

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY,  
PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: ADOPTION OF 2026

CP-21-MD-0000020-2022

COMPENSATION RATES FOR  
COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL,  
GUARDIANS *AD LITEM*,  
& HEARING OFFICERS

2025 NOV 12 AM 11:01  
CLERK OF COURT  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY PA

**FILED**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ADOPTING 2026 COMPENSATION RATES  
FOR COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL, GUARDIANS *AD  
LITEM*, and HEARING OFFICERS

AND NOW, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025, it is ORDERED that the following compensation rates shall apply for court-appointed services performed on or after January 1, 2026:

- 1) \$132 per hour for quasi-judicial appointments, including, but not limited to juvenile hearing officers; mental health review officers; custody conciliators; or for any other court-appointed service as a hearing officer or special master not specifically identified in this order;
- 2) \$88 per hour for counsel appointed to represent parties in civil proceedings;
- 3) \$88 per hour for counsel appointed to represent parties in orphans' court proceedings;
- 4) \$88 per hour for counsel appointed to serve as guardian *ad litem* in any proceeding, including dependency matters;
- 5) \$88 per hour for counsel appointed to serve as guardian of an incapacitated person in any proceeding;

- 6) \$88 per hour for counsel appointed to represent juveniles in non-homicide delinquency proceedings,
- 7) \$165 per hour for counsel appointed to represent defendants or juveniles charged with or alleged to have committed capital offenses, including PCRA and appeal therefrom;
- 8) \$132 per hour for counsel appointed to represent defendants or juveniles charged with or alleged to have committed non-capital homicide offenses (first, second and third degree);
- 9) \$88 per hour for counsel appointed to serve as PCRA counsel and appeal therefrom to represent defendants or juveniles convicted or adjudicated of a non-homicide offense or delinquent act;
- 10) \$88 per hour for any other court-appointed service as counsel, guardian, or guardian *ad litem* not specifically identified in this order;
- 11) \$661 flat fee for cases appointed under the criminal conflict panel. This flat fee covers the case from preliminary hearing through Formal Arraignment. Upon arraignment, conflict panel attorney will be compensated at \$88 per hour.
- 12) Appearance Fee. Should a court appointed attorney appear for a hearing at a Magisterial District Judge's office and the defendant has obtained private counsel without prior notice, Attorney shall be compensated as follows:
  - i) 1 hearing within any 60-minute period or formal arraignment coverage day with no appointments - \$70.00
  - ii) 2 or more hearings within any 60-minute period at same MDJ - \$70.00
- 13) \$88 per hour for Domestic Relations Contempt cases.
- 14) \$88 per hour for representation of witnesses in front of the Grand Jury.
- 15) ARBITRATION CHAIRMAN AND PANEL – The Chairman shall be paid the sum of \$213. Other members of the Board shall be paid \$160. In the

event the Board is vacated the Chairman shall receive an administrative fee of \$100.

16) PARENTING COORDINATOR – private pay fees:

- i) Meeting minimum qualifications set forth in 1915.11-1 (c) - \$155 per hour
- ii) 10 plus years of family law experience or relevant experience as a mental health professional - \$275 per hour

17) Court Appointed Guardian's Ad Litem - private pay fees:

- i) 0-5 years in practice - \$100 per hour
- ii) 5-10 years in practice - \$150 per hour
- iii) 10 or more years in practice - \$200 per hour

18) Parent's Attorneys in dependency (contract under review)

19) \$50 per hour for paralegal services

20) \$25 per hour for administrative services

#### Miscellaneous Expenses:

- 1) Travel
  - a. Attorney shall submit monthly to the Court Administrator the number of miles traveled by Attorney in carrying out his or her appointment.
  - b. Attorney shall be paid mileage at the County approved rate for each mile approved by the Court Administrator.
  - c. Travel Time may NOT be invoiced without prior leave of Court.
- 2) Costs
  - a. Postage, reproduction costs associated with Common Pleas level filings, briefs, and communication regarding the matter (not to exceed

\$0.25 per page); and trial material supplies shall be reimbursed by the County.

- b. All costs involved with an appeal to an appellate court of Pennsylvania submitted to the Court Administrator and approved by that office shall be paid by the County.

**Invoices:**

Attorney shall submit to the Court Administrator monthly invoices itemizing all billable hours, appearance fees and costs for the previous month by case name and/or number.

- Invoices must indicate the totals for the following on the first page:
- Total number of cases billed times the flat rate
- Hourly cases total
- Expenses (mileage plus costs) total
- Invoice total

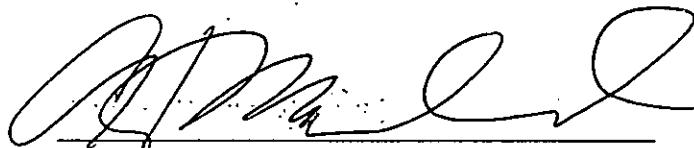
These compensation rates shall supersede rates listed appointment orders. All other aspects of the appointment orders remain in effect.

These compensation rates shall remain in effect until further order of this Court. All requests for payment must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following the month of service. Exceptions may be granted upon written application. Due to budgetary considerations, requests for payment for services performed December 1 through December 31 of any year shall be submitted to the Court no later than January 15 of the following year. No exceptions shall be granted. The Court may deny untimely payment petitions. The court-appointed

counsel shall apply to all stages of proceedings, including appeal and post-adjudication, unless specifically noted otherwise.

The district court administrator shall publish this order as may be required.

BY THE COURT,



Albert H. Masland, President Judge