

FUNCTION OF OFFICE:

The Federal Public Defender is responsible for representing individuals charged with a federal crime if a federal judge or magistrate judge determines that the accused person is financially unable to obtain adequate representation, and if the judge or magistrate judge assigns the case to the Federal Public Defender. Usually, the Federal Public Defender is appointed at the initial appearance before the magistrate judge. An appointment made by a magistrate judge remains in effect for any proceeding on that case in district court; if the defendant appeals, the appointment continues in effect for representation on appeal, including the filing of a petition for a writ of certiorari in the United States Supreme Court. The Office of the Federal Public Defender has offices with resident staff in Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Houston, Laredo, and McAllen, Texas.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Employees of the Federal Public Defender are not included in the government's civil service classification. They are, however, entitled to the same benefits as other federal government employees. Some of these benefits are:

- Up to 13 days of paid vacation per year for the first 3 years of employment. Thereafter, up to 19 days per year.
- Ten paid holidays per year.
- Time in service for employees of other federal agencies, as well as time in U.S. Military, is taken into consideration when computing employee benefits.
- Thrift Savings Plan.
- Group Life Insurance Plan.
- Long-term disability insurance.
- Long-term care plan.
- Flexible Benefit Program: limited pre-tax deductions for:
 - Payment of premium for group health insurance
 - Health care reimbursement account
 - Dependent care reimbursement account
 - Mass transit reimbursement account
 - Parking reimbursement account