

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Office of the Defender General began providing constitutionally required representation to needy persons charged with serious crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Defender General also provides counsel to children who are the subject of juvenile proceedings as alleged delinquents; to parties in juvenile proceedings including children in need of care and supervision (CHINS) as required by the interests of justice; to children in the custody of the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families; to persons in the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections; and, to needy persons in extradition, or probation or parole revocation proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Defender General has evolved into a complex service delivery system consisting of two distinct programs, Public Defense and Assigned Counsel Contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Defender General handles approximately 22,000 cases each year; and

WHEREAS, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of the Defender General and the start of Vermont's statewide public defender program, it is important to acknowledge the significant role the Office plays within our justice system to provide indigent Vermonters with appropriate representation; and

WHEREAS, the structure of Office of the Defender General is nationally regarded as a model for statewide representation of public clients around the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim July 1, 2022 as

PUBLIC DEFENDER DAY

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of July, A.D. 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", is written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", is written over a horizontal line.
Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs