

Child Counsel Appointment Policies and Procedures*
By Maryland County

County and contact name/number	Standard orders to appoint BIA's?	List of qualified attorneys?	Reduced fees required?	“Cap” on fees for BIA?	Who reviews fee petitions?
Allegany County Lynn Pecoraro, Family Service Coordinator, 301-777-2101	Yes, attached.	Call or write to the court, and provide proof of training to be placed on roster.	If indigent parties, \$100/hour paid by court. If not indigent, max \$275/hour.	No Cap.	Reviewed by Family Services coordinator, then trial judge.
Anne Arundel County Judge Laura Kiessling (410) 222-1290; Erin McCarthy (410) 222-1153, ext. 6, Family Case Administrator	Yes, attached.	You must apply to be on the list. One attorney appointed as the BIA, but may have others work on case if under BIA's direct supervision.	No mandate. \$250/hr. is normal.	No cap. Most run \$5k to \$8k. Largest fee case was about \$30k.	No petitions. BIA paid directly by parties.
Baltimore City Judge Yvette Bryant (410) 396-5102/5103; Sue German (410) 396-3648, Case Administrator; Tara Miles (443) 451-4070, MVLS	Yes, attached.	Pro bono cases referred to MVLS for appointment of state-trained BIA. Otherwise, Masters appoint BIAs based on their own preference.	Case by case.	Case by case.	Case by case.
Baltimore County Richard Abbott (410) 887-6578, Family Law Administrator	Yes, attached.	Yes, attached at Tab 3. Judges Ballou-Watts and Martin appoint all BIAs after having submitted resume, completed training, agreed to accept case pro bono, and have malpractice insurance. Approx. 1/2 BIA requests denied as unnecessary.	\$200/hr. is paid privately, \$100/hr. if paid by Court	If BIA's fees paid by court for indigent parents, cap is \$1,500. Otherwise, no cap.	

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Calvert County Rose Naughton (410) 535-1600, ex. 2516, Family Services Coordinator	Yes, attached.	Yes, attached (informal list) at Tab 4.	\$175.00	Litigants can apply to have portion of fees paid through Court up to \$500. Otherwise no cap.	Admin judge, who may reduce hours in order to reduce fee.
Caroline County John Cambardella, Family Support Services Coordinator, 190 Market Street, Denton, MD 21629 (410) 479-2303	Yes, attached.	Send proof of training and brief resume showing family law experience to John Cambardella.	Based on attorneys' recommendations.	No cap.	Family services
Carroll County Powel Welliver, Family Law Administrator, 410- 386-2401	Yes, attached.	Send proof of training and brief resume showing family law experience to Powel Welliver	Case by case	No cap.	Judge
Cecil County Nolanda Kirby, Family Support Coordinator, 410-996-1157	Yes, attached	Send letter and proof of training to Family Services Coordinator, Nolanda Robert	If indigent they will have fees waived. Case by Case as to how much is waived	\$1500.00 Cap if paid for by the court due to indigency. No cap if paid for by the parties.	Family Services Coordinator then Administrative Judge
Charles County Jennifer Murphy, Family Support Services Director, 301-932-3278	Yes, attached.	Send proof of training and brief resume showing family law experience to Jennifer Murphy, application then reviewed by administrative judge	\$175/hour	No cap.	Judge

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Dorchester County Jessica Milligan, Family Support Services Coordinator, (410) 228-1395	Yes, attached.	Send a cover letter with proof of training and resume to Jessica Milligan.	\$100/hr. If additional fees are required, submit petition.	\$1000 cap.	Judge and Master.
Frederick County Colby S. Hall, Family Services Coordinator, (301) 600-2023	Yes, attached.	Send letter with proof of training to Colby Hall.	No general rule but case by case consideration.	No cap.	Trial judge.
Garrett County Judge James L. Sherbin, 301-334-1934 Randy Whitaker, Family Services Coordinator, (301) 334-7602	Yes, attached.	Send letter, resume and proof of training to Judge Sherbin.	Regular rates	Usually capped at \$1500.	Judge
Harford County Kim Blackburn, Judicial Secretary, (410) 638-3462	Yes, attached.	Send letter, resume and proof of training to Kim Blackburn	Case by case	No cap.	Family services and Judge makes final decision
Howard County Lisa Mohink, Deputy Court Administrator, (410) 313-2293	Yes, attached.	Send letter with proof of training to Judge Tucker, who will then forward to Mohink	10 hours @ \$200/hr., then may increase to regular rate	No.	Trial judge
Kent County Lori Jacobs., Family Services Coordinator, (410) 810-1059	Yes, attached.	Send a letter, resume and/or CV, with certificate of training to Family Services Division. Family Services will maintain list of eligible attorneys.	Generally \$125-150/hr. Retainer also included.	Usually cap at \$3,000. Will consider requests to lift cap in more complex cases.	Family Services and Judge makes final decision.

