

WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

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Private Representation Costs - Misdemeanors

In Spring 2020, the Washington State Office of Public Defense issued an online survey to private criminal defense attorneys statewide to determine the average cost of private representation in various case types. The survey specifically asked for attorney costs *excluding* additional expenses for investigators, experts, or other professional services.

The survey also asked attorneys to identify how much advance payment is required prior to representing criminal defense clients. All responding attorneys answered that at least some pre-payment is required. **Over 70% of respondents indicated that at least 50% of payment must be paid in advance.**

Below are the survey results:

Case Type	Average Attorney Cost
Domestic Violence Cases	\$3,400
DUIs	\$3 <i>,</i> 500
Driving Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor Cases	\$2,600
Other Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor Cases	\$2,800
Probation Violations	\$1,300
RALJ Appeals	\$4,800
Additional Costs for Cases that Proceed	
to Trial	\$2,700