

**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LASSEN**

**GENERAL ORDER
2015-02 – Amended December 29, 2015**

This Order rescinds General Order 2005-02

1. FEES FOR PRIVATE APPOINTED CONFLICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS.

It is hereby ordered that effective for work performed beginning January 1, 2016, private appointed indigent criminal defense and juvenile counsel assigned by the Lassen Superior Court shall be compensated as follows:

For First Degree Murder defense: \$100.00 per hour

For “Three Strike” (25 to Life) defense: \$85.00 per hour

For all other Felony defense: \$75.00 per hour

For all Juvenile Delinquency defense: \$70.00 per hour

For all Misdemeanor defense: \$65.00 per hour

For Writs: \$65.00 per hour

For Civil Contempt: \$65.00 per hour

For Misdemeanor Appeals: \$65.00 per hour

All counsel submitting fee claims shall give due regard in computing the time and amount thereof to the guidance of Penal Code section 987.2, where it is provided that an assigned attorney "...shall receive a reasonable sum for compensation and for necessary expenses, the amount of which shall be determined by the court..."

Counsel accepting appointment under this fee order shall do so with clear understanding that the court will make an independent determination of the necessity and justification for hours spent, and may reduce a claim for hours found not to be reasonably necessary for the representation of the defendant or spent on unfounded motions or procedures. In reviewing fee claims the court will consider the time spent and amount claimed with reference to the following:

- 1. Customary fees in the locality.**
- 2. Time reasonably required for the matter.**
- 3. Difficulty of the defense.**
- 4. Unusual legal issues dealt with.**
- 5. Degree of professional skill and experience required and exercised by counsel.**
- 6. The professional character, qualification, and standing of the attorney.**

Assigned counsel shall submit a COUNTY fee claim for that purpose, with all information requested thereon, only upon completion of the representation, unless prior court authorization for an incremental billing is obtained for good cause OR the claim is for representation related to reimbursement for costs of offenses related to prisons, claims for the latter must be submitted no later than six months after the close of the month in which the costs were incurred pursuant to PC 4758(c).

Counsel shall be compensated at one half the hourly rate for travel time if counsel's home office is located out of Lassen county. All out of county counsel must receive prior court authorization for travel compensation if counsel's home office is located more than 150 miles from Susanville.

Mileage is paid at the current state-approved travel rate for out of county counsel only, and prior court authorization must be received by any out of county counsel whose home office is located more than 150 miles from Susanville.

2. FEES FOR COUNSEL APPOINTED TO REPRESENT INDIGENT PARTIES IN JUVENILE DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS.

Court-appointed counsel, other than counsel employed by a public entity, for a parent or minor in any juvenile dependency proceeding shall be compensated as follows:

\$70.00 per hour.

Counsel accepting appointments in a juvenile dependency proceeding shall be in compliance with Rule 2 of the Local Juvenile Dependency Rules.

Counsel accepting appointments under this fee order shall do so with clear understanding that the court will make an independent determination of the necessity and justification for hours spent, and may reduce a claim for hours found not to be reasonably necessary for the purpose of the appointment or spent on unfounded motions or procedures. In reviewing fee claims the court will consider the time spent and amount claimed with reference to the following:

- 1. Customary fees in the locality.**
- 2. Time reasonably required for the matter.**
- 3. Difficulty of the defense.**
- 4. Unusual legal issues dealt with.**
- 5. Degree of professional skill and experience required and exercised by counsel.**
- 6. The professional character, qualification, and standing of the attorney.**

Assigned counsel shall submit a COURT fee claim upon a form provided for that purpose by the Court, with all information requested thereon, only upon completion of the representation, unless prior court authorization for an incremental billing is obtained for good cause.

3. FEES FOR PRIVATE COURT APPOINTED INDIGENT DEFENSE INVESTIGATORS.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Lassen has authorized the contracting of investigative services employed by the Public Defender and Chief Administrative Officer at the rate of Forty-five Dollars (\$45) per hour.

It is hereby ordered that effective for work performed from January 1, 2016, investigative services for indigent defense rendered pursuant to court authorization by the Lassen County Courts shall be compensated at the rate of Forty-five Dollars (\$45) per hour.

Persons accepting assignments under this fee order shall do so with the clear understanding that the court will make an independent determination of the justification and necessity for the hours spent, and may reduce a claim for hours found not to be reasonably necessary for the purpose of the assignment.

Indigent defense investigators shall submit a fee claim on a form provided for that purpose by the Court Administrator, with the signature of the attorney retaining the services attesting to the validity of the claim, and with all information requested thereon, only upon completion of the investigation, unless prior court authorization for an incremental billing is obtained by the attorney on behalf of the investigator for good cause.

Dated: _____

**Michele Verderosa
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court**