Montana Public Defender Commission

Practice Standards

December, 2012

Section VII, Standby Counsel in Criminal Cases

1. Defense counsel acting as standby counsel shall:

- A. Permit the accused to make the final decisions on all matters, including strategic and tactical matters relating to the conduct of the case.
- B. If the defendant requests assistance, bring to the attention of the defendant matters beneficial to him;
- C. Not actively participate in the conduct of the defense unless specifically asked to do so by the defendant.
- D. Assist the defendant in overcoming routine procedural or evidentiary obstacles that the defendant has clearly shown he wishes to complete.
- E. Help to ensure the defendant's compliance with basic rules of courtroom protocol and procedure.