

WALKER COUNTY

ATTORNEY'S FEES, COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES IN CHILD PROTECTION CASES

The following fee schedule will govern for attorney's fee rates of compensation and expenses in child protection cases unless contrary instructions are issued by the respective court. While no fixed fee schedule can adequately anticipate the needs of clients, the actions involved in competent and zealous representation and the requirement for ethical conduct are outlined in the Texas Lawyer's Creed.

It is anticipated that attorneys will likely represent more than one client on court days. The following rate table shall apply to all non-dispositive court proceedings associated with child protection dockets, including but not limited to statutory hearings, per half day of court, or part thereof and which includes preparation time, travel time and attendance at the hearing (absent extraordinary circumstance which will require an exception from the court):

Activity	One Case	Two Cases	Three Cases	Each additional case
Non-dispositive court appearance, including statutory hearings, pretrial and agreed entry	\$125.00	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$75.00

Payment vouchers in the appropriate form, will be submitted for each case handled with the total fee charged being divided among the vouchers with notations documenting the split on each voucher. For example, if three cases are handled in the morning, the \$275.00 fee will be divided by three, one-third of which will be billed to each client fee voucher.

Compensation for contested bench and jury trials shall be \$325.00 for each half day of actual court attendance, or any part thereof.

Compensation for Permanency Planning Team meetings shall be \$125.00, which includes preparation time, travel time and attendance at the meeting. In the event multiple Permanency Planning Team meetings are scheduled on any given day, the following compensation shall apply for each half day of meetings, or part thereof:

Activity	One Case	Two Cases	Three Cases	Each additional case
Permanency Plan Team Meeting	\$125.00	\$200.00	\$275.00	\$75.00

Regarding court appearances, payment vouchers will be submitted for each case handled with the total fee charged being divided among the vouchers with notations documenting the split on each voucher.

Mileage to and from a Permanency Plan Team Meeting and to and from a client residence visit shall be charged at the State Mileage rate and distances found at <http://ecpa.cpa.state.tx.us/mileage/Mileage.jsp>. Mileage to and from court is not a chargeable expense. Any out of county meeting or visit which is more than 50 miles one way must be approved in advance by the court.

Additional compensation for attorney shall be made at the rate of \$75.00 per hour for out-of-court work and \$90.00 per hour for in-court work. Compensation for legal assistants and paralegals shall be at a rate of \$40.00 per hour. Administrative functions, such as scheduling, should be billed at the legal assistant/paralegal rate. Travel time for attorneys for out of county travel to visit a client shall be billed at a rate of \$40.00 per hour. Records shall be maintained by the attorney and vouchers submitted based on a one-tenth hour basis for billing.

Payment vouchers shall be submitted every thirty days. Payment vouchers which include requests for compensation and expenses for a time period more than 45 days from the date on which the payment voucher submitted must be accompanied by an explanation for the delay in submission. Payment vouchers which include requests for compensation and expenses for a time period more than 60 days prior to the submission of the payment voucher must be accompanied by an explanation for the delay in submission may be subject to denial of payment.

Prior court approval is necessary for any expert or investigator. Failure to obtain prior approval by the court to engage or retain any expert or investigator may be subject to denial of payment.

Expenses such as phone calls, copy paper, postage, email and other common office overhead shall not be considered a reimbursable expense without the express written approval of the Associate Judge or one of the District Judges.

PLEASE NOTE: In the event an attorney anticipates total compensation and expenses, combined, in any given matter will exceed \$3,000.00, the attorney is required to file a case management plan with the Associate Judge detailing the anticipated attorney's fees, mileage, discovery expenses and other costs that will be associated with the matter. Trial strategy and tactics are not to be disclosed and discussions of fees and expenses shall be ex parte, using similar rules customarily found in the criminal area. **Failure to file a case management plan may result in the attorney's fees and expenses being capped at \$3,000.00.** Case management plans are subject to review by the District Judge with whom the matter is filed.