

WALKER COUNTY COURT AT LAW FEE GUIDELINES

FOR APPOINTED COUNSEL IN MISDEMEANOR CRIMINAL CASES AND JUVENILE CASES

EFFECTIVE 07/01/15 FOR SERVICES RENDERED ON OR AFTER THAT DATE

Pursuant to C.C.P. Art. 26.05, the following guidelines shall be used to claim attorney's fees for appointed counsel in misdemeanor criminal cases. The goal of these guidelines is to assure quality representation for indigent persons charged with misdemeanor crimes in Walker County. Those cases appropriate for trial should be tried and those cases appropriate for plea should be pled. Attorneys should become familiar with the Walker County Indigence Plan for additional guidance.

FIXED RATES

These fees will be the standard compensation for the following services:

Plea Bargain/Dismissal/Adjudication	\$300	\$100 for each additional case
MTR/MTA, Suppression, Sentencing or Other Contested Hearing	\$90 per hour	\$300 maximum
Hearing Preparation	\$150	
Bench or Jury Trial	\$300 per ½ day	
Trial Preparation	\$500	
Appeals	\$75 per hour	\$1,500 maximum

HOURLY RATES (Out of Court \$75 per hour, In Court \$90 per hour)

When a fixed rate is provided above an hourly rate claim will ordinarily not be approved without prior court approval. Claims for payment should reflect time expended to the nearest 1/10th of an hour. If an hourly rate is approved, an itemized statement reflecting the date, service performed, and time expended, must be submitted with the request for payment form. Approval by the court shall be in accordance with the Walker County Court at Law Indigence Defense Plan.

EXPENSES

Court appointed counsel will be compensated for all reasonable and necessary expenses as provided in the Walker County Court at Law Indigence Defense Plan.

REQUESTS FOR PAYMENTS

Attorney Fee Vouchers shall be submitted at the time the case is disposed of except for trials. Requests for payment after trials should be submitted within five working days

of the conclusion of the case. Payment for all of a defendant's cases should be requested on one form.

EXAMPLES

1. Attorney is appointed to defendant and appears at arraignment, 1st pretrial, 2nd pretrial and then enters into a plea bargain at docket call. Attorney will receive \$300 for the case.
2. Attorney is appointed to defendant on an MTR and appears at arraignment, 1st pretrial, motions and enters in to a plea bargain on the date of the MTR hearing but prior to conducting said hearing. Attorney will receive \$300 for the case.
3. Attorney is appointed to defendant and appears at arraignment, 1st pretrial, motions, has a motion to suppress that lasts 1.5 hours and then enters into a plea bargain at docket call. Attorney will receive \$135 for the suppression hearing, \$150 for hearing preparation and \$300 for the plea for a total of \$585 for the case.
4. Attorney is appointed to defendant and appears at arraignment, 1st pretrial, motions, has a motion to suppress that lasts 1.5 hours, appears for docket call, has a jury trial that lasts 1 day, requests a PSI and has a sentencing hearing at a later date that lasts 1.0 hour. Attorney will receive \$135 for the suppression hearing, \$150 for hearing preparation, \$600 for 1.0 day jury trial, \$500 for trial preparation, \$90 for the sentencing hearing and \$150 for sentencing hearing preparation a total of \$1,625 for the case.
5. Attorney is appointed to defendant and appears at arraignment and finds the case to be complicated due to extensive medical issues with the defendant. Attorney files notice with the court for compensation as an extraordinary case requesting to be allowed to bill at an hourly rate. Attorney keeps accurate time slips to the 1/10th of an hour and will be paid at the rate of \$75 for each out of court hour and \$90 for each in court hour plus expenses.