Montana Public Defender Commission

Practice Standards

December, 2012

Section VII, Standby Counsel in Criminal Cases

VII. STANDBY COUNSEL IN CRIMINAL CASES.

Goal: To provide standby assistance to criminal defendants who are proceeding pro se while insuring their individual dignity and autonomy. Standby counsel's participation shall never destroy the jury's perception that the defendant is representing himself and the defendant shall personally manage and conduct his own defense. Attorneys providing standby assistance shall comply with the general standards for public defenders as well as these specific standards.