

# Connections

## Introducing Chief Financial Officer Ron Stadnika

Ron Stadnika, Chief Financial Officer of the Michigan Supreme Court, has worked for the Court for more than 20 years. After holding several accounting and financial positions with the City of Detroit and William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, he joined the Supreme Court Finance Department in September 1988. Mr. Stadnika received a law degree from the Detroit College of Law, an MBA from Wayne State University and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. He resides in Novi with his wife Bea, a contracting officer with the Department of Defense. Their son, Kirk, is a contract specialist with the Department of Defense in Alexandria, Virginia, and is in his second year of law school at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Their daughter, Jessica, is a senior at Eastern Michigan University, where she will receive bachelor degrees in dance and business administration. Jessica has been a dance instructor for about 7 years.

The Supreme Court Finance Department has 11 employees, many of whom have interactions with trial courts and local funding units. The responsibilities of the finance department include trial court auditing, budgeting, financial analysis supporting state-funded judicial operations, financial statement preparation, payroll, payables processing, cash receipting, and grant accounting.

Finance Department auditors perform audits and reviews of trial courts, with their main focus on controls over cash and other internal controls. The auditors review trial court accounting procedures and records, assessments, disbursements, and compliance with statutes, and the results are summarized in reports to court management with findings and recommendations for improvements to financial operations. Supreme Court auditors are also available to answer questions related to accounting procedures and to investigate and document embezzlements and other fraudulent activities in the trial courts.

The payroll administration activities include processing the biweekly payroll for Supreme Court justices and employees, Court of Appeals judges and employees, the state portion of circuit and district court judges' salaries, State Court Administrative Office employees, State Appellate Defender Office employees, Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System employees, and Judicial Tenure Commission employees.

The payables processing function encompasses payments from the state to counties, cities, courts and other entities for judicial standardization of judges' salaries, court equity fund, drunk driving caseflow assistance fund, drug case information management fund, jury reimbursement fund, legal defense, mediation and grant awards, as well as processing payments for state-funded judicial entities for items such as contractual services, supplies, maintenance, employee travel, and rent.

(Continued on page 2.)



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# True or False



1. In Michigan, it is a crime for a man to seduce and debauch any unmarried woman.
2. A plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the makers of “Cap’n Crunch with Crunch Berries,” alleging false advertising because the advertising lead her to believe that crunch berries were a real fruit.
3. In Michigan, it is illegal to play the Star Spangled Banner as part of a medley.
4. In Michigan, it is illegal to sell a car on Sunday.
5. In Michigan, no one may be arrested on the Fourth of July.

Answers may be found on page 11.

*The Supreme Court Finance Department has 11 employees and many have interactions with trial courts and local funding units. The responsibilities of the finance department include trial court auditing, budgeting, financial analysis supporting state-funded judicial operations, financial statement preparation, payroll, payables processing, cash receipting, and grant accounting.*



The Finance Department,  
left to right:

Rebecca Mack

Preston Ilg

Beth Middaugh

Lee Pochert

Diane Giganti

Karen Ellis

Renate Anderson

JoEllen Shaler

Joy Owen

Ron Stadnika

Not pictured,  
Kathy VanAsperen

## Introducing Ron Stadnika

Continued from Page 1

The grant accounting process includes tracking federal and state grants, submission of financial reports to the appropriate state and federal agencies, and processing reimbursement requests from subgrantees, who may be courts, counties, or cities.

The budget officer assists in developing, implementing, and monitoring the annual budget for Michigan’s judicial branch of government and monitors the judiciary’s

budget throughout the fiscal year. The financial statement function includes preparation of interim financial statements and working with the Auditor General’s office during the biannual audit of state-funded judicial operations to ensure that the annual financial statements are free of material misstatements and fairly present the financial position of the state-funded judicial operations.



## Media 101

# Drafting a News Release: The Basics, Part 1



Marcia McBrien is an attorney and the Public Information Officer of the Michigan Supreme Court. Media 101 is a regular feature of TCS Connections. If you have a media or public relations topic that you'd like to see in a future issue, e-mail Marcia at [McBrienM@courts.mi.gov](mailto:McBrienM@courts.mi.gov).

By Marcia McBrien, Public Information Officer

Useful, accurate, interesting. Those are the hallmarks of a well-crafted news release. Unfortunately, the many news releases that don't live up to that standard are destined for a wastebasket or e-mail "trash" folder. A typical reporter is bombarded with hundreds of news releases a day; so much competition for the media's attention lengthens the odds of your news item being noticed. The good news is that it's not difficult to write an effective news release – if you pay attention to the basics.

