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THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUDICIAL COUNCIL
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March 17, 2020

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, N.H. 03301

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, N.H. 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 604-A:1-b, Additional Funding, authorize the Judicial Council to receive an additional appropriation from funds not otherwise appropriated in the total amount of \$250,000, upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval, through June 30, 2020. Source of funds is 100% General Fund.

Funding is to be budgeted in 02-07-07-070010 as follows:

Class/Expense	Class Title	Current Budget	Change	Revised Budget
10920000/ 108/500752	Guardian ad Litem	\$608,049	\$250,000	\$858,049

EXPLANATION

The Guardian ad Litem (10920000) account funds a variety of services, including guardians appointed to incapacitated adults and minors in guardianship court proceedings. It also funds parent attorneys and private guardians ad litem in termination of parental rights cases. A transfer of \$99,999 was just made to this line in order to pay in-house bills. The current balance in this line is \$69,573. This is insufficient to pay the remainder of the invoices expected to come in before the end of the fiscal year.

The cost for services in the termination cases has increased significantly. As of March 17, 2020, the Council has paid \$269,242 in termination costs and \$45,845 in child protection appeals to the NH Supreme Court. Based on the monthly average of expenditures since July 1, 2019, the account will require the addition of \$250,000 to meet the anticipated expenditures through June 30, 2020.

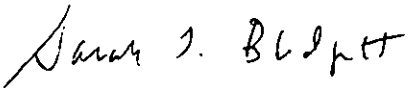
Without additional funding, the Judicial Council will be unable to pay the court-approved invoices for these services.

Pursuant to RSA 604-A:1-b, the Judicial Council may request, with prior approval of the Fiscal Committee of the General Court, that the Governor and Council authorize additional funding if expenditures for indigent defense are greater than amounts appropriated in the operating budget.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah T. Blodgett".

Sarah T. Blodgett
Executive Director