

CHAPTER 12  
CLAIMS FOR INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES

**493—12.1(13B,815) Scope.** This chapter sets forth the rules for submission, payment and court review of indigent defense fee claims. See 493—Chapter 7 for definitions of terms used in this chapter.

**12.1(1)** The state public defender will pay from the indigent defense fund attorney fees and costs for the following types of cases: commitment of sexually violent predators under Iowa Code chapter 229A; contempts; postconviction relief proceedings to the extent authorized under Iowa Code chapter 822; juvenile justice under Iowa Code section 232.141(3)(c); guardians ad litem for children in juvenile court under Iowa Code chapter 600 or respondents under Iowa Code chapter 600A; filing by an indigent party of an adoption petition under Iowa Code section 600.3 to adopt a child who was the subject of a termination of parental rights proceeding under Iowa Code chapter 232; fees for appellate attorneys under Iowa Code section 814.11; fees to attorneys under Iowa Code section 815.7; fees for court-appointed counsel under Iowa Code section 815.10; violation of probation or parole under Iowa Code chapter 908; indigent's right to transcript on appeal under Iowa Code section 814.9; indigent's application for transcript in other cases under Iowa Code section 814.10; and special witnesses for indigents under Iowa Code section 815.4.

**12.1(2)** The state public defender will not pay for the costs for any type of administrative proceeding or any other proceeding under Iowa Code chapter 598, 600, 600A, 633, or 915 or other provisions of the Iowa Code.

**12.1(3)** The Iowa Code requires the state public defender to approve only those indigent defense fee claims that are reasonable and appropriate under applicable statutes. In exercising this duty, the state public defender publishes rules and makes judgments considering what is statutorily permitted, fair for claimants, fair for indigent clients (who, by law, are required to reimburse the state for the costs of their defense to the extent they are reasonably able to pay such costs), and consistent with good stewardship of public appropriations.

[ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14; ARC 6055C, IAB 11/17/21, effective 12/22/21]

**493—12.2(13B,815) Submission and payment of attorney claims.**

**12.2(1)** *Required claim documents.* Court-appointed attorneys shall submit electronic indigent defense fee claims to the state public defender for review, approval and payment. These claims shall include the following:

*a.* The completion of the appropriate claim type on the online submission website of the state public defender, [spdclaims.iowa.gov](http://spdclaims.iowa.gov).

(1) Adult fee claims, including all trial-level criminal and postconviction relief proceedings, misdemeanor appeals to district court, and applications for discretionary review or applications for interlocutory appeals to the Iowa supreme court, must be submitted on an Adult form. Juvenile fee claims, including petitions on appeal and applications for interlocutory appeals, must be submitted on a Juvenile form. Appellate fee claims, including claims for all criminal and postconviction relief appeals, work performed after the granting of an application for discretionary review or for interlocutory appeal, and work performed after full briefing is ordered following a juvenile petition on appeal, must be submitted on an Appellate form.

(2) The state public defender, at the state public defender's sole discretion, may grant limited exceptions to the requirement that claims be submitted electronically via the online claims website.

*b.* A copy of all orders appointing the attorney to the case.

(1) The appointment order must be signed by the court and either dated by the court or have a legible file-stamp.

(2) If, at the time of appointment, the attorney does not have a contract to represent indigent persons in the type of case and the county in which the action is pending, the appointment order must include either a finding that no attorney with a contract to represent indigent persons in that specific type of case and that county is available or a finding that the state public defender was consulted and consented to the appointment.

(3) Claims for probation or parole violations and contempt actions are considered new cases, and the attorney must submit a copy of an appointment order for these cases. Appointment orders in parole violation cases must also contain the following findings:

1. The alleged parole violator requests appointment of counsel;
2. The alleged parole violator is indigent as defined in Iowa Code section 815.9;
3. The alleged parole violator, because of lack of skill or education, would have difficulty in presenting the alleged violator's version of a disputed set of facts, particularly when presentation requires the examining or cross-examining of witnesses or the offering or dissecting of complex documentary evidence; and
4. The alleged parole violator has a colorable claim that the alleged violation has not been committed, or there are substantial reasons which justify or mitigate the violation and make revocation inappropriate.

(4) If the venue is changed in a juvenile case, an order appointing the attorney in the new county must be submitted.

(5) A new appointment order is not necessary for trial counsel to request or resist an interlocutory appeal or an application for discretionary review.

(6) A new appointment order is not necessary to pursue or respond to a juvenile petition on appeal if the attorney was properly appointed to represent the client in juvenile court. If the original trial counsel withdraws or is removed from the case, the new appellate counsel must attach an order appointing the attorney for the appeal.

(7) An appointment order is not necessary if the state public defender determines the appointment order is unnecessary.

*c.* A copy of any application and court order authorizing the attorney to exceed the attorney fee limitations.

*d.* A copy of any court order that affects the amount to be paid or the client's right to counsel.

*e.* A copy of the dispositional order, the order granting a motion to withdraw prior to disposition, procedendo, or other court order documenting the "date of service" for the claim.

*f.* An itemization detailing all work performed on the case for which the attorney seeks compensation and all expenses incurred for which the attorney seeks reimbursement.

(1) The itemization must state the date and amount of time spent on each activity. Time must be reported in tenths of an hour. Time shall be rounded to the nearest tenth of an hour. For example, an attorney spending ten minutes performing an activity shall bill 0.2 hours, while an attorney spending seven minutes performing an activity shall bill 0.1 hours. The time spent on each activity must be separately itemized, except that one or more activities on the same day, each taking less than 0.1 hours, must be aggregated together with other activities so that the aggregate amount billed is at least 0.1 hours. If an attorney performs only a single activity taking less than 0.1 hours for a client on a day, the attorney may bill 0.1 hours regardless of the precise length of time spent on the activity. If an attorney performs multiple related activities on the same day, such as multiple email or telephone exchanges, the activities must be aggregated together if separately itemizing the activities would result in claiming more time than the attorney actually spent performing the activities.

