

Chief District Judge  
Theresa M. Brennan

District Court Judges  
Suzanne Geddis  
Carol Sue Reader



Court Administrator  
Mary Ellen Nygren

Attorney/Magistrate  
Brian V. Brown

**The Fifty-Third Judicial District**  
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## POLICY REGARDING ACCESS TO RECORDINGS OF COURT PROCEEDINGS

Under authority provided by Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1990-7, "Videotape Record of Court Proceedings," the 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Livingston County Probate Court, and 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court establish a policy which shall supplement Administrative Order 2006-04J for the 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Administrative Order 2006-03J for the Livingston County Probate Court, and 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court Policy 2007-02.

IT IS ORDERED that the following procedures shall apply to the JAVS recording system in the 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court, Livingston County Probate Court, and 53<sup>rd</sup> District Court:

1. Notice to attorneys, litigants, and members of the public will be posted in the lobby of the Courthouse at 204 South Highlander Way, Howell, Michigan 48843 and at 224 North First Street, Brighton, Michigan 48116 and sent by email to the Livingston County Bar Association, advising of the JAVS digital recording system.
2. The first copy of the digital record shall be stored in a secure area of the courthouse in Howell for proceedings that occurred in Howell and in Brighton for proceedings that occurred in Brighton. The second copy shall be stored digitally on a Storage Area Network (SAN). The Court Administrators shall designate the exact locations of storage.
3. The digital recording shall be labeled with the judge's name and date of proceeding.
4. A log sheet containing the dates and times of proceedings, names of parties, witnesses and exhibits shall be controlled and maintained by the court recorder for each judge.
5. Review of the digital recording of a court proceeding shall be limited to the attorneys of record or parties of record who are not represented by an attorney for the case recorded. Requests to view shall be made through the office of the judge assigned the case. Because the courts do not have adequate space or staff, immediate viewing may not be possible. The judge assigned the case(s) for which a request to view

has been made will decide when the viewing of the digital recording will occur.

6. Those persons that have been authorized to view a DVD are prohibited from copying, photographing or recording it by any means. Persons in violation of this policy may be subject to a fine and incarceration for contempt of court.
7. At the discretion of the applicable chief judge, media may view digital recordings.
8. Transcripts of court proceedings may be ordered by anyone by filing a written request with the court recorder for the judge that presided over the court proceeding and shall be transcribed pursuant to MCR 8.108.
9. A copy of DVDs will not be provided.
10. This policy is to be applied in the same manner for video and cassette recordings.
11. This policy is effective immediately and applies to any pending requests.

Dated: May \_\_\_\_, 2010.

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David J. Reader  
Chief Circuit Judge

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Carol Hackett-Garagiola  
Chief Probate Judge

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Theresa M. Brennan  
Chief District Judge