

(II) THE APPLICANT SHALL BE REQUIRED TO ENGAGE THE APPLICANT'S OWN ATTORNEY AND REIMBURSE THE OFFICE FOR THE COST OF THE REPRESENTATION PROVIDED.

(C) INVESTIGATION OF FINANCIAL STATUS.

(1) THE OFFICE SHALL INVESTIGATE THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF AN APPLICANT WHEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.

(2) THE OFFICE MAY:

(I) REQUIRE AN APPLICANT TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER WRITTEN REQUESTS OR AUTHORIZATIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY UNDER LAW TO PROVIDE THE OFFICE WITH ACCESS TO CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES THAT ARE NEEDED TO EVALUATE ELIGIBILITY; AND

(II) ON REQUEST, OBTAIN INFORMATION WITHOUT CHARGE FROM A PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OR OTHER UNIT OF THE STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

REVISOR'S NOTE: This section is new language derived without substantive change from former Art. 27A, §§ 2(f) and 7(a) and (b).

In subsection (a) of this section, former Art. 27A, § 2(f), which defined the term "indigent", is revised as a substantive section for clarity.

Also in subsection (a) of this section, the reference to representation "in proceedings listed under § 16-204(b) of this subtitle" is substituted for the former overly broad reference to representation for an individual who is "taken into custody or charged with a serious crime as herein defined under the laws of the State of Maryland or the laws and ordinances of any county, municipality, or Baltimore City".

In subsection (b)(1), (2), and (5) of this section, the references to an "applicant" are substituted for the former references to a "person" to conform to the terminology used throughout this section. Similarly, the references to an "applicant" are substituted for the former references to a "defendant" in subsections (b)(3)(ii) and (c) of this section and for an "indigent person" in subsection (b)(4) of this section.

In subsection (b)(1) of this section, the former reference to an "applicant seeking legal representation" is deleted as surplusage.