

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

FOR THE

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 2002-1

To fulfill the requirements of 11 U.S.C. §330(a), the Court periodically reviews the reasonableness of compensation awarded by the Court to counsel representing Chapter 13 debtors. Having conducted such periodic review it is therefore ORDERED that:

(1) General Order 1998-1 filed December 29, 1998 is vacated.

(2) Effective in all cases filed after September 30, 2002, a claim for attorney's fees for services rendered and expenses advanced to a Chapter 13 debtor will be deemed automatically approved by the Court, in the absence of an objection, so long as said claim does not exceed the sum of \$1,500.00. The \$1,500.00 fee contemplates appearance by counsel of record for the debtor at the Section 341 meeting and all hearings. Said fee shall be payable as follows: Up to the first \$500.00 by payments from the Trustee as soon as practicable following confirmation. The balance of \$1,000.00, or less if applicable, in payments from the Trustee following the initial disbursement at a rate not to exceed \$100.00 per month. Debtors' counsel are directed to file written statements pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b) disclosing the fee arrangement with their clients. Debtors' attorney may, of course, agree to represent debtors for a lesser amount and are required by the Code of Professional Responsibility to do so in appropriate cases when the amount and nature of the debts or other relevant factors result in the expenditure of substantially less attorney's time. In the event debtors' attorney subsequently determines that an award of \$1,500.00 does not adequately compensate the attorney for legal services rendered, the attorney may petition for reasonable attorney's fees disclosing all time expended in such representation from the beginning of the case under the standards set in 11 U.S.C. §330 and Norman v. Housing Authority of the City of Montgomery, 836 F.2d 1292 (11th Cir. 1988).

John S. Dalis
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Lamar W. Davis, Jr.
United States Bankruptcy Judge

James D. Walker, Jr.
United States Bankruptcy Judge

Dated at Augusta, Georgia

This _____ day of September, 2002.