FILED
03/27/2020
Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

No. ADM2020-00428

ORDER REGARDING COMPENSATION OF COUNSEL FOR INDIGENT DEFENDANTS

On March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court declared a state of emergency for the Judicial Branch of Tennessee government and activated a Continuity of Operations Plan for the Courts of Tennessee. On March 25, 2020, the Court continued the suspension of in-person court proceedings through April 30, 2020, and the extension of deadlines through May 6, 2020.

Given the increasing economic issues caused by this pandemic and the vital services rendered by appointed counsel for indigent defendants, the Court amends Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 13, section 6(a)(1) to increase the maximum dollar amount of claims to four hundred dollars ($400.00) that are exempt from judicial review. This amendment shall apply to all claims submitted from the date of this order until further order of this Court:

> **Section 6. Review of claims for compensation and reimbursement of expenses.**
>
> (a)(1) All claims for attorney compensation and expenses shall be submitted utilizing the system established by the AOC for electronic submission. Claims of four hundred dollars ($400.00) or more for attorney compensation and expenses shall be electronically submitted, and shall be reviewed and approved by the judge who presided over final disposition of the case prior to payment by the AOC. Electronic claims that total less than four hundred dollars ($400.00) shall be exempt from the judicial review and approval requirement; such claims, however, shall be subject to the AOC's examination and audit pursuant to this section.

It is so ORDERED.

PER CURIAM