

STATE OF MICHIGAN GENESEE COUNTY 7 th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	IN RE: CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN	LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER LAO 2015-06
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7th Judicial Circuit Court, 900 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 (810) 424-4355

This order rescinds Local Administrative Order 2011-3.

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2013-12.

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 Administrative Order 2013-12. 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 Administrative Order 2013-12. 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.

Joint Local Administrative Order, 2009-8J established an Alternative Dispute Resolution Plan for the Court. Civil and domestic cases are included.

Cases referred to ADR shall remain open.

F. Pretrial Scheduling Orders

Each judge will utilize a pre-trial scheduling order for the scheduling of cases. The order will set forth the following dates or cutoff periods:

- Dispositive motions and motions in limine
- Discovery Cutoff
- Witness List and Exhibits Exchange
- Case Evaluation Month and Year
- Experts Named
- Settlement Conference (if applicable)
- Trial date *

* If the original trial date will be converted to a mandatory settlement conference, notice will be provided at least 28 days *before the scheduled trial date*.

Other matters may be included in the pre-trial scheduling order at the discretion of the judge. These may include instructions regarding ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution), proposed jury instructions and trial briefs.

G. Settlement or Final Pretrial Conferences [Optional]

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.

Persons with authority to settle the case, including the parties to the actions, agents of the parties, representatives of lien holders, or representatives of insurance carriers shall be present at the conference, or with approval of the Court, available [promptly] at the time of the conference via telecommunications.

H. Trial Scheduling and Management

Trials should be scheduled in a manner that minimizes adjournments for scheduling conflicts and ensures trial date certainty.

Judicial offices will schedule trials, using the case management software that identifies trial date conflicts for attorneys.

Judicial offices will also utilize the case management software to schedule all domestic hearings that are referred by the judge to the referee. A docket control date shall be scheduled, to assist judicial offices with docket management.

Civil Cases - trial dates will be included in the pre-trial scheduling order.

Criminal Cases - the court will provide notice of the trial date at the pre-trial conference or by separate notice to attorneys of record. Criminal cases in which the defendant remains in custody shall be afforded priority for trial.

Domestic Cases - mandatory settlement conference and trial dates will be included in the pre-trial scheduling order. Trials will be scheduled with consideration to the mandatory waiting period for DO and DM cases.

Child Protective Proceedings and Delinquency Proceedings - trial dates are selected at the pretrial conference. Attorneys and interested parties are

instructed to determine the availability of trial dates and the existence of possible conflicts before the conference is completed.

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: July 9, 2015

/S/ _____
Richard B. Yuille, Chief Judge
7th Judicial Circuit