

STANDING ORDER REGARDING TAX ATTORNEY *AD LITEM* FEES

This Standing Order does not relate to any particular case but is, instead, applicable to all tax cases in which an Attorney *Ad Litem* is appointed and it governs the payment of the fee to be paid to a Tax Attorney *Ad Litem* appointed by the Court (the “*Ad Litem*”).

1. It is ORDERED that the guaranteed fee for the *Ad Litem* in a particular case is a flat fee of \$1,500.00 (the “Flat Fee”).
2. It is ORDERED that the Flat Fee reflects 10 hours at \$150.00/hour, *but* the Flat Fee is the minimum fee to be paid to the *Ad Litem* even if fewer than 10 hours is spent on the project.
3. It is ORDERED that if the *Ad Litem* claims only the Flat Fee on a case, then no supporting documentation is required for the Order Approving the *Ad Litem* Fee.
4. It is ORDERED that if the time spent by the *Ad Litem* is greater than 10 hours, then the Flat Fee remains the guaranteed fee for the first 10 hours of time spent by the *Ad Litem*, plus, for all hours greater than 10 hours, the time will be billed by the tenth of the hour at the rate of \$150.00/hour (the “Hourly Fee”).
5. It is ORDERED that in the event the *Ad Litem* uses the Hourly Fee, documentation of the time spent and the tasks performed *shall* be attached to the proposed Order Approving the *Ad Litem* Fee. It is further ORDERED that the Court will evaluate the documentation attached to the proposed Order and may use its discretion to adjust tasks or time on the fee which is ultimately approved, but, in no event, will the fee be less than \$1,500.00.
6. All Tax Attorney *Ad Litem*s recognize that their fees are not paid until the case reaches a settlement or the property is sold at a tax foreclosure sale so there is necessarily a delay in payment. It is ORDERED that all Attorneys representing taxing authority/ies and/or tax lien lending organization(s) are responsible for the payment of the Flat Fee or the Hourly Fee, as applicable, such that the Court will not waive those fees per a Motion to Dismiss and Waive Costs, but will, instead, characterize the *Ad Litem*’s Flat Fee or Hourly Fee, as applicable, as costs to be paid by the party/parties requesting appointment of the *Ad Litem*. It is further ORDERED that for any and all Motions to Dismiss and Waive Costs in cases where an *Ad Litem* was appointed, the filing Attorney representing taxing authority/ies and/or tax lien lending organization(s) must provide proof of payment of any Attorney *Ad Litem* fees with the Motion.

Signed: March 10, 2025



JUDGE KRISTIN BAYS
Presiding Judge of the 284th District Court