STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF CLAIMS

AMBER MODEST,

Plaintiff,

v

Case No. 25-000062-MD

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,

Hon. Michael J. Riordan

Defendant.
_____ /

ORDER GRANTING MOTION OF PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL TO WITHDRAW, STAY PROCEEDINGS FOR 60 DAYS, AND DIRECTING NOTICE REGARDING CIRCUIT COURT SCHEDULING ORDER

Attorneys Todd Stearn and Joseph B. Gale moved to withdraw from representing plaintiff Amber Modest on July 9, 2026, citing a complete breakdown in the attorney-client relationship.

The Court conducted a status conference with counsel for both parties on July 10, 2026, and reminded them that contrary to the motion for withdrawal and pursuant to the last scheduling order of record in this case, discovery in this matter closed on June 1, 2026. The parties have since presented the last scheduling order of record in the companion circuit court case which also states that discovery closed on June 1, 2026. However, counsel also advised that the circuit court matter will be reassigned and an amended scheduling order will be requested upon reassignment.

The Court ORDERS:

1. The motion to withdraw is GRANTED pursuant to MCR 2.117(C)(2).

2. Plaintiff's counsel shall notify plaintiff of their withdrawal and this Court's order and provide copies of the case file to plaintiff and replacement counsel, if plaintiff secures new representation.

3. These proceedings are STAYED for 60 days from the entry of this order to allow plaintiff to secure replacement counsel. If plaintiff is unable to secure replacement counsel or otherwise determines to proceed in pro per, plaintiff shall notify the Court in writing.

4. Once entered, defense counsel shall file with this Court notice of the reassignment of the circuit court case and any amended scheduling order entered in that Court.

5. This is not a final order.

Date: July 21, 2026

Michael J. Riordan
Judge, Court of Claims