



**STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES**

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ONSITE VISIT REPORT

Churchill County

October 9, 2023

I. Brief Narrative.

On October 9, 2023, Marcie Ryba traveled to Churchill County to attend a meeting to discuss Churchill County's Plan for the Provision of Indigent Defense Services and the need to update it to include a portion on Death Penalty Coverage. In attendance were: Jacob Sommer (Churchill PD); Wright Noel (Alt Churchill PD); Jim Barbee (County Manager); Sue Sevon (Churchill County Counsel Administrator); Judge Stockard; Emily Tunsil (Assistant to Churchill PD).

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was discussed that the County will update their Plan for the Provision of Indigent Defense Services to clarify that:

- If there is a filing of a death penalty case or if there is a case where the District Attorney remains silent on whether such a penalty will be filed, Jacob Sommer will immediately notify Sue Sevon.
- Sue Sevon will work with the Department to ensure that an appropriate 250 qualified counsel is present.
- Churchill County has opted into the NSPD for such coverage.
- NSPD is in the process of entering into contracts with SCR 250 qualified counsel to provide such coverage. Once the contracts are finalized, such attorneys will contact Sue Sevon to be added to the list of qualified counsel for the district court.
- Churchill County desires their salaried attorneys to gain experience on such cases and will request that they are appointed as second chair.

The group also discussed the county's current plan. Since Sue Sevon has been appointed as appointed counsel administrator and a contract has been entered with an attorney to provide conflict coverage, the plan has been working very smoothly.

The parties further discussed other possibilities of how to continue to improve the indigent defense plan such as: adding county social workers to the public defender office and adding additional attorney staff.

II. Next Steps.

1. Jacob Sommer has been tasked to update the plan and will provide to the Department upon completion and approval.