



THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hillsborough County Professional Guardians  
FROM: Magistrate Sean Cadigan, Elder Justice Center Program Director   
RE: Guardian Fee Rates  
DATE: August 14, 2019

I am writing to inform you that the Honorable Catherine M. Catlin, as the Administrative Judge for the Probate, Guardianship & Mental Health Division, has advised the Elder Justice Center that, after consideration of the recommendations of the 2019 Joint Circuit Guardian Fee Workgroup, she has approved the implementation of the following new guardian fee rates for professional guardians maintaining their Professional Guardian File with the Hillsborough Clerk of Court in good standing:

<u>Years as Prof. Guard.</u>	<u>Rates</u>
0-3 years	\$45-60/hour
3-5 years	\$60-75/hour
5-10 years	\$75-90/hour
10-15 years	\$90-105/hour
15-20 years	\$105-120/hour
20 + years	\$125/hour

Judge Catlin has authorized the retroactive implementation of the new rates to June 1, 2019.

Professional guardians are entitled to automatically bill at the lowest end of the applicable pay range, depending on how many years they have served as a professional guardian registered with the State of Florida. If the guardian has previously obtained written approval from the Administrative Judge for a rate that is higher than the lowest rate of the range, then the guardian may continue billing at the previously approved rate. However, absent such prior Administrative Judge approval for a higher rate, if a guardian would like to request an increase within their designated range, the guardian must communicate this to the Court, in writing, and give some type of justification for the increase. Based on the Workgroup's findings, highest consideration would be placed on the quality of the guardian's performance, whether the guardian holds an advanced degree or certification, and whether any substantiated findings were reported by investigative bodies.

If any additional changes relating to guardian fees are authorized, based on the Workgroup's recommendations, I will advise you in this same manner. We thank you for your service to the wards of our Court.

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Copies to: Hon. Catherine M. Catlin, Administrative Judge/Probate, Guardianship & Mental Health Div.  
2019 Joint Circuit Guardian Fee Workgroup Members (Hillsborough County Members)

