

Outlined below are some of the main events in each phase to help you determine when you need to bill.

First phase/Phase I (also called Dispositional or Adjudicatory phase)

- Billing should begin at date of appointment and end with the adjudicatory and dispositional hearing.
- Includes preliminary hearings, permanency plan staffings, adjudication, disposition
- Could include ratification of permanency plans

There is a maximum amount of \$750.00 on this phase. With an approved order declaring the case complex or extended, there is a cap of \$1500.00

*** A claim for fees should be filed for this 1st phase within 180 days from the date of adjudication. ***

Second Phase/Phase II (also called Post-dispositional phase)

- Billing should begin after the dispositional hearing (often referred to as the adjudicatory hearing) and end with either the last activity you do on the case and/or your withdrawal from the case.
- Includes foster care review boards, court reviews, discharge staffings, permanency hearings.

There is maximum amount of \$1,000.00 on this phase. With approved complex order, \$2000.00 is the cap.

One claim per phase is allowed and must be submitted within 180 days of the last hearing (or last activity in post-dispositional phase). **No interim billing is allowed for these cases.**

Intervening Petition

- Petition qualifies as an intervening petition if it is filed by a party other than the initial petitioner and alleges new charges of d/n, and is adjudicated at a separate hearing than the initial petition.
- Has same caps as Phase I.
- **Must** submit copy of intervening petition with claim for attorney fees.

Termination of Parental Rights

- Billing should begin with the filing of the petition to terminate parental rights of one or both parents.
- Time for work on the d/n petition should not be included in this billing
- This work is not divided into phases, phases applies only to dependent/neglect
- Cap is \$1,000.00; if approved complex order is submitted, \$2000.00 is allowed.

*****Please also note that **each claim** must be accompanied by the **order of appointment**. Attaching one order of appointment to multiple claims is **not** allowed. Also, **only one claim per phase is allowed** and must be submitted within 180 days of the last hearing (or last activity in post-dispositional phase). **No interim billing is allowed for these cases.**

Hopefully, these points will help you in the preparation of future claims for attorney fees. Please refer to Supreme Court Rule 13, a copy of which may be downloaded from our website at www.tsc.state.tn.us.