



SAN PATRICIO COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 1
FEE GUIDELINES

FOR APPOINTED COUNSEL IN CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE CASES

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2023 FOR SERVICES RENDERED ON OR AFTER THAT DATE

Pursuant to C.C.P. Art. 26.05 and Texas Family Code 51.10, the following guidelines shall be used to claim attorney's fees for appointed counsel in criminal and juvenile cases. The goal of these payment guidelines is to assure quality representation for indigent persons charged with crimes in San Patricio County. Those cases appropriate for trial should be tried and those appropriate for a plea should be plead. Each judge reserves the right to deviate from these guidelines in particular cases where the amount or quality of work performed is substantially above or below the norm. Court-appointed attorneys remain attorneys of record until final disposition of their cases, to include the filing of an Order of Expunction within thirty (30) days of the date of verdict of "not guilty", unless a motion to withdraw or substitute counsel is granted.

FIXED RATES FOR MISDEMEANOR AND JUVENILE CASES

- Guilty Plea, Plea of True, or Dismissal - \$450.00
- Jury Trial, Non-Jury Trial, and contested motions— half day \$ 350.00; full day \$ 750.00
- Withdraw prior to case finalized - \$ 100.00
- Pre-File case DNF'd by the State - \$ 200.00
- Juvenile detention hearing - \$ 250.00
- Juvenile Adjudication/Disposition - \$ 450.00

HOURLY RATES

Hourly rate compensation for time spent by counsel for out of court or in court, found to be reasonable and necessary, shall be not less than \$40.00 per hour nor more than \$120.00 per hour. Total compensation per day shall not exceed \$750.00, or \$2,500 per case, unless the Court finds exceptional circumstances or that good cause exists for exceeding said total amount.

Hourly rate compensation for time spent by counsel in preparation and appeal of a cause to a higher court, found to be reasonable and necessary, shall be not less the \$40.00 per hour, nor more than \$120.00 per hour. Total compensation for time spent on appeal shall not exceed \$ 1,500.00, unless the Court finds exceptional circumstances or that good cause exists for exceeding said total amount.

EXTRAORDINARY CASES

It is recognized that there are cases which require extra work, such as those involving scientific investigations, complex forensics, significant documentation, and other measures. Attorneys should submit those cases for approval on an hourly basis as described above only after prior Court approval.

EXPENSES

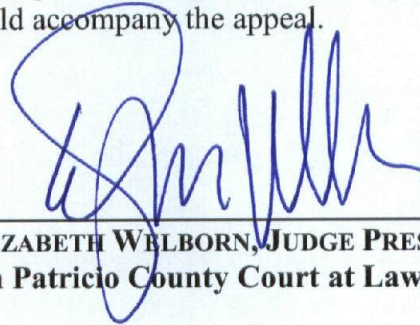
Court-appointed counsel will be compensated for all necessary expenses with prior approval as provided in the Indigence Defense Plan.

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT

Attorneys submitting fee vouchers shall use the current Attorney Fee Voucher and submit all vouchers within 30 days of disposition of the final case(s) or count(s). All cases and counts shall be submitted on the same voucher. Vouchers shall be submitted to the coordinator for approval from the judge who presided over the final disposition of the case(s) or count(s).

The judge presiding over the case for which the appointed attorney seeks compensation shall either approve the amount requested or enter written findings stating the amount of payment that the judge approved and each reason for approving an amount different from the requested amount.

An attorney whose request for payment is disapproved may appeal the disapproval by filing a motion with the presiding judge of the administrative judicial region as proved under Article 26.5(c) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. A copy of these guidelines should accompany the appeal.



**ELIZABETH WELBORN, JUDGE PRESIDING
San Patricio County Court at Law No.1**