

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
KNOX COUNTY, OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF
DOMESTIC RELATIONS
LOCAL COURT RULES

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FILED
KNOX COUNTY PLEAS
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2021 AUG 20 AM 11:11
CHRISTIE WELLS STATION
CLERK OF COURTS

Effective August 20, 2021, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT THE KNOX COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS RULE, 25.23- Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund** (time stamped on August 20, 2021) has been amended and the attached shall be made a part of the rules of court.



RICHARD D. WETZEL, JUDGE

KNOX COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO 43050

25.23 Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund. The Knox County Court of Common Pleas General Division and Domestic Relations Division has determined that it is necessary to create an Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund. The Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund has been created to ensure that indigent parties, in domestic relations actions where allocation of parental rights and/or parenting time is at issue, for whom the Court believes it is necessary to appoint a Guardian ad Litem pursuant to Superintendence Rule 48.02(F), are entitled to the same services as non-indigent parties, and to ensure that the Guardians ad Litem serving on indigent parties' cases can be and are paid for their services.

In order for a case to qualify for funds under the Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund, the Court must find that both parties in the case have income, calculated based on the definition of gross income used in R.C. 3119.01(C)(12), that is at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level for a single person household, and the parties do not have assets that can be easily liquidated to pay the fees. The Court, in its discretion, may determine a case eligible for the Indigent Guardian ad Litem Funds outside of these parameters on a case by case basis, but shall in no case use funds from the Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund where one party exceeds the guidelines for that party being deemed to be an indigent party pursuant to Revised Code sections 2323.31, 2323.311, 2323.33, and 2746.10.

In cases in which the Court determines that all parties qualify for the Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund, no deposit shall be required. The Court shall appoint a Guardian ad Litem in such cases, if appropriate, after considering the factors in Superintendence Rule 48.02(F). Compensation for Guardians ad Litem paid through the Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund shall be at a rate of \$50.00 per hour for out-of-Court services and \$60.00 per hour for in-Court services, plus expenses, subject to the rates and maximums prescribed by the State Maximum Fee Schedule for Appointed Counsel Reimbursement as adopted by Resolution

of the Knox County Board of Commissioners for Juvenile Proceedings. Total compensation to a Guardian ad Litem in an Indigent Guardian ad Litem Fund case shall not exceed \$1,000.00, unless leave from the Court is granted. Compensation for additional fees may be approved at the Court's discretion for cases involving additional litigation.