C-1-PB-23-000001

Administrative Order	§	In the Probate Court
2023-12	§	
	§	Number One
[Amending Administrative Order signed March 6, 2007 and Administrative Order 2018-2 signed January 22, 2018.]	§	Travis County, Texas

Filed For Record
At 12:30 o'clock P M.
21 day of SEPT. 2023
Dyana Limon-Mercado
County Clerk, Travis County, Texas

D. MENDEZ

Order Setting Attorney Ad Litem Deposit at $600.00

On this date, the Court finds that given the increase in the customary hourly rates of attorneys serving as attorneys ad litem in Travis County, Texas, there is need to increase the deposit for services of an attorney ad litem in all cases before Travis County Probate Court No. 1 in which an attorney ad litem has been or will be appointed, including probate and guardianship cases.

It is the Court's duty to ensure that estates of decedents and wards pay only for "reasonable and necessary" attorney's fees and expenses, including the fees and expenses of an attorney ad litem. See Texas Estates Code §§ 352.051, 1155.054, & 1155.101. The factors to be considered in determining the reasonableness of attorney's fees are set forth in Rule 1.04 of the Texas Rules of Professional Conduct. One factor is the customary hourly rates of attorneys with similar education and skills performing similar services. The Court recently studied these rates and increased the Court-approved rates for attorneys practicing before the Court. As a consequence, the Court finds that the deposit required for the services of an attorney ad litem should be comparably increased.

It is therefore **ORDERED** that **effective October 1, 2023**, each applicant in a case filed in Travis County Probate Court No. 1 that requires the appointment of an attorney ad litem will be required to deposit $600.00 toward the services of the attorney ad litem. If the Court orders payment of less than $600.00, the excess will be refunded to the applicant. If the Court orders payment of more than $600.00, the order will indicate how the additional fee will be paid.

Signed September 21, 2023.

Guy Herman, Judge Presiding