



Florida Justice Administrative Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 21, 2019

UPDATE

RE: JAC Funding Shortfall Will Temporarily Delay Payments for Indigent Representation in Florida

Tallahassee, FL {June 21, 2019} – The Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) exhausted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 funding appropriated by the Legislature to pay for court-appointed expenditures on April 15th. As a result, payment of these bills has been temporarily delayed. This includes payments to private court-appointed attorneys and associated due process service vendors (e.g., court reporters, investigators, interpreters, and expert witnesses) and reimbursements to indigent for costs attorneys.

Although funds for state-funded indigent representation are currently unavailable, JAC continues to review and process court-appointed bills to ensure they are ready for payment as soon as funds are made available. JAC has also coordinated with the Department of Financial Services to expedite their audit of court-appointed bills, so that compliant bills will be paid soon after funding is available.

On May 6, 2019, the Florida Legislature approved \$15.6 million in supplemental funding to address JAC's Court-Appointed funding shortfall in Senate Bill 2500 (SB 2500). On June 14, 2019, SB 2500 was presented to Governor DeSantis for his review. ***Governor DeSantis signed SB 2500 today. As a result, JAC predicts that funding for payment of pending compliant court-appointed bills will be available on June 24, 2019. Payments should issue June 26, 2019. Please remember that direct deposits take a couple of days for bank processing.***

As required by law, all JAC contracts include provisions specifying that payments are contingent upon funds annually appropriated by the Legislature. JAC sincerely regrets that payments cannot be made in the normal expedient manner; however, as soon as funds are released to JAC, approved bills will be paid.

As additional information becomes available, updates will be provided on JAC's public website at www.justiceadmin.org and on JAC's Facebook page.

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