

Greenville Model for Indigency Screening

The Committee asks the Commission on Indigent Defense to provide various details about the Greenville model for indigency screening. The agency provides the response below in its September 7, 2018 letter to the Committee.¹

What information and documentation is required from applicants?

Greenville screeners require “documentation” (Income/Assistance for entire household – per Federal Poverty Guidelines) – actual pay stubs, bank statements or benefit letters for any type of government benefits(social security, food stamps etc.), proof of child support payments (printouts from family court), letters from family members who provide support, if someone is living in a shelter, the shelter must provide proof, if the household is unusually large we may require each person’s social security card, during “tax” season we require the defendant (if currently employed or employed the previous year) to provide proof of tax return amount. More documentation may be required if something raises a question that needs to be verified.

What methods are utilized to verify the information?

To verify information submitted, the screeners require actual documentation. They want to see proof on paper of what is being disclosed on the application. In rare instances, they will contact persons directly to verify.

What did Greenville seek to achieve through this model and what has been achieved?

Greenville sought to achieve a fair and thorough screening process that treats all defendants equally and ensure that only those meeting the State’s guidelines were appointed counsel.

Has Greenville seen any cost savings as a result of its investment in this model? If so, please specify.

Greenville was not able to provide any specific cost savings information but stated they were able to achieve a screening process that is fair and holds people accountable for their requests. They further stated that not making unnecessary appointments upfront is the most cost-effective approach.

¹ S.C. House of Representatives, House Legislative Oversight Committee, “Letter from SCCID to Oversight Subcommittee with attachments (Sept. 7, 2018), Agency’s Response to Oversight Subcommittee’s August 17, 2018 Letter, Questions #23,” under “Committee Postings and Reports,” under “House Legislative Oversight Committee,” under “Indigent Defense, Commission on,” and under “Correspondence,” [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyWebpages/IndigentDefense/Letter%20from%20SCCID%20to%20Oversight%20Subcommittee%20with%20attachments%20\(Sept.%207,%202018\).pdf](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/CommitteeInfo/HouseLegislativeOversightCommittee/AgencyWebpages/IndigentDefense/Letter%20from%20SCCID%20to%20Oversight%20Subcommittee%20with%20attachments%20(Sept.%207,%202018).pdf) (accessed October 12, 2018).