



Rate Schedule and Terms

The following is a list of hourly charges for consulting services:

Investigations

Fire cause and origin	\$110
Travel	\$110
Canine detection	\$142.50 investigation/\$67.50 travel
Engineering	\$125 - \$250
Senior fire investigator/Legal consulting	\$125
Expert Testimony (deposition trial)	\$125 - \$275
Chimney Inspections	\$400 plus travel/mileage, photos \$2/ea, if requested

Failure Analysis/Forensic Research

Senior fire investigator/Legal consulting	\$150
Forensic expert/Engineer/Scientist	\$175-\$250 (U. Castellon \$150/hr)
Expert Testimony (deposition and trial)	\$175-\$295 (U. Castellon \$200/hr)
Project Research	\$100

Other Services

Site documentation	\$45 - \$100
Graphics/Animation	\$125
Non-technical staff	\$45
Special evidence handling	\$45
Evidence storage	\$110/year (small) - \$780/year (large)

Administrative

Administrative fees of \$45/hour are charged on all cases to cover non-routine costs outside of the normal file maintenance (i.e., set-up, tracking and closure, photocopying, faxes, postage, phone calls, photo pick-up and delivery and report preparation). This fee does not include charges for mileage, film developing, video duplication or special evidence handling.

Evidence Tracking and Storage

There will be an evidence tracking and storage fee of \$110 per year charged to each case for which small evidence items are taken by Fire Cause Analysis (per the request of the client). Evidence tracking and storage fees do not include extraordinary or special evidence handling. If our client authorizes shipping or disposal of the evidence, shipping or disposal fees will be invoiced at the time the request is handled.

Large evidence items will incur a storage fee at the rate of \$780 per year. Examples of large items are stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, etc.

Other Charges

For all invoices, there is a charge of \$.50 per mile for mileage. If the client requests video duplication, there is a \$25 per video fee. All other costs are billed with a 15% service charge. "Other costs" include but are not limited to travel, materials, equipment, outside laboratory tests, computer charges, special printing and reproduction fees, shipping charges, special fees and additional insurance.

In some cases, advances for large-scale testing and laboratory work must be received before undertaking the specific tasks. The FCA project manager will inform the client before starting such work. In addition, some cases may require specialized experts whose rates differ from those stated on the rate schedule. When this occurs, the client will be informed prior to the start of work on the project. Client approval must be given in writing before work begins.

Terms

Fire investigation invoices allow a 2% discount on the invoice amount if the invoice is paid within twenty (20) days of the invoice date. If the discount is not taken, payment is required within thirty (30) days of the invoice date. Forensic or research invoices require payment within thirty (30) days from the date of the invoice.

In all cases, if payment is not received within forty-five (45) days of the invoice date, work on the project will be suspended until payment is received.

Depositions:

Services and expenses that are charged to opposing parties must be paid in full at the time a deposition is scheduled.

A retainer may be required on forensic cases. The client must pay progress invoices as the project work is performed. The retainer will be applied to the final billing on the project. FCA requires written notice that the project has terminated. Any remaining retainer balance will be refunded to the client after receipt of this written notice.

If work does not commence on a job within a reasonable period, FCA reserves the right to close the file, return the retainer and make professional services available to any other interested party in the case.

We look forward to serving you.

01/01/06 – rate revision effective date (gh)

rate schedule.doc (Templates Folder)