



PA20-AD-01

Practice Alert

LEGAL FEES FOR AD AND LG SUBSIDIES

This is a reminder that legal fees for Adoption and Guardianship are **not flat fee** cases but are paid up to a maximum according to the work required. The maximum amounts Children's Division will pay in the following types of cases are:

Guardianship- \$ 2000 (contested or uncontested)

Adoption- \$ 1500 uncontested
\$ 3000 contested

All attorneys should be directed to provide itemized billing of actual time worked rounded off to the nearest 1/10th of an hour and billed in compliance with attorney ethical guidelines per Rule 4 with which they will be familiar.

Attorneys should be directed to notify the Children's Service Worker if an adoption case is or becomes contested immediately upon determining this status. The notification is to be provided to the worker in a short statement of issues being contested.

When there are multiple siblings for whom invoices are submitted, workers are to review the invoices for multiple entries for the same work completed on behalf of the sibling group. If there are multiple children requiring multiple invoices, the worker should ask the attorney to review the invoices to insure they reflect the actual time spent on the case as a whole. If the worker identifies what appear to be duplicate entries after this review they are to submit to legal counsel for review as all invoices are subject to Departmental attorney review

If you have questions or concerns about a bill, please contact DLS Chief of Litigation, Lori Hickerson at 573-526-2900 or 573-751-3229, or at Lori.Hickerson@dss.mo.gov.

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