

Florida Justice Administrative Commission

227 N. Bronough Street, Suite 2100

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Telephone: (850) 488-2415

Website: www.justiceadmin.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 1, 2019

UPDATE

RE: JAC Funding Shortfall Will Temporarily Delay Payments for Indigent Representation in Florida

Tallahassee, FL {May 1, 2019} – The Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) exhausted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 funding appropriated by the Legislature to pay for court-appointed expenditures on April 15th. As a result, payment of these bills will be temporarily delayed. This includes payments to private court-appointed attorneys and associated due process service vendors (e.g., court reporters, investigators, interpreters, and expert witnesses) and reimbursements to indigent for costs attorneys.

Although funds for state-funded indigent representation are currently unavailable, JAC will continue to review and process court-appointed bills to ensure they are ready for payment as soon as funds are available. JAC is also working with the Department of Financial Services to expedite their audit of court-appointed bills, so that all compliant bills will be paid immediately once funding is available.

The Florida Legislature has proposed \$15.6 million in supplemental funding to address JAC's Court-Appointed funding shortfall in Senate Bill (SB) 2500. Final passage of SB 2500 may be as late as Monday, May 6, 2019. All bills approved by the Legislature are submitted to the Governor for review and consideration. If SB 2500 is signed into law with the supplemental funding intact, funding will be available in late May or early June 2019 to make court-appointed payments.

As required by law, all JAC contracts include provisions specifying that payments are contingent upon funds annually appropriated by the Legislature. JAC sincerely regrets that payments cannot be made in the normal expedient manner; however, as soon as funds are appropriated and released to JAC, approved bills will be paid.

As additional information becomes available, updates will be provided on JAC's public website at www.justiceadmin.org and on JAC's Facebook page.

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