

February 28, 2008

Dear Court-Appointed Attorney:

Section 27.5304(6)(b), F.S., requires attorneys appointed to Termination of Parental Rights cases to certify, upon billing, that they have either discussed the option of appeal with the parent, or that they have filed a notice of appeal and motion for appointment of appellant counsel with the court.

27.5304 (6)(b): For compensation for representation pursuant to a court appointment in a proceeding under chapter 39:

(b) “... Each request for payment submitted to the Justice Administrative Commission must include the trial counsel's certification that:

- a. Counsel discussed grounds for appeal with the parent or that counsel attempted and was unable to contact the parent; and
- b. No appeal will be filed or that a notice of appeal and a motion for appointment of appellate counsel, containing the signature of the parent, have been filed...”

In compliance with s. 27.5304(6)(b), F.S., JAC requires that an attorney who bills for TPR cases must include the certification statement (below) with his or her billing packet. The certification page verifies that:

1. The TPR was granted, and
 - a. the attorney certifies that he or she discussed the option of appeal with the parent, OR the parent was not available.
 - b. the attorney certifies that he or she filed the notice of appeal and motion for appellate counsel with the court OR
 - c. no appeal will be filed.

OR

2. The TPR was not granted.

Any billing for a TPR case that does not include a TPR Certification will be issued an Audit Deficiency letter. This certification page can also be found on our website at www.justiceadmin.com.

Thank-you for your cooperation with this matter.

Court appointed counsel in termination of parental rights cases must complete the following certification:

CERTIFICATION OF COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY IN TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS CASES

Pursant to Section 27.5304(6)(b)(1)(a) & (b), Florida Statutes (2007), I hereby certify the following:

- The Petition for Termination of Parental Rights was denied or dismissed.
- The Petition for Termination of Parental Rights was granted.

