

**CHIEF JUDGE DIRECTIVE**  
**96-01 (Revised)**  
**STATE OF COLORADO**  
**SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**SEMINAR FOR DIVORCING PARENTS**

After a consideration of the rights and needs of children, and pursuant to the inherent powers of the Court, and with the concurrence of all district judges and the magistrate sitting within this judicial district, this directive has been adopted in the Seventh Judicial District to require the attendance at a seminar for divorcing parents.

**Section 1.** This directive shall apply to all parties, in all divorces and other domestic relations actions filed on or after September 1, 1994 where custody or visitation issues concerning children under eighteen years of age are involved.

**Section 2.** All parties to such an action shall successfully complete the program entitled "Divorce with Children". This program is designed as an educational program which focuses on assisting children in times of stress. The lecture format, which requires no interaction by participants, is intended to be non-threatening, supportive and informational. The primary goal is to provide practical, helpful, proven suggestions for helping children cope with stressful events such as divorce.

**Section 3.** The seminar shall be successfully completed within ninety (90) days of service of the original petition upon the original respondent or co-petitioner.

**Section 4.** Upon a party's failure to successfully complete the seminar pursuant to this directive, the assigned judge or magistrate may take appropriate action, including but not limited to contempt. The Court's action on a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage will not be delayed by non-moving party's refusal or delay in completing the seminar. If any party believes he or she has a compelling reason why he or she should be excused from the directive, that party may apply to the Court for relief.

**Section 5.** A fee for the seminar shall be set by the individual or agency providing this service. It shall be due at least one week prior to the seminar and is to be paid directly to the provider. The Court finds a fee is reasonable and necessary to operate said programs. The Court shall from time to time review the fee charged to assure it remains reasonable. For good cause shown, the assigned judge or magistrate may waive the required completion of the program in individual cases and may waive the fee.

**Section 6.** In cases where this directive applies and upon request, the parties shall be provided with a copy of this directive by the Clerk of Court or designee who shall note the delivery of this directive.

**Section 7.** Any party may use any program to obtain the services contemplated by this directive, provided the program meets the basic requirements and prior approval is obtained from the Court.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1996



Robert A. Brown  
Chief Judge



**Office Of The State Court Administrator**  
**- Colorado Judicial Department**


**STEVEN V. BERSON**  
STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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**MEMORANDUM**

January 25, 1995

**TO:** All Justices, Judges and Magistrates; Clerks of District, County and Combined Courts; District Administrators; Chief Probation Officers.

**FROM:** Steve Berson 

**SUBJECT:** Chief Justice Directive 96-1 re Standard Research Fees

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Attached is Chief Justice Directive 96-1 concerning standard research fees for trial courts. This directive was developed pursuant to Planning for Change Action Item 39, Standard Research Fee. This action item is restricted by statutory language which provides only for recovery of costs to provide certain research information. The directive is therefore permissive as to whether a research fee should be charged, but if charged, establishes a maximum fee of \$5.00 under various circumstances. This directive has been extensively reviewed by judges, administrators, clerks of court and SCAO staff over the past several months and most suggestions have been incorporated into the directive. It should be noted that research fees can only be recovered into court operating accounts at this time. We have a pending request to also recover these moneys into personal services accounts and will advise you if this request is approved.

All staff should be aware that this office is currently developing a major statement of policy regarding public access to court records. This policy is expected to be issued in mid-1996, to coincide with the installation of the new Judicial ICON software. This research fee directive may change as a result of the broader public access policy.

We are very grateful to the Planning for Change Standardization Committee, the Court Services Standing Committee, Judy Vanderleest, 21st and 9th Judicial District Administrator, and Ed Zimny, Director of Court Services, for their work in developing this directive. If you have any questions or concerns about the provisions of this directive, please contact Ed Zimny at 303-837-3674.

**SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO**

**Office of the Chief Justice**

**DIRECTIVE CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF STANDARD RESEARCH FEES**

In order to provide clerk's offices with some relief when responding to requests for case related information from the public, litigants, counsel and others, the following policy concerning the assessment of a standard research fee is adopted. This policy incorporates the provisions of Sections 24-72-205 and 24-72-306, 10B CRS (1988, 1995 Supp); clarifies when research fees may be assessed; and provides for a statewide maximum fee.

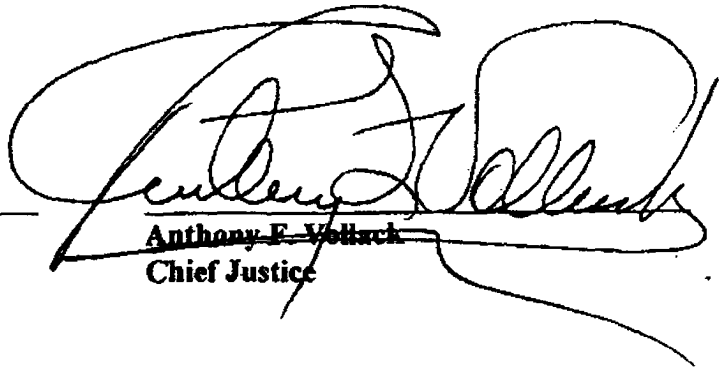
Effective February 1, 1996, Chief Judges may authorize clerks to assess research fees of up to a maximum of \$5.00 under the following circumstances:

- 1. No fee to be assessed:** No fee is to be assessed against litigants, counsel of record, victims, witnesses or the media when the information requested concerns an active or pending case or other matter in which the requester is involved. The fees specified in paragraph 2 may be assessed against these individuals for closed cases. Criminal justice agencies and indigents should not be assessed research fees at any time. None of the individuals or groups mentioned in this paragraph are exempt from statutory fees, unless designated as a criminal justice agency or determined to be indigent.
- 2. Fee may be assessed:** A research fee of up to \$5.00 may be assessed against creditors, investigators, the general public, and any other group or individual any time case specific information is requested. This fee may be assessed per case number or per name. If computer data bases are searched to provide summary information, a fee for programming time, supplies, and computer run time may be charged. If certification or copy work is required, certain statutory fees may apply and should be assessed. If extensive review or research is required to provide the information requested, an appropriate fee for time may be assessed at the rate of \$20.00 per hour.

**3. Accounting for research fees:** Research fees assessed under the provisions of this directive are a recovery of costs and should be reported on the fiscal summary as a recovery to operating using object code 4170-70. Any statutory fees assessed shall be reported on the fiscal summary using the appropriate object codes.

Date

1/25/96



Anthony F. Vellach  
Chief Justice