

18 SAFEGUARDERS - FEES AND EXPENSES (AN110-2009)

Safeguarders

Safeguarders are independent individuals who may be appointed by a Children's Hearing or a Sheriff to report on a child's best interests when the child is involved in proceedings before a Hearing or the Sheriff. The Council is required to maintain a Panel of Safeguarders available for appointment.

Safeguarders Fees

It is reported that the fees have previously been set by Cosla, however with effect from 1st April, 2006, local authorities now set the fees at a local level as requested by Cosla. The Committee is asked to note the new fees as outlined below which have been increased in line with inflation with effect from 1st April, 2009.

Fees - Appointments by Hearing

- (a) Fixed Appointment Fee - £232
Fixed Appointment Fee - second and subsequent children
 £116 per child (living separately from first child)
 £58 per child (living together with first child)
- (b) Fixed Attendance Fee - £116
- (c) Fixed Fee for Reports - Continued Hearings
 £116 (written report) £58 (oral report)
 £58 (written report) £29 (oral report) - second and subsequent children

Fees - Appointments by Sheriff

- (a) Fixed Appointment Fee - £232
Fixed Appointment Fee - £58 (not entering proceedings as a party)
Fixed Appointment Fee - second and subsequent children
 £116 per child (living separately from first child)
 £58 per child (living together with first child)
- (b) Fixed Attendance Fee £116 per day regardless of the number of children involved (entering as a party only)
- (c) Fixed Fee for Continued Diets - £58 (entering as a party only)

Safeguarder Expenses

Mileage rate per mile to be a flat rate of 40p per mile in accordance with Inland Revenue Guidelines.

Any increased costs will require to be met from existing departmental revenue budgets.