**All about the news.** The purpose of a news release is to inform your audience, either directly or through the media, of your news item. Ideally, the media will take information from your news release to write a news or feature article, or an editorial writer might be inspired to endorse your cause or project. But is your news "newsworthy"?

Suppose that your court is participating in "Take Our Children to Work Day." Judges and court staff will be bringing their children, or the children of relatives or friends, to the courthouse. You've planned a pizza lunch for all involved, but apart from that, your court hasn't organized any other activities. You and your co-workers are excited about the day, and think the local media should cover it. Should you issue a news release?

If you do, don't be surprised if no media, not even the local high school paper, take an interest. "Take Our Children To Work Day" was a novelty years ago, when it was first introduced – but not any more. The last thing the media wants to cover is another "Take Our Children to Work" event, particularly when just about every workplace in town is holding one, and *especially* when the most exciting visual image you have to offer is that of children helping their parents at the copy machine.

Before writing a news release, ask yourself, "Why should anybody care?" Is your item timely, unusual, useful? Is there some aspect that sets your news item apart? Is it related to current events or social issues?

Consider, for example, a recent article that appeared in the Port Huron Times Herald, "Court takes bite out of hunger; local judge hands out garden work." The Times-Herald story began, "Free labor to produce healthy food for needy people -- little wonder Mid City Nutrition executive director Alice Rieves expects people will look at a new Port Huron program as a positive thing." The article went on to report that the Mid City Nutrition soup kitchen would be benefitted by a community garden, worked by people sentenced to community service. 72<sup>nd</sup> District Court Judge John Monaghan "said he thought of the idea as a way to provide a daily work opportunity to the increasing number of people sentenced to community service," the Times-Herald stated.

It's easy to see why the News-Herald covered this story. It involves a public official using sanctions in a creative, positive way that helps both the community and the offenders, while holding the offenders accountable. The story is also tied to the larger, current issue of the economy; as the judge points out, "There's a ton of people who come through the system who traditionally would have paid fines and costs and don't have the money to pay fines and costs any more." Readers of this article would also be mindful of the greater need for soup kitchens in an economic downturn. And such a story naturally lends itself to appealing photos: people working in the community garden or delivering the harvest to the soup kitchen.

(Next issue: *Packaging your news*)



# Project SAFE: A Fugitive Surrender Program

Submitted by MaryEllen Nygren, Court Administrator  
53rd Judicial District Court, Livingston County

What happens when a citizen is driving down the road and sees a police car in the rearview mirror with lights flashing? People get frightened. Couple that fear with the fact that the driver has an outstanding warrant for failing to pay a previous traffic ticket. Now we have a situation where the police officer may be in danger with this driver reacting out of fear of being arrested on that warrant. What could start out as a non-confrontational incident could easily escalate to something much more dangerous.

The goal of Project SAFE was to have one less dangerous confrontation on the streets between law enforcement and people wanted on non-violent warrants.

Trooper Paul Flores of Michigan State Police's First District Fugitive Team initiated this project in November of 2008 by meeting with Livingston County's Prosecutor David Morse, all chiefs of police in the county, and administrators of the county courts. The fugitive surrender program was designed specifically for non-violent felony and misdemeanor warrants. This program offered an opportunity for non-violent offenders to voluntarily turn themselves in to the court and receive favorable considerations for doing so. The word of this program reached fugitives by way of media campaigns, public service announcements on radio and TV, mailing flyers to approximately 3,000 known fugitives, and posting flyers throughout the community. Hotlines were set up for people to call for more information. A listing of outstanding warrants was made available on each court's website. Favorable considerations for surrenders were published (i.e., waiving of \$100 bench warrant fee, waiving of 20 percent late fees, and waiving of \$15 fingerprint fees).

The event was held on July 16 and 17 at the Judicial Center in Howell from 8 a.m.— 4 p.m. The staging room was equipped with LEIN operators (supplied by the County Central Dispatch Center), a clerk from district court, circuit court, and FOC, a mug-shot center, a live-

scan fingerprint center and greeters/escorters. When fugitives turned themselves in, they were handed a short form at the door to update their address and other vital information. They proceeded to the LEIN operators to verify the warrant. The LEIN operator also updated the file with the current address information. The fugitive was then "wristbanded" with a color coded paper band (yellow for district court; green for circuit; pink for FOC; and orange for "out of county" warrant). The fugitive was then directed to the proper court's table for determination as to whether they had to see a judge or whether they could take care of their obligation by establishing a payment plan for unpaid violations, submitting for fingerprints, etc.

