



THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF MICHIGAN

ROBERT J. COLOMBO, JR.  
CHIEF JUDGE

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**LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2015 - 08**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

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**SUBJECT: FAMILY DIVISION - DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASE ASSIGNMENTS**

This Administrative Order rescinds and replaces Administrative Order 2015-06.

**IT IS ORDERED:**

In accord with the provisions of MCR 8.112(A), which governs the adoption of local court rules, and MCR 8.111(B), which addresses the assignment of cases within a court, the following practices for assigning cases within the Family Division – Domestic Relations Section of the Third Judicial Circuit Court are adopted effective immediately.

**A. Initial Case Assignment Upon Filing of Case**

1. The following case type categories must be assigned by lot to the judges of the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section except as otherwise specified in this local administrative order:
  - a. **Custody (DC)**
  - b. **Divorce, Minor Children (DM)**
  - c. **Divorce, No Children (DO)**
  - d. **Paternity (DP)**
  - e. **Other Support (DS)**
  - f. **Other Domestic Relations Matter (DZ)**

- g. **Emancipation of Minor (EM)**
  - h. **Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Establishment (UE)**
  - i. **Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Registration Initiation (UI)**
  - j. **Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Registration of Orders for Modification (UM)**
  - k. **Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Registration of Orders for Enforcement (UN)**
  - l. **Uniform Interstate Family Support Act Establishment Transfer (UT)**
2. The following case types are assigned on a rotation basis to the judges of the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section when there is no pre-existing domestic relations case. If there is a pre-existing case, then the case is assigned to the judge handling the pre-existing case:
    - a. **Personal Protection Against Stalking (PH)**
    - b. **Personal Protection in Domestic Relationships (PP)**
    - c. **Personal Protection Actions Brought Under the Juvenile Code (PJ)**
    - d. **Waiver of Parental Consent to Obtain Abortion (PW)**
  3. The following case type is assigned by lot to the judges of the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section when there is no pre-existing domestic relations case. If there is a pre-existing case, then the case is assigned to the judge handling the pre-existing case:
    - a. **Name Change (NC)**
  4. The following case type is assigned to the presiding judge of the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section:
    - a. **Infectious Disease (ID)**
  5. All original declaratory judgment actions involving domestic relations matters or ancillary matters shall be assigned to the presiding judge of the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section, regardless of case type.

B. Temporary Reassignment of Family Division-Domestic Relations Custody Cases to the Family Division-Juvenile Section

1. When a motion for child custody is filed in a pre-existing Domestic Section case that involves a child who is already the subject of a case before the Child Protective Services/Juvenile Section, the judges assigned to the respective cases shall confer to determine whether the child custody proceeding should be reassigned to Child Protective Services/Juvenile Section judge. In the absence of an agreement, the child custody action shall be reassigned to the Child Protective Services/Juvenile Section judge.

C. Reassignment of Custody Action Brought in Family Division-Domestic Relations Section by Child's Guardian or Limited Guardian to Wayne County Probate Court

1. When a new child custody case is brought by a guardian, temporary guardian, or limited guardian of a child, the circuit court judge shall confer with the probate judge who appointed the guardian and determine whether the child custody case should be reassigned to the probate judge. In the absence of an agreement, the child custody case shall be reassigned to the probate court.
2. As determined by the State Court Administrative Office, reassignment of these cases between the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section and Wayne County Probate Court is not subject to the State Court Administrative Office reassignment provisions in MCL 722.26b(5).

D. Reassignment of Annulment Action Brought in Family Division-Domestic Relations Section by Guardian or Limited Guardian to Wayne County Probate Court


1. When an action to annul a marriage is brought by a guardian, temporary guardian, or limited guardian, the circuit judge shall confer with the probate judge who appointed the guardian and determine whether the annulment action should be reassigned to the probate judge. In the absence of an agreement, the annulment action shall be reassigned to the probate court.
2. As determined by the State Court Administrative Office, reassignment of these cases between the Family Division-Domestic Relations Section and Wayne County Probate Court is not subject to the State Court Administrative Office reassignment provisions in MCL 722.26b(5).

E. Reassignment of Case Due to Disqualification of Judge

1. If a judge is disqualified or for other good reason cannot undertake an assigned case, the Presiding Judge of the Family Division shall reassign it to another judge by written order stating the reason for the reassignment. All cases must be reassigned "by lot."

2. When a judge is disqualified from hearing a case, the case shall be exchanged for a comparable case from the docket of the judge receiving the reassigned case as determined by that judge. The criteria for determining a comparable case shall include case type, case age, complexity, and same status relative to judgment (i.e., prejudgment or post-judgment).

**Dated: July 6, 2015**

  
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Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Chief Judge  
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

**Date Approved by SCAO: August 12, 2015**