

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

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Administrative Order 2011- 06

CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN **49th Circuit Court and the 49th Circuit Court Family Division** **Mecosta County and Osceola County**

Rescinds Local Administrative Order 2004 - 04.

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2011-3.

A. Goals of the Court

The court adopts the following Caseflow Management Plan to:

1. Expedite the disposition of all cases in a manner consistent with fairness to all parties and what is permissible under law;
2. Minimize the uncertainties associated with processing cases;
3. Ensure equal access to the adjudicative process for all litigants.

B. Case Processing Time Guidelines

The court adopts this plan to comply with the time guidelines as set forth in the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2011-3. The court will not dismiss a case for the sole reason that it is likely to exceed the guideline.

C. Scheduling Policy

The court will schedule all cases or contested matters in a manner that minimizes delay for the parties and that reduces the possibility of adjournment of scheduled events. The court will control all cases from case initiation through post-disposition proceedings by:

1. Appropriate case screening;
2. Scheduling conferences and orders for the purpose of achieving date certainty;
3. Management of discovery and motion practice;
4. Realistic scheduling of all court events.

The court will monitor all cases and contested matters to ensure that no case exists for which a future action or review date has not been scheduled. The court will schedule all cases pursuant to the time guidelines set forth in the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2011-3. The court will not permit a case or contested matter to remain on this court's docket in excess of the guidelines set forth in this local administrative order without immediate judicial review.

D. Adjournment Policy

The court strictly adheres to MCR 2.503.

E. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The court encourages alternative means to resolve disputes. Litigants will be provided with information regarding area dispute resolution and counseling centers. Cases referred to ADR shall remain open.

The Court follows its Local Administrative Order regarding ADR.

F. Pretrial Scheduling Orders

The Court either issues a standard case scheduling order or directs the parties to complete a proposed scheduling order, which will be accepted as written or revised by the Court and then issued as a Court order.

G. Settlement Conferences

Every action that is not disposed of through mediation, case evaluation, or other means will be scheduled for a settlement conference and conducted in accordance with MCR 2.401.

H. Trial Scheduling and Management

Trial dates shall be set according to the Court's calendar with criminal cases taking precedence over civil cases. Court will schedule length of trial as set out in the scheduling order. To avoid future scheduling conflicts, attorneys must be able to confirm their trial date availability.

I. Monitoring Systems

The court's case management system will:

1. Monitor case progress;
2. Generate reports for measuring pending inventory and measuring compliance with the time guidelines.

Specific reports that will be available from the case management system are: cases with no next action date, age of pending cases, number of cases pending beyond time standards by judge, age of cases at each event, age of cases at disposition, time intervals between events, and exception reports.

Date: 9/29/11


Signature of Chief Judge