

LIVINGSTON COUNTY CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN
JOINT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

44TH CIRCUIT COURT/FAMILY COURT 2011-01J
53RD DISTRICT COURT 2011-01J
LIVINGSTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT 2011-01J

CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rescinds Local Administrative Order 2004-07J; 2004-06J AND 2004-04J

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2011-3.

A. Goals of the Court

The court adopts the following Caseflow Management Plan to:

1. Expedite the disposition of all cases in a manner consistent with fairness to all parties and what is permissible under law;
2. Minimize the uncertainties associated with processing cases;
3. Ensure equal access to the adjudicative process for all litigants.

B. Case Processing Time Guidelines

The court adopts this plan to comply with the time guidelines as set forth in Administrative Order 2011-3. The court will not dismiss a case for the sole reason that it is likely to exceed the guideline.

C. Scheduling Policy

The court will schedule all cases or contested matters in a manner that minimizes delay for the parties and that reduces the possibility of adjournment of scheduled events. The court will control all cases from case initiation through post-disposition proceedings by:

1. Appropriate case screening;
2. Scheduling conferences and orders for the purpose of achieving date certainty;
3. Management of discovery and motion practice;
4. Realistic scheduling of all court events.

The court will monitor all cases and contested matters to ensure that no case exists for which a future action or review date has not been scheduled. The court will schedule all cases pursuant to the time guidelines set forth in Administrative Order 2011-3. The court will not permit a case or contested matter to remain on this court's docket in excess of the guidelines set forth in this local administrative order without immediate judicial review.

D. Adjournment Policy

The Court adopts the adjournment policy set forth in MCR 2.503(B).

E. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The court encourages alternative means to resolve disputes. Litigants will be provided with information regarding area dispute resolution and counseling centers. Litigants may contact the Livingston County Circuit Court Administration at 517-546-8079 to obtain all available information regarding area dispute resolution and approved mediators. Cases referred to ADR shall remain open.

F. Pretrial Scheduling Orders

Every action that is not disposed of through mediation, case evaluation, or other means, will be scheduled for a settlement conference in accordance with MCR 2.401.

G. Trial Scheduling and Management

Trial dates shall be set at the pretrial conference. Trials will be scheduled in a manner that minimizes adjournments and ensures trial certainty. To avoid future scheduling conflicts, attorneys must be able to confirm their

trial date availability at the pretrial conference.

H. Monitoring Systems

The court’s case management system will:

1. Monitor case progress;
2. Generate reports for measuring pending inventory and measuring compliance with the time guidelines.

Specific reports that will be available from the case management system are: cases with no next action date, age of pending cases, number of cases pending beyond time standards by judge, age of cases at each event, age of cases at disposition, time intervals between events, and exception reports.

Date: _____

Hon. David J. Reader
Chief Judge, 44th Circuit Court

Date: _____

Hon. Theresa M. Brennan
Chief Judge, 53rd District Court

Date: _____

Hon. Carol Hackett Garagiola
Chief Judge, Livingston County. Probate
Court