

**814.11 Indigent's right to counsel.**

1. An indigent person is entitled to appointed counsel on the appeal of all cases if the person is entitled to appointment of counsel under [section 815.9](#).

2. If the appeal involves an indictable offense or denial of postconviction relief, the appointment shall be made to the state appellate defender unless the state appellate defender notifies the court that the state appellate defender is unable to handle the case.

3. In a juvenile case in which a petition on appeal is required, the trial attorney shall continue representation throughout the appeal without an additional appointment order unless the court grants the attorney permission to withdraw from the case.

4. If the state appellate defender is unable to handle the case or withdraws from the case, or if the appeal is other than an indictable offense or denial of postconviction relief including a juvenile case in which a petition on appeal is not required or a juvenile case in which the trial attorney has withdrawn from the case, the court shall appoint an attorney who has a contract with the state public defender to handle such an appeal.

5. If the court determines that no contract attorney is available to handle the appeal, the court may appoint a noncontract attorney, if the state public defender consents to the appointment of the noncontract attorney. The order of appointment shall include a specific finding that no contract attorney is available and the state public defender consents to the appointment.

6. The appointment of an attorney shall be on a rotational or equalization basis, considering the experience of the attorney and the difficulty of the case.

7. An attorney who has been retained or has agreed to represent a person on appeal and subsequently applies to the court for appointment to represent that person on appeal because the person is indigent shall notify the state public defender of the application. Upon the filing of the application, the attorney shall provide the state public defender with a copy of any representation agreement, and information on any moneys earned or paid to the attorney prior to the appointment.

8. An attorney appointed under [this section](#) is not liable to a person represented by the attorney for damages as a result of a conviction in a criminal case unless the court determines in a postconviction proceeding or on direct appeal that the person's conviction resulted from ineffective assistance of counsel, and the ineffective assistance of counsel is the proximate cause of the damage. In juvenile or civil proceedings, an attorney appointed under [this section](#) is not liable to a person represented by the attorney for damages unless it has been determined that the attorney has provided ineffective assistance of counsel and the ineffective assistance of counsel is the proximate cause of the damage.

[C79, 81, §814.11]

99 Acts, ch 135, §23; 2002 Acts, ch 1067, §14; 2004 Acts, ch 1017, §3; 2005 Acts, ch 19, §119; 2008 Acts, ch 1061, §4 – 6

Referred to in [§13B.4](#), [22.7](#), [815.7](#), [815.11](#)