

Statewide Case Management System

The Committee asks the Commission on Indigent Defense (SCCID) to provide various information about the statewide case management system the agency, and every circuit public defender office, utilizes. The agency provides the response below in its September 7, 2018 letter to the Committee.¹

Why purchase one case management system for every circuit public defender office instead of allowing each circuit public defender to choose their own system or from a list of approved systems?

In order for SCCID to collect good data on the number and types of cases that the Circuit Public Defenders handle, it was decided that there would be a state-wide case management system for the South Carolina Public Defender Offices. The decision was made to standardize the data collection process, so that each Circuit Defender Office would be providing the same case information on all the cases that each office handles. Having a state-wide system allows SCCID to collect case information from across the state without having to contact each Circuit Public Defender Offices to request information. Defender Data is the case management system that SCCID selected, and it was the agency that received the funding from the State for this project.

When was the circuit public defender case management system purchased?

The Defender Data system, in its beginning phase, was used by several of the circuits prior to 2012. In 2012, after the creation of the Circuit Public Defender system to mirror the Circuit Solicitor system, SCCID decided to unify the Defender Data system so that all case information from all 16 Circuits would be standardized, and all the case information would be accessible to SCCID from the entire state. The Commission allowed the 5th Circuit Public Defender Office to retain their case management data collection system because it pre-dated the Defender Data system and the circuit could provide the case-related information required by the Commission. In 2018, the 5th Circuit Public Defender's data collection system is being migrated to Defender Data.

What was the upfront cost of the system and what did it include?

The original cost of the unification of the existing systems into the Defender Data system in 2012-13 was \$160,000.

What is the average annual cost and what does it include (e.g., total number of users, creation of reports, etc.)?

The Defender Data system is accessible to all Circuit Public Defender staff in all 16 Circuits, the Appellate Attorneys and Administrative Assistants from the Appellate Division of SCCID, and Ryan Cole, SCCID's Data Base Specialist. All reports or specialty requests for information are included in the annual fee. The annual cost of the Defender Data system is based upon a \$2.00 per new case charge. The cost for Defender Data was \$117,126 in FY15-16; \$123,790 in FY 16-17, and \$128,512 in FY17-18.

Who pays for the case management system every circuit public defender office utilizes?

SCCID pays the annual cost for Defender Data for the state-wide system.

Does the case management system track the disposition of each case? If so, is this information entered for cases handled by public defenders and cases handled by contract attorneys?

The case management system, Defender Data, does track the disposition of each case handled by Public Defenders and Contract Public Defenders. The disposition of the case is entered into Defender Data by the public defender staff. Defender Data does not track the disposition of cases handled by the Rule 608 Conflict Attorneys (608 Contract Attorneys), because they do not have access to the case management system. However, the voucher system used by the Rule 608 Conflict Attorneys to register the court appointment does allow the disposition of the case to be entered when closing the case. However, the contract attorneys have not been diligent in completing the closing of cases in the database. In the current contract for the 608 Attorneys, it is a requirement that they close all cases that they handle in the database.

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 30, 2018 Letter, Questions #3 through 5," 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).