

FILED

Cause No. O-05 -001

2025 JUL 15 AM 11:58

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

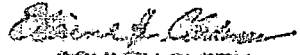
§

IN THE COUNTY COURT AT LAW

2025-07

§

No. 3

  
COUNTY CLERK  
HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

§

HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

### Order Setting Ad Litem Deposit at \$600.00

On this date, the Court finds there is a need to set a deposit for services of an-attorney ad litem in all cases before Hays County, County Court at Law No. 3 in which an attorney ad litem has been or will be appointed, including probate and guardianship cases.

It is the Court's duty to ensure that estates of decedents and wards pay only for "reasonable and necessary" attorney's fees, and expenses, including the fees and expenses of an attorney ad litem. See. Texas Estates Code §§ 352.051, 1155.054, & 1155.101; The factors to be considered in determining the reasonableness of attorney's fees are set forth in Rule 1.04 of the Texas Rules of Professional Conduct. One factor is the customary hourly rates of attorneys with similar education and skills performing similar services. The Court recently studied these rates and increased the Court-approved rates for attorneys practicing before the Court. As a consequence, the Court finds that the deposit required for the services of an attorney ad litem should be comparably increased.

It is therefore ORDERED that effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, each applicant in a case filed in Hays County, County Court at Law Court No. 3 that requires the appointment of an attorney ad litem will be required to deposit, into the County Clerk Registry, \$600.00 toward the services of the attorney ad litem. If the Court orders payment of less than \$600.00, the excess will be refunded to the applicant. If the Court orders payment of more than \$600.00, the order will indicate how the additional fee will be paid.

Signed July 15, 2025.



Elaine Brown, Judge Presiding