

awarded attorney's fees in a case shall send the attorney's fees to the comptroller if any attorney representing any party involved in the case was paid in that case directly from funds from a grant made under this subchapter. The comptroller shall deposit the fees to the credit of the basic civil legal services account of the judicial fund for use in programs approved by the supreme court that provide basic civil legal services to the indigent.

Added by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., ch. 699, § 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1997.
Renumbered from V.T.C.A., Government Code § 51.903 by Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 62, § 19.01(28), eff. Sept. 1, 1999.

SUBCHAPTER M. ADDITIONAL FILING FEE FOR FAMILY PROTECTION

X We currently charge \$15.00

§ 51.961. FAMILY PROTECTION FEE. (a) The commissioners court of a county shall adopt a family protection fee in an amount not to exceed \$30.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the district clerk or county clerk shall collect the family protection fee at the time a suit for dissolution of a marriage under Chapter 6, Family Code, is filed. The fee is in addition to any other fee collected by the district clerk or county clerk.

(c) The clerk may not collect a fee under this section from a person who is protected by an order issued under:

- (1) Subtitle B, Title 4, Family Code; or
- (2) Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(d) The clerk shall pay one-half of the fee collected under this section to the appropriate officer of the county in which the suit is filed for deposit in the county treasury to the credit of the family protection account. The account may be used by the commissioners court of the county only to fund a service provider located in that county or an adjacent county. The commissioners court may provide funding to a nonprofit organization that provides services described by Subsection (e).

(e) A service provider who receives funds under Subsection (d) may provide family violence and child abuse prevention, intervention, family strengthening, mental health, counseling, legal, and marriage preservation services to families that are at risk of experiencing or that have experienced family violence or the abuse or neglect of a child.

(f) In this section, "family violence" has the meaning assigned by Section 71.004, Family Code.

(g) The clerk shall pay one-half of the fee collected under this section to the comptroller, who shall deposit the money to the credit of the child abuse and neglect prevention trust fund account established under Section 40.105, Human Resources Code.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 198, § 2.165(a), eff. Sept. 1, 2003. Amended by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., ch. 268, § 1.66, eff. Sept. 1, 2005.