

Order

Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan

June 30, 2026

Megan K. Cavanagh,
Chief Justice

ADM File No. 2019-40

Brian K. Zahra
Richard H. Bernstein
Elizabeth M. Welch
Kyra H. Bolden
Kimberly A. Thomas
Noah P. Hood,
Justices

Adoption of Administrative
Order No. 2026-4, Rescission of
Administrative Order No. 2012-7,
and Amendments of Rules 2.407
and 8.110 of the Michigan Court
Rules

On order of the Court, notice of the proposed changes and an opportunity for comment in writing and at a public hearing having been provided, and consideration having been given to the comments received, the following adoption of Administrative Order No. 2026-4, rescission of Administrative Order No. 2012-7, and amendments of Rules 2.407 and 8.110 of the Michigan Court Rules are adopted, effective September 1, 2026.

[Additions to the text are indicated in underlining and
deleted text is shown by strikeover.]

Administrative Order No. 2026-4 – Judicial Officers’ Remote Appearances

In accordance with this administrative order, and subject to the chief judge’s discretion under MCR 8.110, judicial officers may preside remotely. Judges appearing remotely must ensure that doing so does not interfere with the rights and interests of the parties in any given case, that the remote proceeding is beneficial to the parties, and that public perception of the court is considered.

Judges must comply with in-person requests pursuant to MCR 2.407(B)(4). Attorneys and parties must not be required to attend a proceeding in person if the judicial officer will be presiding remotely.

The judicial officer who presides remotely must

- (1) preside from a location that is free of personal distractions;
- (2) preside from a location that the judicial officer reasonably believes to have a reliable internet connection that will support remote proceedings;
- (3) have their videoconferencing camera on at all times during the proceeding;

- (4) display the flags of the United States and Michigan as provided in MCR 8.115(A); and
- (5) wear a black robe if they are a judge or if required by court rules, statute, or their chief judge.

For purposes of this administrative order, the judge may display digital representations of the United States and Michigan flags adjacent to the judge.

A judicial officer's remote participation is subject to the court's ability to produce a suitable recording of the proceeding for purposes of preparing a verbatim transcript in accordance with the Michigan Court Rules.

The State Court Administrative Office must report periodically to this Court regarding its assessment of judicial officers presiding remotely. Courts must cooperate with the State Court Administrative Office in monitoring the remote participation of judicial officers in court proceedings.

For purposes of this order:

- "Videoconferencing" means that term as defined in MCR 2.407.
- A "judicial officer" includes judges, district court magistrates, and referees.

Rule 2.407 Videoconferencing

(A)-(D) [Unchanged.]

~~(E) Notwithstanding any other provision in this rule, until further order of the Court, AO No. 2012-7 is suspended.~~

Rule 8.110 Chief Judge Rule

(A)-(B) [Unchanged.]

(C) Duties and Powers of Chief Judge.

(1)-(2) [Unchanged.]

(3) As director of the administration of the court, a chief judge shall have administrative superintending power and control over the judges of the court and all court personnel with authority and responsibility to:

(a)-(b) [Unchanged.]

(c) determine the hours of the court and the judges; coordinate and determine the number of judges and court personnel required to be present at any one time to perform necessary judicial administrative work of the court, and require their presence to perform that work in accordance with subrule (C)(4);

(d)-(i) [Unchanged.]

(4) In requiring presence to perform work under subrule (C)(3)(c), a chief judge may consider requests to work remotely from judicial officers as that term is defined in Administrative Order No. 2026-4. The chief judge has a duty to first consider and ensure that the rights and interests of litigants and the public are met when a judge is working remotely. In addition, the chief judge must weigh the needs of the court and public perception, while affording judges and court personnel the professionalism that they have earned.

(4)-(9) [Renumbered (5)-(10) but otherwise unchanged.]

(D) [Unchanged.]

Staff Comment (ADM File No. 2019-40): Administrative Order No. 2026-4 clarifies how a judicial officer may preside remotely. A related amendment of MCR 2.407 strikes a reference to Administrative Order No. 2012-7 being suspended, and that administrative order is rescinded. The amendment of MCR 8.110 sets out the authority, responsibility, and duty of chief judges when faced with remote-work requests from judicial officers.

The staff comment is not an authoritative construction by the Court. In addition, adoption of a new rule or amendment in no way reflects a substantive determination by this Court.



I, Elizabeth Kingston-Miller, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

June 30, 2026

Elizabeth Kingston-Miller

Clerk