



**IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-03**

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**IN RE: EXPERT WITNESS COMPENSATION AND PROCEDURES IN CRIMINAL CASES**

**WHEREAS**, it is mandated by the Florida Supreme Court in AOSC18-17 and AOSC17-12, that each judicial circuit implement certain standards of operation to ensure the effective and efficient provision of court-appointed expert witness services and to compensate experts in accordance with a statewide expert witness rate structure;

**WHEREAS**, section 916.115(1), Florida Statutes requires the Court to appoint experts to determine the mental health condition of defendants in criminal cases, including, among other things, competency to proceed, involuntary placement, and treatment;

**WHEREAS**, section 916.115(2), Florida Statutes states the Court shall pay for any expert that it appoints by court order, upon motion of counsel for the defendant or the State or upon its own motion to determine the mental health condition of defendants in criminal cases;

**WHEREAS**, nothing in Florida Statutes, Court Rules, or precedent requires the Court to pay for the testimony of witnesses subpoenaed by the counsel for the defendant or the State to testify in hearings related to the mental health condition of defendants in criminal cases;

**NOW THEREFORE**, by the authority of Rule 2.215, Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, it is therefore **ORDERED** effective immediately, as follows:

**I. APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION**

1. Court Administration for the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida (“Court Administration”) establishes, monitors, and maintains a Court-Appointed Expert Witness Registry (“Registry”). Court-appointed expert witnesses (“Expert”) shall be appointed on a rotational basis.
2. The Court shall initially appoint only one expert to determine competency. If the findings of the initial expert are not stipulated to by the parties, the Court may appoint up to two (2) additional experts.
3. The Court shall be responsible to pay for the expert’s evaluation and report, for those experts appointed by court order, upon motion of counsel for the defendant, or the State, or upon its own motion, to determine the mental health condition of defendants in criminal cases.

4. In order for the expert to be paid for services in determining the mental health condition of defendants in criminal cases, the expert's report must explicitly address each of the factors and follow the procedures in Chapter 916 and in the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure. Court will not pay for sanity evaluations or competency restoration services.
5. The Court shall not be responsible to pay for the testimony of experts that are subpoenaed or otherwise requested by either counsel for the defendant or the State in any hearing or trial. Payment for testimony shall be the responsibility of the party subpoenaing the expert.
6. However, if the presiding judge determines the testimony of an expert is necessary and issues an order requiring the expert to appear, the Court shall be responsible for payment.

## **II. RATES AND PROCEDURES**

7. A rate schedule for the payment of experts is hereby established in Attachment A.
8. Payment amounts higher than the rates listed in Attachment A are allowable in extraordinary circumstances with prior approval by the court. The court's order must document the justification for the higher rate in order for the Court to pay.
9. Experts must submit their invoice using the approved template to Court Administration at CriminalCM@leoncountyfl.gov. The invoice shall include, at a minimum, the case number, the name of the person examined, the date of the examination, and the amount. The expert must submit a copy of the judge's order with the invoice for payment.
10. Any complaint or grievance regarding an expert shall be submitted in writing to the Trial Court Administrator for review by the Chief Judge.
11. This order is effective immediately. Administrative Order 1995-04, as well as all prior guidance or directives are hereby rescinded.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

  
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FRANCIS J. ALLMAN  
Chief Judge



**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-03**

**Attachment A**

**EXPERT WITNESS COMPENSATION AND PROCEDURES IN CRIMINAL CASES**

		Effective Upon AO Signing		Effective July 1, 2026 <sup>1</sup>		
Competency, Adult Criminal (916.115, 916.12)		\$500	Initial Evaluation	\$600	Initial Evaluation	
		\$350	Updated Evaluation	\$450	Updated Evaluation	
		\$200	No Show Fee	\$200	No Show Fee	
<b> </b>						
Competency, Adult Criminal Intellectual Disability (916.301 – 916.304)		\$500	Initial Evaluation	\$700	Initial Evaluation	
		\$350	Updated Evaluation	\$450	Updated Evaluation	
		\$200	No Show Fee	\$200	No Show Fee	
<b> </b>						
Competency, Juvenile Criminal (985.18, 985.19)		\$350	Initial Evaluation	\$600	Initial Evaluation	
		\$250	Updated Evaluation	\$450	Updated Evaluation	
		\$140	No Show Fee	\$140	No Show Fee	
<b> </b>						
Competency; Juvenile Intellectual Disability (916.301 – 916.304)		\$500	Initial Evaluation	\$700	Initial Evaluation	
		\$250	Updated Evaluation	\$450	Updated Evaluation	
		\$200	No Show Fee	\$200	No Show Fee	
<b> </b>						
Developmental Examining Committee Member; (393.11, 916.303)	Ph.D.	\$350	Initial Evaluation	\$900	Initial Evaluation	
		\$250	Updated Evaluation	\$500	Updated Evaluation	
		\$140	No Show Fee	\$140	No Show Fee	
	<b> </b>					
	M.D., D.O.	\$350	Initial Evaluation	\$500	Initial Evaluation	
		\$250	Updated Evaluation	\$350	Updated Evaluation	
		\$140	No Show Fee	\$140	No Show Fee	
	<b> </b>					
	ARNP, RN, MSW, LPN, LCSW, or lay persons	\$250	Initial Evaluation	\$300	Initial Evaluation	
\$175		Updated Evaluation	\$200	Updated Evaluation		
\$100		No Show Fee	\$100	No Show Fee		
<b> </b>						
Pre-Bond Screenings		\$300	Per Evaluation	\$300	Per Evaluation	
<b> </b>						
Court-Ordered Testimony <sup>2</sup> (includes wait time, 2 hour cap)		\$150	hourly rate	\$150	hourly rate	
<b> </b>						
Court-Ordered Risk Assessment		Not to exceed \$1,500 per evaluation unless by court order		Not to exceed \$1,500 per evaluation unless by court order		

<sup>1</sup>The Court hereby determines, effective July 1, 2026, that extraordinary circumstances exist which require rate amounts higher than those stated in Florida Supreme Court AOSC18-17.

<sup>2</sup> If the presiding judge determines the testimony of an expert is necessary and issues an order requiring the expert to appear, the Court shall be responsible for payment.