminate the assignment of counsel or authorize payment, as the interests of justice may dictate, to the public defender, private legal aid bureau or society, private attorney, or otherwise.

## **Section 722-E: Expenses**

All expenses for providing counsel and services other than counsel hereunder shall be a county charge or in the case of a county wholly located within a city a city charge to be paid out of an appropriation for such purposes.

## **Section 722-F: Annual reports**

1. A public defender appointed pursuant to article eighteen-A of this chapter, a private legal aid bureau or society designated by a county or city pursuant to subdivision two of section seven hundred twenty-two of this chapter, and an administrator of a plan of a bar association appointed pursuant to subdivision three of section seven hundred twenty-two of this chapter shall file an annual report with the judicial conference at such times and in such detail and form as the judicial conference may direct. 2. (a) The county executive or chief executive officer of each county or, in the case of a county wholly contained within a city, such city shall file an annual report which specifies in detail and certifies to the state comptroller the total expenditures of such county or city, identifying "local funds", as defined in subdivision four of section ninety-eight-b of the state finance law, state funds, federal funds and funds received from a "private source" as described in subdivision four of section ninety-eight-b of the state finance law, for providing legal representation to persons who were financially unable to afford counsel, pursuant to this article. Such annual report shall be made on a form developed for such purpose by the state comptroller. (b) Such annual report, detailing expenditures for the period January first through December thirty-first of the previous calendar year, shall be filed on or before the first day of March of each year, provided, however, that the first report required by this subdivision shall contain the required information, separately stated, for the two preceding calendar years.