

STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, all Montanans are entitled to legal counsel when facing criminal charges, regardless of their ability to afford a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, Montana has assigned counsel to individuals charged with felonies since 1871 and individuals charged with felonies and misdemeanors since 1947, establishing the Office of the State Public Defender in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Office of State Public Defender staff, case managers, investigators, public defenders, and contract counsel provide effective counsel to indigent persons who by law are entitled to representation by an attorney for a variety of cases; and

WHEREAS, for two decades, the agency, its employees, and its contractors have played a role to ensure a fair and equal justice system under the United States and Montana constitutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim July 1, 2026

MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER DAY

in Montana to bring awareness to this practice.

A blue ink signature of Greg Gianforte, written in a cursive style.

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor