



Office of the Ohio Public Defender

Timothy Young, State Public Defender

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 31, 2019
TO: County Commissioners, County Auditors, County Public Defenders, Court Appointed Counsel, Judges
FROM: State Public Defender Tim Young
RE: Ohio Public Defender Standards and Guidelines

This memorandum is to inform you that the Office of the Ohio Public Defender (OPD) has updated the Standards and Guidelines for Appointed Counsel Reimbursement, the State Maximum Fee Schedule for Appointed Counsel Reimbursement, the County Public Defender Office Reimbursement Standards, and the State Public Defender Billing, Payment and Reimbursement – all of which are contained in one publication, available on the OPD website: [OPD Standards and Guidelines 2019](#).

The updated Standards and Guidelines publication includes hyperlinks to forms, Ohio Revised Code sections, Ohio Administrative Code sections, and other sources of authority, as well as additional guidance in areas that are more complicated.

While much of the core material has remained the same, there are several important changes:

1. The OPD has raised the State Fee Schedule to include an in-court and out-of-court rate of \$75.00/hr. and has raised the fee maximum in all areas of service. The OPD last adjusted the rates and fee maximums in the State Fee Schedule in 2003.
2. As in the past, the OPD will provide reimbursement for transcript expenses – specifically for one original and one copy. Please note the maximum amount subject to reimbursement for the original transcript is \$4.00 per page, and \$0.10 per page for a paper copy. Pursuant to R.C. 2301.24, reimbursement will not be provided for electronic copies of transcripts.
3. Attorney fees for time spent in-transit and expenses for mileage and parking are reimbursable when the attorney travels to a county outside of the county in which the attorney resides or maintains an office. Reimbursement will not be made for attorney fees and/or expenses incurred between the attorney's home and office, the attorney's home and a court in the same county, or the attorney's office and a court in the same county.

4. In domestic relations court, reimbursement will be made in cases involving contempt—brought by the State, and where such requests are in compliance with all other provisions of the standards. The OPD will not provide reimbursement in other domestic relations court cases (e.g. contempt arising out of a case between private parties).

The revised Standards and Guidelines will be effective March 1, 2019. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Laura Austen, Deputy Director of Policy & Outreach, at 614-466-5394 or via email at laura.austen@opd.ohio.gov