At the end of the two days, Project SAFE saw 91 defendants and canceled over 123 warrants. Only one person went to jail and that was for a felony child support warrant.

A great deal of effort and participation went into this fugitive surrender program and we had anticipated a larger turnout. We were encouraged by re-

marks from those defendants who had participated. It's not often in our line of work that we have defendants thanking us for helping them resolve their warrants; but that's what happened repeatedly during the course of the two days of Project SAFE. People expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to clear up their warrants and offering them a fresh start.

A debriefing was held for Project SAFE partners the week following the event. All agreed that while the project enjoyed a level of success, a few changes could make the program even more successful. The partners felt that mailing flyers to fugitives and posting names on the courts' websites were the most effective strategies. Public awareness could be raised by billboard advertising, television coverage closer to the event, yard signs, and newspaper advertising, in addition to news stories.

**WANTED BY THE LAW ?**  
Tired of looking over your shoulder?  
OR  
Safe Apprehension of Fugitives Effort  
**Turn Yourself In On Any Outstanding Livingston County Warrant !**  
S. A. F. E. Hotline 517.540.7769  
View Outstanding Warrants @ [www.livingstonlive.org/warrants](http://www.livingstonlive.org/warrants)

July 16, 2009 & July 17, 2009  
8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
Livingston County Judicial Center  
204 S. Highlander Way  
Howell, MI 48843

Favorable Considerations for Your Surrender  
Chance Expires 7-18-2009  
**GET OUT OF JAIL FREE**

\$100 Bench Warrant Fees Waived !  
\$15 Fingerprint Fee Waived !  
20% Late Fees Waived !

\* Are You Taking a Chance ? - Aggressive Fugitive Sweeps - Following Surrender Dates \*

**Project S.A.F.E. Partners**

MDOT, Livingston County, 43rd District Court, 44th Circuit Court, Friend of the Court

**Your First Step Towards a Second Chance !**

# Trial Court Collections Website

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/collections/collections.htm>

Collecting court-ordered financial sanctions is and will continue to be a top priority for the Michigan judiciary. Enforcing court orders, including financial sanctions, is a court responsibility that, if done effectively, improves courts' credibility and effectiveness while providing funds to support law enforcement, libraries, the Crime Victims Rights Fund, and local governments.

There is an incredible amount of information referenced on the Trial Court Collections website.

## **Collections Training Videos**

The videos (developed by SCAO) follow courtroom proceedings in eight different district and circuit courts, including family divisions of circuit court, and include guilty pleas, sentencing, show cause hearings, and probation violation hearings. A passcode is required to view the videos. Call 517-373-4831 to obtain a passcode.

## **Press Releases and News Articles**

Press releases from the Michigan Supreme Court and articles from various publications and periodicals about collections initiatives are featured on this page.