(2) The itemization shall separately designate time claimed for in-court time, out-of-court time, paralegal time and travel time.

(3) If another attorney performed any of the work, the itemization shall specify the name of the attorney performing each activity and the named attorney's AT number.

(4) The itemization must be in chronological order.

(5) If the attorney seeks reimbursement for expenses incurred, the itemization must separately state each expense incurred, including any specific information required by rule 493—12.8(13B).

(6) The itemization shall be submitted electronically via the Attorney Hours grid on the appropriate claims submission page on the online claims website. Separate electronic attachments of itemizations will not be accepted.

*g.* If the attorney was privately retained to represent the client prior to appointment, a copy of any representation agreement, written notice of the dollar amount paid to the attorney, and an itemization of services performed and how any funds provided were spent during the period prior to the court

appointment. The state public defender will review the amount paid and hours spent before and after the court appointment in determining the appropriate attorney compensation on the claim.

**12.2(2) *Failure to submit required documents.*** Submitted claims for which the entire claim form has not been properly completed or which do not include the documents required by subrule 12.2(1) may be returned to the attorney for additional information and resubmission within the time required by paragraph 12.2(3)“d.” If the attorney fails to submit all the required documentation to support a claim, the state public defender may request additional information or may deny all or a portion of the claim.

**12.2(3) *Timely claims required.*** Claims submitted prior to the date of service shall be returned to the claimant unpaid and may be resubmitted to the state public defender after the date of service. Claims that are not submitted within 45 days of the date of service as defined in this subrule may be denied, in whole or in part, as untimely unless the delay in submitting the claim is excused by paragraph 12.2(3)“f.” Attorney fees and expenses that are submitted on a claim denied as untimely under this subrule may be resubmitted on a subsequent claim that is timely submitted with respect to a subsequent date of service in the same case. For purposes of this subrule, a probation, parole, or contempt proceeding is not the “same case” as the underlying proceeding.

*a. Adult claims.* For adult claims, “date of service” means the date of filing of an order indicating that the case was dismissed or the client was acquitted or sentenced, the date of filing of an order granting a deferred judgment or prosecution, the date of filing of a final order in a postconviction relief case, the date of mistrial, the date on which a warrant was issued for the client, or the date of filing of a court order authorizing the attorney’s withdrawal from a case prior to the date of a dismissal, acquittal, sentencing, or mistrial. The filing of a notice of appeal is not a date of service. If a motion for reconsideration is filed, either the date of filing of the motion or the date on which the court rules on that motion is the date of service. In a probation, parole or contempt proceeding, the date of service is the date of filing of the disposition order or an order granting a continued disposition. In a subsequent review or compliance proceeding under the same appointment, a new date of service is created if the new proceeding generates an order. In a probation revocation proceeding that results in the revocation of a deferred judgment, a judgment of conviction is entered and the date of service is the date of the judgment. For interim adult claims authorized by subrule 12.3(3) or 12.3(4), the date of service is the last day on which the attorney claimed time on the itemization of services.

*b. Juvenile claims.* For juvenile claims, “date of service” means the date of filing of an order as a result of the dispositional hearing or most recent postdispositional hearing that occurs while the client is still an active party in the case, the date on which the client ceased to be a party, the date of a court order authorizing the attorney’s withdrawal from a case prior to the filing of the final ruling with respect to the client, the date jurisdiction is waived to adult court, the date on which the venue is changed, the date of dismissal, or the file-stamped date of a procedendo resulting from a petition on appeal. The date of a family drug court meeting, family team meeting, staffing, or foster care review board hearing is not a date of service.

*c. Appellate claims.* For appellate claims, “date of service” means the date of a court order authorizing the attorney’s withdrawal prior to the filing of the proof brief, the date on which the proof brief was filed, or the date on which the procedendo was issued.

*d. Notices of action and returned claims.* For claims of any type that are filed as a result of a notice of action letter or a returned fee claim letter, “date of service” means the date of the notice of action letter or returned fee claim letter. But a claim that is denied as untimely does not become timely merely because it was resubmitted within 45 days of a returned fee claim letter. A timely claim returned to the attorney for additional information shall continue to be deemed timely only if resubmitted with the required information within 45 days of being returned by the state public defender.

*e. Court orders.* For claims of any type that are filed as a result of a court order after hearing for review of the fee claim, “date of service” means the file-stamped date of the order.

*f. Exceptions to the 45-day rule.* The state public defender may in the state public defender’s sole discretion approve a claim that was not submitted within 45 days of the date of service only if the delay in submitting the claim was caused by one of the following circumstances:

- (1) The death of the attorney;

(2) The death of the spouse of the attorney, a child of the attorney, or an employee of the attorney who was responsible for assisting in the preparation of the attorney's fee claims;

(3) A serious illness, injury, or other medical condition that prevents the attorney from working for more than 3 consecutive days and occurs in the last 5 days before the expiration of the 45-day period for timely claims;

(4) The attorney's need to care for the attorney's spouse or child with a serious illness, injury, or other medical condition that prevents the spouse or child from working, attending school, or performing other regular daily activities for more than 3 consecutive days and occurs in the last 5 days before the expiration of the 45-day period for timely claims.

(5) Other circumstances in which the state public defender determines, in the sole discretion of the state public defender, that enforcement of the 45-day rule would impose an undue burden and that payment of the claim should in fairness be made, in whole or in part. The state public defender, in the exercise of such discretion, may consider factors including, but not limited to:

1. The extent to which the 45-day rule was violated;
2. The justification provided by the attorney;
3. The attorney's claim history;
4. The extent of prejudice likely to be experienced by the attorney, the state public defender, and any party to the proceeding, including the attorney's client.

