

# FORTY-NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN

COUNTIES OF MECOSTA AND OSCEOLA



Honorable Scott Hill-Kennedy  
Chief Circuit Judge

Honorable Ronald C. Nichols  
Chief Circuit Judge Pro tem

MECOSTA COUNTY OFFICE  
400 ELM STREET  
BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49307  
Phone (231) 592-0780  
Fax (231) 592-0100

OSCEOLA COUNTY OFFICE  
301 W. Upton Street  
REED CITY, MICHIGAN 49677  
Phone (231) 832-6103  
Fax (231) 832-6149

## Administrative Order 2008-10

Rescinds Administrative Order 2003-1

## PLAN INVOLVING CHILDREN WHO ARE ABSENT WITHOUT LEGAL PERMISSION (AWOLP)

### IT IS ORDERED:

Pursuant to Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2002-4, the Family Division of the Circuit Court for the counties of Mecosta/Osceola hereby establishes its plan for reviewing cases within the Court's jurisdiction involving children who are absent from court-ordered placements without legal permission.

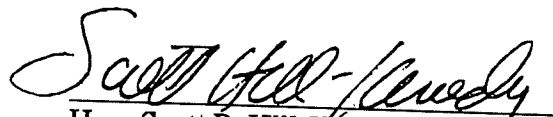
1. The judge who has responsibility for ensuring compliance with this plan is LaVail Hull, Presiding Judge, placed pursuant to the Family Division Implementation Plan.
2. Upon receiving any form of notification that a child under the Court's jurisdiction is absent from court-ordered placement without permission, the Court will:
  - a. Review its file(s) regarding the child to ascertain legal status if the child is placed with the Department of Human Services (DHS).
  - b. Contact the Mecosta or Osceola County Department of Human Services to request a letter setting forth information that the Department of Human Services has as to the child's status and whereabouts, setting a reasonable number of days for receipt of said documentation by the Court.
3. If it is ascertained that such a child is under the Court's jurisdiction, the Court will schedule a review hearing on the record and compel the attendance of the Department of Human Services.

4. If it is ascertained that the child is not under the Court's jurisdiction and/or the Court has no case before it within which to hold a hearing, but the child is an absent ward of the State Department of Human Services (such as under the Adoption Code), the Court will nevertheless attempt to confer with the Mecosta/Osceola County Department of Human Services supervisor regarding Department of Human Services' intentions as to the child.
5. If the child is under Court jurisdiction, the Court will utilize the above procedures to attempt to obtain information from the Department of Human Services and/or any person as to the child's whereabouts. The Court will then follow-up if and as required by law.
6. In scheduling any of the above hearings, if the child is age 15 or younger according to the Court file, the Court will give priority by scheduling the hearing for the earliest date and time at which at least one hour is available on the Court's docket and which allows for the following considerations:
  - a. The provisions contained in the Department of Human Services plan.
  - b. The Court rules require a minimum of seven (7) days notice to interested persons.
  - c. Hearing will be before the Presiding Judge, Lavail Hull, or the Chief Circuit Judge, Scott P. Hill-Kennedy, or a judge assigned by the State Court Administrative Office.

This rescinds Local Administrative Order 2003-01.

Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 9/30/08

  
Hon. Scott P. Hill-Kennedy, P41542  
Chief Circuit Judge