

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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REPLY TO: BUFFALO

NOTICE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
October 20, 2025

Thank you for working with the Office of the Federal Public Defender in the Western District of New York . Unfortunately, the Judiciary has exhausted all available funding at midnight on Sunday October 19, 2025. While the parts of the Judiciary will shut down, this office will remain fully operational. All duties performed by our employees constitute "excepted activities" because of our direct involvement in carrying out the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. This means that all staff and employees, though they will not be compensated during the shutdown, are required to work their regular schedules and that the office will continue to be appointed as counsel in the Western District of New York .

If you have an open case-related contract with our office, ongoing performance of agreed upon services should continue. Legal teams will continue to request new services, and new contracts will be sent. However, payments for services will be delayed until the entire government reopens. Our sincerest apologies for any issues or hardships this may cause. Please continue to submit invoices through this time, as it allows us to queue them for payment at the conclusion of the shutdown. If you have a non-case related contract with the office, those services are paused, effective immediately.

No matter the status of the Federal Government as a whole, our mission endures, and we will continue providing zealous representation to those who cannot afford an attorney. In many cases we could not do that without your services and assistance. Thank you again for everything that you do for our office and our clients.

Please contact myself or Rachel Curtin at the telephone number listed above with any questions or concerns.