Any claim submitted pursuant to subparagraph (1) must be submitted within 45 days of the death of the attorney. Any claim submitted pursuant to subparagraph (2) must be submitted within 30 days of the death that caused the delay. Any claim submitted pursuant to subparagraph (3) or (4) must be submitted within 15 days of the end of the illness, injury, or medical condition that caused the delay. An attorney claiming an exception to the 45-day rule shall submit with the claim a letter explaining the applicable exception and written documentation supporting the exception.

**12.2(4)** *Valid appointment required.* Claims for compensation from an attorney appointed as counsel or guardian ad litem may be denied if the attorney was appointed contrary to Iowa Code section 814.11 or 815.10. Claims for which court-appointed counsel at state expense is not statutorily authorized or which are not payable from the indigent defense fund created by Iowa Code section 815.11 shall be denied.

*a. Appellate appointments.* Claims for compensation from an attorney whose appointment as counsel or guardian ad litem at the appellate level does not comply with Iowa Code section 814.11 may be denied in whole or in part.

*b. Trial-level designations.* Claims by an attorney whose appointment in a case as counsel or guardian ad litem at the trial level was made on or after July 1, 2009, may be denied in whole or in part if the state public defender filed a designation effective at the time of the appointment designating a local public defender, nonprofit corporation, or attorney to represent indigent persons in that type of case in the county in which the case was filed, unless the appointment order and any supporting documentation submitted with the claim demonstrate that:

(1) The state public defender's designee and any successor designee have withdrawn from the case or have been offered and declined to take the case; or

(2) The state public defender's designee and any successor designee would have withdrawn from or would have declined to take the case had the appointment been offered.

*c. Trial-level contract attorney preference.* Claims by an attorney whose appointment in a case as counsel or guardian ad litem at the trial level was made on or after February 1, 2012, may be denied in whole or in part unless:

(1) At the time of the appointment, the attorney had a contract with the state public defender to represent indigent persons in that specific type of case and that county in which the action was pending; or

(2) The appointment order includes a specific finding that no attorney with a contract to represent indigent persons in that specific type of case and that county in which the action was pending is available or a finding that the state public defender was consulted and consented to the appointment; or

(3) After the appointment, the attorney entered into a contract with the state public defender, or amended the attorney's existing contract, to represent indigent persons in the specific type of case and the

county in which the action was pending, in which case only the portion of the claim for the services performed prior to the effective date of the contract shall be denied.

**12.2(5) *Scope of appointment.*** Claims shall only be paid for services rendered and expenses incurred within the scope of the attorney's court appointment. Any other fees or expenses claimed shall be denied.

*a. Services prior to appointment.* Claims for services rendered or expenses incurred prior to the effective date of the attorney's appointment are not payable within the scope of the attorney's appointment and shall be denied.

*b. Representation of parents after termination of parental rights.* Claims for services rendered or expenses incurred by an attorney for representing a parent in a child in need of assistance case or termination of parental rights case for work performed after the date on which the termination of that parent's parental rights becomes final, either on appeal or because no appeal was taken, are not payable within the scope of the attorney's appointment and shall be denied.

*c. Guardian ad litem for children over the age of 18.* Claims for services rendered or expenses incurred by a guardian ad litem for a child who is aged 18 or older and involved in a juvenile court proceeding are only within the scope of appointment if the court enters an order appointing the guardian ad litem for the limited purposes of continuing a relationship with the child and to provide advice to the child relating to the child's transition plan under Iowa Code section 232.2 beyond the child's eighteenth birthday. The appointment shall end on the date a court order relieving the guardian ad litem of further duties or the date of a court order closing the juvenile case, whichever occurs first, and claims for services rendered or expenses incurred after such date shall be denied. Neither a parent nor guardian of the child in interest is entitled to court-appointed counsel during the post-age 18 transition period.

**12.2(6) *Rate of compensation.*** Claims for compensation in excess of the applicable rate of compensation established by rule 493—12.4(13B,815) or in the attorney's contract with the state public defender are not payable and shall be reduced to the applicable rate of compensation.

**12.2(7) *Excessive claims.*** The amount of a claim for services provided or expenses incurred that is excessive shall be reduced by the state public defender to an amount which is not excessive. Only reasonable and necessary compensation and expenses will be approved for payment.

**12.2(8) *Review of claims after contract termination for improper billing practices.*** A claim submitted by an attorney whose contract with the state public defender is terminated for improper billing practice shall be paid only to the extent that the claim is supported by authentic, independent, written documentation originating from sources other than the attorney, even if such a claim would otherwise be payable under this chapter. Any portion of a claim for a service performed or expense incurred that is not independently verified by such documentation is not payable under the contract and shall be denied.

*a. Acceptable documentation.* Independent, written documentation that may support a claim for services performed or expenses incurred by the attorney includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Affidavits of clients, witnesses, prosecutors, service providers, department of human services staff, court staff, or other persons who can verify that the attorney performed a service for a specific length of time on a specific day. Affidavits from employees of the attorney or the attorney's firm, family members of the attorney, or other attorneys within the same law firm as the attorney are not independent documentation and are insufficient to confirm a claim for a service performed or expense incurred.

(2) Court orders or other documents in the court file that verify the attorney's attendance at a court proceeding, as well as the date, time, duration, and location of the proceeding.

(3) Deposition transcripts and other records of the certified shorthand reporter that verify the attorney's attendance at a deposition, as well as the date, time, duration, and location of the deposition.

(4) Records of a jail or correctional facility that document the date, time, and duration of visits, telephone calls, or videoconferencing sessions with clients or witnesses in custody in the facility.

(5) Records of a telecommunication provider that verify the length of telephone calls, long-distance expenses, or fax expenses.

(6) Records of an online legal research service that document the date, time, duration, and nature of legal research performed.

(7) Calculations from mapping software, such as MapQuest or Google Maps, of the distance traveled to a location where a verified service was provided.

(8) Original printed receipts for expenses incurred.

