

STATE OF MICHIGAN GENESEE COUNTY 7 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT	<b>In Re: Appointment of Juvenile And Domestic Relations Attorney Referee</b>	LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER C07 2023-10
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7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, 900 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 (810) 424-4355

**APPOINTMENT OF JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS  
ATTORNEY REFEREE**

This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2009-6, effective January 1, 2010. In accordance with MCL 712A.10, MCL 552.507(1) and MCR 3.913, MCR 3.215(A) and upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO),

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. The chief judge of the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court appoints Megan Cottington-Heath as attorney referee. The referee's contact information is:

Name	Megan Cottington-Heath
Bar Number	P-73796
Court Address	630 S. Saginaw St., Ste. 2500 Flint, MI 48502
Phone Number	810.257.6130
E-mail Address	mcottingtonheath@geneseecountymi.gov

It is the responsibility of the referee to notify the State Court Administrative Office of changes in the individual's contact information during the course of the appointment.

2. Megan Cottington-Heath:
  - a. Will serve at the pleasure of the chief judge of the circuit court.
  - b. Has taken the constitutional oath of office.
  - c. Is licensed and a member, in good standing, of the State Bar of Michigan, pursuant to MCR 3.215.

**Juvenile Attorney Referees**

3. Referee Megan Cottington-Heath is authorized to perform the following duties pursuant to MCR 3.913 and MCL 712A.10:

- a. Conduct a preliminary inquiry or preside at hearings under the Juvenile Code, MCL 712A.1, et. seq., and make recommended findings and conclusion except for those hearings specified in MCR 3.912(A), which include the following:
  - 1. a jury trial;
  - 2. a waiver proceeding under MCR 3.950;
  - 3. the preliminary examination, trial, and sentencing in a designated case;
  - 4. a proceeding on the issuance, modification, or termination of a minor personal protection order.
- b. In conducting hearings, a referee shall do all of the following:
  - 1. Administer oaths and examine witnesses;
  - 2. If a case requires a hearing and the taking of testimony, make a written signed report to the judge containing a summary of the testimony taken and a recommendation for the court's findings and disposition.
- c. In addition, an attorney referee may issue an interim ex parte placement order under MCR 3.963(B).

#### **Domestic Relations Attorney Referees**

- 4. The following types of motions may be heard initially by Domestic Relations Referees. Referee Megan Cottington-Heath is authorized to perform the following duties pursuant to MCL 552.507(1) and MCR 3.215(A):
  - ☐ Hear all domestic relations motions.
  - ☐ Hear all domestic relations motions and any ancillary (related non-domestic relations) motions that the court determines to be related to a domestic relations case.
  - ☒ Hear all domestic relations motions, with the exception of those listed below:

Exceptions:

    - A. Post judgment petition seeking alimony modification
    - B. Post judgment petition seeking change in custody or parenting time, if the petitioner is represented by an attorney, unless referred by the judge
    - C. Post judgment petition seeking change in domicile, if the petitioner is represented by an attorney, unless referred by the judge
  - ☒ The following types of domestic relations motions shall be initially heard by a circuit court referee:

- A. Post judgment petition seeking modification of child support, if filed by the petitioner in pro per
  - B. Post judgment petition seeking change in custody or parenting time, if filed by the petitioner in pro per
  - C. Motions for temporary custody, child support or parenting time, if filed by the petitioner in pro per
5. The Domestic Relations Referee is authorized to conduct the following scheduling and settlement conferences in domestic relations cases in accordance with MCR 3.215:
- [ X ] Scheduling conferences in domestic relations cases. The court must review and may either approve or modify the referee's scheduling.
  - [ X ] Settlement conferences in domestic relations cases.
6. Recommendations for certain orders by the Domestic Relations Referee shall be given interim effect pending a judicial hearing on a timely objection or pending the twenty-one (21) day waiting period as authorized by MCR 3.215(g):
- [ X ] Orders establishing custody
  - [ X ] Orders establishing support
  - [ X ] Orders establishing parenting time
  - [ X ] Orders modifying support when custody does not change
  - [ X ] Orders implementing income withholding
7. If a domestic relations referee's recommended order does not have interim effect pursuant to this order, the court may enter a case-specific order giving the recommended order interim effect pending the judicial hearing, unless interim effect is prohibited by MCR 3.215(G)(3).

Effective Date: Effective upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office.

David J. Newblatt /s/  
David J. Newblatt  
Chief Judge  
7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court

August 14, 2023  
Date