

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER A-2018-69-A

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR
SERVICES PROVIDED AS A PROFESSIONAL OR OTHER GUARDIAN**

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish uniform rates of compensation for the services of professional and other guardians in the several counties of the Fifth Judicial Circuit and upon review of rates of compensation in counties throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that such fees be uniform throughout the several counties of the Fifth Judicial Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the rate of payment for professional guardians has remained the same with no increases since December 2018; and

WHEREAS, the administrative judges of the Fifth Judicial Circuit find it appropriate to increase the rates and have agreed on an appropriate rate of compensation,

It is **THEREFORE ORDERED** and **ADJUDGED**:

1. Guardians who meet the definition as found in §744.102(17), Florida Statutes must currently be in compliance with the requirements of §§744.2002-2003, and 744.3135, Florida Statutes, and thereby will be classified, for purposes of this Order, as professional guardians.
2. Professional guardians shall be paid at a rate of \$85.00 per hour and professional guardians with five years or more experience paid at a rate of \$95.00 per hour, pro rata, for all reasonable and necessary work performed for all guardianships which qualify them, pursuant to §744.102 (17), Florida Statutes, as professional guardians.
3. All other guardians shall be paid at a rate of \$20.00 per hour, pro rata, for all reasonable and necessary work performed for the guardianship(s).
4. All billings shall be in increments of one tenth of an hour.
5. Prior to payment, all guardians are required to apply for and obtain court approval by petition, including a detailed description of the work performed and the time expended in the performance of the services. A petition for fees shall include the period covered and the total amount of all prior fees paid or costs awarded to the Guardian in the guardianship proceeding currently before the Court. Petitions shall be reviewed without necessity of a hearing, provided that there has been compliance with all current Administrative Orders,

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however, the Guardian shall be entitled to hearing if there are any adjustments or objections to fees or costs for which approval has been requested.

6. Petitions will be reviewed by the Court or its delegate in order to determine the reasonableness of the time spent to perform the work.
7. All Guardians will be reimbursed for mileage at the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate for business miles at the time services are performed.
8. The rate of compensation shall apply to all compensable services rendered and costs incurred as of the date of this Order and until further Order of the Court. Orders that have been already entered approving guardian's fees for services rendered on or after the date of this order shall not, however, be subject to modification based purely on the terms of this Administrative Order.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida on this 6th day of February 2026.


Daniel B. Merritt, Jr.
Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida