

# New Fees

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*by Lisa Langton  
Family Division Administrator -  
Probate/Juvenile Register*

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The following new practices are in effect with respect to Probate fees.

**Gross Estate Fee Remittance:**

When a payment of the gross estate fee (you may know this as the “inventory fee”) is made by check, please make sure the check is for the exact amount as calculated by the court’s cash register computer program. Many people call ahead to determine what their gross estate fee will be (although they can compute it themselves using the fee schedule found in the Revised Judicature Act, MCLA 600.871); however, oftentimes these amounts are rounded up or down. Starting immediately, overpayments will not be accepted. Many times a check is submitted for an inventory fee that is a few pennies higher than the amount owing. Although seemingly an insignificant amount, it does require additional work to report the overage. Underpayments may be supplemented by cash or check. It is strongly urged that you wait to write your check until you are at the counter to ensure that you are writing the check for the correct amount and will have no further difficulties with this.

**Filing Fees for Letters of Authority:**

As a result of an amendment to MCR 2.119 and the rescission of Administrative Order 1995-2, the court will no longer be providing a free certified copy of *Letters of Authority* or *Letters of Guardianship* to the fiduciary. Accordingly, on court days, please remember that each certified

copy, including the first letter, will now cost \$10. Our past practice as set forth in Administrative Order 1995-2 permitted the courts to provide the first certified *Letters of Authority* free. As this administrative order has been rescinded, the court is revising its policy to be consistent with the Administrative Order.

**Filing Fees for Multiple Requests:**

The good news is that while the court will no longer be providing a free copy of certified letters, the court will also no longer charge an additional \$20 fee when a request for appointment of a special personal representative, temporary guardian or temporary conservator is made on the same application or petition. Please remember, however, that the initiating fee of \$150 is still applicable.

The amendment to MCR 2.119 and the rescission of AO 1995-2 also clarifies the filing fees with respect to multiple motions or petitions. Accordingly, when you file multiple motions or petitions at the same time during a pending action, the total cost will be \$20 rather than \$20 per motion or petition.

All of the above became effective August 1, 2004, and the Oakland County Probate Court has posted notices to this effect at and around the counter for your review.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either Jill Koney Daly or me at your convenience. Stay tuned!