

# 49<sup>TH</sup> Circuit Court for Mecosta and Osceola Counties

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## MECOSTA COUNTY

400 Elm St., Room 105  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
231/592-0780  
Fax: 231/592-0100

Terri Pontz – Administrative Assistant  
[tpontz@co.mecosta.mi.us](mailto:tpontz@co.mecosta.mi.us)

Mary Koster – Senior Legal  
Assistant/ADR Clerk  
[mkoster@co.mecosta.mi.us](mailto:mkoster@co.mecosta.mi.us)

## OSCEOLA COUNTY

310 West Upton  
Reed City, MI 49677  
231/832-3261  
Fax: 231/832-6149

Terri Pontz – Administrative Assistant  
[tpontz@co.mecosta.mi.us](mailto:tpontz@co.mecosta.mi.us)

Mary Koster – Senior Legal  
Assistant/ADR Clerk  
[mkoster@co.mecosta.mi.us](mailto:mkoster@co.mecosta.mi.us)

## HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

***For specific contact information or to schedule a hearing, please contact the  
Mecosta County Circuit Court in Big Rapids at 231/592-0780.***

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The Honorable Scott Hill-Kennedy and the Honorable Kimberly L. Booher were elected to  
preside over the 49<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court for Mecosta and Osceola Counties.

<a href="#">Hon. Scott Hill-Kennedy Chief Circuit Court Judge</a>	<a href="#">Hon. Kimberly L. Booher Circuit Court Judge</a>

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The 49<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court will provide a system of justice that assures equal access to the fair and timely resolution of all matters brought before the Court, and to provide a venue in which every individual is treated with the utmost dignity and respect.

## **OVERVIEW**

The Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad power. It has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. Generally speaking, the Circuit Court has original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000, in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain misdemeanors, and in cases related to family matters, such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect of minors, adoptions, emancipation of minors, and name changes.

The Circuit Court also hears cases appealed from the probate and district courts and from some administrative agencies of state government. In addition, the Circuit Court has superintending control over other courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court.

The state is divided into judicial circuits along county lines. The state legislature determines the number of judges within a circuit based upon the court caseload. In less populated rural areas, there are multi-county circuits, and judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions. The 49<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court is a multi-county circuit, which encompass both Mecosta and Osceola counties. Therefore, court sessions are held in both Big Rapids and Reed City, which are the county seats for Mecosta and Osceola counties.

Circuit judges are elected by the registered voters within their circuit for six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. The state legislature sets the qualifications for a circuit court judge. Currently, a candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer who has been licensed to practice law for at least five years, and under 70 years of age. Circuit court judges are state employees, and their salaries are set by the state legislature.<sup>1</sup>

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

Mecosta and Osceola counties continue to research and improve case processing by:

- Aligning staff and judicial and prosecutorial resources to focus on expediency;
- Meeting case processing time guidelines as promulgated by the Supreme Court and State Court Administrators Office (“SCAO”);
- Reducing recidivism;
- Maximizing collection of fines and fees (including restitution); and
- Maximizing the effectiveness of existing staff while continuing to provide a high level of service and programming.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from [www.wexfordcounty.org/Courts/tabid/4254/default.aspx](http://www.wexfordcounty.org/Courts/tabid/4254/default.aspx)

## **OPERATIONAL GOALS**

Mecosta and Osceola counties continue to improve operational goals by:

- Expediting the disposal of cases in a manner consistent with fairness to all parties;
- Assisting the local criminal justice system by providing alternatives to incarceration/detention;
- Providing parties an alternative to settling disputes without unnecessary and costly litigation and court involvement; and
- To promptly and accurately enter all pertinent court orders into the state child support system's Michigan State Disbursement Unit ("MiSDU"). See [www.MiSDU.com](http://www.MiSDU.com).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from [www.wexfordcounty.org/Courts/tabid/4254/default.aspx](http://www.wexfordcounty.org/Courts/tabid/4254/default.aspx)

**49<sup>th</sup> CIRCUIT COURT SCHEDULING  
FOR MECOSTA AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES**

**MECOSTA COUNTY**

***MONDAYS ARE MOTION DAYS IN  
MECOSTA COUNTY, BIG RAPIDS,  
MICHIGAN***

Judge Hill-Kennedy and Judge Booher both preside over the *Mecosta County Circuit Court* and alternate *Monday* court hearings. Terms of Court shall commence on the first *Monday* of January and every Monday thereafter.

Motion days are for the disposition of criminal and civil matters such as arraignments, pretrials, sentencing, probation violation hearings, settlement conferences, personal protection order hearings, divorce actions, and any criminal or civil motions that require *30 minutes or less*.

Criminal matters are typically heard in the morning (with the exception of criminal settlement conferences which begin at 1:30 p.m.) Civil matters are heard beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Trial dates and contested hearings which require *more than 30 minutes* will be scheduled for a date other than a Monday motion day and *must* be coordinated with the Circuit Court Office by calling 231/592-0780.

**OSCEOLA COUNTY**

***FRIDAYS ARE MOTION DAYS IN  
OSCEOLA COUNTY, REED CITY,  
MICHIGAN***

Judge Hill-Kennedy and Judge Booher both preside over the *Osceola County Circuit Court* and alternate *Friday* court hearings. Terms of Court shall commence on the first *Friday* of January and every Friday thereafter.

Motion days are for the disposition of criminal and civil matters such as arraignments, pretrials, sentencing, probation violation hearings, settlement conferences, personal protection order hearings, divorce actions, and any criminal or civil motions that require *30 minutes or less*.

Criminal matters are normally heard in the morning, while civil matters are typically held in the afternoon.

Trial dates and contested hearings that require *more than 30 minutes* will be scheduled for a date other than a Friday motion day and *must* be coordinated with the Circuit Court office by calling 231/592-0780.

**CASES ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:**

**CRIMINAL MATTERS:**

**9:00 a.m.**

Criminal Arraignments  
Pretrial Hearings

**9:15 a.m.**

Criminal Sentencings

**9:45 a.m.**

Probation Violation Hearings

**11:00 a.m.**

Miscellaneous Hearings

***LUNCH – 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.***

**1:30 p.m.**

Criminal Settlement Conferences

**DOMESTIC AND CIVIL MATTERS:**

**2:30 p.m.**

Pretrials, Settlement Conferences, Divorce Actions, Personal Protection Order Hearings, and Civil Motions lasting no longer than 30 minutes.

**CASES ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:**

**CRIMINAL MATTERS:**

**9:00 a.m.**

Criminal Arraignments  
Pretrial Hearings

**9:15 a.m.**

Criminal Sentencings

**9:45 a.m.**

Probation Violation Hearings

**10:00 a.m.**

Criminal Settlement Conferences

**11:00 a.m.**

Miscellaneous Hearings

***LUNCH – 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.***

**DOMESTIC AND CIVIL MATTERS:**

**1:30 p.m.**

Pretrials, Settlement Conferences, Divorce Actions, Personal Protection Order Hearings, and Civil Motions lasting no longer than 30 minutes.