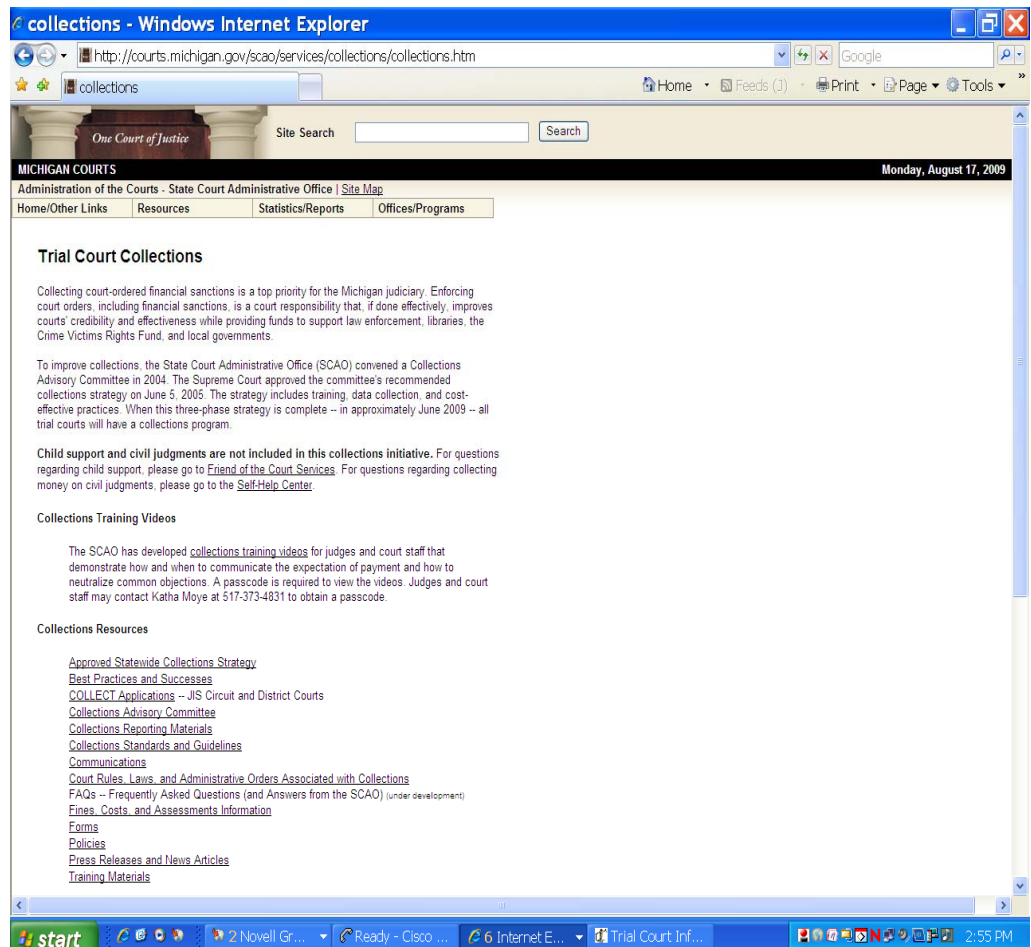
## **Court Rules, Laws, and Administrative Orders Associated with Collections**

You will find court rules, laws, and administrative orders associated with collections on this page.

## **Training Materials**

On this page, you will find the training materials (handouts) provided at various regional collections trainings offered by the SCAO.

Additional information is available through the following links: Approved Statewide Collections Strategy, Best Practices and Successes, COLLECT Applications – JIS Circuit and District Courts, Collections Advisory Committee, Collections Reporting Materials, Collections Standards and Guidelines, Communications, Fines, Costs, and Assessments Information, Forms, and Policies.

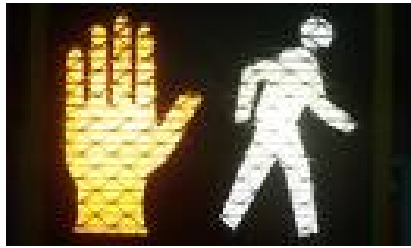


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***Collecting court-ordered financial sanctions is and will continue to be a top priority for the Michigan judiciary.***

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# Court Involvement with Truancy — Worth the Effort



Submitted by Hon. Dorene S. Allen,  
Midland County Probate and Family  
Division Judge



Hon. Dorene S. Allen

Midland County has enjoyed at least a 50% reduction in juvenile crime due in no small part to the truancy program initiated by the juvenile court in 2001 and run continuously since then. The program is so effective because of the collaboration it requires among the court, schools, law enforcement, and Community Mental Health. The program actually reduced costs for the schools; even more importantly, by helping the schools retain students, the program helps the schools maintain student counts with the attendant school revenue.

There is an overriding reason for juvenile courts to be involved: it is clear from research that chronic absenteeism is the most powerful predictor of delinquent behavior.

The truancy program in place in 2001, before the court became involved, consisted of one Intermediate School District “ISD” (Midland County calls it Education Services Agency) truancy officer for 14,800 students in five public school systems and a multitude of private and charter schools. Truancy petitions would roll into court around April or May indicating truancy problems for the child for the school year right before school let out for the summer. In summary, it was too little too late.

In 2001, the juvenile court contacted the ISD regarding deputizing truancy officers in each school building through the ISD authority. The ISD agreed and off we went. An invitation was sent to each school to identify who it would want for its truancy officer – the court leaving it totally up to the frontline management of the schools. They usually choose assistant principals.

