
LAW OFFICE OF

HAYDEN GLASS SIZEMORE

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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