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Montgomery County Designated Family Division Master, Family Department, Judicial Center, 50 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850, Room 107 (240) 777-9426	Yes, Attached.	Send proof of training, resume, and proof of insurance to the designated Family Division Master. Information will then be forwarded to the BIA Review Committee. Specific policies and procedures are attached.	\$250/hr. subject to change by Court Order for good cause, or agreement of the parties AND the Child Counsel	Up to \$100/hr. paid by Court, up to maximum of \$2000 for BIA or CAA. Maximum of \$500 for CPA.	Uncontested: Review Committee Master will review. Contested: Review Committee Judge will preside over hearings contested fee petitions.
Prince George’s County Indra Caudle, Executive Director of Family Division, (301) 952-4095	Yes, Attached.	Send resume and proof of training to Indra Caudle	Fee scale rather than rate	If settles before Court appearance, \$1000. Before trial but after settlement conference, \$2000. After trial, \$3000.	Currently Judge Northrop, but rotates through judges.
Queen Anne’s County Elisa Dickens, Family Services Coordinator, (410) 758-1773, ext. 5128	Yes, Attached. Paragraph 2 and 3 are edited as needed, depending on direction from the Court.	Attorney should contact Elisa Dickens expressing interest , provide proof of training/certificate and resume. Ms. Dickens will inform Court of interest. .	Case by case	Case by case	Magistrate and Judge
St. Mary’s County Claire Langeluttig, Family Support Services Coordinator, (301) 475-7844, ext. 74110	Yes, attached	Send proof of training letter of interest to Claire Langeluttig.	Case by case	No cap.	Master and/or Judge

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Somerset County Helen Webster, Family Support Services Coordinator, (410) 621-7582	Yes, attached.	Attorney should send a cover letter, proof of certification and resume to Helen Webster.	\$145/hr. up to \$1450, attorney must request additional if going over	\$1450	Family Services and presents of Judge for final decision.
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Talbot County Barbara Mitchell, Family Support Services Coordinator, (410) 770-6806	Yes, attached.	Attorney must send a cover letter with proof of training and a resume to Barbara Mitchell.	Yes, \$150/hr.	Provision in order that bill may not be more than \$1000; rarely used, usually parties are required to pay into a retainer.	Family Services Coordinator reviews and presents to judge for final decision.
Washington County Amie Spigler, Family Services Coordinator, 241-313-2580	Yes, Attached	Attorney must send a cover letter, proof of certification and resume to Amie Spigler. Documentation then forwarded to the Administrative Judge for approval.	Yes, \$200/hr.	Case by case. Usually parties are required to pay initial retainer. If additional fees are needed, attorney must file a fee petition.	Family Services Coordinator reviews and presents to Judge for final decision.
Wicomico County Jennifer Hapner, Family Services Coordinator, (410) 334-3110	Yes, Attached	Attorney should send a cover letter, proof of certification showing family law experience and resume to the Family Services Coordinator. This will then be sent to the Administrative Judge for approval.	\$150.00/Hour for up to 10 hours unless granted additional time.	\$1,500.00 unless granted additional time.	Family Services Coordinator reviews & drafts and Order granting or denying the waiver. That Order is sent to a Judge for approval.

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<p>Worcester County Anne Turner, Family Services Coordinator (410) 632-5638</p>	<p>Yes, Attached.</p>	<p>Attorney should send a cover letter and proof of certification to the Administrative Judge, Hon. Brian Shockley, One W. Market Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863. This will then be forwarded to Anne Turner.</p>	<p>BIA rate is set at \$145.00 per hour for a max of ten hours. Parties may file a motion for waiver of family services fees to be considered for a reduced fee or fee waiver.</p>	<p>\$1,450.00, if additional time/fees needed, attorney must petition.</p>	<p>Family Services Coordinator (for accuracy) then forwarded to Judge for signature.</p>
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Updated July 29, 2022

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