

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
5 FOR  
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 2014

By: Pae and **Deck** of the House

and

**Frix** of the Senate

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10                                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11                   An Act relating to civil procedure; amending 12 O.S.  
12                   2021, Section 921.1, which relates to Legal Services  
13                   Revolving Fund; expanding the scope of the funds for  
14                   representation of indigent person's forcible entry  
15                   and detainer actions; defining term; and providing an  
16                   effective date.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18                   SECTION 1.           AMENDATORY           12 O.S. 2021, Section 921.1, is  
19                   amended to read as follows:

20                   Section 921.1. A. The Attorney General shall allocate funds  
21                   from the Legal Services Revolving Fund to provide legal  
22                   representation to indigent persons in this state in civil legal  
23                   matters to the extent that funds are available from the Legal  
24                   Services Revolving Fund. The Attorney General shall be responsible  
for allocating these funds pursuant to contract with eligible

1 regional or statewide organizations which ordinarily render legal  
2 services to indigent persons. The Attorney General may charge an  
3 administrative fee for administering the contracts. The funds shall  
4 be allocated for the benefit of indigent clients in all seventy-  
5 seven (77) counties of the state on a pro rata basis, utilizing an  
6 allocation formula that distributes funds according to the number of  
7 residents whose incomes are less than the official United States  
8 federal poverty guidelines, based on the United States census data,  
9 as a percentage of the total number of these residents in this state  
10 and which reserves funds for services for specialized areas of law.

11 B. As used in this section, "eligible organization" means an  
12 entity that:

13 1. Is organized as a not-for-profit corporation that is tax  
14 exempt pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (3) of subsection (c)  
15 of Section 501 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
16 as amended;

17 2. Has as its primary purpose the furnishing of legal  
18 assistance to eligible clients;

19 3. Has a board of directors or other governing body the  
20 majority of which is comprised of attorneys who are admitted to  
21 practice in this state and who are approved to serve on such body by  
22 the governing bodies of the state or county bar associations and has  
23 at least one-third (1/3) of the membership who, when selected, are  
24 eligible clients; and

1 4. Is incorporated pursuant to any applicable laws of this  
2 state.

3 C. As a condition of the contract, the organization shall be  
4 required to determine the eligibility of any person seeking legal  
5 services pursuant to this section.

6 D. The Attorney General shall prepare annually and distribute  
7 to the Judiciary committees of the Senate and the House of  
8 Representatives and the Legal Services Committee of the Oklahoma Bar  
9 Association a report detailing expenditures of funds for  
10 representation to indigent persons in civil legal matters.

11 E. Each organization that contracts to provide legal services  
12 pursuant to subsection A of this section shall maintain books and  
13 records in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.  
14 The books and records shall account for the receipt and expenditure  
15 of all funds paid pursuant to contract. Books and records shall be  
16 maintained for a period of five (5) years from the close of the  
17 fiscal year of the contract period. The State Auditor and Inspector  
18 shall audit each organization annually. The necessary expense of  
19 each audit, including, but not limited to, the cost of typing,  
20 printing, and binding, shall be paid from funds of the organization.  
21 In lieu of the audit by the State Auditor and Inspector, the  
22 organization may submit an audit prepared by an independent auditing  
23 firm for compliance with federal auditing requirements. A copy of  
24

1 the audit prepared by or submitted to the State Auditor and  
2 Inspector shall be submitted to the Attorney General.

3 F. Funds for representation of indigent persons in civil legal  
4 matters shall be limited to family law legal services with priority  
5 given to cases involving domestic and family violence and abuse and  
6 to residential tenants in actions for forcible entry and detainer,  
7 commonly known as evictions. In no event shall such funds ever be  
8 used for any of the following activities:

9 1. Provision of legal services in a fee-generating case unless  
10 appropriate private representation is not available;

11 2. Provision of legal services in any criminal proceeding;

12 3. Provision of legal services collaterally attacking the  
13 validity of a criminal conviction;

14 4. Provision of legal services which seek to procure an  
15 abortion;

16 5. Provision of legal representation relating to the  
17 desegregation of any school or school system;

18 6. Provision of legal services involving any proceeding derived  
19 from the Military Selective Service Act;

20 7. Provision of legal services to advocate for or oppose any  
21 altering of a legislative, judicial, or elective district at any  
22 level of government; and

23 8. Provision of legal services to challenge a census of the  
24 United States of America.

1       G. For purposes of this section "indigent" means an income  
2 level of not more than two hundred (200%) percent of the federal  
3 poverty guidelines as most recently published in the Federal  
4 Register.

5       H. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving  
6 fund for the Office of the Attorney General to be designated the  
7 "Legal Services Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing  
8 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of  
9 all monies received by the Office of the Attorney General for  
10 indigent legal services from funds appropriated to the fund, federal  
11 funds, gifts, donations, and grants. All monies accruing to the  
12 credit of said fund are hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and  
13 expended by the Attorney General for the purpose of providing legal  
14 services to indigent clients pursuant to the provisions of this  
15 section. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon warrants  
16 issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by  
17 law with the Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise  
18 Services for approval and payment.

19       SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated  
22 03/06/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.