	<p style="text-align: center;">CHILDREN ABSENT FROM PLACEMENT WITHOUT LEGAL PERMISSION (AWOLP)</p>	<p>LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER C03 2025-11</p>
		<p>RESCINDS: C03 2003-01</p>

Court Address
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 711, Detroit, MI 48226

Court Telephone No.
(313) 224-5261

This Administrative Order rescinds and Replaces Administrative Order 2003-01.

The Court issues this Administrative Order in accordance with the directive contained in Supreme Court Administrative Order 2002-4 that each circuit court must develop a plan for reviewing cases involving children who are absent from court-ordered placement without permission from the court.

No special problems have been identified by the Court for the implementation of this plan.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

I. Special Docket

A special docket (900028) has been created to review all cases where the juvenile is Absent from Placement Without Legal Permission (AWOLP). The Presiding Judge of the Family Division - Juvenile Section or his/her designees shall preside over the consolidated AWOLP docket for juveniles ages 18 and under. Youth 19 years and older shall be reviewed by the jurist of record.

Once a juvenile is reported absent without legal permission from placement the case shall be transferred to the AWOLP docket and will remain on said docket until the child is taken into custody, stabilized and the Judge is satisfied that the juvenile is no longer an AWOLP risk. The case may be then returned to the jurist of record.

The Presiding Judge of the Family Division – Juvenile Section will ensure compliance with the Family Court Plan to review AWOLP cases.

II. Coordination with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

MDHHS shall immediately notify the Court upon discovery of AWOLP status for any Wayne County neglect ward which shall be reported promptly by the caseworker to the Presiding Judge or his/her designee, the AWOLP court assigned Assistant Attorney General.

For all court wards who have voluntarily truanted from a lawful neglect placement, the agency worker shall submit a Supplemental AWOLP Neglect Petition and a JC 05b neglect writ indicating that the juvenile has Truanted from Lawful Placement. The AWOLP Neglect Petition will state the facts surround the truancy from placement along with efforts made by MDHHS to locate the court ward including the filing of a Missing Person's Report and a filing a report with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The JC 05b writ will order that a found court ward be placed with MDHHS. The JC 05b writ will not be placed in LEIN and the court ward cannot be held in a detention facility based on the neglect writ.

Upon receipt of an AWOLP report, the matter will be placed on the Court's AWOLP docket and scheduled for a first Investigative Hearing before the designated AWOLP Judge no later than two weeks from the receipt of that report. All other decisional responsibilities on the neglect case including dispositional orders pertaining to siblings of the AWOLP ward shall remain with the original jurist.

A. Initial Review

For the first Investigative Hearing the MDHHS assigned caseworker and the missing juvenile's attorney shall receive notice and be present along with the Assistant Attorney General. The assigned caseworker should be sufficiently prepared to respond orally or in writing to the Court's inquiries as to the juvenile's history of placement, AWOLP history, location and circumstances of prior rescues, names and addresses of relatives and special needs, attributes or circumstances of the child. The MDHHS worker may be requested or ordered by the Court to conduct some investigative tasks with due conduct for the welfare and safety of the worker.

The focus of the first Investigative Hearing is to:

- (1) Ascertain whether the juvenile is a truant or involuntarily AWOLP;
- (2) To identify leads and/or names of individuals who may be sheltering the youth or have knowledge of his/her whereabouts;
- (3) And to determine the past habits or practices of the child and explore possible rescue locations

At the conclusion of the first Investigative Hearing, the Court shall, and with the advice and input of all present, order the issuance of subpoenas, direct further investigation to be carried out by the assigned worker, and order, if necessary, the issuance of a writ of apprehension and setting of an adjourned investigative hearing date in no more than 30 days.

B. Priority Matters

Special priority shall be given in the scheduling for further dates, the issuance of writs and investigative efforts for AWOLP juveniles 15 years of age and younger, and those older juveniles who appear to be involuntarily AWOLP or engaged in unlawful or dangerous activities.

C. Further Investigative Efforts

In the subsequent investigative hearings, the Court shall question subpoenaed witnesses in an effort to ascertain new or updated information on the missing child's whereabouts, question the worker on the results of his or her investigation, and order the updating of writ information as necessary.

Additional investigative hearing will be held as necessary until the juvenile is rescued or located.

III. Handling a Located Ward

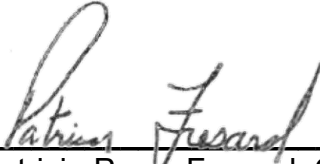
When a missing juvenile is located or rescued, the following procedures will apply:

- A.** Juveniles of any age who have been involuntarily away from lawful placement, those juveniles will be delivered into the custody of the MDHHS for suitable placement.

All located or rescued juveniles who were involuntarily AWOLP will be brought before the designated AWOLP Jurist on the next available court date but no later than seven days so the Court may explore suitable temporary or permanent placement options in the best interest of the child. The matter may be removed from the special docket and the matter returned to original jurist for further proceedings.

- B. For all court wards under 18 years of age who truant from lawful placement, those truanancies will be duly reported to the special docket as outlined in Section II above. All reasonable efforts will be made to urge the voluntary court appearance of the juvenile so that his or her circumstances can be ascertained and services evaluated. If the juvenile shall be brought before the Court for review of the circumstance of the rescue and to determine what services or additional efforts are appropriate. These matters may be removed from the special AWOLP docket and returned to the original jurist once the location and well-being of the juvenile has been determined and it appears that further Court intervention would be unproductive.

Dated: June 16, 2025



Patricia Perez Fresard, Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

From: [Region1 Info](#)
To: [Region1 Info](#); [Fresard, Patricia](#); [Hardester, Frank](#)
Cc: [Wilson, Kimberly](#); [Wade, Lynn](#)
Subject: C03 2025-11 Children Absent from Placement Without Legal Permission (AWOLP)- Approved
Date: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 2:23:11 PM

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C03 2025-11 Children Absent from Placement Without Legal Permission (AWOLP)–
Approved

Rescinds 2003-01

This is to advise that we have reviewed the above referenced administrative order and find that it conforms to the requirements of MCR 8.112(B). This order is being accepted and filed until advised by your court of any change.

Zenell Brown
Region 1 Administrator
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