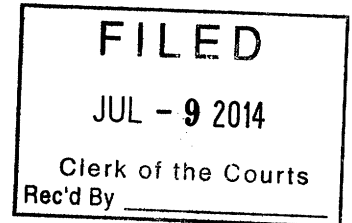


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: RULE 13, SECTION 7,
RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

No. M2011-01411-RL2-RL

ORDER



On July 1, 2011 the Court filed an order soliciting public comments concerning a proposed amendment to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 13 to provide for an alternative method of compensating attorneys providing legal services to indigent person pursuant to the Rule. In summary, a proposed new Section 7 of the rule would have authorized the Administrative Office of the Courts (“AOC”) to enter into contracts with attorneys, law firms, or associations of attorneys to provide legal services to indigent persons for a fixed fee.

After due consideration of the proposed amendment, as well as the many comments received during the public comment period, the Court declined to amend Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 13; in the alternative, however, the Court established a pilot project in the Davidson County Juvenile Court to assess the effectiveness of contracting with attorneys for representation of indigent defendants facing child support contempt charges. The project commenced on July 1, 2012, and was conducted during the 2012–2013 fiscal year. By order entered July 10, 2013, the Court extended the term of the pilot project until June 30, 2014, to allow for all data associated with cases assigned during the 2012–2013 fiscal year to be collected.

Pursuant to the Court’s order, the AOC submitted to the Court a report concerning the effectiveness of the pilot project. The report states that the contract approach was very successful and that the cost to the indigent defense fund for representation in the subject cases was reduced by approximately thirty-three percent over the prior fiscal year. At the same time, however, attorneys and Juvenile Court Magistrates who participated in the pilot project reported no decline in the level of representation on behalf of clients.

In order for the Court to evaluate the information submitted by the AOC and to avoid a disruption in the current working arrangement in each of the three participating courtrooms, the pilot project is hereby extended for an additional six months, through December 31, 2014. The Court will consider at a later date whether to adopt the contract program on a permanent basis in the cases currently covered by the pilot project and also will consider whether to expand the contract program to other types of cases covered by Rule 13.

The Clerk shall provide a copy of this order to LexisNexis and to Thomson Reuters. In addition, this order shall be posted on the Tennessee Supreme Court's website.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

PER CURIAM