



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
43<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court, 2016- 6 J  
Cass County Probate Court, 2016- 6 J

**CASE ASSIGNMENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

This administrative order is issued pursuant to Cass County's Family Court Plan originally approved by the Michigan Supreme Court on June 27, 2003 and the Concurrent Jurisdiction Plan approved by the Michigan Supreme Court on March 26, 2014 such that the Chief Judge hereby approves the following administrative order for the purpose of the continuing implementation of the assignment of cases within the Circuit and Probate courts.

1. **Civil Cases**

As of the effective date of this Local Administrative Order, all of Circuit Court's civil cases shall be assigned to the Probate/Family Judge.

2. **Criminal Cases**

As of the effective date of this Local Administrative Order, all of Circuit Court's criminal cases shall continue to be assigned to the Circuit Judge.

3. **Divorces without children**

As of the effective date of this Local Administrative Order, all of the Divorces without children cases shall continue to be assigned to the Circuit Court Judge.

4. **All Domestic Relations Cases other than Divorces without children**

As of the effective date of this Local Administrative Order, all of the Domestic Relations Cases other than Divorces without children shall be assigned by lot, on a blind draw, as follows:

- a) 50% shall be assigned to the Circuit Court Judge;
- b) 50% shall be assigned to the Probate/Family Judge.

The County Clerk will handle the filing and blind draw by lot assignment system at the time of the filing of new cases to accomplish a 50/50 split on Domestic Relations Cases other than Divorces without children between the Circuit Judge and the Probate/Family Judge.

Existing cases already on file with the Court shall not be re-assigned according to this blind draw system set forth herein unless the case is actively being litigated such that at the time existing cases already on file with the Court are set for a de novo review hearing, such cases will be re-assigned on the blind draw, system set forth herein to accomplish a 50/50 split on de novo hearings between the Circuit Judge and the Probate/Family Judge.

5. Disqualifications

When the Circuit Judge is disqualified from hearing a case, that case shall be reassigned to the Probate/Family Judge.


When the Probate/Family Judge is disqualified from hearing a case, that case shall be reassigned to the Circuit Judge.

6. Assignment of Cases

Any matter may be reassigned by order of the Chief Judge upon his/her own motion or upon the request of others pursuant to the provisions of MCR 8.110 and MCR 8.111.

Effective Date: Jan 1, 2017

12/15/16  
Dated signed

  
The Honorable Susan L. Dobrich, Chief Judge