



CHAMBERS OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
GEORGE EDGECOMB COURTHOUSE
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TO: Hillsborough County Professional Guardians and Attorneys
FROM: Hon. Claudia Rickert Isom, Administrative Judge
Probate, Guardianship & Trust Division
DATE: January 22, 2010
SUBJECT: Guardian Fee Workgroup Report Approval

I am pleased to announce that Chief Judge Manuel Menendez has reviewed and approved the Final Report of the Guardian Fee Workgroup. The workgroup recommended an increase in guardian fee rates, and also an adjustment to the rate schedule, which has been and will continue to be based on a guardian's years of experience. Most Workgroup members felt there was enough flexibility in the current guidelines pertaining to billing procedures, and no changes were recommended in that regard.

The new rates, to be effective **January 20, 2010**, are as follows:

\$45.00 per hour for new guardians, until their third anniversary
\$60.00 per hour after the third anniversary, until the fifth anniversary
\$75.00 per hour after the fifth anniversary

Upon petition of the guardian or upon the court's own initiative, the court retains the discretion to adjust hourly rates higher or lower for each professional guardian (individually), as deemed appropriate by the court. For purposes of determining years of experience, the court recognizes a guardian as "professional" when they have been appointed to three or more non-relative wards.

Any questions regarding implementation of the new fee structure should be directed to Jennifer Branch at the Elder Justice Center, 813-276-2726, or Magistrate Sean Cadigan, at 813-276-8517.