*b. Pending claims.* Any claims submitted by an attorney that have not yet been approved by the state public defender when the attorney's contract with the state public defender is terminated for improper billing practices shall be returned to the attorney. The attorney may resubmit any claim returned in its entirety, or a portion thereof, within the time required by paragraph 12.2(3)"d," with the additional documentation required by this subrule confirming all time and expenses claimed on the itemization. The resubmitted claim shall be reviewed consistent with the requirements of this subrule. Any claim not resubmitted within the time required by paragraph 12.2(3)"d" shall be denied.

*c. Court review.* An attorney whose claim is denied or reduced pursuant to this subrule may seek court review of the state public defender's action on that claim by filing a motion for court review as provided for by rule 493—12.9(13B,815). But if the attorney has sought review of the state public defender's decision to terminate the attorney's contract for improper billing practices, the court shall stay proceedings on the attorney's motion until the attorney has exhausted all administrative remedies, final judgment has been entered in any judicial review action under Iowa Code chapter 17A, and any appeal of such judgment is decided. The final judgment of any judicial review action under Iowa Code chapter 17A regarding the termination of the attorney's contract conclusively determines the applicability of this subrule. If the attorney fails to seek judicial review of the state public defender's decision to terminate the attorney's contract, the state public defender's notice to the attorney that the state public defender is terminating the attorney's contract for improper billing practices is conclusive evidence that this subrule applies, and the attorney may not challenge the termination decision or the applicability of this subrule in the motion for review of the state public defender's action on the fee claim under rule 493—12.9(13B,815).

**12.2(9) Approval of claims.** Claims shall be forwarded to the department for final processing and payment only after the state public defender has determined that payment of the claim is appropriate under this chapter and under Iowa law. No payments shall be made from the indigent defense fund except with the authorization of the state public defender.

[ARC 8090B, IAB 9/9/09, effective 9/15/09; ARC 8372B, IAB 12/16/09, effective 1/20/10; ARC 9293B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 12/7/10; ARC 9447B, IAB 4/6/11, effective 5/11/11; ARC 9938B, IAB 12/28/11, effective 2/1/12; ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14; ARC 2378C, IAB 2/3/16, effective 3/9/16; ARC 2783C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16; ARC 2926C, IAB 2/1/17, effective 3/8/17; ARC 4872C, IAB 1/15/20, effective 3/1/20; ARC 6799C, IAB 1/11/23, effective 2/15/23]

**493—12.3(13B,815) Interim claims.** Claims will be paid at the earlier of the conclusion of the case or when legal representation of the client under the original court appointment is concluded, except as provided for in subrule 12.3(1), 12.3(2), 12.3(3), or 12.3(4).

**12.3(1) Juvenile cases.** An initial claim for services in a juvenile case may be submitted after the dispositional hearing, if any. Subsequent claims may be submitted after each court hearing that is a date of service held in the case. A court hearing does not include family drug court, family team meetings, staffings or foster care review board hearings.

**12.3(2) Appellate cases.** A claim for work performed may be submitted in appellate cases after the filing of the attorney's proof brief. A subsequent claim may be submitted after the procedendo is filed.

**12.3(3) Class A felonies.** Interim claims in Class A felony cases may be submitted once every three months, with the first claim submitted at least 90 days following the effective date of the attorney's appointment.

**12.3(4) Other cases.** In all other cases, claims filed prior to the conclusion of the case will not be paid except with prior written consent of the state public defender.

**12.3(5) Change of employment.** A change of employment is not a basis for submitting an interim claim. An attorney changing firms must wait to submit a claim until the conclusion of the case unless the attorney withdraws from the case or subrule 12.3(1), 12.3(2), or 12.3(3) applies. Because indigent defense contracts are with the attorney and not with the law firm, the state public defender shall send payments to whatever person or law firm the departing attorney directs.

**12.3(6) Approval of interim claims.** Approval of any interim claims shall not affect the right of the state public defender to review subsequent claims or the aggregate amount of the claims submitted.

[ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14; ARC 4872C, IAB 1/15/20, effective 3/1/20]

**493—12.4(13B,815) Rate of compensation.**

**12.4(1)** Unless the attorney has a contract that provides for a different manner or rate of payment, reasonable compensation for the payment of all claims for cases in which the attorney has been appointed shall be calculated on the basis of the hourly rate specified in Iowa Code section 815.7 applicable to the type of case and for the fiscal year during which the appointment was made for attorney or guardian ad litem time, and on the basis of the hourly rate of \$25 per hour for paralegal time to the extent paralegal time is payable under these rules.

**12.4(2)** Payable paralegal time is limited in rule 493—7.1(13B,815).

**12.4(3)** As used in this rule, the term “all other cases” includes appeals, juvenile cases, contempt actions, representation of material witnesses, and probation/parole violation cases, postconviction relief cases, restitution, extradition, and sentence reconsideration proceedings without regard to the level of the underlying charge.

[ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14; ARC 4872C, IAB 1/15/20, effective 3/1/20; ARC 6055C, IAB 11/17/21, effective 12/22/21; ARC 6799C, IAB 1/11/23, effective 2/15/23; ARC 7571C, IAB 1/24/24, effective 2/28/24]

**493—12.5(13B,815) Payable attorney time.**

**12.5(1)** *Maximum daily hours.* An attorney appointed as counsel or guardian ad litem must not perform services for indigent persons or submit claims to the state public defender for payment for such services for more than 12 hours of the attorney’s time in any calendar day except as provided in this subrule.

*a.* An attorney may perform services for indigent persons and submit claims to the state public defender for payment for such services for more than 12 hours and less than or equal to 16 hours in a calendar day if and only if the attorney is in trial or other contested court hearing lasting more than one day or the attorney is preparing for such a trial or hearing that will be occurring within the next seven days.

*b.* If an attorney performs services for indigent persons and submits claims to the state public defender for payment for such services for more than 12 hours and less than or equal to 16 hours in a calendar day, the attorney shall include with each claim form submitted to the state public defender that claims time for that date a letter specifying the total hours worked for private clients on that date or certifying that no other time was billed to any private client, and explaining the need to work more than 12 hours.

