

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 16TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF
FLORIDA IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 2.061

IN RE:

COMPENSATION RATES FOR
DUE PROCESS SERVICES

_____:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Florida Statute Section 27.425, the Chief Judge is required to recommend compensation rates for state-funded due process service providers in cases in which the Court has appointed conflict counsel or declared a person indigent for costs,

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

The following schedule of fees shall be applied uniformly throughout this Circuit and shall be taxed as costs in cases in which the services provided by interpreters, court reporters, and expert witnesses are required by law or rule and are paid for by the State of Florida:

A. TRANSLATION SERVICES

The Trial Court Administrator shall maintain a list of persons qualified and willing to act as interpreters. To the extent that more than one interpreter is available for a particular language, those on the list shall be called in rotation.

1. Compensation of a non-certified interpreter:
 - (a) Spanish language: \$45.00 for the first hour; and \$11.25 for each additional one-quarter hour.
 - (b) Languages other than Spanish: \$50.00 for the first hour; and \$12.50 for each additional one-quarter hour.
 - (c) No additional compensation is paid for services rendered past 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays.
2. Compensation of state or federally certified interpreters:
 - (a) All languages: \$50.00 for the first hour, and \$12.50 for each additional one-quarter hour.

- (b) No additional compensation is paid for services rendered past 5:00 pm., Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays.

3. Sign language interpreters:

- (a) Individual interpreters: \$65.00 per hour, with a two hour minimum.
- (b) Video-conference interpreter services: \$3.00 per minute.

B. Court Reporting Services

The Circuit's employee and contract court reporters provide services in courtroom proceedings as directed by the Circuit, and as required by law. Private court reporters may provide reporting services in other circumstances, and this order does not control the compensation as may be agreed to by private counsel and a private court reporter. This order does provide the maximum compensation that may be taxable as costs. Transcripts shall conform to the requirements and specifications set forth in Rule 2.535, Florida Rules of Judicial Administration.

1. Contract court reporters shall be compensated for appearances and services rendered on an hourly basis as follows:

- (a) The first hour or any part thereof: \$50.00.
- (b) Each additional hour or any part thereof: \$25.00.

2. Transcription of court proceedings from stenographic notes:

- (a) Original and one copy: \$4.25 per page.
- (b) Each additional copy: \$1.50 per page.
- (c) The cost of each page of the original shall be increased by \$0.50 when delivery is required within 24 hours.

3. Transcription of court proceedings from electronic recordings:

- (a) Original and one copy: \$4.00 per page.
- (b) Each additional copy: \$1.25 per page.
- (c) The cost of each page of the original and each copy page shall be increased by \$0.25 when delivery is required within 24 hours.

4. Persons requesting duplication of proceedings recorded on audio tape, CD, video tape, or DVD, (collectively,

"electronic formats"), shall purchase the recording for \$15.00 per physical unit. Payment must be by money order made payable to the State of Florida.

5. Upon demand of the State Attorney, a defending party, or the presiding judge, and for the purpose of taking an appeal in a case reported by an employee or contract court reporter, the court reporter shall furnish a transcript of the proceedings with reasonable diligence, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The cost of transcripts ordered by a privately retained attorney must be obtained from the Court Reporting Manager and paid for in advance by a money order made payable to the State of Florida.
- (b) Circuit personnel, such as the staff attorney, shall obtain an order from the presiding judge before ordering a transcript to be produced by a court reporter, other than a Circuit employee reporter, whose compensation will become an obligation of the State.
- (c) When a transcript is ordered, and if by a privately retained attorney, paid for in advance, the Court Reporting Manager will schedule its timely production.

C. Expert Witnesses

Compensation of an expert witness shall be determined at the hearing on a motion for the appointment of such expert and to tax the expert's fees as costs as more particularly set forth below.

1. Flat fees shall be paid to certain experts.

- (a) A medical doctor, including a psychiatrist, shall receive \$450.00 for a preliminary medical or psychiatric examination together with a timely written report.
- (b) A psychologist shall receive \$350.00 for a preliminary psychological evaluation together with a timely written report.
- (c) A custody evaluator shall receive \$2,000.00 for a full social investigation (homestudy) and \$750.00 for a brief focused investigation together with a timely written report.

2. Compensation of other experts.

- (a) Compensation of experts will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. The starting point will ordinarily be the witness's customary hourly rate. The compensation

authorized by the court will take into consideration the expert's standing in his or her field, the fees charged by other experts in that discipline and the nature or the time charged, whether travel, preparation, deposition testimony, trial testimony, overnight stay, or other time as may be required by the circumstances.

- (b) A witness, expert and otherwise, will ordinarily be required to use the most economical means of transportation to the location where he or she is to testify. The Court will be the final arbiter of what constitutes the most economical means of transportation taking into account the distance to be traveled and the length of time the witness's presence is expected to be required.
- (c) The foregoing notwithstanding, upon the motion of the public defender or other court-appointed counsel, the Court may authorize additional compensation for an expert witness for good cause shown.

DONE AND ORDERED at Key West, Monroe County, Florida, this
1 day of ~~July~~, 2007.

Aug.


Sandra Taylor, Chief Judge