

ORDINANCE NO. 76-9

AN ORDINANCE OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF FEES OR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE FEES FOR FILING OR DISPOSING OF CIVIL ACTIONS INCLUDING PROBATE AND GUARDIANSHIP, AND CIVIL INFRACTIONS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT AND/OR COUNTY COURT FOR HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN ADDITION TO ALL OTHER FEES OR ADMINISTRATIVE FEES IMPOSED BY GENERAL LAW, SPECIAL LAW, LOCAL LAW, OR COUNTY ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE FEES OR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE FEES SO COLLECTED FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF LEGAL AID FOR QUALIFIED PERSONS

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, is the "governing body" of said County; and

WHEREAS, there is currently in effect in Hernando County, Florida, an Ordinance relating to filing fees in civil cases filed in the Circuit Court and County Court of Hernando County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, there has been organized a "Tri-County Legal Aid Society, Inc.," a non-profit Florida corporation, whose aim and purpose is to provide legal aid to the indigents of Hernando, Sumter, and Citrus Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, feels that the "Tri-County Legal Aid Society, Inc.," needs more funds to provide an adequate legal aid program for indigents in Hernando County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, feels that additional funds provided for the "Tri-County Legal Aid Society, Inc.," would help provide for, promote, protect, and improve the public health, safety, comfort, convenience, prosperity, and general welfare of the citizens of Hernando County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Tri-County Bar Association has, by resolution, endorsed and recommended that the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, impose fees or administrative service fees for filing or disposing of civil actions, including Probate and Guardianship, or civil infractions in

the Circuit Court and/or County Court for Hernando County, Florida, in addition to all other fees or administrative service fees imposed by general law, special law, local law, or County ordinance, in Hernando County, Florida, for the purpose of helping provide a continuing source of operating revenues for the "Tri-County Legal Aid Society, Inc.,"; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, recognizes that the Florida Legislature and Florida Supreme Court has heretofore de-criminalized all traffic offenses, whereby the same are now "civil infractions" handled through the County Court for Hernando County, Florida, and therefore, this "Board" has the power, authority, and jurisdiction, by virtue of the Constitution of the State of Florida, as amended, to impose an administration service fee upon the disposition of each "civil infraction" in the County Court for Hernando County, Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

SECTION 1. Except where no filing fee is required, there shall be paid to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Hernando County, Florida, or to the Clerk of the County Court for Hernando County, Florida, with whom any civil action, including Probate and Guardianship, or other suit or proceeding is filed by the party or parties offering the same for filing, in addition to any fee otherwise provided by law, the following fees:

- a. Any civil action, including Probate and Guardianship, filed in the Circuit Court, the sum of \$7.00.
- b. Any civil action filed in the County Court where the sum sought by the Plaintiff or party bringing the proceeding seeks \$100.00 or less, the sum of \$1.00.
- c. Any civil action filed in the County Court where the sum sought by the Plaintiff or party bringing the proceeding seeks \$100.01 up to \$1,000.00, the sum of \$2.00.
- d. Any civil action filed in the County Court where the sum sought by the Plaintiff or party bringing the proceeding seeks

\$1,000.01 up to \$2,500.00, the sum of  
\$3.00.

SECTION 2. There is hereby imposed an administrative service fee of \$1.00 to be imposed and paid at the time of the disposition of any "civil infraction" in the County Court for Hernando County, Florida, which administrative service fee shall be imposed on and paid by each person adjudged and/or found to have committed a "civil infraction" in Hernando County, Florida, whose case is heard by the County Court hereafter.

SECTION 3. All sums collected pursuant to this Ordinance shall be set apart by the Clerk of the County Court or Circuit Court for Hernando County, Florida, to be used exclusively for the providing of legal services to indigents, and the Clerk shall pay over and disburse to the "Tri-County Legal Aid Society, Inc.," a non-profit Florida corporation, all of said sums, monthly, on or before the 15th day of each month, which disbursements shall include all sums collected pursuant to this Ordinance for the proceeding calendar month.

SECTION 4. An annual accounting shall be prepared by the "Tri-County Legal Aid Society, Inc.," a non-profit Florida corporation, by a public accountant licensed in the State of Florida, which annual accounting shall be filed with the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, within thirty days after the end of each fiscal year.

SECTION 5. "Fiscal year" as used in this Ordinance shall mean the period of time from October 1 through September 30 of each year.

SECTION 6. If any provision, section, subsection, clause, phrase, sentence, or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, inoperative, or void by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected in any manner whatsoever, and the Ordinance shall be construed and interpreted as if the portion held to be unconstitutional, inoperative, or void, has been omitted from this Ordinance at its inception; it is

the intent of the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, that this Ordinance shall be constitutional, valid, and operative; the remainder of this Ordinance, after any ruling by a court of competent jurisdiction that any portion of this Ordinance is unconstitutional, inoperative, or void, for any reason, including a ruling or adjudication that this Ordinance or any part hereof is inapplicable to any person, or groups of persons; property, kind of property; circumstances, or set of circumstances, such adjudication shall not affect the applicability of this Ordinance to any other person, groups of persons; property, kind of property; circumstances, or set of circumstances.

SECTION 7. The "Tri-County Legal Aid Society, Inc.," a non-profit Florida corporation, shall use all sums received from the Clerk of the Circuit Court or County Court, pursuant to this Ordinance, exclusively for the providing of legal services to the indigents in Hernando County, Sumter County, and/or Citrus County, Florida.

SECTION 8. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage hereof and shall automatically expire and terminate on September 30, 1977.

ORDAINED this 31st day of August, 1976, at Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

By *Adrian W. Bell, Jr.*  
ADRIAN W. BELL, JR., CHAIRMAN

Attest *Harold William Brown*  
HAROLD WILLIAM BROWN, CLERK