Through the authority of the ISD, the court then gave each truancy officer – we’ve now gone from just one to over 50 – the independent right to initiate truancy proceedings with software provided to each truancy officer from the court. Every fall the court has a truancy open house for any school official that we will be working with for that school year. The first year attendance was seven or eight school officials – we now have over 50 attend. At that open house, the court reviews the protocol for them and any new laws affecting juveniles. The protocol can be found on the Midland County website for probate court at [www.midlandcounty.org](http://www.midlandcounty.org). We have even had the Michigan Department of Human Services come to speak about identifying abused and neglected children – sources of information, reporting requirements and procedures, and support of the children. The open house is a little over an hour in length, but is time well spent.

The truancy protocol has as its basis two things: the individual school has the best grasp of its children with their problems and secondly, the court takes this as a serious priority.

# Truancy

Continued from Page 6

The law is simple in its expectations: children shall go to school until they are 16. It's mandatory. Philosophically, we divided our children into two age groups: children ages six to 11 and children who are ages 11 to 16. Experience tells us that the very young children are not going to school because a parent or guardian has failed to follow through on their attendance. Therefore, the parents are prosecuted under the authority of MCL 380.1599, which requires the cooperation of the district court. We have only had a couple of cases prosecuted, but it remains in the arsenal of tools for our children here in Midland County. For those children who are between 11 and up to 16, the children themselves are petitioned into the court. MCL 380.1561

The protocol is a simple six page summary that is given to the schools at the open house, or anytime they ask for it. Schools are provided all of the software from the court for the protocol – all the way from the letters that go out to the parents to the petitions which are filed with the court by the individual school truancy officer. There is not a “minimum” number of days that the children have to be absent – it is left up to the on-site knowledge of the schools to know whether we have a child truant or, for example, a child missing school because of cancer treatments. The number of days is cumulative from year to year – in other words, absences in the prior school year can count with the current school year as the basis for the truancy petition.

When a school identifies a truancy issue with a particular student, an initial letter is sent to the parent/guardian and a meeting is then held between the parent or guardian and the school's truancy officer. If this does not result in proper attendance, a second letter is sent with the indication that the parents or guardians will have to meet at the courthouse with the Court Supervisor of Probation Services. All options are explored, whether they are based in the legal system or through an extensive network of counseling. In the event this second level of contact does not work, the on-site school truancy officer is authorized to file the Petition for Truancy. These petitions are given the same priority as other petitions coming into the court, which take the usual legal path of preliminary hearing, pretrial, adjudication, and disposition.

The truancy protocol has at its heart the simple collective goal of seeing that children receive an education. We have been very pleased with our results. It is the perfect entrée to our second challenge in our community: juvenile delinquent recidivism. The truancy protocol has provided a solid base of communications for the court with other community institutions that touch the lives of children. The ISD was able to reduce its staffing as a result. I highly recommend that you spend the time to proactively deal with truancy issues. The investment is not money – there was no cost to this program — but, rather, actual community savings. The return on the investment is children receiving an education and a decline in delinquent behavior.



# Proposal to Establish and Require Compliance with Court Collections Program and Reporting Requirements

The Collections Advisory Committee, which was convened in 2004 to develop a statewide strategy for improving the collection of court-ordered financial sanctions, submitted its final report to the Michigan Supreme Court with recommendations that detail its proposed plan to implement court collections programs and collections-related reporting requirements statewide. The committee's final report can be found at: <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/collections/07-09FinalReport.pdf>

The committee recommends that the Court adopt an administrative order that directs trial courts to comply with court collections program requirements and to submit annual receivables and collections reports to the SCAO. In addition, the committee recommends the pursuit of statutory changes to help defray the costs of courts' collections efforts and to enhance enforcement and collection of court-ordered financial obligations. Further, the committee recommends that the SCAO be charged with certain responsibilities to facilitate compliance with collections program requirements.

The Court is considering adoption of an administrative order that would require courts to comply with court collections program requirements established by the SCAO to ensure that courts are attempting to enforce their orders and collect fines, costs, and assessments as established by the Legislature. Courts would be required to:

► Implement a collections program that conforms to a model developed by the SCAO. The SCAO has established ten collections program components and three collections program models that identify the requirements (components) for each model. If a court does not meet the

minimum standards for an adequate collections program, the court would be required to prepare and submit an action plan to implement program components, with a timetable for intermediate and full implementation, which should not exceed one year.