*c.* Any time claimed by an attorney appointed as counsel or guardian ad litem in excess of 12 hours on a calendar day, except as permitted by this subrule, and any time claimed in excess of 16 hours on a calendar day, shall not be paid. If the time is claimed on multiple claims, the most recently submitted claim claiming time on a particular calendar day shall be reduced so as not to pay more than the maximum authorized daily hours. If more than the maximum authorized amount is inadvertently paid by the state public defender, the attorney shall reimburse the state public defender upon written notice of the improper payment.

**12.5(2)** *Standardized and estimated billing prohibited.* All time submitted on the itemization of services must be the actual time worked providing services to the client. Attorneys are prohibited from using standardized billing estimates for tasks, such as billing 0.1 for every page of a document reviewed or 0.2 for every email sent or received, or 1.0 hour for every court proceeding. Attorneys must also not use standardized billing for cases, such as billing the same set of standard tasks in every case regardless of whether the task was actually performed.

**12.5(3)** *Nonbillable time.* The following activities are not reasonable and necessary legal services for the indigent client, and therefore time and expenses for such activities are not payable under the attorney’s appointment and shall be denied:

*a.* Clerical work, including but not limited to opening and closing files; making photocopies; opening or sending mail; sending cover letters; transmitting copies of documents to a client, another party or clerk of court; sending faxes; picking up or delivering documents; drafting internal file memos; giving instructions to support staff; or billing;

*b.* Preparation of motions to withdraw from a case, and other time related to withdrawing from a case, when the withdrawal is made in order to retire from the practice of law, discontinue or reduce indigent defense representation, pursue another job, or is otherwise for the attorney’s personal benefit;

- c. Overhead, including time spent managing the operations of the attorney's law practice, office lease payments, or support staff salaries;
- d. Preparation of the fee claim, itemization of services, or other time-keeping activities;
- e. Preparation of an application or proposed order to exceed the fee limitations, court time obtaining such an order, or review of the order granting or denying the application;
- f. Preparation of a motion for judicial review of the state public defender's action on an attorney fee claim, preparation for or attendance at a hearing on such a motion, review of an order granting or denying the motion, preparation of appellate briefs or other documents in an appeal of such a court order, preparation for or participation in oral arguments in the appeal, or review of an appellate decision regarding such a court order.

**12.5(4)** *Travel time.* Time spent by an attorney or guardian ad litem traveling is only payable at the full hourly rate provided in subrule 12.4(1) when the travel is reasonable and necessary to represent the indigent client and the attorney or guardian ad litem is traveling:

- a. To and from the scene of a crime in a criminal case or juvenile delinquency proceeding;
- b. To and from the location of a pretrial hearing, trial, or posttrial hearing in a criminal case if the venue has been changed from the county in which the crime occurred or if the location of the court hearing has been changed, without changing venue, to a different county for the convenience of the court;
- c. To and from the place of incarceration of a client in a postconviction relief case, criminal appeal, or postconviction relief appeal;
- d. To and from the place of detention of a client in a juvenile delinquency or criminal case if the place of detention is located outside the county in which the action is pending;
- e. To and from the location of the placement of a child in a juvenile case if the guardian ad litem is required by statute to visit the placement and the placement is located in Iowa, but outside the county in which the case is pending;
- f. To and from the location of the placement of a child in a juvenile case if the guardian ad litem is required by statute and court order to visit the placement and the placement is outside the state of Iowa;
- g. To and from the location of a family team meeting, if the place of the meeting is located outside the county in which the action is pending and the court approves that the location of the meeting is appropriate;
- h. To and from a court of appeals or supreme court argument;
- i. To and from the location where the deposition of an expert witness is being taken; or
- j. To other locations for which travel authorization is obtained from the state public defender.

Otherwise, travel time for an attorney or guardian ad litem is only payable at the rate and in the manner provided in Iowa Code section 815.7A. For all uncontested hearings, the attorney or guardian ad litem must file an application for a remote hearing to be entitled to travel time. If the court denies the application, the attorney or guardian ad litem must submit a copy of the application and the denial order with the claim for payment of travel time. If the client wishes to have an uncontested hearing in person, and the attorney or guardian ad litem has no other reason to request an in-person hearing other than to be paid for travel time to attend the hearing in person in view of the client's request, the request for hearing shall be sent to the state public defender at [claims@spd.state.ia.us](mailto:claims@spd.state.ia.us). No application is required to be filed for contested hearings, but the travel time must be clearly identified as being for a contested hearing in the description of the travel on the claim. Travel time claimed pursuant to Iowa Code section 815.7A does not count toward the maximum daily hours allowed pursuant to subrule 12.5(1). No amount is payable for travel time at any hourly rate if the time is otherwise being paid at the full hourly rate provided in subrule 12.4(1).

**12.5(5)** *Substitute counsel time.* Work performed by substitute counsel on behalf of an attorney appointed as counsel or guardian ad litem is payable only as provided for under this subrule. The appointed attorney is at all times personally responsible for the representation of the client and must ensure that substitute counsel is qualified to perform the work directed and that the client is effectively represented at all times. The appointed attorney is responsible for compensating substitute counsel. Claims for payment directly by substitute counsel or claims for payment by the appointed attorney that are inconsistent with this subrule shall be denied.

*a. Court time.* An attorney appointed as counsel or guardian ad litem must handle all court appearances unless the appointed attorney has a scheduling conflict, an illness, or other personal emergency, in which case the matter may be covered by substitute counsel. Substitute counsel may never cover for oral arguments in appellate cases.

*b. Out-of-court time.* Substitute counsel may perform out-of-court legal services, except that time spent by substitute counsel that duplicates work performed by the appointed attorney and time spent receiving direction from or conferencing with the appointed attorney are not payable.

