

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 43RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT FOR THE COUNTY OF CASS
FAMILY DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2003-1

Cases Involving Children Absent From Court-Ordered Placement
Without Legal Permission

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

This Administrative Order is issued in accordance with the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2002-4. The purpose of this Order is to establish a plan for reviewing cases involving children who are absent from Court-ordered placements without permission from the Court upon approval by the State Court Administrative Office.

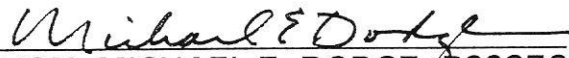
1. The Judge responsible for insuring compliance with this plan is Judge Susan L. Dobrich, Chief Probate Judge.
2. The Court and MFIA will conduct an initial inventory regarding AWOLP children within their respective jurisdiction.
3. The Court will request that MFIA identify a local FIA liaison who will be responsible for coordinating and implementing policy in conjunction with expedited hearings on AWOLP cases.
4. Upon notification by MFIA, or upon the Court's own initiative of a child's absence without legal permission (AWOLP) status, an immediate hearing will be held or other action taken by the Court. The Court will utilize all statutory and Court Rule authority to locate and expeditiously return a child to a proper custodial

placement. In its discretion, the Court may use informal measures to locate, communicate with and ensure proper placement of an AWOLP child.

5. Review of a child listed as AWOLP will be held within 48 hours of notification and/or identification. The review will address the following:
 - A. Coordination efforts of FIA and the Court to locate the absent child;
 - B. Process for reviewing such cases;
 - C. Frequency of additional reviews; and,
 - D. Any specific problems the Court has identified.
4. All children 15 years and younger who are AWOLP shall have priority in hearings and reviews, with particular emphasis being placed on cases of younger children who have been abducted.

Effective Date: January 20, 2003

Dated: January 7, 2003


HON. MICHAEL E. DODGE, P22836
Chief Circuit Court Judge

DATED: January 7, 2003


HON. SUSAN L. DOBRICH, P32783
Chief Probate Court Judge



STATE OF MICHIGAN
CIRCUIT COURT
FORTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

MICHAEL E. DODGE
CIRCUIT JUDGE

COURTHOUSE
CASSOPOLIS, MICHIGAN 49031
(616) 445-4412

January 7, 2003

Mr. James Hughes
SCAO Regional Administrator
Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30048
Lansing, MI 48915

RE: Cass County Supreme Court Administrative Order 2003-1

Dear Jim:

Enclosed please find Cass County's Administrative Order 2003-1 as it relates to cases involving children absent from court-ordered placement without legal permission.

Again, thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

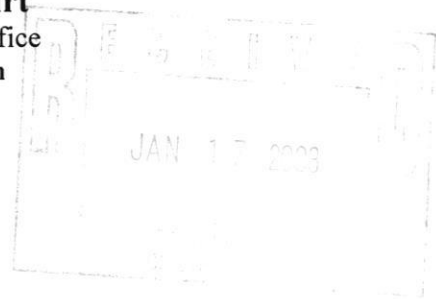
Michael E. Dodge
Chief Circuit Judge


Susan L. Dobrich
Chief Probate Judge

SLD/njc
Enclosure



Michigan Supreme Court
State Court Administrative Office
Trial Court Services Division
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30048
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone (517) 373-4835



January 15, 2003

Hon. Michael E. Dodge
Chief Judge
43rd Circuit Court
Cass County Courthouse
110 N. Broadway
Cassopolis MI 49031

Re: Administrative Order 2003-01
Children Absent from Court-Ordered Placement Without Legal Permission

Dear Judge Dodge:

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

Sincerely,

Nial Raaen
Director, Trial Court Services

NR/dmm

cc: James P. Hughes, Region 2
Ms. Barbara Wilson