

**Memo**

**To:** Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Appointed Counsel and Guardians ad Litem  
**From:** Anthony Hurst, Senior Staff Attorney  
**cc:** Thomas F. O'Malley, Administrative Juvenile Court Judge; Tim McDevitt, Court Administrator; Sarah Cigic, Deputy Court Administrator  
**Date:** August 29, 2022  
**Re:** New Policy Regarding Late Fee Bill Submissions

As you aware by now, Cuyahoga County Council approved a rate increase for assigned counsel that practice in the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, General Division, and the Eighth District Court of Appeals ("the Courts").

The Courts are also in the process of revising their respective fee bill policies accordingly. Please be advised that effective Friday, September 30, 2022, the Courts will no longer process assigned counsel fee bills for payment if the *Motion for Approval of Payment of Appointed Counsel Fees and Expenses* is filed after thirty (30) days from the dispositional hearing in an effort to timely comply with the Ohio Public Defender's (OPD) *Standards and Guidelines for Appointed Counsel Reimbursement*. In other words, fee bills will no longer be reduced in-half if submitted beyond the 30-day deadline for payment. This applies to all assigned counsel and guardians ad litem fee bills in which the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court receives reimbursement from the OPD. In the disposition box, assigned counsel/GALs are to write "PENDING," if the jurist is taking the matter under advisement before issuing a final ruling, which is still the standard, continued practice of the Juvenile Court when submitting fee bills.

The OPD adheres to a mandatory 90-day timeline for Ohio courts to submit their respective fee bills for reimbursement. This 30-day deadline will ensure the Courts can submit their fee bills for reimbursement to allow enough time to comply with OPD policy. For example, assigned counsel has 30-days from the dispositional hearing to submit a timely fee bill. The Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court has 30-days to timely process the fee bill for submission to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer. Finally, the Fiscal Office has 30-days to timely submit the fee bills to the OPD in Columbus, for a total of 90-days.

We understand there will be frustration and disappointment in this new policy; however, this is to ensure the Courts can comply with the OPD's standards and guidelines going forward. I also want to encourage you to please contact Karen Childs ( [kchilds@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:kchilds@cuyahogacounty.us) / 216- 443-3517), Kia Tolliver ( [stolliver@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:stolliver@cuyahogacounty.us) / 216-344-2822 ), or myself, if you ever need immediate attention to your fee bills, or any other fee bill related questions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.