*c. Exceptional circumstances.* Substitute counsel may be used in situations that would otherwise be impermissible if the state public defender concludes that use of such substitute counsel would be in the best interest of the client and the administration of justice and provides prior written consent to the appointed attorney.

*d. Supervisory time.* Time spent by the appointed attorney directing, reviewing, or correcting the work of substitute counsel is not payable.

*e. Qualification of substitute counsel.* Unless the state public defender has given prior written consent to use the attorney as substitute counsel, substitute counsel must have an active contract with the state public defender to perform indigent defense services, although the contract need not cover the type of case or county of the case for which the claim is submitted.

*f. Inapplicability to co-counsel in Class A felonies.* The previous paragraphs of this subrule do not apply to a co-counsel who is separately appointed in a Class A felony. Each separately appointed co-counsel in a Class A felony shall submit a separate indigent defense fee claim that claims only the work actually performed by the appointed attorney submitting the claim. The use of substitute counsel is not permissible in a Class A felony in which co-counsel has been separately appointed.

[ARC 9293B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 12/7/10; ARC 9447B, IAB 4/6/11, effective 5/11/11; ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14; ARC 2378C, IAB 2/3/16, effective 3/9/16; ARC 6799C, IAB 1/11/23, effective 2/15/23; ARC 7571C, IAB 1/24/24, effective 2/28/24; ARC 8683C, IAB 12/25/24, effective 1/29/25]

#### **493—12.6(13B,815) Attorney fee limitations.**

**12.6(1) Adult cases.** The state public defender establishes attorney fee limitations for the number of hours of combined attorney time and paralegal time that may be claimed for the following categories of adult cases:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Class A felonies  | 258 |
| Class B felonies  | 56  |
| Class C felonies  | 30  |
| Class D felonies  | 20  |
| Aggravated misdemeanors   | 20  |
| Serious misdemeanors  | 10  |
| Simple misdemeanors   | 5   |
| Simple misdemeanor appeals to district court  | 5   |
| Contempt/show cause proceedings   | 5   |
| Proceedings under Iowa Code chapter 229A  | 167 |
| Probation/parole violation  | 5   |
| Extradition   | 5   |
| Postconviction relief—the greater of 17 hours or one-half of the fee limitation for the conviction from which relief is sought. |     |

Nothing in this subrule is intended to in any manner diminish, increase, or modify the state public defender's authority to review any and all claims for services as authorized by the Iowa Code.

The fee limitations are applied separately to each case, as that term is defined in rule 493—7.1(13B,815). If more than one charge is included within a case, the charge with the higher fee limitation will apply to the entire case.

For example, in an adult criminal proceeding, if an attorney were appointed to represent a client charged with four counts of forgery arising at four separate times, and if the client were charged in four separate trial informations, the fee limitations for each charge would apply separately. If all four charges were contained in one trial information, the fee limitation would be 30 hours even if there were more than one separate occurrence. Similarly, if the attorney were appointed to represent a person charged with a drug offense and failure to possess a tax stamp, the fee limitation would be the limitation for the offense with the higher limitation, not the total of the limitations. As a further example, multiple probation revocation proceedings pending at the same time, involving the same client, and arising from the same transaction or occurrence are still a single “case” for purposes of this rule, and the five-hour fee limitation applies.

If the Iowa Code section listed on the claim form defines multiple levels of crimes and the claimant does not list the specific level of crime on the claim form, the state public defender will use the least serious level of crime in reviewing the claim.

For example, Iowa Code section 321J.2 defines crimes ranging from a serious misdemeanor to a Class D felony. If the attorney does not designate the subsection defining the level of the crime, the state public defender will deem the charge to be a serious misdemeanor.

**12.6(2) *Juvenile cases.*** The state public defender establishes attorney fee limitations for the number of hours of attorney time that may be claimed for the following categories of juvenile and adoption cases:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Delinquency (through disposition)  | 20 |
| Child in need of assistance (CINA) (through disposition)   | 20 |
| Termination of parental rights (TPR) (through disposition)   | 30 |
| Juvenile court review and other postdispositional court hearings   | 8  |
| Judicial bypass hearings   | 3  |
| Juvenile commitment hearings   | 3  |
| Juvenile petition on appeal  | 10 |
| Motion for further review after petition on appeal   | 5  |
| Representation of adopting party in adoption following Iowa Code chapter 232, termination of parental rights | 5  |

Nothing in this subrule is intended to in any manner diminish, increase, or modify the state public defender’s authority to review any and all claims for services as authorized by the Iowa Code.

The fee limitations are applied separately to each case, as that term is defined in rule 493—7.1(13B,815).

For example, in a juvenile proceeding in which the attorney represents a parent whose four children are the subject of four child in need of assistance petitions, if the court handles all four petitions at the same time or the incident that gave rise to the child in need of assistance action is essentially the same for each child, the fee limitation for the attorney representing the parent is 20 hours for all four proceedings, not 20 hours for each one.

For a child in need of assistance case that becomes a termination of parental rights case, the fee limitations shall apply to each case separately. For example, the attorney could claim up to 20 hours for the child in need of assistance case and up to 30 hours for the termination of parental rights case.

In a delinquency case, if the child has multiple petitions alleging delinquency and the court handles the petitions at the same time, the fee limitation for the proceeding is the fee limitation for one delinquency.

In a juvenile case in which a petition on appeal is filed, the appointed trial attorney does not need to obtain a new appointment order to pursue a petition on appeal. The claim, through the filing of a petition on appeal, must be submitted on a Juvenile form. If an appellate court orders full briefing, the attorney fee claim for services subsequent to an order requiring full briefing must be submitted on an Appellate form and is subject to the rules governing appeals.

**12.6(3) *Appellate cases.*** Except as otherwise provided in this rule with respect to simple misdemeanor appeals to the district court and juvenile petitions on appeal, there is no fee limitation established for appellate cases. Nothing in this subrule is intended to in any manner diminish, increase, or

modify the state public defender's authority to review any and all claims for services as authorized by the Iowa Code.

