

Ch 13 Flat Fee Survey - 2021

The Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Kentucky is considering changes to the Chapter 13 flat fee structure. Your ideas are an important part of any change that we implement to the operations of the Court. As such, we are asking you to respond to the questions contained in the survey which follows. Your responses are entirely anonymous. The deadline for responses to this survey is May 12th.

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* 1. What is the hourly rate you currently charge for legal work?

* 2. What is your paralegal's current hourly rate?

* 3. What is the approximate amount of time (in total hours) you spend on a generic Chapter 13 case, through and including work on the schedule of allowed claims? When answering this question assume that this is a case with a 5 year plan.

* 4. After you file the schedule of allowed claims, how much time do you spend on that same case during the 5 years it remains pending?

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* 5. In your opinion, which fee structure better serves the needs of both you and your clients?

- An increase in the current flat fee while maintaining the restrictions detailed in Section 5 of the Administrative Procedures Manual
- A lower fee for each tier of the flat fee structure coupled with the ability to bill for services after some restrictive period has elapsed (e.g., a flat fee of \$3,900 with a one year restriction on billing commencing on the date of confirmation)

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6. In light of the ethical duties you owe to your clients, what suggestions do you have for restructuring the Chapter 13 flat fee in order to ensure that your low-impact clients (i.e., clients whose cases do not consume a great deal of attorney time) are not paying more to offset the work created by clients whose cases are more time-consuming?

7. Do you have any other ideas about how we can improve the flat fee structure?

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* 8. In order to ensure that we have responses from attorneys across the district, in which division do you do most of your Chapter 13 work?

Bowling Green

Paducah

Louisville

Multiple Divisions

Owensboro

* 9. What percentage of your practice is Chapter 13 work?

0-25%

75% or more

26-49%

Unsure/Unable to answer

50-74%