

§810. Copy of indictment furnished; witnesses; assignment of counsel; compensation

The clerk shall, without charge, furnish to any person indicted for a crime punishable by imprisonment in the State Prison a copy of the indictment. If he is indicted for a crime punishable by imprisonment for life, the clerk shall furnish a copy of the indictment, a list of the jurors returned and process to obtain witnesses, to be summoned and paid at the expense of the State; if for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of years, witnesses shall be summoned and paid at the expense of the State only by order of the court under such circumstances as the Supreme Judicial Court shall by rule provide. Before arraignment, competent defense counsel shall be assigned by the Superior or District Court, unless waived by the accused after being fully advised of his rights by the court, in all criminal cases charging a felony, when it appears to the court that the accused has not sufficient means to employ counsel. The Superior or District Court may in any criminal case appoint counsel when it appears to the court that the accused has not sufficient means to employ counsel. The District Court shall order reasonable compensation to be paid to counsel by the District Court for such services in the District Court. The Superior Court shall order reasonable compensation to be paid to counsel out of the state appropriation for such services in the Superior Court. [P&SL 1975, c. 147, Pt. C, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 352, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1965, c. 356, §31 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 544, §50 (AMD). P&SL 1975, c. 147, §C14 (AMD).

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