

**Superior Court of California  
County of Riverside**

**Court Policy Memorandum (Administrative) #C.10.9**

Dated: July 26, 2023

**TO:** Judges and Court Commissioners  
Executive Officer/Clerk

**FROM:** Judith C. Clark, Presiding Judge

**SUBJECT:** Medical Examiners and Mental Health Experts

**APPLICABILITY:** Countywide

**REFERENCE:** May 13, 2004 opinion by the California Attorney General  
(87 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 62 (2004))  
May 5, 2005 Memorandum from the Administrative Office of  
the Courts' Office of the General Counsel  
June 7, 2019 Executive Committee Meeting  
June 2, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

**SUPERSEDES:** Court Policy Memorandum dated January 10, 2023

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Court Appointment

The court appoints medical examiners and/or mental health experts for reports or testimony as provided by law. When the need for this arises, the court will appoint from the approved list of Medical Examiners/Mental Health Experts for the Riverside Superior Court. The court may, for good cause, appoint an expert not on the list.

When the court appoints a medical examiner/expert, the court shall provide (via U.S. mail or electronic mail) the Notice of Appointment and a copy of the court's order to the appointed individual. Counsel may provide additional information to the examiner/expert without involving the court.

If the court makes an order for an interpreter to be present at the evaluation, payment shall be made in accordance with the rates established by the Judicial Council.

Submission of Reports

The medical examiner/expert shall submit a copy of the court-ordered report a minimum of two days prior to the hearing. Electronic submissions shall be made via the court's website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://riverside.courts.ca.gov/FormsFiling/ESubmit/esubmit.php>

### Payment/Invoicing

The examiner/expert shall request payment through the court's online Medical Examiner Payment Voucher program<sup>2</sup>. A copy of the Notice of Appointment form must be submitted for payment. Examiner/experts are responsible for compensating hired interpreters. Additionally, if an examiner/expert is requesting reimbursement for the services of an interpreter, he or she shall request payment through the court's online Medical Examiner Payment Voucher program. All applicable portions of the voucher must be completed in order for payment to be remitted in a timely manner.

Except as noted, travel and other incidental costs are included in the total authorized amount as identified for each type of service/exam as outlined in this policy. Any other costs must be pre-approved by the judicial officer in advance of the service.

Unless otherwise directed by the court, invoices received over the amount(s) listed in this policy and not pre-approved by the judicial officer will be reduced accordingly. If payment is authorized by the court at an amount higher than that listed in this policy, the examiner/expert must attach a copy of the court's minute order authorizing the higher amount.

### Fee Schedule

A 2004 opinion by the California Attorney General delineates the responsibility for costs incurred under certain statutes. All evaluations not included in this opinion shall be paid by the appropriate entity as identified by statute.

A review of this policy and fee schedule shall be performed each January for any applicable changes. The amounts reflected below are the maximum allowed without additional approval by the judicial officer.

Code Section	Type of Evaluation	Responsible Entity	Unable to Complete Exam	Complete Report	Complete Report - Necessitated More than One Visit
PC 1368/1369/1370	Competency	Court	\$500 (psychiatrists) \$300 (psychologists)	\$1,000 (psychiatrists) \$600 (psychologists)	\$1,150 (psychiatrists) \$690 (psychologists)
PC 288.1	Lewd Acts	Court	\$300	\$600	\$690
PC 457	Arson	Court	\$500 (psychiatrists) \$300 (psychologists)	\$1,000 (psychiatrists) \$600 (psychologists)	\$1,150 (psychiatrists) \$690 (psychologists)
PC 1026/1027	Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity	County	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,150

<sup>2</sup> Examiner/Experts can request a vendor number from the Riverside Superior Court and access to the Medical Examiner Payment Voucher Program.

Code Section	Type of Evaluation	Responsible Entity	Unable to Complete Exam	Complete Report	Complete Report - Necessitated More than One Visit
PC 2962/2970	Mentally Disordered Offender	County	\$350	\$700	\$805
WIC 5303.1	Civil Commitment	Court	\$300	\$600	\$690
WIC 3050/3051	Narcotics Addict – Criminal	Court	\$300	\$600	\$690
WIC 3102	Narcotics Addict – Civil	Court	\$300	\$600	\$690
WIC 6600	Sexually Violent Predator	County	\$900	\$1,800	\$2,070
WIC 370	Juvenile Dependency	County	\$375	\$750	\$862
WIC 709	Juvenile Delinquency – Minor’s Competency	Court	\$600 plus two hours travel time for out-of-county psychiatrists and psychologists at \$90 - \$125/hour plus mileage at IRS approved rate.	\$1,200 plus two hours travel time for out-of-county psychiatrists and psychologists at \$90 - \$125/hour plus mileage at IRS approved rate.	\$1,380 plus two hours travel time for out-of-county psychiatrists and psychologists at \$90 - \$125/hour plus mileage at IRS approved rate.
EC 730	Juvenile Dependency	County	\$375	\$750	\$862
EC 1017	Mental Competency/Sanity Examination	County	\$300	\$600	\$690

Other – Miscellaneous		
Court Appearance – Testimony Half Day or Less (less than 4 hours)	County or Court*	\$300
Court Appearance – Testimony Full Day (4 hours or more)	County or Court*	\$500
Extraordinary Circumstances (e.g., extensive research, review and preparation) <sup>3</sup> Requires prior approval of judicial officer.		\$90/hour \$125/hour
Out-of County Expert. Requires prior approval of judicial officer.		Reimbursement for travel costs (mileage,

<sup>3</sup> In cases of extreme complexity, seriousness of charge, or other extraordinary circumstances, if extensive research and/or trial preparation is required, additional medical expert fees may be approved at the rate of up to \$90/hour. For Board-certified professional in specialty field, fees may be approved at the rate of up to \$125/hour.

Other – Miscellaneous		
		hotel, meals and other incidentals) reimbursed at IRS approved rate(s).

Examiner Unable to Perform Exam

In the event a court-ordered medical examination cannot be performed for reasons that are beyond the control of the examiner/expert (e.g., client uncooperative or refuses exam, client no-show, logistical problems at facility, etc.), the examiner/expert will be compensated at a maximum of 50% of the court-approved rate. The examiner/expert should document the relevant circumstances on the voucher.

Court Hearing Postponed – Payment for Expert Testimony

In the event the expert appears for testimony and the hearing is postponed without sufficient notice being provided, the expert may be compensated at the court-approved or a reduced rate, as approved on a case-by-case basis by the judicial officer depending on the individual circumstances present. The expert should document the relevant circumstances in the invoice.

Testimony

The court is required to pay for the testimony expenses of those experts who prepared the reports required by statute, but only when an expert is testifying in a hearing that the court is required to conduct (Judicial Council Opinion “Payment of Court-Ordered Forensic Examinations”, dated May 5, 2005.) Fees for an expert who is called to testify in a hearing that the court is not required to conduct shall be borne by the relevant party (e.g., prosecution or defense).

Medical Examiner / Mental Health Expert List

The Medical Examiners/Mental Health Expert List expires each December 31<sup>st</sup>. Examiners/experts should submit a current application form and updated curriculum vitae annually. The examiner/expert shall also submit confirmation that they are in good standing with the appropriate California licensing board. First-time applicants shall also provide a writing sample for review. Updated lists will be submitted for review and approval by the applicable judicial advisory committee. Upon approval, the list will be distributed along with the most current version of this policy/fee schedule.

Effective: July 1, 2023

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/s/  
JUDITH C. CLARK  
Presiding Judge