Cause No. O-04-006

Cause No. O-05-0003

FILED
'26 MAR 10 AM8:28:3
ELAINE H. CARDENA
COUNTY CLERK

HAYS COUNTY, TEXA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	§	**IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW**
2026-03	§	**No. 3**
	§	**HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS**

STANDING ORDER REGARDING DISBURSEMENT OF AD LITEM DEPOSITS

WHEREAS, the Hays County Courts at Law have established a standard deposit of **$600.00** into the Registry of the Court for the payment of Attorney Ad Litem fees; and

WHEREAS, efficiency in the administration of justice requires the prompt compensation of court-appointed attorneys without additional redundant motions for release of funds;

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Hays County Clerk shall disburse funds held in the Court Registry for Ad Litem fees upon the entry of **any order**—whether a standalone "Order Approving Ad Litem Fees" or a broader decree (including but not limited to an Order Declaring Heirship or Order Appointing Independent Administrator)—that contains a provision approving or awarding said fees. The Clerk is directed to act upon the fee award contained within such order without requiring a separate or additional "Order to Release Registry Funds":

1. **Total Fee Equal to Deposit:** If the approved fee is exactly **$600.00**, the Clerk shall disburse the full $600.00 from the registry to the Attorney Ad Litem.
2. **Total Fee Less Than Deposit:** If the approved fee is less than **$600.00**, the Clerk shall disburse the approved amount to the Attorney Ad Litem and shall refund the remaining balance to the party who originally made the deposit.
3. **Total Fee Greater Than Deposit:** If the approved fee is greater than **$600.00**, the Clerk shall disburse the full **$600.00** from the registry to the Attorney Ad Litem. The order approving said fees shall serve as a judgment for the remaining balance against the relevant party.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Administrative Order shall serve as the standing authorization for the County Clerk to release these specific funds without the requirement of a separate "Order to Release Registry Funds," provided that an Order Approving Ad Litem Fees has been signed by the Presiding Judge.

Signed March 09, 2026

Elaine Brown, Administrative Judge