

Benton County Office of Public Defense Mission & Values

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Benton County Office of Public Defense is to provide quality, cost-effective, legal representation to indigent and other qualified persons charged with criminal offenses, or otherwise facing incarceration or loss of liberty interest, so as to protect their Constitutional and other legal rights, educate them about the criminal justice system, and champion the interests of justice. The Benton County Office of Public Defense will always be mindful of the fact that the resources that enable it to advance its Mission are entrusted to it by the taxpayers of Benton County, and as such it will constantly strive to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its team, of system which it manages, and of systems of which it is a part of, so as to always be a good steward of such resources.

Values

In order to advance its Mission, all Benton County Office of Public Defense staff and contractors share the following Values.

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| A | Teamwork | We are constantly seeking out and developing inter-office and intra-office synergistic relationships through which to accomplish shared goals and create win-win outcomes. |
| B | Effectiveness & Efficiency | We are always choice-driven, deliberate in our actions and introspective so as to maximize effectiveness (do that which has the most effect on advancing the Mission) and efficiency (while consuming the least amount of resources) |
| C | Quality | We take pride in quality work product in all aspects of what we do. |
| D | Cost-Effectiveness | We recognize the fiduciary duty we owe to the taxpayers who provide the resources by which we can advance our Mission and always strive to maximize cost-effectiveness without jeopardizing quality. |

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Kennewick, WA 99336

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| E | Compassion & Fairness | We recognize that all members of the public with whom we interact and for whom we provide services are fellow community members and citizens and we will treat them with respect, compassion, and fairness. |
| F | Effective Risk Management | We will always be mindful of the liability related interests of Benton County and constantly seek to minimize the exposure of the County to liability risk. |
| G | Continuous Improvement | We recognize and embrace the dynamic nature of many factors that affect our ability to advance our Mission and as such, constantly seek out, and take action on, ways to improve every aspect of our operations. We will never settle for “good enough” or accept that the “way it has always been done” is necessarily the best way to continue to do it. |

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