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THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
 JUDICIAL COUNCIL
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May 29, 2025

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
 Fiscal Committee of the General Court

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
 And the Honorable Executive Council
 State House
 Concord, N.H. 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 9:16-a, authorize the Judicial Council to transfer funds in the amount of \$50,000 from Accounting Unit 1093 to Accounting Unit 1092, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. 100% General Funds.

**02-07-07-070010-10930000 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION,
 JUDICIAL COUNCIL, CONTRACT COUNSEL**

CLASS OBJ	CLASS TITLE	CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) AMOUNT	REVISED MODIFIED BUDGET
	General Funds	\$2,510,483	(\$50,000)	\$2,460,483
	Total Revenue	\$2,510,483	(\$50,000)	\$2,460,483
067-500557	Training of Providers	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
102-500731	Contracts for Program Services	\$2,507,483	(\$50,000)	\$2,457,483
	Total Expenses	\$2,510,483	(\$50,000)	\$2,457,483

**02-07-07-070010-1092 ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC PROTECTION,
 JUDICIAL COUNCIL, GUARDIAN AD LITEM**

CLASS OBJ	CLASS TITLE	CURRENT MODIFIED BUDGET	INCREASE/ (DECREASE) AMOUNT	REVISED MODIFIED BUDGET
	General Funds	\$1,298,080	\$50,000	\$1,348,080
	Total Revenue	\$1,298,080	\$50,000	\$1,348,080
108-500751	Provider Payments	\$1,298,080	\$50,000	\$1,348,080
	Total Expenses	\$1,298,080	\$50,000	\$1,348,080

EXPLANATION

The Judicial Council requests approval of this transfer to fund the work of assigned counsel for non-CASA GALs to represent children in termination of parental rights cases when a CASA volunteer is not available. This line also funds representation of wards in guardianship proceedings, attorneys for parents in termination of parental rights proceedings, and representation of parents in the appeals stage of termination of parental rights cases.

RSA 170-C:13 specifies “[t]he judicial council shall pay the cost of a CASA guardian ad litem appointed for the child or other guardian ad litem in cases arising from an underlying abuse and neglect proceeding when the state is the moving party or in cases where payment would work a hardship on the petitioner.”

RSA 464-A:6 specifies that “[t]he right to legal counsel for any person for whom a temporary guardian or guardianship of the person and estate, or person, or estate, is sought shall be absolute and unconditional. If the proposed ward does not have his or her own counsel, the court shall appoint counsel for the proposed ward immediately upon the filing of a petition for guardianship of the person and estate, or the person, or estate. The judicial council shall pay the cost of such appointment, including counsel and investigative, expert, or other services and expenses necessary to provide adequate representation.”

There are funds available in the Contract Counsel accounting unit (10930000), Class 102, Contracts for Program Services due to the trend of fewer attorneys taking contracts through the Judicial Council. Funds are being transferred to Class 108, Provider Payments, in accounting units 10920000, Guardian ad Litem.

The following is provided in accordance with the Budget Officer's instructional memorandum, dated April 17, 1985, in support of the requested actions:

1. Does the transfer involve continuing programs or one-time projects?
Transfers are for continuing programs.
2. Is this transfer required to maintain existing program level or will it increase program level?
Transfers are to maintain existing program levels.
3. Cite any requirements, which make this program necessary.
RSA 170-C, RSA 463, RSA 169-C:15:III(a), RSA 464-A:6
4. Identify the source of funds on all account listed on this transfer.
100% General Funds.
5. Will there be an effect on revenue if this transfer is approved or disapproved?
No.
6. Are funds expected to lapse is this transfer is not approved?
Yes.

7. Are personal services involved?
No, there are no personal services involved in this transfer.

This agency will remain at your service to provide any requested information concerning the critical importance of this additional funding to the orderly administration of justice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jay M. Buckey
Executive Director