

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 3, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN ALLOWABLE LEGAL EXPENSE FOR
SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP

CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS IN SECTION 4:
Chapter 30 Subsidizing an Adoption/Legal Guardianship
Chapter 30, Attachment A Subsidy Coverage Limitations

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff that the cap on attorney fees in subsidized guardianship cases has been increased. Current policy states attorney fees may be reimbursed up to \$100.00 per hour for a total not to exceed \$500.00.

Effective with the date of this memorandum the cap has been increased to \$1500.00 *if the guardianship is contested or the attorney can show why it took longer*. Additional expenses that are reasonable and customary may also be reimbursed. These additional fees may include such items as publication and court costs.

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Services staff.
2. Review revisions to the Child Welfare Manual in Section 4: Chapter 30 Subsidizing an Adoption/Legal Guardianship and Chapter 30, Attachment A Subsidy Coverage Limitations.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.

FMS/DK