

In the District Courts

of Williamson County, Texas

STANDING ORDER ON MOTIONS FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO INVESTIGATORS AND EXPERTS
IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BEFORE THE DISTRICT COURTS

The district judges presiding over criminal cases in Williamson County adopt this Standing Order for Criminal Matters in the District Courts, which shall apply in every criminal case unless otherwise ordered by the judge presiding over that particular case, effective October 1, 2024.

Expenses incurred related to use of an investigator or expert in the defense of a case shall follow the procedures set forth in the Williamson County District Courts and County Courts at Law Indigent Defense Plan ("IDC Plan") (*see* Sec. IX (B)(2) and (3)), including filing a motion for approval of such costs, submitted under seal as allowed by law.

Where a motion in support of these expenses (commonly called an "Ake" motion) is necessary:

- The motion must contain sufficient information to allow the Court to make an appropriate decision regarding (1) the need for an expert/investigator services, including specific facts that give rise to the need for these services, and (2) the funds necessary for these services. The estimated cost should include any and all costs/expenses that are projected to be incurred.
- Attorneys are responsible for monitoring the authorized use of funds and **should not approve services in excess of authorized funds.**
- If additional funds are needed, the Attorney must supplement their initial motion and seek Court approval **before such funds are expended.**
- Attorneys should take care to ensure that policies regarding travel are followed. *See* IDC Plan IX (B)(3)(b).
- Attorneys should review invoices related to expert/investigative services and should ensure that appropriate supporting documentation is included. *See* IDC Plan IX (B)(5)(a).

Signed this 19th day of September, 2024



Hon. Donna King
Judge, 26th District Court



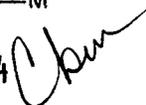
Hon. Stacey Mathews
Judge, 277th District Court



Hon. Sarah Bruchmiller
Judge, 368th District Court

FILED
at 11:15 o'clock a M

SEP 23 2024


District Clerk, Williamson Co., TX.