

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR 10th JUDICIAL DISTRICT UNION/WALLOWA COUNTIES

In the Matter of: ) PRESIDING JUDGE ORDER NO. 25-08  
 ) (SUPERSEDES 17-05 and 07-02)  
COURT VISITOR )  
 )

In accordance with the provision of Oregon Revised Statute (ORS), Uniform Trial Court Rules (UTCRC), and Supplementary Local Rules (SLR) for the 10th Judicial District, the Presiding Judge establishes the following local procedures for court visitors.

**It is Hereby Ordered:**

1. **COURT VISITOR FEE.** Beginning January 1, 2026, the fee for a standard report of a court visitor is \$500.
  - a. Standard Report is defined as a report not requiring extraordinary time and travel.
  - b. Extraordinary time is defined as time a court visitor spends above and beyond the average period necessary to prepare and file their report. Time spent includes but is not limited to, conducting interviews, preparing and filing a report, and in some instances a brief court appearance. Approximately eight hours of work.
  - c. Local Rule (SLR 9.145(2)) currently directs the filing party to submit the fee to the court with their proposed order appointing visitor. However, newly adopted UTCRCs require the court to generate the order appointing visitor, and it now becomes necessary to modify the current SLR regarding when the filing parties pay to the court the court visitor fee for an adult guardianship. Filing parties shall submit the fee to the court as soon after a petition is filed as is possible. The court will not appoint a court visitor until the fee has been received.
2. **EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES.** Pursuant to SLR 9.145, an assigned court visitor may make a request for additional extraordinary fees by written request.
  - a. Written requests should clearly set forth detailed explanation of the scope of work they performed in their capacity as a court visitor that extended beyond a standard report.
  - b. Extraordinary fees could include, but not limited to, extended travel times, actual expenses (supported by receipts), and time in court for hearing(s), etc.
  - c. Upon receipt of a request for extraordinary fees, the Presiding Judge shall consider whether some or all the requested fees are appropriate and who will be responsible for payment.
  - d. The set hourly amount for time shall be \$75 per hour when calculating extraordinary time spent beyond a typical report.

3. **QUALIFICATIONS FOR VISITORS**

- a. The visitor must not have any personal interest in the respondent or protected person, or any financial interest in the proceedings, if those interests could compromise or otherwise affect the decisions of the visitor.
- b. A visitor must have the training and expertise adequate to allow the visitor to conduct the interviews and make the recommendations required under ORS 125.150/155 and 125.605/610, to communicate with, assess and interact with respondents and protected persons, and to perform the other duties required of a visitor.
- c. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the law to be able to inform a respondent or protected person of the nature and effect of a protective proceeding, to inform a respondent or protected person of the rights of the respondent or protected person in the protective proceeding, to answer the questions of a respondent or protected person and to inform fiduciaries concerning their powers and duties.
- d. Visitor must have the appropriate education training and experience to conduct interviews and make recommendations as required of court visitors under the law. Qualifying experience and training may include but is not limited to a license in good standing in any state for the following: professional counselor; marriage and family therapist; clinical social worker; or registered nurse.
- e. Preference will be given to applicants who have relevant experience working with people with mental health conditions, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, or geriatric concerns.

4. **IT IS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO SERVE INITIATING DOCUMENTS ON COURT VISITOR.** Currently, SLR 9.145(2) directs petitioners to serve the proposed visitor with all initiating documents, this will no longer be necessary. UTCR 9.400(2) now requires that the court provide these documents to the visitor.
5. This Presiding Judge’s Order will be in effect immediately, except as otherwise set out in this order.

12/3/2025 10:40:01 AM



Circuit Court Judge Thomas B Powers