STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF CLAIMS

GARY M. LENTZ,

Plaintiff,

v

Case No. 26-000199-MB

Hon. Sima G. Patel

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, THE PAROLE BOARD, HOLLY LEA, KELLY LUTZ, MELINDA BRAMAN, and SEAN LOCKHART, sued both in individual and official capacities,

Defendants.
_____ /

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

The Court orders plaintiff to show cause why this matter should not be dismissed for lack of a verified claim or notice of intention to file a claim under MCL 600.6431(2)(d) of the Court of Claims Act (COCA).

The requirements of the Court of Claims Act are conditions precedent to "successfully expose the defendant state agencies to liability," *Fairley v Dep't of Corrections*, 497 Mich 290, 298; 871 NW2d 129 (2015), and the failure to comply with the notice and verification requirements mandates dismissal of the case, *Elia Cos, LLC v Univ of Mich Regents*, 511 Mich 66, 68; 993 NW2d 392 (2023).

A plaintiff can comply with the notice and verification requirements of the COCA by (1) timely filing a notice of intent to file suit with the clerk of this Court, or (2) timely filing a

complaint. MCL 600.6431. Plaintiff did not file a notice of intent to file suit with the clerk of this Court. The September 9, 2026 complaint does not contain a signature and verification by the claimant *before an officer authorized to administer oaths* as required by MCL 600.6431(2)(d) and MCL 600.6434(2). Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff is directed to show cause no later than 14 days from date of entry of this order why this Court should not dismiss this matter.

2. Should plaintiff fail to respond by the deadline or fail to comply with the verification requirements in MCL 600.6431(2)(d) of the Court of Claims Act, this matter will be dismissed.

3. To remedy this verification defect, plaintiff may file an amended complaint (**not** a notice of intent at this stage of the proceedings) with the following statement at the conclusion: "I declare under penalty of perjury that this Complaint has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief." This statement must be signed before a licensed notary. Plaintiff shall serve defendant(s) with any amended complaint.

Date: October 8, 2026

Hon. Sima G. Patel
Judge, Court of Claims