

## **15.5 Role of Attorney Following Commitment**

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No statutory role is defined for the juvenile's attorney following an order of commitment unless the matter comes back before the court for further proceedings, such as a hearing on a motion alleging violation of the terms of post-release supervision. *See infra* § 15.9, Revocation of Post-Release Supervision. There is also no provision for payment of attorney's fees by the Office of Indigent Defense Services for follow-up or other involvement after commitment in the absence of a subsequent court proceeding requiring representation of the juvenile. A juvenile could benefit from representation by counsel regarding many issues arising from commitment, including placement, post-release planning, and extension of commitment. Local practice varies in the degree of involvement by counsel following commitment, from formal release of the attorney to the attorney maintaining some contact and providing advice to the juvenile on a pro bono basis. The issue is being reviewed by the Office of the Juvenile Defender and the Office of Indigent Defense Services.