

HB 1453: GAL Adoption and Filing Fee

453.020 RSMo

HB 1453 provides a \$50.00 filing fee to be used to fund the putative father registry. This does not impact policy.

HB 1453 impacts policy regarding GAL fees.

Current Policy:

There is no language specifically regarding GAL fees in current policy.

New Policy:

- Informs the worker of the addition to the law, which allows Guardians ad Litem (GAL) to be awarded a reasonable fee for such services to be set by the court.

Expected Outcomes:

This addition to policy strengthens our partnership with the GAL's as they work with the agency in achieving permanency for the children we serve.

Other changes to policy – not related to HB 1453:

Section 4.11.C: Special Expense Payment:

- The rule for attorney fees in TPR cases that was promulgated was updated to reflect the language in the administrative rule, changing the fee to \$100 per hour rather than \$75 per hour.
- Workers are instructed to go through normal supervisory channels to the DLS attorney assigned to their circuit within 30 days of the ruling if attorney fees are ordered by the court, and seem to be excessive.
- When workers receive bills for attorney fees in excess of \$100 per hour, they are instructed to go through supervisory channels to the DLS attorney who is assigned to their circuit for their review and decision on the fees.