

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALABAMA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 149, of the Constitution of Alabama, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama is the administrative head of the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Section 12-2-30(b)(7), Code of Alabama 1975, authorizes and empowers the Chief Justice, “[t]o take affirmative and appropriate action to correct or alleviate any condition or situation adversely affecting the administration of justice within the state;” and

WHEREAS, Section 12-2-30(b)(8), Code of Alabama 1975, authorizes and empowers the Chief Justice “[t]o take any such other, further or additional action as may be necessary for the orderly administration of justice within the state, whether or not enumerated [in the law],”

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND DIRECTED that effective November 13, 2012, any and all attorney fee declarations and supporting documents relating to payment of a claim for services rendered by an attorney in an indigent defense matter shall be submitted electronically with the Office of Indigent Defense Services through the Alabama Indigent Defense Claims Center in all criminal divisions of the circuit and district courts including: Circuit Criminal (CC); District Criminal (DC); Juvenile (JU) and any other division, criminal or civil, where a party has been determined by court order to be indigent and involved in a proceeding for which representation by counsel is constitutionally required or is authorized or required by statute or court rule.

A hardship exception allowing an attorney to file in paper may be requested by an attorney who cannot file electronically due to exceptional circumstances. Requests for an exception should be submitted to the Administrative Director of Courts for consideration and approval or disapproval by the Director.

Effective November 13, 2012, all orders rendered by the judge assigned to an indigent defense case in one of the above referenced divisions, criminal, civil, or juvenile shall be rendered electronically by the judge through AlacourtPlus and transmitted electronically to the Alabama Indigent Defense Claims Center.

A hardship exception allowing a judge to file an order in paper may be obtained for a judge who cannot file electronically due to exceptional circumstances. Requests for an exception should be submitted to the Administrative Director of Courts for consideration and approval or disapproval jointly by the Administrative Director of Courts and the Chief Justice.

Done this 25th day of October 2012.




CHARLES R. MALONE
CHIEF JUSTICE