**12.6(4)** *Claims in excess of fee limitations.* A claim in excess of the attorney fee limitations will not be paid unless the attorney seeks and obtains authorization from the appointing court to exceed the attorney fee limitations prior to exceeding the attorney fee limitations. If authorization is granted, payment in excess of the attorney fee limitations shall be made only for services performed after the date of submission of the request for authorization.

**12.6(5)** *Retroactivity of authorization.* Authorization to exceed the attorney fee limitations shall be effective only as to services performed after a request for authorization to exceed the attorney fee limitations is filed with the court unless the court enters an order before submission of the claim to the state public defender specifically authorizing a late filing of the application and finding that good cause exists excusing the attorney's failure to file the application prior to the attorney's exceeding the attorney fee limitations. "Good cause" as used in this subrule means a sound, effective and truthful reason. "Good cause" is more than an excuse, plea, apology, extenuation, or some justification. Inadvertence or oversight does not constitute good cause. Retroactive court orders entered after the date of the state public defender's action on a claim are void. See Iowa Code section 13B.4(4).

[ARC 9293B, IAB 12/29/10, effective 12/7/10; ARC 9447B, IAB 4/6/11, effective 5/11/11; ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14; ARC 4872C, IAB 1/15/20, effective 3/1/20; ARC 6055C, IAB 11/17/21, effective 12/22/21; ARC 6799C, IAB 1/11/23, effective 2/15/23]

#### **493—12.7(13B,815) Reimbursement for specific expenses.**

**12.7(1)** The state public defender shall reimburse the attorney for the payments made by the attorney for necessary certified shorthand reporters, investigators, foreign language interpreters, evaluations, and experts if the following conditions are met:

*a.* The attorney obtained court approval for a certified shorthand reporter, investigator, foreign language interpreter, evaluation or expert prior to incurring any expenses with regard to each.

*b.* A copy of each of the following documents is attached to the claim:

(1) The application and court order authorizing the expenditure of funds at state expense for the certified shorthand reporter, investigator, foreign language interpreter, evaluation, or expert. If the reimbursement is for expenses incurred by a privately retained counsel representing an indigent person, the procedures and requirements of rule 493—13.7(13B,815) shall apply to the application and issuance of the order and the application and order shall be in compliance with that rule, the other requirements of 493—Chapter 13, and this rule.

(2) If the expenses are for services of investigators, foreign language interpreters, or experts, a court order setting the maximum dollar amount of the claim. If the initial court order authorizing the expenditure sets the maximum amount of the claims, a subsequent order is unnecessary.

(3) An itemization detailing the expenses incurred, the services rendered, the date(s) on which the services were rendered, the time spent on each date, and the manner in which the amount of the claim for services was calculated.

(4) If the expenses are for foreign language interpreters, the court order and itemization required by subparagraphs 12.7(1) "b"(2) and (3) shall be submitted on the Fee Itemization Form and Court Order Approving Claim for Court Interpreter Services form promulgated by the judicial branch.

(5) If the expenses are for a certified shorthand reporter, any additional documentation required in 493—paragraph 13.2(3) "b" when applicable to the services provided.

(6) Documentation that the attorney has already paid the funds to the certified shorthand reporter, investigator, foreign language interpreter, provider of an evaluation, or expert.

*c.* The expenses would be payable if the certified shorthand reporter, investigator, foreign language interpreter, provider of an evaluation, or an expert submitted such claim directly pursuant to 493—Chapter 13, except for the requirement that the claim be submitted on the miscellaneous claim form promulgated by the state public defender.

*d.* The certified shorthand reporter, investigator, foreign language interpreter, provider of an evaluation, or expert does not submit a claim for the same services.

*e.* In claims for the cost of an evaluation requested by an appointed attorney, the attorney shall be reimbursed for the reasonable cost of an evaluation of the client to establish a defense in the case or to determine if the client is competent to stand trial. In either instance, a copy of the court order authorizing the evaluation for one of these specific purposes and an order approving the amount of the evaluation must accompany the claim form. Claims for the cost of an evaluation to be used for any other purpose, such as sentencing or placement, will not be reimbursed.

**12.7(2)** Nothing contained in this rule is intended to require the attorney to provide notice to any other party prior to seeking such an order, except the notice to the state public defender expressly required in rule 493—13.7(13B,815) if the reimbursement is for expenses incurred by privately retained counsel representing an indigent person, or to require the attorney to disclose confidential information, work product, or trial strategy in order to obtain the order.

**12.7(3)** In an appeal, the state public defender will pay the cost of obtaining the transcript of the trial records and briefs. In such instance, subrule 12.7(1) shall apply.

**12.7(4)** Claims for expenses that do not meet these conditions are not payable under the attorney's appointment or rule 493—13.7(13B,815) and will be denied.

[ARC 0137C, IAB 5/30/12, effective 7/11/12; ARC 4872C, IAB 1/15/20, effective 3/1/20; ARC 6800C, IAB 1/11/23, effective 2/15/23]

#### **493—12.8(13B,815) Reimbursement of other expenses.**

**12.8(1)** The state public defender shall reimburse the attorney for the following out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the attorney in the case to the extent that the expenses are reasonable and necessary:

*a.* Mileage for automobile travel at the rate of 50 cents per mile. The number of miles driven each day shall be separately itemized on the itemization of services, specifying the date of the travel, the origination and destination locations, the total number of miles traveled that day and, if it is not otherwise clear from the itemization, the purpose of the travel. If the travel is to perform services for multiple clients on the same trip, the mileage must be split proportionally between each client and the itemization must note the manner in which the mileage is split. The total miles traveled for the case shall also be listed on the claim form. Other forms of transportation costs incurred by the attorney may be reimbursed only with prior approval from the state public defender.

*b.* The actual cost of lodging, limited by the state-approved rate, is reimbursed only if the attorney is entitled to be paid for travel time for the travel associated with the lodging and the attorney is required to be away from home overnight. An itemized receipt showing the expenses incurred must be attached to the claim form.

