Parent Counsel Contracts - Frequently Asked Questions

By the effective date of the contract, the applicant must be fully qualified pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 15. All applicants must have a working email to receive communications from the AOC.

Attorneys must commit to cover at least 25% of the cases in a division of a judicial district or county and at least one conflict in an adjoining county.

Attorneys may apply for contracts in multiple counties, divisions, or judicial districts.

Attorneys will not be reimbursed for mileage from his/her home to the county in which they are seeking a contract.

It is possible that contracts may be awarded as soon as August 1, 2007, but no later than January 1, 2008.

Contracts expire 6/30/2008 and are renewable annually thereafter for up to six years contingent on performance and funding from the state.

Contract determination will be made by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

The AOC will also be accepting applications for six attorneys to contract for conflict cases across the state. These contracts will be for up to $10,000 each and will be paid at $75.00 an hour plus expenses.

Parent Counsel will be responsible for notice of appeals, indigency hearings for appeals and transmitting that information to the Public Defender Commission within 24 hours. Parent Counsel will no longer be responsible for any appellate work in dependency-neglect cases filed after July 1, 2007.

Attorneys may contract through a group or law firm and the attorney(s) performing parent counsel representation will be specifically designated in the contract. An attorney in the group or firm that is appointed as attorney of record on a case must exclusively provide representation for that client until relieved as attorney of record by the court. Other attorneys from the group or firm cannot substitute or stand in for an attorney unless the attorney of record is ill or other emergency circumstances arise.

Parent counsel will be required do limited reporting on work performed under the contract pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order No 15.

Parent counsel will be appointed in the emergency order of a dependency-neglect case, as attorneys ad litem are.

Attorney can continue to have both AAL and Parent Counsel contracts in the absence of any conflicts.