

*the first services are to be rendered, the office may undertake representation of an indigent person provisionally, and if it shall subsequently determine that the person is ineligible, it shall so inform the person, and the person shall thereupon be obliged to engage his own counsel and to reimburse the office for the cost of the services rendered to that time.*

*(b) The Office of the Public Defender shall make such investigation of the financial status of each defendant at such time or times as the circumstances shall warrant, and in connection therewith the Office shall have the authority to require a defendant to execute and deliver such written requests or authorizations as may be necessary under applicable law to provide the office with access to records of public or private sources, otherwise confidential, as may be needed to evaluate eligibility. The office is authorized to obtain information from any public record office of the State or of any subdivision or agency thereof upon request and without payment of any fees ordinarily required by law.*

*(c) In all cases where it appears that the defendant has or reasonably expects to have means to meet some part of the expenses for services rendered to him, he shall be required to reimburse the office, either by a single payment or in installments, in such amounts as he can reasonably be expected to pay; but no default or failure in the making of any such payment shall effect or reduce the rendering of services to him.*

*(d) The reasonable value ~~of~~ OF the services rendered to a defendant pursuant to this Act shall constitute a lien on any and all real property ~~to~~ IN which the defendant shall have or acquire an interest, except for the residence of the defendant. To perfect such lien, the Public Defender shall submit to the court having jurisdiction in the matter, an affidavit setting forth the services rendered to the defendant and the reasonable value thereof. The court shall determine and adjudge the reasonable value of said services. Upon adjudication, a lien shall be filed or docketed with the clerk of the Circuit Court or District Court where the services were performed or where the defendant works or resides, and from the date thereof shall constitute a lien on the defendant's property for a period of 10 years unless sooner discharged and, except for such time limitation, shall have the force and effect of a judgment at law.*

*(e) The Clerks of the several Circuit Courts and the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City and the District Court throughout the State shall provide separate books for the recording of said liens, which books shall be properly indexed in the name of the debtor. The Public Defender shall not be required to pay filing or recording fees.*

*(f) The Public Defender in the name of the State shall do all things necessary and proper to collect all moneys due to the State by way of reimbursement for services rendered pursuant to this act. He may enter into arrangements with one or more agencies of the State or of the counties to handle said collections on a cost basis to the extent that such arrangements are calculated to simplify collection procedures. He may institute any proceedings necessary for the collection of such moneys in the appropriate courts.*