



**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, COUNTY DIVISION**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2013 - 02

GUARDIAN AD LITEM FEE SCHEDULE

EFFECTIVE March 15th, 2013, the following Guardian *ad Litem* ("GAL") fees schedule applies to all adoption cases filed on or after March 15th, 2013.

a) Uncontested Adoptions (Fixed Fees):

Type of Adoption	GAL FEES (without investigation)	GAL FEES (With investigation)
Related (non-DCFS)	\$250.00	325.00
Agency (including OACCA)	\$250.00	n/a
DCFS Cases ("Special Needs") (including subsequent adoptions of former wards)	\$150.00 (plus \$50 for each additional child; not to exceed \$250.00, unless otherwise authorized by the Court)	n/a
International (non -confirmations)	\$250.00	n/a
International (confirmations)	\$175.00	250.00
GAL for Minor Birth Parent	\$250.00	n/a
Petitioners with fee waivers (indigent pauper petitions)	\$25.00	25.00

In International (foreign-born) adoptions, "non-confirmation" refers to when a court has approved a guardian for the minor child and the child has not been previously adopted in a foreign country. "Confirmation" refers to when the formalities of a child adoption has already occurred in a foreign country.

b) Contested Adoptions or Extended uncontested Proceedings:

Unless otherwise limited by statute or Illinois Supreme Court Rules, in contested adoptions or unusually extended proceedings, an appointed GAL may receive the hourly fee of \$200.00 per hour, plus all reasonable costs, including, but not limited to travel expense at the current IRS mileage rate plus parking and tolls. The total hourly fees and costs charged sought herein shall be approved by the assigned Calendar Judge after a proper fee petition and notice. A GAL may request a retainer (Deposit) for fees and/or costs by filing a fee petition with the assigned Calendar Judge for approval. Fee Petitions should include an attached detailed itemized hours and amounts, including all individual costs. The allocation of fees among the parties is within the discretion of the assigned Calendar Court.

c) *Appointment as GAL for a Minor Parent Consenting to an Adoption.*

In all uncontested non-agency adoption cases, the GAL shall receive a fixed fee of up to \$250.00 for acting as GAL for the minor parent plus all reasonable costs, including, but not limited to travel expense at the current IRS mileage rate plus parking and tolls. If contested, the hourly fee is \$200 per hour, but the total fee shall not exceed \$5,000 for a court-approved pauper/indigent, pursuant to Supreme Court rule 299. A fee petition shall be filed for fees exceeding \$250 and court approval is required.

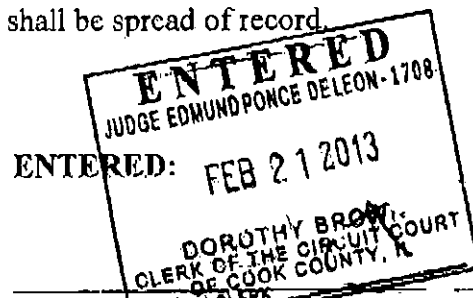
d) *Interviews or Home Visits:*

If the GAL conducts a necessary "in-court" interview or a home visit/interview, he or she shall be paid at the hourly rate of \$200.00 per hour, plus travel expense at the current IRS mileage rate plus parking and tolls. All hourly fees and costs must be approved by the assigned Judge by the filing of a fee petition, with proper notice.

e) *Pauper Fee Waiver Petitions:*

Pauper fee waiver petitioners pursuant to Supreme Court rule 298 must be filed with and approved by the Presiding Judge. Such petitions need not be filed with the Clerk's Office, and may be submitted as a routine motion to the Office of the Presiding Judge's Office, at the Daley Center, 55 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602, Suite 1701 for approval.

Entered this 21st day of February, 2013. This order shall be spread of record.



Judge Edmund Ponce de Leon
Presiding Judge, County Division

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