

**Joint Order Adopting Fee Schedule for  
Court-Appointed Attorneys Providing Indigent Defense in the  
District Courts of Williamson County**

*Effective November 1, 2021, fees for indigent defense by court-appointed attorneys adopted by the District Court Judges hearing criminal cases are as follows:*

<b>Fixed Fee Schedule for Non-Trial Dispositions in Felony Cases (Plea and Sentence; Discovery and Dismissal; &amp; Motions to Adjudicate or Revoke Probation)</b>	
State Jail & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree ("C" List cases)	\$600.00 per case
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree ("B" List cases)	\$750.00 per case
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree ("A" List cases)	\$1,000 per case
Capital Murder Cases ( <i>regardless of whether the State pursues death penalty</i> )	No fixed fee, hourly rate only. See below.
<b>Additional cases for same Defendant</b>	
Arising out of same arrest/transaction	\$250.00 per additional case (note: to be submitted on same voucher)
Arising out of new arrest/transaction	Regular rate as listed above
<b>Additional Fees for Fixed Rate Cases</b>	
Cases with Spanish Speaking Defendant	\$150.00 additional per case
Mental Health Wheel Cases	\$300.00 additional per case
Writ Hearings with Witnesses	\$250 additional per hearing
Evidentiary Pretrial Hearing w/witnesses	\$600 per full day hearing, \$300 per ½ day hearing
<b>Hourly Fee Schedule for Non-Trial Dispositions in Felony Cases (Plea and Sentence; Discovery and Dismissal; &amp; Motions to Adjudicate or Revoke Probation)</b>	
<i>Counsel appointed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree ("B" List) Cases and 1<sup>st</sup> Degree ("A" List) cases may bill on an hourly basis for services rendered. If counsel elects to bill on an hourly basis, counsel shall submit itemized invoices reflecting the date, service performed, and time expended to the nearest 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an hour, based on the fee schedule below, and up to the maximum cap.</i>	
<b><i>**Fees in excess of the cap must be specifically approved by the court <u>in advance of being incurred</u>.**</i></b>	
State Jail and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree cases shall ordinarily be paid based on the fixed fee schedule above. In limited circumstances, for non-standard cases, the Court may authorize payment based on hourly billing in advance of costs being incurred.	
Non-Standard 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree and SJF Cases ("C" List Cases)	<i>Hourly Billing Rate</i> \$100.00 per hour, with a cap of \$1,000 per case
2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree ("B" List cases)	<i>Hourly Billing Rate</i> \$125.00 per hour, with a cap of \$1,500 per case.
1 <sup>st</sup> Degree ("A" List cases)	<i>Hourly Billing Rate</i> \$155.00 per hour, with a cap of \$2,500 per case.
Capital Murder Cases ( <i>regardless of whether the State pursues death penalty</i> )	\$197.00 per hour

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<b>Fee Schedule for Cases Disposed by Trial</b>	
<i>First Chair/Co-Counsel</i>	
Full Day	\$1,200.00
½ Day	\$600.00
Trial Preparation Hours	\$125.00 per hour for 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree and below, \$155.00 per hour for 1 <sup>st</sup> degree cases \$197.00 per hour for Capital cases
<i>Second Chair</i>	
Full Day	\$600.00
½ Day	\$300.00
Trial Preparation Hours <i>Defined as substantive contributions to the defense of the case.</i>	\$100.00 per hour for 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree and below, \$125.00 per hour for 1 <sup>st</sup> degree cases \$150.00 per hour for Capital cases
<b>Felony Appeals</b>	
Appeals from trial or other contested matter	\$155 per hour with a cap of \$5,500 per case. <i>Fees in excess of this cap must be specifically approved by the court in advance of being incurred.</i>
<b>Investigator Fees</b>	
<i>Note: Investigators will not be paid for time in court without prior authorization from the District Judge.</i>	
"A-List" cases (1 <sup>st</sup> degree felonies) and Capital cases	May expend up to \$750 in investigator fees without court authorization at the rate of \$75.00 per hour
All other felony cases	\$75.00 per hour <i>with prior court approval.</i>

**Note:** The court may approve additional expenditures upon good cause shown and reserves the discretion to deviate upward or downward in awarding an attorney fee (whether by the hour or by the total awarded fee) depending upon the time and labor required, the complexity of the case and the experience and ability of the appointed counsel.

Adopted this 14th day of October 2021



Hon. Donna King  
Judge, 26<sup>th</sup> District Court



Hon. Stacey Mathews  
Judge, 277<sup>th</sup> District Court



Hon. Rick Kennon  
Judge, 368<sup>th</sup> District Court



Hon. Ryan Larson  
Judge, 395<sup>th</sup> District Court



Hon. Betsy Lambeth  
Judge, 425<sup>th</sup> District Court











# 2021 Fee Schedule for Court Appointed Attorneys

Final Audit Report

2021-10-14

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