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LAW OFFICE OF

# HAYDEN GLASS SIZEMORE

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**EFFECTIVE 01/01/2026**

**Policy Regarding Incarcerated Clients & Jail Communications**

**General Notice**

Clients who are incarcerated should understand that confinement significantly limits communication and access. Court-appointed or retained representation does **not** entitle an incarcerated client to frequent updates, immediate responses, or ongoing status reports absent a material development in the case.

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**No Ongoing Status Updates**

For appellate and post-conviction matters in particular:

- Appeals often involve **long periods with no activity**
- Lack of updates usually means **nothing has changed**
- Counsel will notify the client **when and if** a material event occurs

Requests for repeated status updates, progress checks, or confirmation that “nothing has happened yet” are unnecessary and will not receive individual responses.

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**Jail & Prison Phone Calls**

- Jail and prison phone calls are **recorded and monitored**
- Legal advice is **not** provided over recorded lines
- Excessive or repeated calls are not required to be returned
- Calling repeatedly does **not** expedite action or response

Communication with incarcerated clients will primarily occur through:

- Court appearances
- Written correspondence
- Formal filings and court notices

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## Letters, Messages & Third-Party Contact

Incarcerated clients may **not**:

- Have friends or family contact the attorney on their behalf for updates
- Attempt indirect communication through third parties
- Use repeated letters or messages to demand responses where no case activity exists

Such communications do not create a duty to respond and may be documented.

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## No Obligation to Provide “Updates”

The firm is **not obligated** to provide:

- Routine “check-ins”
- Explanations of court delay
- Timelines for appellate decisions
- Reassurance that the case is “still pending”

Courts—not attorneys—control appellate timelines.

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## Abusive, Excessive, or Manipulative Communications

Threats, accusations, harassment, or claims that counsel is “not doing anything” due solely to court delay are inappropriate. Continued abusive or excessive communications may result in:

- Documentation in the case file
- Communication being limited to written form only
- A motion to withdraw where permitted by law

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## Acknowledgment

By accepting representation while incarcerated, the client acknowledges that:

- Delays are inherent in appellate and post-conviction proceedings
- Counsel will initiate contact when legally necessary
- Lack of communication does not indicate lack of action

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