



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Matthew D. Nelson
Chief Judge

Thomas L. Vaughn
Judge

James J. O'Connell, III
Judge

Keith N. Hurley
Judge

Robert D. Laney, Retired
Phillip V. Daffron, Retired
Thomas L. Murphey, Retired

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CHESTERFIELD GENERAL DISTRICT COURT
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VIA HAND DELIVERY AND EMAIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Current and Former Members of the Chesterfield Court Appointed Panel
From: Matthew D. Nelson, Chief Judge Chesterfield/Colonial Heights General District Court
Date: September 29, 2021
Subject: Update Related to Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants

To keep you informed related to the transition from Court Appointed Panel System to the Chesterfield Public Defender's Office please know that on September 28, 2021, Ms. My'chael Jefferson-Reese, Public Defender for the County of Chesterfield, communicated to the Court that her office is ready to begin accepting persons who qualify for court appointed counsel as clients. As a result, beginning October 8, 2021, the Court will appoint the Chesterfield Public Defender's Office to represent the first three persons arraigned, who financially qualify for court appointed counsel, during the Court's bonded and video arraignment dockets. The Court will appoint the Public Defender's Office to the first three persons on the Court's bonded arraignment docket and the first three persons on the Court's video arraignment docket for a total of six people. The Court will appoint attorneys currently serving on the Court's Court Appointed Panel to represent the remainder of the people who qualify for court appointed counsel on those respective dockets.

Please know the number of persons to which the Court will appoint the Chesterfield Public Defender's Office to represent will increase based on Ms. Jefferson-Reese's request to do so. The Court anticipates this process to continue until the Office of the Chesterfield Public Defender is appointed to represent all persons who qualify for court appointed counsel except cases in which that Office has a conflict. The Court thanks you for your past and continued service on the Court's Court Appointed Attorney Panel.