

**IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT FOR  
DESOTO, MANATEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2004-14.3  
(Amends 94-06B-3)**

**In re: ATTORNEYS FEES FOR SPECIALLY  
APPOINTED PUBLIC DEFENDERS**

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**WHEREAS**, sections 27.53 and 925.035, Florida Statutes (2003) require the appointment of special public defenders to represent defendants charged with a crime and who have been found to be indigent. Section 925.036, F.S. provides that these lawyers be compensated at an hourly rate fixed by the chief judge in an amount not to exceed the prevailing hourly rate for similar representation rendered in the circuit. The last order fixing such hourly rate was entered on August 5, 1994, and the one prior to that was entered on July 1, 1982.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that effective July 1, 2004, the hourly rate for which attorneys appointed pursuant to sections 27.53 and 925.035, F.S. will be compensated is \$60.00 per hour for work done outside of the courtroom; and \$75.00 per hour for time spent in court.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that pursuant to the provisions of section 925.036, F.S., compensation for representation shall not exceed the following:

- (a) For misdemeanors and juveniles represented at the trial level: \$1,000.
- (b) For noncapital, nonlife felonies represented at the trial level: \$2,500.
- (c) For life felonies represented at the trial level: \$3,000.
- (d) For capital cases represented at the trial level: \$3,500.
- (e) For representation on appeal: \$2,000.

It is acknowledged that case law holding that a fee cap may be exceeded in exceptional circumstance may apply in a particular case. All administrative orders not in conflict with this order shall remain in full force and effect.

**DONE and ORDERED** in Sarasota County, Florida, on this 29th day of June, 2004.

*Original Signed & Filed with Clerk of Court*

Robert B. Bennett Jr., Chief Judge

Original to: Clerk of Circuit Court, Sarasota County

Copies to: Justice Administrative Commission

Court Administrator's Office

Clerk of Court, Manatee County

Clerk of Court, DeSoto County

FACDL

All Judges

Twelfth Circuit Article V Indigent

Services Committee