

Houston Volunteer Lawyers believes that this case may involve court costs. Based on the financial information that your client has provided us, they cannot afford to pay those costs. Under the recently amended Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 502, then, your client should file a Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs. The Texas Supreme Court has approved a form Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs, and that form is included in the uploaded documents for this case.

Rule 502 was amended effective September 1, 2016, and parties who file a Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs are now encouraged to attach to their Statement available evidence of their inability to afford costs. This may include proof of receipt of government entitlements (e.g., recent food stamp statements), as well as a “Legal Aid Certificate,” which is a statement from you that you are representing the client on a pro bono basis, without contingency, due to indigency, and will prevent in JP court any contest of your client’s inability to afford court costs. This replaces what was known as an “IOLTA Certificate” under the old Rules. A sample Legal Aid Certificate is included in the uploaded documents for this case.

Although Houston Volunteer Lawyers has screened your client for income and asset eligibility, we encourage you to check with your client to ensure that the financial information that he or she provided Houston Volunteer Lawyers is still accurate. Financial conditions can change rapidly. If you determine that your client’s income or asset information has changed materially since they applied for services through Houston Volunteer Lawyers, please contact either the Houston Volunteer Lawyers staff attorney assigned to your case or our Pro Bono Department, so we can re-screen the client.

If ultimately it becomes necessary for your client to pay court costs, Houston Volunteer Lawyers will collect any necessary amounts from the client and will issue a check to the court clerk or other service provider upon your request. It is our policy to collect all such sums directly from the client using our trust account.

Clients can send money order or cashier’s check payments to:

Houston Volunteer Lawyers
ATTN: Filing Fees
1111 Bagby, Suite FLB 300
Houston, Texas 77002

If you determine that an unreasonable amount of time has passed without full payment of fees by your client, please let the staff attorney assigned to your case know, so that we can determine the next best step.

| Please let us know if we can help you in any way.