

Getting Paid

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



All attorneys, physicians and mental health professionals who serve the Oakland County Probate Court as court-appointed attorneys, guardians ad litem, or independent evaluators must submit a form entitled "Statement of Services and Order for Payment of Court Appointed Attorney, GAL or Independent Evaluation" to receive payment. As many of you are aware, the Oakland County Probate Court's "Fee Schedule" for the Estates and Mental Health Division became effective in April 1991 and was amended in 1992. The above-referenced Statement of Services form also serves to detail the fees paid for all services to which you may be appointed. You can obtain this form at our Web site (www.oakgov.com/probate) by clicking on "Info & Publications," then "Fees," and you will see the "Probate Payment Voucher for Court Appointed Attorneys/GAL/Independent Evaluations" form.

Please note that the form has sections where you may request extraordinary fees and excess travel. You may also find helpful Oakland County Probate Court publications, which can also be found under the "Info & Publications" section of our Web site. Click on the "Fees" line and you will see "Fee Schedule for Court Appointed Attorneys/Guardian Ad Litem/Independent Evaluations."

To ensure that your Statement for Services gets processed in a timely and efficient manner, please note:

- Take care to print or type the information completely, sign the form and double-check that the form is legible. If the form is not legible for our staff, it will be returned. Also note that faxed copies are not accepted.
- The Statement of Services can only be submitted after the court hearing unless the case has been dismissed and you have been released.
- **VERY IMPORTANT** – You must submit your Statement of Services within 60 days after you have been released or the case has been dismissed, whichever occurs first. If the Statement of Services is received after 60 days, you will NOT be paid for the services.

If the guardianship file that you have been appointed to has a companion conservatorship file, you must bill the conservatorship file first. If you are notified that the conservatorship file does not have sufficient funds to pay, you may submit your bill to the county with the statement and/or proof indicating why fees are not recoverable through the conservatorship file. For payment purposes, the Oakland County Probate and Circuit courts treat companion files as one case.

You will only receive payment for one case if the hearings are held on the same day. Some examples include:

- One child with both neglect and guardianship files;
- Sibling guardianships, regardless of whether they have the same file number;
- Companion guardianship or conservatorship files on a husband and wife.

Finally, you may request extraordinary fees in excess of the Fee Schedule. In order to do that you must provide an itemized Statement of Services form with the words "Extraordinary Fees" typed or printed at the top of the page. Please provide an explanation of the reasons for the request for review by court administration.

Please submit your Statement of Services forms when you have been appointed an attorney or GAL to: Debbie Thompson, Office of the Court Administrator, Oakland County Circuit Court, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Department 404, Pontiac, MI 48341-0404.

For Statement of Services for Independent Evaluations, please submit this form directly to: Oakland County Probate Court, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Department 457, Pontiac, MI 48341-0457, Attn: Kit Schatz (Mental Health Div.) for evaluations on mentally ill or developmentally disabled persons; or Attn: Pat Hays (Estates Div.) for evaluations on incapacitated individuals or protected individuals.

If you have any questions with regard to this process or these forms, please contact me at your convenience. Stay tuned!