

**State of New Hampshire
Circuit Court
Administrative Order 2021 – 20**

**Presumptive Approval of Fees for Assigned Counsel Provided
to Indigent Persons in Criminal and Delinquency cases**

Pursuant to RSA 490-F and Supreme Court Rule 54(4), this order is issued to assist with the ongoing indigent defense crisis by streamlining the payment process for services rendered, and promoting efficient and uniform processing of cases throughout the Circuit Court.

1. This order is applicable to misdemeanor criminal cases and juvenile delinquency cases in which an indigent defendant or juvenile has been appointed counsel, other than the Public Defender Program or contract counsel, pursuant to RSA 604-A:2.
2. Due to an increased number of cases assigned to appointed counsel, individual billing review by the trial judge in each case is not practicable.
3. Any statement for payment which does not exceed the hourly or overall fee caps in Supreme Court Rules 47 and 48 and is supported by an itemized bill is presumed reasonable, approved by the Court, and authorized for payment, subject to further review by the Judicial Council.
4. Statements for payment which meet these criteria may be submitted directly to the Judicial Council, with a copy to the appointing court.
5. If the Judicial Council determines, based on its internal processes, that a statement requires further review, it may return the statement to the court which heard the case. If practicable, the judge who presided over the case shall review the statement. No payment shall be made on the statement unless it is specifically approved by the Court.
6. This order is effective on this date and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified.

Dated: December 13, 2021

/s/ David D. King
David D. King Administrative Judge
New Hampshire Circuit Court