

**253D.20 RIGHT TO COUNSEL.**

A committed person has the right to be represented by counsel at any proceeding under this chapter. The court shall appoint a qualified attorney to represent the committed person if neither the committed person nor others provide counsel. The attorney shall be appointed at the time a petition for commitment is filed. In all proceedings under this chapter, the attorney shall:

- (1) consult with the person prior to any hearing;
- (2) be given adequate time and access to records to prepare for all hearings;
- (3) continue to represent the person throughout any proceedings under this chapter unless released as counsel by the court; and
- (4) be a vigorous advocate on behalf of the person.

**History:** 2013 c 49 s 15