*c.* The actual cost of meals, limited by the state-approved rate, is reimbursed only if the attorney is entitled to be paid for travel time for the travel associated with these meals. An itemized receipt showing the expenses incurred must be attached to the claim form.

*d.* Necessary photocopying at the attorney's office at the rate of 10 cents per copy. The number of copies made each day must be separately itemized in the itemization of services. The total number of copies must also be listed on the claim form.

*e.* Ordinary and necessary postage, toll calls, collect calls, and parking for the actual cost of these expenses. Toll and collect calls will be reimbursed at 10 cents per minute or the actual cost. A receipt for the actual cost of the toll or collect call must be attached to the claim form. A statement from a correctional facility or jail detailing a standard rate for such calls shall constitute a receipt for purposes of this paragraph. For parking expenses in excess of \$5, a receipt must be attached to the claim form. Claims for the cost of a parking ticket shall be denied. Unless a receipt is provided, any postage, toll calls, collect calls, or parking expenses shall be separately itemized on the itemization of services, specifying the date on which the expense was incurred and, if it is not otherwise clear from the itemization, the purpose of the expense.

*f.* Receiving faxes in the attorney's office at the rate of 10 cents per page. There is no direct cost reimbursement for sending a fax unless there is a toll charge associated with it. Any fax charges claimed shall be separately itemized on the itemization of services, specifying the date on which the expense was incurred and, if it is not otherwise clear from the itemization, the purpose of the expense.

g. The actual cost of photocopying or faxing for which the attorney must pay an outside vendor. A receipt for the actual cost must be attached to the claim form.

h. Other claims for expenses such as process service, medical records, DVDs, CDs, videotapes, and photographic printing will be reimbursed for the actual cost. A receipt or invoice from an outside vendor must be attached to the claim form.

i. Other specific expenses for which prior approval by the state public defender is obtained.

None of the expenses specified in this rule shall be reimbursed to a privately retained attorney representing an indigent person unless there is prior approval by the state public defender upon a showing of reasonable necessity.

**12.8(2)** If the reimbursement is for expenses incurred by a privately retained counsel representing an indigent person, the procedures and requirements of rule 493—13.7(13B,815) shall apply to the application and issuance of the order, the application and order allowing reimbursement of these expenses shall be in compliance with that rule in addition to the requirements of this rule, and a copy of the application and order entered pursuant to rule 493—13.7(13B,815) shall be attached to the claim.

**12.8(3)** Claims for expenses other than those listed in this rule or at rates in excess of the rates set forth in this rule are not payable under the attorney's appointment or under rule 493—13.7(13B,815) and will be reduced or denied.

[ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14; ARC 2378C, IAB 2/3/16, effective 3/9/16; ARC 4872C, IAB 1/15/20, effective 3/1/20; ARC 6799C, IAB 1/11/23, effective 2/15/23]

**493—12.9(13B,815) Court review.** An attorney whose claim for compensation is denied, reduced, or otherwise modified by the state public defender, for other than mathematical errors, may seek court review of the action of the state public defender.

**12.9(1) Motions for court review.** Court review of the action of the state public defender is initiated by the filing of a motion with the trial court requesting the review. The following conditions shall apply to all such motions:

a. The motion must be filed with the court within 20 days of the action of the state public defender. This time limit is jurisdictional and will not be extended by the filing of another claim, submitting a letter or email requesting reconsideration, or obtaining a court order affecting the amount of the claim.

b. The motion must set forth each and every ground on which the attorney intends to rely in challenging the action of the state public defender.

c. The motion must have attached to it a complete copy of the claim, together with the notice of action or returned fee claim letter that the attorney seeks to have reviewed.

d. A copy of all documents filed must be provided to the state public defender.

e. It is unnecessary for the state public defender to file any response to the motion.

**12.9(2) Hearings.** The following shall apply to hearings on motions for court review:

a. The motion shall be set for hearing by the court. Notice of the hearing on the attorney's request for review shall be provided to the attorney and the state public defender at least ten days prior to the date and time set by the reviewing court.

b. Unless the state public defender appears or specifically indicates an intention to appear in person at the hearing, the state public defender shall participate by telephone. If the state public defender participates by telephone, the state public defender shall be responsible for initiating and paying for the telephone call. If the attorney intends to participate by telephone, the attorney shall notify the state public defender of this intent and provide a telephone number for the hearing at least two business days prior to the date scheduled for the hearing.

c. The burden shall be on the attorney requesting the review.

d. The court shall consider only the issues raised in the attorney's motion.

e. The court shall issue a written ruling on the issues properly presented in the request for review.

f. If a ruling is entered modifying the state public defender's action on the claim, the attorney must file a new claim with the state public defender within 45 days of the date of the court's order modifying the state public defender's action on the claim. A copy of the court's ruling and the original claim form and supporting documents must be attached to the claim form. The "date of service" for such a claim is the date of the court's order.

**12.9(3)** *Failure to seek review.* Failure to seek court review within 20 days of the action of the state public defender will preclude court review of the state public defender's action.

**12.9(4)** *Other court orders.* Any court order entered after the state public defender has taken action on a claim that affects that claim is void unless the state public defender is first notified and given an opportunity to be heard.

[ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14]

**493—12.10(13B,815) Payment errors.** If an error resulting in an overpayment or double payment of a claim is discovered by the attorney, by the state public defender, by the department, or otherwise, the claimant shall reimburse the indigent defense fund for the amount of the overpayment. An overpayment shall be paid by check. The check, made payable to the “Treasurer, State of Iowa,” together with a copy of the payment voucher containing the overpayment or double payment, shall be mailed to the Office of the State Public Defender, Lucas State Office Building, 321 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

[ARC 0137C, IAB 5/30/12, effective 7/11/12; ARC 1512C, IAB 6/25/14, effective 7/30/14]

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◇ Two or more ARCs

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