

# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Circuit Public Defenders and Conflict Defenders  
**From:** Mike Mears, Director  
**Date:** February 7, 2006  
**Subject:** Revised Indigency Determination Standard

The Georgia Public Defender Standards Council at its recent council meeting on February 3, 2006, voted to revise the Standards on Determining Indigence. Specifically, the Standards Council lowered the percentages for determining indigence from 200% to 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for felony offenses and from 150% to 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for misdemeanor offenses. A person who earns less than 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines is presumed to be indigent for all cases unless there is evidence that shows that the person has other resources that might be reasonably used to employ an attorney. The remainder of the Standards was not changed.

The revised standard and indigency chart are attached.