

Florida Justice Administrative Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JAC Funding Shortfall Will Temporarily Delay Payments for Indigent Representation in Florida

Tallahassee, FL {April 15, 2019}-- The Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) has exhausted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 funding appropriated by the Legislature to pay for court-appointed expenditures. As a result, payment of these bills will be 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. JAC will continue to work to minimize the impact of the delay in payments.

JAC is optimistic that additional funding will be obtained, and is thankful to Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Senate, and the House of Representatives for including funds to address the shortfall in their proposed FY 2019-20 budgets. Although funds for state-funded indigent representation are currently unavailable, JAC will continue to review and process court-appointed bills to ensure they are ready for payment as soon as funds are available. Payments will either be made out of a special appropriation authorized by the Legislature and the Governor (which may be in late May or early June 2019), or out of FY 2019-20 funding shortly after July 1, 2019.

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 appropriated and 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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