

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

IN RE:

Order Regarding Chapter 13
Attorney's Fees in Cases Filed
After 10/31/26

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Administrative Order No. 2026-05

ORDER REGARDING CHAPTER 13 ATTORNEY'S FEES
IN CASES FILED AFTER 10/31/26

In chapter 13 cases filed on or after November 1, 2026, the "no look" compensation for the debtor's counsel in confirmed cases shall not exceed the lesser of \$5,000 or the amount proposed, to be paid (including trustee's commission) to creditors through the plan, with a floor of \$2,800 unless the court finds that the case was filed under chapter 13 primarily to finance attorney's fees, in which case the cap is \$1,750. The "no look" compensation in cases dismissed or converted prior to confirmation shall not exceed \$1,250.

In addition, effective immediately, the court will generally allow a "no look" fee of \$600 or 10% of the net settlement (whichever is less) to the debtor's counsel for substantial legal work associated with approval of tort claims and of \$600 for substantial legal work associated with sale of the debtor's real property. When practicable, the court will order that these add-on fees be paid from the settlement proceeds or real estate sale proceeds rather than through the plan. Any add-on fees being paid through the plan shall be treated as non-DSO administrative expense claims.

The debtor's counsel shall obtain the signature of the debtor on all initial fee applications in chapter 13 proceedings and shall indicate the amount of the fee and the method of payment. Any fee collected by an attorney prior to the filing of the chapter 13 petition shall be disclosed in the fee petition and that amount shall be deducted from the fee paid through the plan. The fee petition shall further disclose any fees and expenses charged or collected for any prepetition legal work performed by the counsel for the debtor within 1 year prior to filing bankruptcy. Unless said prepetition legal work is clearly delineated as unrelated to the chapter 13, the chapter 13 trustee shall deduct any such disclosed prepetition fees and expenses from the fees awarded in chapter 13.

Dated: 10/19/26


Jerry C. Oldshue
Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge


Henry A. Callaway
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge