STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTIES OF ALCONA, ARENAC, IOSCO AND OSCODA

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
Circuit Court Joint Local Administrative Order 2025-02J
Probate Court Joint Local Administrative Order P01 2025-01J; P06 2025-01J; P35 2025-01J; P68 2025-01J

Rescinds Circuit Court Joint Local Administrative Order C23 2017-03J
Rescinds Probate Court Joint Local Administrative Orders P01 2017-02J, P06 2017-02J, P35 2017-02J, P68 2017-02J

FAMILY DIVISION ESTABLISHMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Authority. Pursuant to MCL 600.1011, as amended by 2002 PA 682, each judicial circuit is required to establish a family court plan (FCP or "the Plan"). Supreme Court Administrative Order 2003-2 requires the family court plan to be submitted for approval to the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) for filing in accordance with the statute and guidelines provided by the SCAO. The chief circuit judge and the chief probate judge shall enter into an agreement establishing how the family division will be operated in the circuit and how the services will be coordinated. The chief judge of the circuit court has the authority to determine the duration of a judge's service pursuant to the family court plan in furtherance of this goal. This court has a multi-judge family division and the chief judge has selected a presiding judge to serve in that capacity. See Appendix A for further detail.

B. Goals. The goal(s) of this FCP are described below.

- Have at least one judge available in each county with the authority to act on any matter not specifically excluded by 2012 PA 338;
- Reduce travel among the counties by those judges elected in a four county area in order to increase time available to provide judicial services;
- Ensure daily access to a judge by litigants for emergency matters such as PPOs, bench warrant arraignments, and ex parte orders.
- Enable judges to be familiar with family dynamics and where appropriate apply evidence based social science principles across jurisdictions.
- Use case assignment where appropriate to implement the 'one judge, one family' concept.
- Authorize district judges to take felony pleas as provided by MCR 6.111.
- Appoint a single trial Court Administrator for all the courts in each county, with the authority to consolidate staff, programs, and services, including jury administration, collections, budgeting, and technology. These consolidations ultimately will result in savings to the funding unit and the tax paying citizens of each county.
- Coordinate court schedules to assist in better docket management.

C. Operation. This FCP supersedes prior plans that have been approved for the operation of the family division. This Plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary including when family division judicial assignments change, and at least every 2 years, by the chief circuit and chief probate judges to ensure

that the Plan meets the statutory requirements and complies with the Family Court Plan Requirements and Guidelines provided by the SCAO.

II. ADMINISTRATION

This Section shall include:

A. JUDICAL RESOURCES / SERVICE

1. Family Division Judges. All judges assigned to the family division have expressed an interest in overseeing family law cases through the end of their term.

- Richard E. Vollbach, 2009 – 2030
- Laura A. Frawley, 2006 - 2030
- David C. Riffel, 2017 - 2029
- Christopher P. Martin, 2013 - 2030
- Casandra Morse-Bills, 2019 - 2030

2. Judicial Expertise. Each judge listed above may attend New Judge Orientation as well as continued training consistent with MCJE rules, and is encouraged to attend training that informs the position and current skillset. Training opportunities are provided by the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI), under MCL 600.1019.

3. Judicial Service. All judges in "the Plan" will serve full time in the family division, under MCL 600.1011(3), where sufficient caseload and judicial resources exists. For any partial assignment the Plan must disclose the percentage of new filings by case type assigned to each judge.

In Iosco County the partial assignment is as follows:

Domestic Cases	100% to the Iosco Probate Judge (All Domestic cases other than EP, EE, ER, EJ, PP, PH, DM, and DO) 100% of the DM and DO case codes to the Circuit Court Judge 50% of the EP, EE, ER, EJ, PP and PH case codes to the Iosco Probate Judge 50% of the EP, EE, ER, EJ, PP and PH case codes to the Circuit Court Judge
Miscellaneous Proceedings	100% to the Iosco Probate Judge
Delinquency, Neglect, Abuse, Adoptions and Name Changes	100% to the Iosco Probate Judge
All Probate Court Proceedings	100% to the Iosco Probate Judge

B. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES

Cases involving members of the same family (aka "one family-one judge") is defined as "When 2 or more matters within the same jurisdiction of the family division of circuit court involving members of the same family are pending in the same judicial circuit, those matters, whenever practicable, shall be assigned to

the judge to whom the first case was assigned." [MCL 600.1023] The term "whenever practicable" is not defined in statute but generally means to the greatest extent possible to further the goals of the family court plan described in section I(B).

1. Case Assignment. Cases are assigned randomly, as provided for under MCR 8.111 or as otherwise provided in accordance with 8.112(B), except for those cases identified to be those of a family member within the jurisdiction of the family court.

2. (For Multi-Judge Courts Only) Definitions.

When two or more matters within the jurisdiction of the family division of Circuit Court involving members of the same family are pending in the same judicial circuit those matters, whenever practical, shall be assigned to the judge to whom the first such case was assigned. In Iosco County, if a juvenile delinquency or abuse and neglect matter is pending or later filed, such matters, and all related "family" cases as defined in this plan, shall be presumed to be assigned to the Iosco County Probate Judge, unless otherwise ordered. For purposes of this plan a "family" or "family members" includes individuals who are related as husband or wife, parent, stepparent, guardian, child or sibling. An action may still be deemed to involve a "family" even when an unrelated individual is involved as a complainant or a party.

"Pending" is defined as any case filed and still open, not yet resolved, concluded, or judgment being entered. This includes any domestic action, including post judgment filings, until all minor child(ren) have reached the age of majority. In abuse/neglect or delinquency hearings, if a neglect/abuse or delinquency petition is filed and there is no previously filed and pending neglect or delinquency petition, a judge who was assigned to a previous petition which has been closed for 60 months or less, will be assigned to the new petition. This pertains to cases in the family division of circuit court devoted to the following proceedings; divorce, paternity, child or spousal support, parenting time/custody, adoptions, juvenile delinquency, child protection proceedings, name changes, personal protection orders, ERPO, emancipation, waiver of consent to an abortion, guardianship/conservatorships for persons under 18 where a matter arises out of a child protective proceeding, delinquency proceeding or a domestic relations case.

3. One Family-One Judge. To the extent practicable, all matters within the jurisdiction of the Family Division will be assigned to the same judge to further the concept of "one family-one judge." When a matter within the jurisdiction of the Family Division is filed, and a matter involving the same family is pending in the Family Division, the new case will be assigned to the judge assigned to the pending matter.

4. Prior Matters. When cases or motions are filed, the clerk's office shall review the case inventory and court records to see if the family, as defined herein, has a prior pending matter, as defined herein. In Iosco County, if a juvenile delinquency or abuse and neglect matter is pending or later filed, such matters, and all related "family" cases as defined in this plan, shall be presumed to be assigned to the Iosco County Probate Judge, unless otherwise ordered.

5. Case Types. The primary case types of the family division are AB, AC, AD, AF, AG, AM, AN, AO, AU, AY, DC, DJ, DL, DM, DO, DP, DS, DZ, EE, EJ, EM, EP, ER, EV, EZ, FH (only felony, non-payment of child support), ID, JA, JG, NA, NB, PH, PJ, PP, PW, TL, UE, UF, UI, UM, UN, VF, and VP. The ancillary case types that may be included in the Plan, if concurrent jurisdiction plans or other court configurations require it are CA, CY, DD, GA, GL, GM, JA, LG, MI, NC, and PO.

6. Concurrent Cases. A. If a new Family Division case is filed while another Family Division case is pending and either action includes a pending Juvenile Section case or a pending minor

guardianship case involving the same child, all active cases shall be reassigned to the Probate/Juvenile Section Judge.

B. If a new adoption case is filed for a child for whom there is an active abuse or neglect matter, the adoption file shall be assigned to the judge assigned to the abuse or neglect matter.

If a personal protection order case is filed involving the same parties who have a pending Family Division case, the personal protection order case shall be assigned to the judge assigned to the existing pending matter.

When reassignment of a pending matter is required, the clerk receiving the new action shall notify the Court Administrator who will prepare an order for reassignment to be signed by the judge then-assigned to the file being reassigned.

C. REASSIGNMENT OF CASES

1. Disqualifications. Disqualifications will first be handled as described under MCR 8.111(C)(1). Cases must be reassigned first with the court's family division, then within the remaining bench, and finally by SCAO assignment.

2. Transfer. When a judge's service in the family division ends, pending cases will be resolved by that judge or assigned to that judge's successor.

3. Dispute. Any dispute on proper reassignment shall be resolved by the chief judge and/or the presiding family division judge, should one be appointed.

D. STAFFING AND FACILITIES

- SEE ATTACHMENT 1 FOR ALCONA COUNTY
- SEE ATTACHMENT 2 FOR ARENAC COUNTY
- SEE ATTACHMENT 3 FOR IOSCO COUNTY
- SEE ATTACHMENT 4 FOR OSCODA COUNTY

E. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

- SEE ATTACHMENT 1 FOR ALCONA COUNTY
- SEE ATTACHMENT 2 FOR ARENAC COUNTY
- SEE ATTACHMENT 3 FOR IOSCO COUNTY
- SEE ATTACHMENT 4 FOR OSCODA COUNTY

6-17-25
DATE

Chief Judge

ALCONA COUNTY

ATTACHMENT #1

D. STAFFING AND FACILITIES

1. Administrative Structure. A family division organizational chart is included as Appendix B. The organizational structure set forth within each chart is designed to provide efficient and fair disposition of each matter within the family courts of the 23rd Circuit Trial Court, providing timely judicial availability in each county, with daily access to a judge by litigants, on all family court matters, (emergency or otherwise), consistent with "one judge, one family" concept, further enabling all judges within the 23rd Circuit Trial Court to take felony pleas, per MCR 6.111, maintaining a trial court administrator in each county who has authority to consolidate staff, programs, services, jury administration, collections, budgeting, and technology, and further coordination of schedules for efficient docket management.

2. Remote Proceedings. All remote proceedings will be followed per the memorandums provided to court staff included as Appendix C.

3. Facilities. The Alcona County Building provides a meeting room for the FOC to meet with clients for mediations and other court business. The Alcona County Building also provides attorney meeting rooms to allow for privacy.

E. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

1. Clerks of the Court. The Alcona County Clerk is designated as the Clerk of the Court for the Family Division. The Alcona County Probate Register and/or Deputy Probate Register shall maintain every record created by or filed with the probate court.

2. Plan Development. The County Clerk has been afforded the opportunity to participate in the development of plans for management of court records. Any letter of concurrence or disagreement with the Plan authored by the County Clerk regarding management of court records shall be submitted to the SCAO with the submission of the Family Court Plan for approval.

4. Filing. All family court records will be filed and kept in the Alcona County Clerk's Office.

5. Access Point. The Arenac County Family Court assistant to the Court Administrator shall serve as the designated access representative for each of the four counties within the 23rd Circuit Trial Court, and will direct inquiries from the public and members of the state bar information regarding the family court structure, as well as other information, or otherwise direct inquiries to the appropriate representative in each of the other three counties, who can address questions and/or provide information relative to their counties, court, and judges. The assistant can be reached at 989-846-6131.

6. Internal Transfer. No internal transfers occur in this court.

7. Technological Access. All cases are available to all family division cases for all family division judges and referees on the court's software system, TCS.

8. Public Access. This FCP is posted on the court's website and is otherwise publicly available upon request.

ARENAC COUNTY

ATTACHMENT #2

D. STAFFING AND FACILITIES

1. Administrative Structure. A family division organizational chart is included as Appendix B. The organizational structure set forth within each chart is designed to provide efficient and fair disposition of each matter within the family courts of the 23rd Circuit Trial Court, providing timely judicial availability in each county, with daily access to a judge by litigants, on all family court matters, (emergency or otherwise), consistent with "one judge, one family" concept, further enabling all judges within the 23rd Circuit Trial Court to take felony pleas, per MCR 6.111, maintaining a trial court administrator in each county who has authority to consolidate staff, programs, services, jury administration, collections, budgeting, and technology, and further coordination of schedules for efficient docket management.

2. Remote Proceedings. All remote proceedings will be followed per the memorandums provided to court staff included as Appendix C.

3. Facilities. The Arenac County Building provides a meeting room for the FOC to meet with clients for mediations and other court business. The Arenac County Building also provides an attorney meeting room to allow for privacy.

E. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

1. Clerks of the Court. The Arenac County Clerk is designated as the Clerk of the Court for the Family Division. The Arenac County Probate Register and/or Deputy Probate Register shall maintain every record created by or filed with the probate court.

2. Plan Development. The County Clerk has been afforded the opportunity to participate in the development of plans for management of court records. Any letter of concurrence or disagreement with the Plan authored by the County Clerk regarding management of court records shall be submitted to the SCAO with the submission of the Family Court Plan for approval.

4. Filing. All family court records will be filed and kept in the Arenac County Central Filing Office.

5. Access Point. The Arenac County Family Court assistant to the Court Administrator shall serve as the designated access representative for each of the four counties within the 23rd Circuit Trial Court, and will direct inquiries from the public and members of the state bar information regarding the family court structure, as well as other information, or otherwise direct inquiries to the appropriate representative in each of the other three counties, who can address questions and/or provide information relative to their counties, court, and judges. The assistant can be reached at 989-846-6131.

6. Internal Transfer. No internal transfers occur in this court.

7. Technological Access. All cases are available to all family division cases for all family division judges and referees on the courts software system, TCS.

8. Public Access. This FCP is posted on the court's website and is otherwise publicly available upon request.

IOSCO COUNTY

ATTACHMENT #3

D. STAFFING AND FACILITIES

1. Administrative Structure: A family division organizational chart is included as Appendix B. The organizational structure set forth with in the chart is designed to provide efficient and fair disposition of each matter within the family courts of the 23rd Circuit Trial Court Providing timely judicial availability in each county, with daily access to a judge by litigants, on all family court matters, (emergency or otherwise), consistent with "one judge, one family" concept, further enabling all judges within the 23rd Circuit Trial Court to take felony pleas, per MCR 6.111, maintain a trial court administrator in each county who has authority to consolidate staff, programs, services, jury administration, collections, budgeting, and technology, and further coordination of schedules for efficient docket management.

2. Remote Proceedings; The Iosco County Trial Court maintains full compliance with MCR 2.408. Videoconferencing technology is in use and maintained in all courtrooms in Iosco County, including the use of Polycom and Zoom. Attendance by electronic platform or videoconferencing technology is presumed for hearing listed in MCR 2.408B.

3. Facilities. The Iosco County Building provides meeting rooms for attorneys to meet privately with clients. There are also meeting rooms for FOC to meet with litigants and parties for joint meetings, negotiations, and dispute resolution. Bailiffs are present in the courtrooms while court is in session. The Iosco County Building also has security personnel and screening at the public entry points for the County Building. Staff is accessible to the public during all times the courthouse is open to the public through service windows. There are chairs, tables and court information located in waiting areas outside of each courtroom.

E. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

1. Clerks of the Court. The Iosco County Clerk is designated as the Clerk of the Court for the Family Division. The Iosco County Probate Register and/or Deputy Register shall maintain every record created by or filed with the probate court.

2. Plan Development. The County Clerk has been afforded the opportunity to participate in the development of plans for management of court records. Any letter of concurrence or disagreement with the Plan authored by the Court Clerk regarding management of court records shall be submitted to the SCAO with the submission of the Family Court Plan for approval.

3. Filing. All family court records (Domestic Relations) will be filed and kept in the Iosco County Clerk's Office. All family court records pertaining to juvenile and neglect/abuse cases shall be filed and kept in the Iosco County Probate Court.

4. Access Point. The Iosco County Family Court Scheduling Clerk and Trial Court Administrator shall serve as the designated access representative for Iosco County Trial Court and will direct inquiries from the public and members of the bar information regarding the family court structure, information and related activities, such as where to file documents, records, storage, records access, and case scheduling information, including online information.

5. Internal Transfer. No internal transfers occur in this court.

6. Technological Access. All cases are available to all family division judges and referees, hard files are kept and distributed by the Iosco County Clerk, further judges and referees have access to all cases on our case management software, JIS/TCS.

7. Public Access. This FCP is posted on the court's website and is otherwise publicly available upon request.

OSCODA COUNTY

ATTACHMENT #4

D. STAFFING AND FACILITIES

1. Administrative Structure. A family division organizational chart is included as Appendix B. The organizational structure set forth within each chart is designed to provide efficient and fair disposition of each matter within the family courts of the 23rd Circuit Trial Court, providing timely judicial availability in each county, with daily access to a judge by litigants, on all family court matters, (emergency or otherwise), consistent with "one judge, one family" concept, further enabling all judges within the 23rd Circuit Trial Court to take felony pleas, per MCR 6.111, maintaining a trial court administrator in each county who has authority to consolidate staff, programs, services, jury administration, collections, budgeting, and technology, and further coordination of schedules for efficient docket management.

2. Remote Proceedings. All remote proceedings will be followed per the memorandums provided to court staff included as Appendix C.

3. Facilities. The Oscoda County Building provides a meeting room for the FOC to meet with clients for mediations and other court business. The Oscoda County Building also provides an attorney meeting room to allow for privacy.

E. RECORDS MANAGEMENT

1. Clerks of the Court. The Oscoda County Clerk is designated as the Clerk of the Court for the Family Division. The Oscoda County Probate Register and/or Deputy Probate Register shall maintain every record created by or filed with the probate court.

2. Plan Development. The County Clerk has been afforded the opportunity to participate in the development of plans for management of court records. Any letter of concurrence or disagreement with the Plan authored by the County Clerk regarding management of court records shall be submitted to the SCAO with the submission of the Family Court Plan for approval.

3. Filing. All family court records will be filed and kept in the Oscoda County Central Filing Office.

4. Access Point. The Arenac County Family Court assistant to the Court Administrator shall serve as the designated access representative for each of the four counties within the 23rd Circuit Trial Court, and will direct inquiries from the public and

members of the state bar information regarding the family court structure, as well as other information, or otherwise direct inquiries to the appropriate representative in each of the other three counties, who can address questions and/or provide information relative to their counties, court, and judges. The assistant can be reached at 989-846-6131.

5. Internal Transfer. No internal transfers occur in this court.

6. Technological Access. All cases are available to all family division cases for all family division judges and referees on the courts software system, TCS.

7. Public Access. This FCP is posted on the court's website and is otherwise publicly available upon request.

APPENDIX A

Appointment of Chief Judge Pro Tempore and Presiding Judge(s)
Pursuant to MCR 8.110
Appointment Term: 2024-2026

Court(s): 23rd Circuit, 81st District, Alcona, Arenac, Iosco and Oscoda Counties

For the term of 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2026 I hereby appoint:

Pro Tempore: Hon. Laura A. Frawley

Presiding Family Judge(s):

Hon. David C. Riffel: Iosco Circuit and Domestic Family Courts

Hon. Christopher P. Martin: Iosco Probate, District & Juvenile Family Courts

Hon. Casandra L. Morse-Bills: All Oscoda County Courts

Hon. Laura A. Frawley: All Alcona County Courts

Other Presiding Judge(s) (if any): Hon. Richard E. Vollbach: All Arenac County Courts

Date: 11-29-23

Chief Judge Signature

Twenty-third Judicial Circuit Court

Counties of:
Alcona . Arenac . Iosco . Oscoda

Richard E. Vollbach Jr.
Chief 23rd Circuit Court Judge
P.O. Box 609
Standish, Michigan 48658

phone (989) 846-6200 fax (989) 846-6757

November 28, 2023

Region III State Court Administrative Office
Attn: Regional Administrator Nicholas Wood
PO Box 750
Mt Pleasant, MI 48803-0750

Dear Mr. Wood,

Please be informed that pursuant to our Concurrent Jurisdiction Plan, I have appointed the following Judges as Presiding Judge as set forth below:

- Presiding Judge for Alcona County Circuit/District/Family and Probate Courts: **Honorable Laura A. Frawley**
- Presiding Judge for Arenac County Circuit/District/Family and Probate Courts: **Honorable Richard E. Vollbach Jr.**
- Presiding Judge for Iosco County Circuit/Family (including FOC but excluding Juvenile division) Courts: **Honorable David C. Riffel**
- Presiding Judge for Iosco County District/Probate and Family (Juvenile division only, excluding FOC) Courts: **Honorable Christopher P. Martin**
- Presiding Judge for Oscoda County Circuit/District/Family and Probate Courts: **Honorable Casandra L. Morse-Bills**

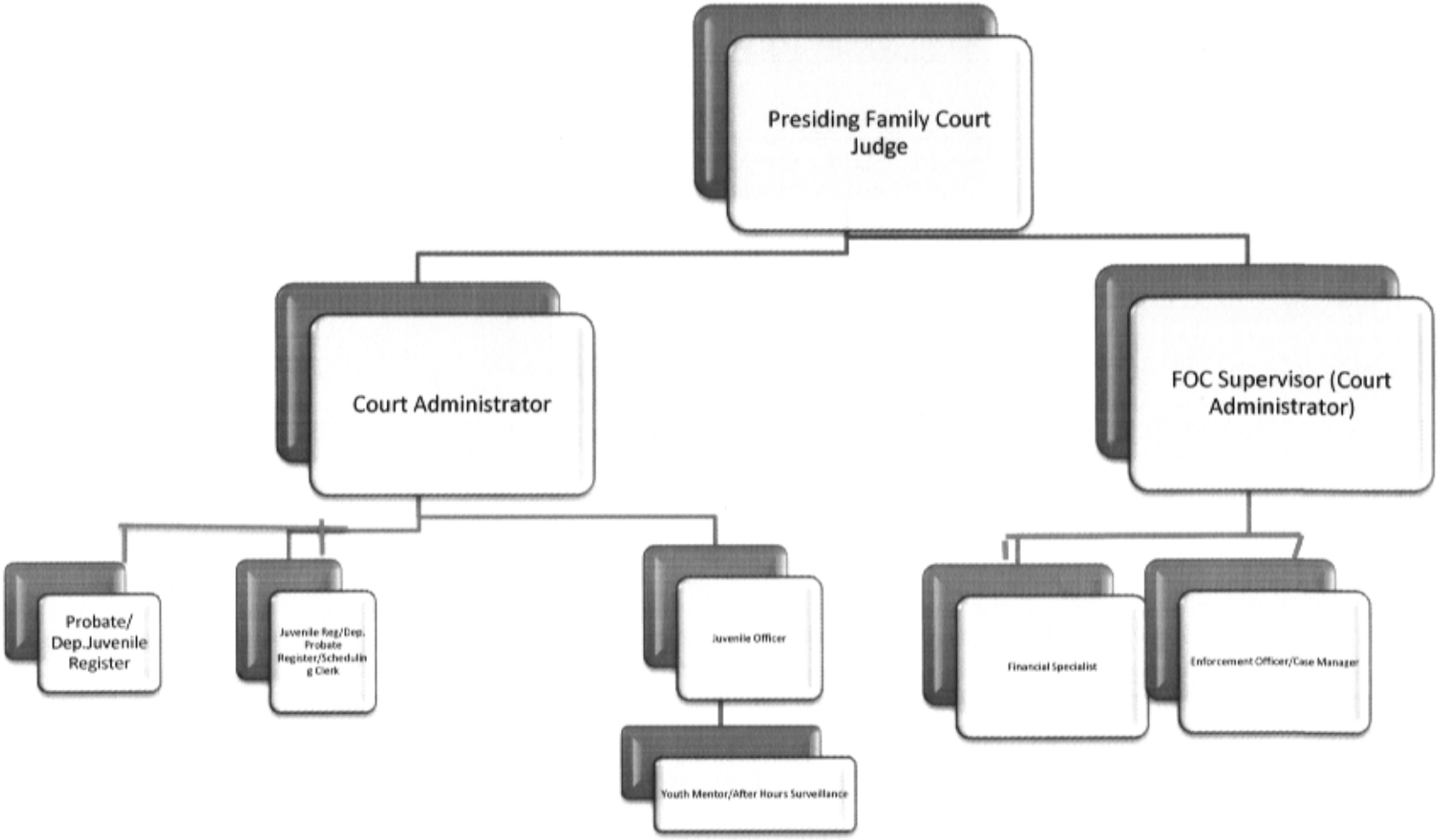
Pease contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Honorable Richard E. Vollbach
Chief Judge

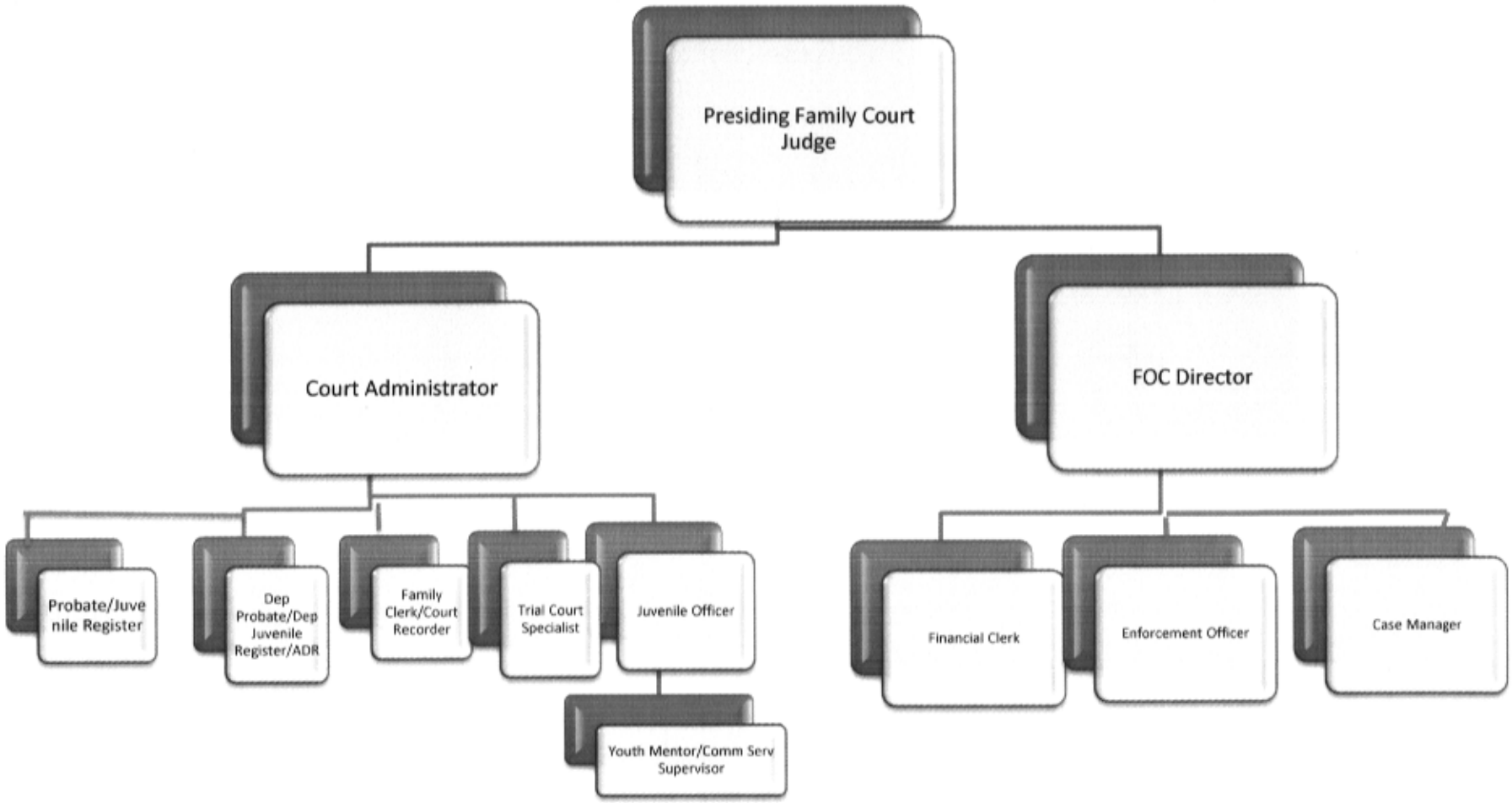
Alcona County

APPENDIX B



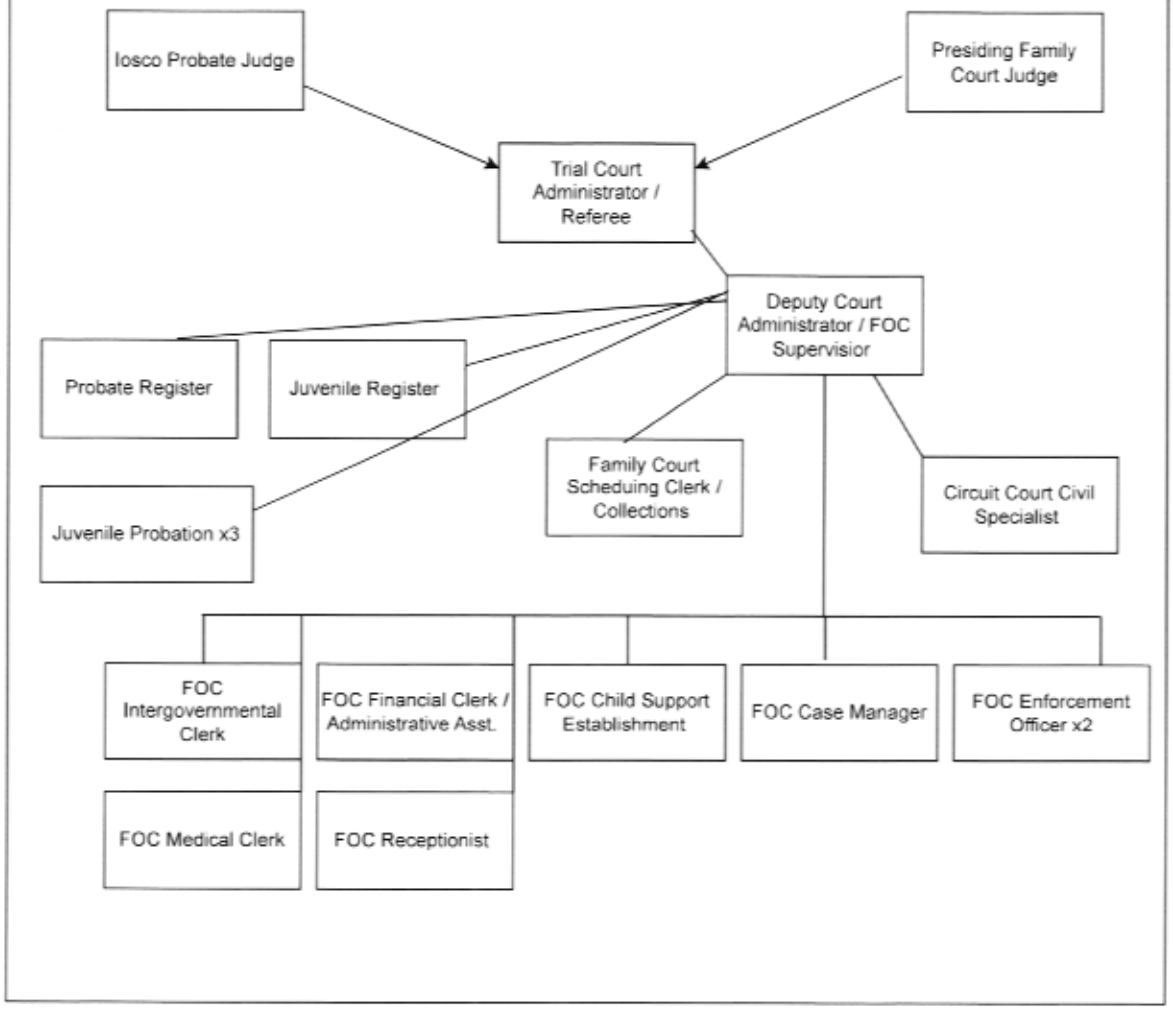
Arenac County

APPENDIX B



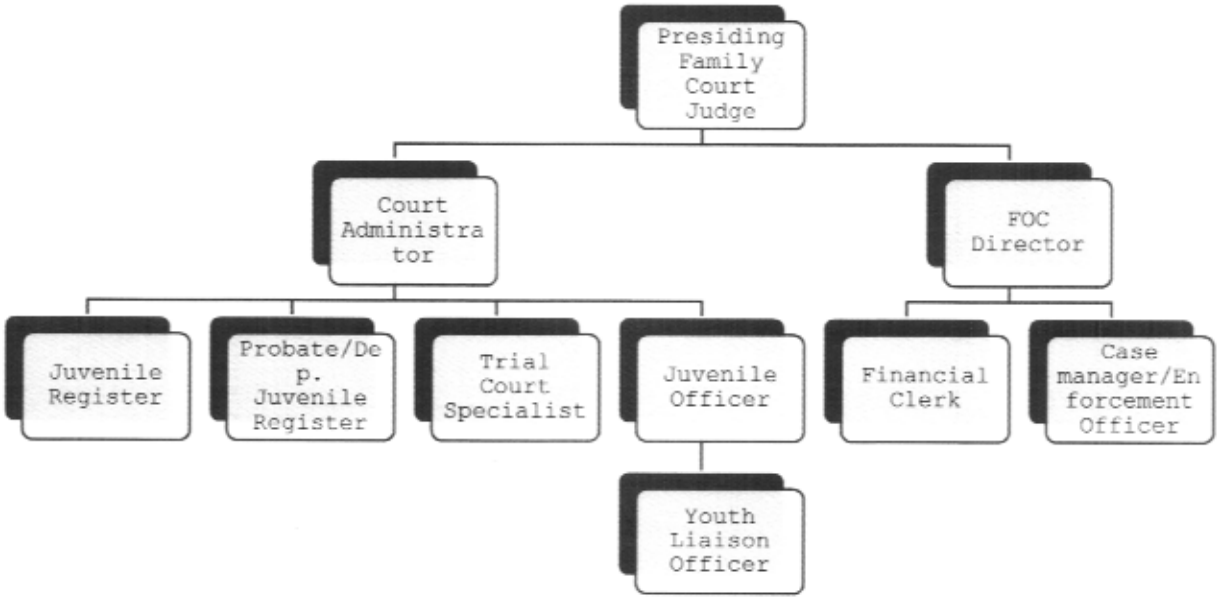
Iosco County

APPENDIX B



Oscoda County

APPENDIX B



APPENDIX C

☐ 23rd Judicial Circuit
989-724-9410 (Phone)
989-724-9419 (Fax)

☐ 81st Judicial District
989-724-9500 (Phone)
989-724-9509 (Fax)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
ALCONA COUNTY TRIAL COURT
P.O. Box 385
106 Fifth Street, Harrisville, MI 48740

☐ Family Court
989-724-9470 (Phone)
989-724-9479 (Fax)

☐ Probate Court
989-724-9490 (Phone)
989-724-9499 (Fax)

RICHARD E. VOLLBACH Jr, Chief Judge
LAURA A. FRAWLEY, Probate Judge, Presiding Trial Court Judge

TO: Alcona County Circuit Court Staff

FROM: Alcona County Trial Court

RE: Zoom Protocols/MCR Amendments

DATE:

To all staff:

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings. Specifically, review MCR 2.002, MCR 2.408, and MCR 6.006 effective 9/9/2022.

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology In Civil Cases

Civil Hearings to be presumed to be held by Zoom:

- Pre-trial Hearings
- Status Conferences
- Motion Hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing requiring testimony and/or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record.
- Post judgment collection matters
- Motions to amend, strike or correct pleadings

Civil Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or Jury Trials
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 6.006 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Criminal Cases

Criminal Hearings to be presumed to be held by Zoom:

- Pre-trial
- Motion Hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing requiring testimony and/or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record.
- Post judgment collection matters.
- Motions to correct, strike or amend pleadings.

Criminal Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Status Conferences
- Pleas
- Bench or Jury Trials
- Sentencings
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

☐ 23rd Judicial Circuit
989-724-9410 (Phone)
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
ALCONA COUNTY TRIAL COURT
P.O. Box 385
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☐ Probate Court
989-724-9490 (Phone)
989-724-9499 (Fax)

RICHARD E. VOLLBACH Jr, Chief Judge
LAURA A. FRAWLEY, Probate Judge, Presiding Trial Court Judge

TO: Alcona County District Court Staff

FROM: Alcona County Trial Court

RE: Zoom Protocols/MCR Amendments

DATE:

To all staff:

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings. Specifically, review MCR 2.002, MCR 2.408, MCR 4.101 and MCR 6.006 effective 9/9/2022.

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology In Civil Cases

Civil Hearings to be presumed to be held by Zoom:

- Pre-trial Hearings
- Status Conferences
- Motion Hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing requiring testimony and/or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record.
- Post judgment collection matters
- Motions to amend, strike or correct pleadings

Civil Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or Jury Trials
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 6.006 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Criminal Cases

Criminal Hearings to be presumed to be held by Zoom:

- Arraignments (if signed advice of rights, attorney request form is contained in the file the day before the hearing and the defendant has been printed)
- Pre-trial (no pleas will be taken by zoom, UNLESS, all of the paper work is contained in the file the day before the hearing)
- Motion Hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing requiring testimony and/or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record.
- Post judgment collection matters.
- Motions to correct, strike or amend pleadings.

Criminal Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Preliminary Hearings
- Status Conferences
- Pleas
- Bench or Jury Trials
- Sentencings
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 4/101 Use of Videoconferencing in Civil Infraction Actions

Civil infraction Hearings to be presumed to be held by Zoom:

- Initial Hearings on municipal civil infractions
- Pre-trials
- Informals/Formals (unless an evidentiary hearing requiring testimony of anyone other the defendant/officer and/or introduction of exhibits)

Civil infraction Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

☐ 23rd Judicial Circuit
989-724-9410 (Phone)
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
ALCONA COUNTY TRIAL COURT
P.O. Box 385
106 Fifth Street, Harrisville, MI 48740

RICHARD E. VOLLBACH Jr, Chief Judge
LAURA A. FRAWLEY, Probate Judge, Presiding Trial Court Judge

☐ Family Court
989-724-9470 (Phone)
989-724-9479 (Fax)

☐ Probate Court
989-724-9490 (Phone)
989-724-9499 (Fax)

TO: Alcona County Juvenile Court Staff

FROM: Alcona County Trial Court

RE: Zoom Protocols/MCR Amendments

DATE:

To all staff:

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings. Specifically, review MCR 2.002, MCR 2.408, effective 9/9/2022.

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology In Child Protection Proceedings

CPP Hearings to be presumed to be held by Zoom:

- Preliminary Hearings
- Pre-trial Hearings
- Motion Hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing requiring testimony and/or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record.
- Review Hearings
- Permanency Planning Hearings
- Post Termination Review Hearings

CPP Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Adjudication Hearings
- Bench or Jury Trials
- Termination Hearings

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

JD Hearings to be presumed to be held by Zoom:

- Arraignment
- Pre-trial
- Motion Hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing requiring testimony and/or introduction of exhibits)

JD Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Preliminary Hearings
- Pleas
- Bench or Jury Trials
- Disposition
- Evidentiary Hearings
- Review Hearings

☐ 23rd Judicial Circuit
989-724-9410 (Phone)
989-724-9419 (Fax)

☐ 81st Judicial District
989-724-9500 (Phone)
989-724-9509 (Fax)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
ALCONA COUNTY TRIAL COURT
P.O. Box 385
106 Fifth Street, Harrisville, MI 48740

☐ Family Court
989-724-9470 (Phone)
989-724-9479 (Fax)

☐ Probate Court
989-724-9490 (Phone)
989-724-9499 (Fax)

RICHARD E. VOLLBACH Jr, Chief Judge
LAURA A. FRAWLEY, Probate Judge, Presiding Trial Court Judge

TO: Alcona County Probate Court Staff

FROM: Alcona County Trial Court

RE: Zoom Protocols/MCR Amendments

DATE:

To all staff:

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings. Specifically, review MCR 2.002, MCR 5.140, effective 9/9/2022.

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 5.140 Use of Videoconferencing Technology In Probate Matters

Probate hearings to be held by zoom, if uncontested:

- Conservatorship
- Guardianship
- Protected Individual
- Decedent Estates

**If in any case the matter is contested OR if there is an evidentiary hearing scheduled where witnesses and exhibts are to be admitted, then the hearing will be IN PERSON.

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Richard E. Vollbach
Presiding Judge for Arenac County

TO: Arenac County Circuit Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Arenac County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

Retention, Rescission, and Further Amendment of Previous Pandemic-Related Amendments

Please be sure to specifically review MCR 2.002, MCR 2.408 and MCR 6.006.

Effective September 9, 2022 there are many MCR changes that will go into effect including the following:

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Civil Cases

Civil Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Pretrials
- Scheduling Conferences (we do this at pretrial)
- Motion hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record
- Post judgment collection matters
- Motions to correct, strike, or amend pleadings

Civil Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or jury trials
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 6.006 Video and Audio Proceedings (Criminal Cases)

Criminal Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Pretrial (no pleas will be taken via ZOOM)
- Motions (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits- so please be sure to ask before scheduling and ask how much time will be needed for the hearing)

Criminal Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or jury trials,
- Status Conferences,
- Preliminary examinations,
- Pleas,
- Sentencings,
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Richard E. VOllbach
Presiding Judge for Arenac County

TO: Arenac County District Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Arenac County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

Retention, Rescission, and Further Amendment of Previous Pandemic-Related Amendments

Please be sure to specifically review MCR 2.002, MCR 2.408, MCR 4.101 and MCR 6.006.

Effective September 9, 2022 there are many MCR changes that will go into effect including the following:

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Civil Cases

Civil Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Pretrials
- Scheduling Conferences (we do this at pretrial)
- Motion hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record
- Post judgment collection matters
- Motions to correct, strike, or amend pleadings

Civil Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or jury trials
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 6.006 Video and Audio Proceedings (Criminal Cases)

Criminal Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Arraignments (ONLY if signed advice of rights and attorney request form is contained in the court file the day before scheduled hearing)
- Pretrial (no pleas will be taken via ZOOM)
- Probable Cause Conference
- Motions (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits- so please be sure to ask before scheduling and ask how much time will be needed for the hearing)

Criminal Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or jury trials,
- Status Conferences,
- Preliminary examinations,
- Pleas,
- Sentencings,
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 4.101 Civil Infraction Actions

Civil Infractions:

- Appearances, Failure to Appear and Default Judgements:
    - A defendant may now appear by Zoom in addition to in person, by representation or by mail.
- Contested Actions, Notices, Defaults
    - For any hearing, informal or formal, it is presumed to be held by Zoom.

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Richard E. Vollbach
Presiding Judge for Arenac County

TO: Arenac County Juvenile Register Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Arenac County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

Retention, Rescission, and Further Amendment of Previous Pandemic-Related Amendments

Please be sure to specifically review MCR 2.002 and MCR 2.408

Effective September 9, 2022 there are many MCR changes that will go into effect including the following:

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Child Protection Proceedings

CPP Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Preliminary Hearings
- Pretrial Hearings
- Motion hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record
- Review Hearings
- Permanency Planning Hearings
- Post Termination Review Hearings

*Respondent parent(s) must appear in person unless prior authorization is granted *at least 24 hours prior to scheduled hearing* (authorization will be granted if there is a necessary and verifiable reason which necessitates ZOOM appearance).

CPP Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Adjudication Hearings
- Bench or Jury Trials
- Termination Hearings

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

JD Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Arraignment
- Pretrial (no pleas will be taken by ZOOM)
- Motion Hearings (unless testimony is to be taken or exhibits admitted – then in person)
- Review Hearings

JD Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Preliminary Hearings
- Pleas
- Bench or Jury Trial
- Disposition
- Evidentiary Hearings

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Richard E. Vollbach
Presiding Judge for Arenac County

TO: Arenac County Probate Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Arenac County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

Retention, Rescission, and Further Amendment of Previous Pandemic-Related Amendments

Please be sure to specifically review MCR 2.002, MCR 5.140.

Effective September 9, 2022 there are many MCR changes that will go into effect including the following:

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 5.140 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Probate Matters

Probate Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested **AND** UNCONTESTED:*

- Conservatorship
- Guardianship
- Protected Individual
- Decedent Estates

*If in ANY case the matter is contested OR if there is an evidentiary hearing scheduled where witnesses and exhibits are to be admitted then the hearing will be IN PERSON.

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Casandra Morse-Bills
Presiding Judge for Oscoda County

TO: Oscoda County Circuit Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Oscoda County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

Retention, Rescission, and Further Amendment of Previous Pandemic-Related Amendments

Please be sure to specifically review MCR 2.002, MCR 2.408 and MCR 6.006.

Effective September 9, 2022 there are many MCR changes that will go into effect including the following:

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Civil Cases

Civil Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Pretrials
- Scheduling Conferences (we do this at pretrial)
- Motion hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record
- Post judgment collection matters
- Motions to correct, strike, or amend pleadings

Civil Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or jury trials
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 6.006 Video and Audio Proceedings (Criminal Cases)

Criminal Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Pretrial (no pleas will be taken via ZOOM)
- Motions (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits- so please be sure to ask before scheduling and ask how much time will be needed for the hearing)

Criminal Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or jury trials,
- Status Conferences,
- Preliminary examinations,
- Pleas,
- Sentencings,
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Casandra Morse-Bills
Presiding Judge for Oscoda County

TO: Oscoda County District Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Oscoda County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

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Please be sure to specifically review MCR 2.002, MCR 2.408, MCR 4.101 and MCR 6.006.

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MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Civil Cases

Civil Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Pretrials
- Scheduling Conferences (we do this at pretrial)
- Motion hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits)
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- Motions to correct, strike, or amend pleadings

Civil Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Bench or jury trials
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 6.006 Video and Audio Proceedings (Criminal Cases)

Criminal Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Arraignments (ONLY if signed advice of rights and attorney request form is contained in the court file the day before scheduled hearing)
- Pretrial (no pleas will be taken via ZOOM)
- Probable Cause Conference
- Motions (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits- so please be sure to ask before scheduling and ask how much time will be needed for the hearing)

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- Bench or jury trials,
- Status Conferences,
- Preliminary examinations,
- Pleas,
- Sentencings,
- Any proceeding where testimony of witnesses or presentation of evidence may occur.

MCR 4.101 Civil Infraction Actions

Civil Infractions:

- Appearances, Failure to Appear and Default Judgements:
  - A defendant may now appear by Zoom in addition to in person, by representation or by mail.
- Contested Actions, Notices, Defaults
  - For any hearing, informal or formal, it is presumed to be held by Zoom.

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Casandra Morse-Bills
Presiding Judge for Oscoda County

TO: Oscoda County Juvenile Register Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Oscoda County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

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MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Child Protection Proceedings

CPP Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Preliminary Hearings
- Pretrial Hearings
- Motion hearings (unless an evidentiary hearing will be held requiring testimony or introduction of exhibits)
- Adjournments taken on the record
- Review Hearings
- Permanency Planning Hearings
- Post Termination Review Hearings

*Respondent parent(s) must appear in person unless prior authorization is granted *at least 24 hours prior to scheduled hearing* (authorization will be granted if there is a necessary and verifiable reason which necessitates ZOOM appearance).

CPP Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Adjudication Hearings
- Bench or Jury Trials
- Termination Hearings

MCR 2.408 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings

JD Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested*:

- Arraignment
- Pretrial (no pleas will be taken by ZOOM)
- Motion Hearings (unless testimony is to be taken or exhibits admitted – then in person)
- Review Hearings

JD Hearings to be held IN PERSON:

- Preliminary Hearings
- Pleas
- Bench or Jury Trial
- Disposition
- Evidentiary Hearings

23RD CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS
of Michigan - Arenac County

Casandra Morse-Bills
Presiding Judge for Oscoda County

TO: Oscoda County Probate Court Staff / Support Staff

FROM: Oscoda County Trial Court

DATE: April 9, 2025

RE: MCR Amendments, Effective September 9, 2022

To all staff,

Please be sure to thoroughly review the amendments to the Michigan Court Rules regarding videoconferencing, specifically regarding the use of Zoom for court proceedings, by accessing the link below:

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Please be sure to specifically review MCR 2.002, MCR 5.140.

Effective September 9, 2022 there are many MCR changes that will go into effect including the following:

MCR 2.002 Waiver of Fees for Indigent Persons

- All litigants seeking a fee waiver MUST be able to do so by electronic process.

MCR 5.140 Use of Videoconferencing Technology in Probate Matters

Probate Hearings to be held by Zoom, *if requested **AND** UNCONTESTED*:

- Conservatorship
- Guardianship
- Protected Individual
- Decedent Estates

*If in ANY case the matter is contested OR if there is an evidentiary hearing scheduled where witnesses and exhibits are to be admitted then the hearing will be IN PERSON.

LETTER OF CONCURRENCE WITH FAMILY COURT PLAN, 23RD CIRCUIT, ALCONA, ARENAC, IOSCO AND OSCODA COUNTY PROBATE COURTS

I have reviewed the 2025 Family Court Plan for Alcona, Arenac, Iosco and Oscoda Counties, and concur with the plan as it applies to my respective county.

5·19·25
DATE

Stephany Eller
Stephany Eller
Alcona County Clerk

LETTER OF CONCURRENCE WITH FAMILY COURT PLAN, 23RD CIRCUIT, ALCONA, ARENAC, IOSCO AND OSCODA COUNTY PROBATE COURTS

I have reviewed the 2025 Family Court Plan for Alcona, Arenac, Iosco and Oscoda Counties, and concur with the plan as it applies to my respective county.

05/21/2025
DATE

Libby Marsh
Libby Marsh
Oscoda County Clerk

LETTER OF CONCURRENCE WITH FAMILY COURT PLAN, 23RD CIRCUIT, ALCONA, ARENAC, IOSCO AND OSCODA COUNTY PROBATE COURTS

I have reviewed the 2025 Family Court Plan for Alcona, Arenac, Iosco and Oscoda Counties, and concur with the plan as it applies to my respective county.

5-20-2025

DATE

Nancy Hubel

Nancy Hubel
Iosco County Clerk

LETTER OF CONCURRENCE WITH FAMILY COURT PLAN, 23RD CIRCUIT, ALCONA, ARENAC, IOSCO AND OSCODA COUNTY PROBATE COURTS

I have reviewed the 2025 Family Court Plan for Alcona, Arenac, Iosco and Oscoda Counties, and concur with the plan as it applies to my respective county.

5/27/2025
DATE

Nancy Selle
Arenac County Clerk