

Attachment: Child Support /Alimony Contempt Defense Representation

Goal

Implement the right to counsel for low-income defendants in contempt proceedings for failure to pay child support or spousal support.

Project Activities

Using the VBA's low-bono project model, private attorneys will represent defendants in contempt proceedings for failure to pay support obligations. It is estimated that 10 cases will be covered in the first year, but that the number will grow with awareness of the program. Because they face incarceration, contempt defendants are entitled to legal representation. The attorneys for defendants will file limited notices of appearance to confine their work to the contempt proceeding. Attorneys who choose to be paid will receive a stipend of \$75 per hour for up to 5 hours in each matter. Client eligibility (low income/low asset) will be determined by family court staff.

Project Budget

The partnership is seeking an annual appropriation of \$18,000 to cover administrative costs and private attorney stipends; once the program is publicized and established statewide, administrative costs will decrease and attorney stipends will increase.

Payments to private attorneys @ \$375 per case for 10 cases	\$ 3,750
VBA administrative costs for outreach & education to court staff, attorney recruitment and training, case placement and payments, tax and grant reporting, professional liability insurance coverage and client satisfaction monitoring	\$26,250
Total Budget	\$30,000

Contact

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