

persons. *The maximum use of panel attorneys shall be made insofar as practicable.*

(c) *The primary duty of all panel attorneys appointed by the Office of the Public Defender shall be to the individual defendant, with like effect and to the same purpose as though privately engaged by the indigent person and without regard to the use of public funds to provide the service. This shall not preclude the designation or assignment of different individuals to perform various parts of the service from time to time. A panel attorney who is assigned to represent an indigent person under this Article, shall report to the Office of the Public Defender on his representation of the indigent person, as prescribed by rules of the Public Defender.*

(d) *Panel attorneys shall be compensated by the Public Defender for their professional services and expenses incident to representation of indigent persons, upon the filing of a petition for a legal fee and expenses. Payment of fees and expenses shall be authorized by the Office of the Public Defender according to fee schedules established from time to time by the Public Defender and from funds authorized by the budget for the office of the Public Defender. A panel attorney who represents an indigent person under this Article may not receive any fee for his services in addition to that provided pursuant to this Article. Any attorney seeking compensation for legal fees or expenses disapproved by the Public Defender or in excess of those authorized for payment may seek the review of his petition by the ~~Board of Public Works of Maryland~~. DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS. All fees and expenses paid to panel attorneys, including any authorized as herein provided by the ~~Board of Public Works~~, DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS, shall be paid out of funds appropriated by the budget to the Office of the Public Defender.*

(e) *The Office of the Public Defender may provide staff and technical assistance to any panel attorney appointed to represent an indigent person.*

(f) *Nothing in this Article shall be construed to deprive any court of its authority to appoint an attorney to represent an indigent person where there is a conflict in legal representation in a matter involving multiple defendants and one of the defendants is represented by or through the Office of the Public Defender, or where the Office of the Public Defender declines to provide representation to an indigent person entitled to representation under this Article.*

7. Eligibility for Legal Services, Determination of Financial Status of Accused Persons, and Recovery of Expenses.

(a) *Eligibility for the services of the Office of the Public Defender shall be determined on the basis of the need of the person seeking legal representation. Need shall be measured according to the financial ability of the person to engage and compensate competent private counsel and to provide all other necessary expenses of representation. Such ability shall be recognized to be a variable depending on the nature, extent and liquidity of assets; the disposable net income of the defendant; the nature of the offense; the effort and skill required to gather pertinent information; the length and complexity of the proceedings; and any other foreseeable expenses. In the event that a determination of eligibility cannot be made before the time when*