

1 AN ACT concerning courts.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Clerks of Courts Act is amended by changing  
5 Section 27.7 as follows:

6 (705 ILCS 105/27.7)

7 Sec. 27.7. Children's waiting room. The expense of  
8 establishing and maintaining a children's waiting room for  
9 children whose parents or guardians are attending a court  
10 hearing as a litigant, witness, or for other court purposes as  
11 determined by the court may be borne by the county. To defray  
12 that expense in any county having established a children's  
13 waiting room or that elects to establish such a system, the  
14 county board may require the clerk of the circuit court in the  
15 county to charge and collect a children's waiting room fee of  
16 not more than \$10 ~~\$5~~. The fee shall be paid at the time of  
17 filing the first pleading, paper, or other appearance filed by  
18 each party in all civil cases. No additional fee shall be  
19 required if more than one party is presented in a single  
20 pleading, paper, or other appearance. The fee shall be  
21 collected in the manner in which all other fees or costs are  
22 collected.

23 Each clerk shall commence the charges and collection upon

1 receipt of written notice from the chairman of the county board  
2 together with a certified copy of the board's resolution. The  
3 clerk shall file the resolution of record in his or her office.

4 The fees shall be in addition to all other fees and charges  
5 of the clerks, shall be assessable as costs, and may be waived  
6 only if the judge specifically provides for the waiver of the  
7 children's waiting room fee. The fees shall be remitted monthly  
8 by the clerk to the county treasurer, to be retained by the  
9 treasurer in a special fund designated as the children's  
10 waiting room fund. The fund shall be audited by the county  
11 auditor, and the county board shall make expenditure from the  
12 fund in payment of any cost related to the establishment and  
13 maintenance of the children's waiting room, including  
14 personnel, heat, light, telephone, security, rental of space,  
15 or any other item in connection with the operation of a  
16 children's waiting room.

17 The fees shall not be charged in any matter coming to the  
18 clerk on a change of venue, nor in any proceeding to review the  
19 decision of any administrative officer, agency, or body.

20 (Source: P.A. 89-717, eff. 1-1-98; 90-117, eff. 1-1-98; 90-655,  
21 eff. 7-30-98.)

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
23 becoming law.