

## EXPERTS

Most experts compensated by the Attorneys for Children Program are psychologists who are hired by attorneys for children to do custody/visitation evaluations in complex cases. If you don't have someone in mind, you may want to use the database, HelpPro (<http://www.helppro.com>) to help you locate psychologists in your area who will accept the State rate of \$90.00 per hour. We encourage you to use social workers and private investigators when appropriate. Using a social worker's investigative services can be helpful, e.g., hiring a social worker to make a home visit when making the visit personally could expose you to being called as a witness in the litigation. If you need additional help locating an expert, you can call the Attorneys for Children Program Office at (585) 530-3170 for assistance in locating someone you find suitable. The Attorneys for Children Program does not hold out any expert as "qualified." That determination is up to you and the court.

The Attorneys for Children Program will pay for the child's portion of a custody/visitation evaluation but will not pay for time the psychologist spends with the parties. The Program will not pay for services not directly related to representation, such as treatment or supervised visitation. Generally, the child's portion of the evaluation runs between \$300-1200. If the expert fee will be greater than \$1,000, you must obtain authorization, by email or telephone, from the Attorneys for Children Program Director or Assistant Director. In the event the expert is not able to complete the work for the ordered amount, you must notify the Program and get a supplemental order from the Judge.

In order to avoid confusion, the Attorneys for Children Program prefers that you use the model form for expert services located on our website. Please refer to the Attorneys for Children Internet Voucher System Manual and Reimbursement Guidelines, contained within the Attorneys for Children Program Administrative Handbook (2009) for instructions on authorization and allocation.

\* For more information about HelpPro, please refer to "HelpPro" on your Fundamentals of Advocacy CD, under the Attorney for the Child Ethics and Administrative folder, or the HelpPro link posted on our website.

## TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS

If you need the services of a translator or interpreter to facilitate communication with your client, a party, a witness, etc., you need to call the office if it will be more than \$300 and/or if you need help with referrals. When services are completed, a standard voucher must be completed with proper signatures and a bill that reflects the rate and time spent. (See <http://www.nycourts.gov/ad4>, Attorneys for Children Program, and then under Forms, you will find the Standard Voucher.)