

NO. M2024-1

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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IN THE PROBATE COURT

NO. THREE (3)

OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS:

1. Section 135.102 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that a person shall pay in a statutory county court, statutory probate court, or county court a fee on filing any probate, guardianship, or mental health case; and
2. Section 571.018 of the Texas Health & Safety Code requires costs to be billed by the clerk of the county conducting the hearings; and
3. Texas Attorney General Opinion KP-0464, dated May 13, 2024, states that the payment of filing fees associated with mental health cases must be paid at the time of filing unless a county is responsible for paying such fees;

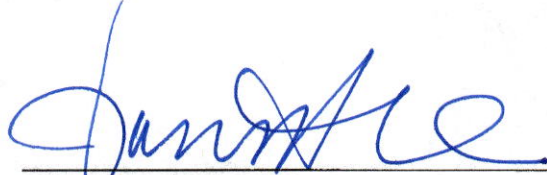
NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Harris County Clerk shall commence with the collection of filing fees for mental health cases with such fees collected and deposited into accounts as designated by the Harris County Auditor. It is further

ORDERED that the Harris County Clerk's Office, Harris County Probate Court #3, the Harris County Auditor, and the Harris County Attorney's Office shall collaborate to create an automated mechanism for the collection of such fees and for the disbursement of appointee fees. It is further ordered that such fees may be held in a separate Mental Health Appointee Fee Fund (MHAFF) account until the court orders their payment to the appointed individuals. It is further

ORDERED that the aforementioned offices shall collaborate to devise a reconciliation process related to the collection and disbursement of these funds. It is further

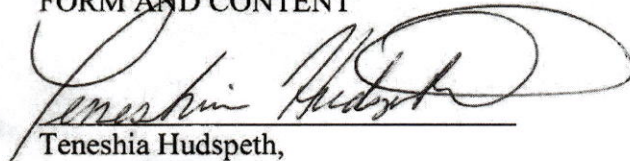
ORDERED that this order is effective immediately.

Signed this 8 day of October, 2024



JUDGE JASON COX
Harris County Probate Court No. 3 and
Local Administrative Judge of the
Harris County Probate and
Mental Health Courts

APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND CONTENT



Teneshia Hudspeth,
Harris County Clerk

Harris County Auditor's Office

Harris County Attorney's Office