



# Florida Justice Administrative Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **UPDATE**

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

Tallahassee, FL {June 7, 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 continues to review and process court-appointed bills to ensure they are ready for payment as soon as funds are made available. JAC has also coordinated with the Department of Financial Services to expedite their audit of court-appointed bills, so that compliant bills will be paid soon after funding is available.

*On May 6, 2019, the Florida Legislature approved \$15.6 million in supplemental funding to address JAC's Court-Appointed funding shortfall in Senate Bill 2500 (SB 2500). However, the Legislature has not yet presented SB 2500 to the Governor for his signature. As a result, JAC does not have an estimated timeline for when funds will be available at this time.*

*Once SB 2500 is presented to the Governor, JAC will issue a press release notifying all JAC Court-Appointed Attorneys and Due Process Services Vendors. JAC will also issue a press release once the Governor takes action on SB 2500.*

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 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](http://www.justiceadmin.org) and on JAC's Facebook page.

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