



**Michigan Appellate Assigned
Counsel System
Attorney Fee and Expense Policy**

*Approved by the Michigan Appellate Defender Commission, September 20, 2023
Effective October 1, 2023*

Hourly Rate for Legal Services:

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|-----------|---|
| \$142/hr: | Capital Felony Representation (life statutory maximum offenses) |
| \$130/hr: | Noncapital Felony Appellate Representation |
| \$118/hr: | Misdemeanor Appellate Representation |
| \$118/hr: | Youth Appellate Representation (tentative rate, pending review) |

Presumptive Reasonable Hours* for Legal Services:

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|---------|--|
| 15 hrs: | Appeal from plea conviction and sentencing (or youth plea adjudication) Appeal from resentencing Appeal from probation violation proceeding Preconviction appeal (or youth preadjudication appeal) Appeal involving parole determination |
| 45 hrs: | Appeal from trial conviction and sentencing (or youth trial adjudication) Motion for relief from judgment or related appeal (MCR 6.500) Appeal involving sentence of life imprisonment for youth |

* A request for fees within these thresholds will be presumed reasonable. A request for additional fees must be accompanied by an explanation as to the reasonableness of the fee requested. Relevant considerations include, but are not limited to, the length of the record, the volume of discovery, the need for investigation, the need for litigation in multiple courts, the complexity of legal issues, and the unique needs of a client.

Expense Reimbursement:

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|--------------|---|
| \$50/hr: | Hourly rate for travel (excluded from presumptive maximum) |
| \$0.440/mi: | Mileage rate (based on State of Michigan standard mileage rate) |
| \$0.20/page: | Printing and copying |
| Full cost: | Reasonable actual expenses related to the representation |

Time and Method of Billing:

A request for reimbursement must be submitted to MAACS for review within 15 days after the calendar month in which services were provided or expenses were incurred, unless MAACS directs or allows otherwise. An untimely request is not guaranteed payment. Legal services must be reported in 1/10-hr increments. Documentation must be provided for actual expenses except postage, parking, or tolls under \$10.

Reductions:

If a trial court or local indigent defense system does not pay a request for reimbursement in full, it must provide a written explanation for the reduction in writing, reviewable by motion to the trial court and/or appeal.

Reimbursement of Trial Court or Local System:

Subject to appropriation, if a trial court or local indigent criminal defense system provides payment under this policy, MAACS will reimburse one-half of its costs.