



Wisconsin State Public Defender

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TO: Kathy Pakes, Assigned Counsel Division Director
Andrea Eilers, Budget Director
FROM: Kelli Thompson, State Public Defender
DATE: June 2, 2023
RE: Increase to private bar investigator and paralegal rates

Effective with cases appointed on or after July 1, 2023, the new rate in private bar appointments to reimburse investigators will be \$50 per hour, and the new rate to reimburse paralegals will be \$35 per hour.

These increases are necessary to ensure that adequate investigatory resources are available to private bar attorneys so they can meet the constitutional obligation to provide effective representation.

Based on prior expenditures, it is estimated that increasing these rates will result in approximately \$1,825,000 in additional cost. It is expected that increased use of investigators and paralegals will reduce the demands on attorney workload and increase efficiency. Costs will be primarily paid from the program operation appropriation for private bar and investigator reimbursement (appropriation 104).

Any additional expenditures can be paid from the private bar and investigator reimbursement; payments for legal representation (136). This is consistent with the authorization under s. 20.550(1)(L):

(L) Private bar and investigator reimbursement; payments for legal representation. All moneys received, after first deducting the amounts appropriated under par. (fb), from persons as payment for legal representation to be used for the reimbursement of private attorneys appointed to act as counsel under s. 977.08 and for reimbursement for contracting for services of private investigators.