

**IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

Administrative Order No. 2021-01

WHEREAS, the Court from time to time appoints attorneys to represent alleged disabled persons in adult guardianship proceedings and those attorneys, if not serving under a State contract, may petition for an award of reasonable and necessary fees pursuant to Maryland Rule 10-106(c); and

WHEREAS, attorneys representing petitioners in adult guardianship proceedings may petition for an award of reasonable and necessary fees pursuant to Maryland Rule 10-201(d); and

WHEREAS, the Court from time to time appoints attorneys to serve as guardians of the property in adult guardianship proceedings and those guardians may choose to seek an award of reasonable and necessary fees pursuant to Md. Code, Estates & Trusts §§ 13-218 and 14.5-708; and

WHEREAS, attorneys serving as court-appointed counsel for the alleged disabled person or as guardian of the property in adult guardianship proceedings perform an important and valuable role for the court; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that attorneys serving in all these roles in adult guardianship proceedings have guidance from the court in how the court will assess their fee petitions, including the rates of compensation that the court generally will consider to be reasonable; and

WHEREAS, the court in the past has provided such guidance by memorandum to the General Civil Magistrates who review fee petitions filed in adult guardianship proceedings in the first instance; and

WHEREAS, the hourly rate generally considered by the court to be reasonable in these proceedings has not been adjusted by the court since July 2007; and

WHEREAS, the passage of time and inflation in the economy since July 2007 warrants an increase in the hourly rate generally considered by the court to be reasonable in these proceedings; and

WHEREAS, that court also deems it appropriate to differentiate in hourly rates for attorneys based on the number of years of experience of the attorney and also to provide an hourly rate generally considered by the court to be reasonable for paralegals and law clerks,

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105(b), it is this 10th day of February 2021 hereby:

ORDERED that the court generally will consider the following hourly rates to be reasonable in connection with fee petitions filed by attorneys in adult guardianship proceedings in this court:

Attorneys admitted to the bar for fewer than eight (8) years:	\$190/hour
Attorneys admitted to the bar for eight (8) years or more:	\$225/hour
Paralegals and law clerks:	\$100/hour; and it is further

ORDERED that this adjustment of fees will apply to both pending fee petitions and fee petitions to be filed with respect to services rendered on and after January 1, 2021; and it is further

ORDERED that nothing in this Administrative Order prevents an attorney from seeking compensation, with justification, at lower or higher rates than are provided here; and it is further

