AB 1058 Timekeeping Reimbursability Hypos

Instructions: As a group, discuss with your table if the activities are Title IV-D reimbursable or non-reimbursable and then calculate how much time can be billed to the AB 1058 grant for each hypo.

Hypo 1: I hate Mondays
After a relaxing vacation trying not to think about family law, you must return to your job as front-desk clerk at the FLF office. As you walk in the door, you notice a larger than normal crowd waiting outside for the courthouse doors to open and remember that last night was a full moon. Undeterred, you handle a line of 50 plus people with questions. Some of those people you sign up to be seen by FLF staff and some just have questions about the process. You give out information, refer people to other agencies, answer random questions, hand out court forms and generally perform triage like a pro. None of the conversations you have last longer than 5 minutes.

After lunch, it finally slows down which allows you to complete some administrative tasks that have been stacking up on your desk, so you spend 30 minutes capturing customer interactions in STARS and completing your JCC timesheet for the month. You spend the last three and half hours of your day drafting parenting time and other family law FOAHs for your boss to review and organizing an impromptu happy hour.

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Hypo 2: Hemet days
You receive a Service Award commemorating 10 years on the job as Child Support Commissioner. You graciously thank the court CEO while thinking to yourself “I would’ve preferred a raise.” Your court clerk kindly reminds you that you need to leave soon to go cover a mixed family law calendar at the courthouse located in Hemet. That afternoon, you spend one hour hearing Title IV-D matters and three hours hearing custody and visitation motions. Luckily for you, there is no traffic and you spend only two hours in your car driving there and back.

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Hypo 3: Straight to the source
It’s been a few months since you first reached out to the LCSA and started to build a relationship with their office. You are excited because today is the first day you will spend the entire afternoon assisting litigants onsite at the LCSA’s main office. It looks like the publicity (flyers at the LCSA, info posted on the FLF website, word-of-mouth, etc.) has paid off, as you spend all four hours assisting multiple customers with their IV-D issues. As you are packing up your belongings, the LCSA lead counsel informs you that there are still a few free booths available for county agencies at the upcoming county fair. You thank her for the information and wind up attending the fair, spending all day talking to the public. You hand out FLF flyers and explain the child support process, including the availability of LCSA services.

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Hypo 4: Teen Mom 3
A customer with a crying newborn baby walks into your Self-Help Center asking for help with getting her “loser ex-boyfriend” to pay child support. First, you inform the MTV film crew that videotaping is not allowed in the courthouse. Then, you notice a brochure from the LCSA next door and ask the reality star if she already has an open child support case. She replies, “they told me to come down here to file a case because it would be faster.” You call your LCSA contact and discover that the customer has applied for LCSA services, but the case is still in the locate stage and no superior court case has yet been filed. You assist the new mom with filling out a petition and other pleadings to initiate a parentage case. You mark “45 min” on your scratch sheet and then resist the urge to group-text your friends about the encounter.

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Hypo 5: But first, coffee
It’s the Friday afternoon before Labor Day and it appears that everyone (customers and court staff included) have already left town. Having nothing better to do, you watch the AB 1058 Guideline Calculator Training webinar and the AB 1058 Qualified Business Income Deduction Training webinar back-to-back while consuming an unhealthy amount of coffee. “Those are two hours of my life I’ll never get back,” you jokingly say out loud to no one in particular, and then give Gary mostly high marks when completing the online surveys. For the final hour of the day before the long weekend, you attend a mandatory meeting with other managers and supervisors regarding a new court policy prohibiting staff from posting on social media during business hours. For the week, 40% of your time has been spent on IV-D activities and 60% on self-help.

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Hypo 6: No good deed...
Today was supposed to be an all-day contempt trial in the Johnson matter, a now 12-volume case that’s been haunting you your entire time on the bench. However, yesterday you learned the parties somehow were able to reach a stipulation. You took the opportunity to get your favorite robe dry-cleaned and were planning on reviewing the large stack of default judgments submitted by the LCSA that have been sitting on your desk. However, you find out that you will instead have to cover the morning calendar for a “sick” colleague in Department 13, which hears general family law and Title IV-D matters. Before taking the bench, you review the calendar and organize the matters into two categories. You spend 24 minutes prepping for the family law motions and 18 minutes on the IV-D ones. Once in court, the family law motions take up approximately 96 minutes and the IV-D hearings are quickly dispatched in 42 minutes.

After lunch, while getting ready to finally review the default judgments, your clerk informs you that a different department is transferring a case to you due to a conflict: a IV-D matter that takes about 30 minutes. However, the last few minutes of the hearing are consumed by the mother complaining about how the father isn’t following the custody order. You calmly inform her that that issue is not properly before the court and refer her to the Self-Help Center for further information.

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