- Submit an initial collections program survey with information regarding the program. The SCAO has developed a survey to gather information from the courts regarding collections programs in place.
- Allow periodic audits to verify compliance with reported program components.

No court would be required to adopt any particular program. Rather, courts would be required to adopt programs that meet requirements established by the SCAO and contain a certain number of key components identified by the SCAO as being necessary in a successful collections program.

In addition, courts would be required to comply with reporting requirements established by the SCAO and submit collections reports to the SCAO annually. Standard reports are necessary to provide improved collections management information to the courts and the SCAO, and to monitor and measure the effect of collections programs.

The comment period on the proposal to establish and require compliance with court collections program and reporting requirements expires November 1, 2009. This proposal, which includes the current program requirements and components drafted by the SCAO and approved by the Collections Advisory Committee, can be found at: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Resources/Administrative/index.htm#Other2>



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***No court would be required to adopt any particular program. Rather, courts would be required to adopt programs that meet requirements established by the SCAO and contain a certain number of key components identified by the SCAO as being necessary in a successful collections program.***

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## Q & A: Ordering and Collecting Court-Appointed Attorney Fees

In *People v Jackson*, 483 Mich 271 (2009), the Michigan Supreme Court recently concluded that a trial court is not required to assess a convicted defendant's ability to pay before imposing a fee for a court-appointed attorney. In reaching this decision, the Court explicitly overturned *People v Dunbar*, 264 Mich App 240 (2004), which had held that before imposing a fee for a court-appointed attorney, a trial court must consider the defendant's ability to pay and make a presentence articulation of its conclusion that the defendant has a foreseeable ability to pay the fee. This change has prompted numerous questions about how to apply this holding.

### **Q: When should the court assess the defendant's ability to pay?**

A: The court must assess the defendant's ability to pay whenever it attempts to enforce payment of a fee for a court-appointed attorney. The defendant must be advised of the enforcement action and be given an opportunity to contest the enforcement on the basis of his or her indigency.

### **Q: What should the court consider in its ability-to-pay assessment?**

A: The court should consider whether the defendant is indigent and unable to pay *at that time* or whether forced payment would cause a manifest hardship on the defendant or the defendant's family *at that time*.

### **Q: Are there any guidelines for determining indigency?**

A: There are no specific guidelines for determining indigency for the purposes of enforcing the fee for a court-appointed attorney. Policies and guidelines used by particular courts for determining indigency are provided on the Trial Court Collections Website (see page 5) under the policies and training materials links. In addition, MCR 6.005(B) provides guidance for determining indigency for the purposes of appointing an attorney in a criminal proceeding.

### **Q: Can the court issue an Order to Remit Prisoner Funds for Fines, Costs, and Assessments (MC 288) to collect court-appointed attorney fees?**

A: Yes. The Supreme Court concluded that a trial court is not required to assess a defendant's ability to pay in advance of issuing an order to remit prisoner funds under MCL 769.1/. The Court stated that as long as it does not require indigent defendants to pay the fee, a procedure that enforces the fee is not unconstitutional simply because it does not require an ability-to-pay assessment. The Court concluded that MCL 769.1/ inherently calculates a prisoner's general ability to pay and, in effect, creates a statutory presumption of nonindigency.

The opinion can be found at: [http://coa.courts.mi.gov/documents/OPINIONS/FINAL/SCT/20090710\\_S135888\\_23\\_jackson2apr09-op.pdf](http://coa.courts.mi.gov/documents/OPINIONS/FINAL/SCT/20090710_S135888_23_jackson2apr09-op.pdf).

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Barber by phone at 517-373-5895 or by e-mail at [barberb@courts.mi.gov](mailto:barberb@courts.mi.gov).



## Q & A

*A trial court is not required to assess a convicted defendant's ability to pay before imposing a fee for a court-appointed attorney.*

# What is the Difference Between a Local Administrative Order and a Local Court Rule?

By Anne Boomer, Administrative Counsel

I frequently get asked questions about local court rules, administrative orders, and local administrative orders. The first step in getting one approved is knowing which one to use. Luckily, what you need to know is right in the rule.

MCR 8.112 is divided into two sections: local court rules, and administrative orders. Administrative orders, or local administrative orders as most courts know them, are orders that govern “only internal court management.” Thus, if a court issues an order that establishes the court’s caseflow management plan, that action can be done by a local administrative order. The local administrative order, or LAO, is transmitted to a court’s regional office, where it is reviewed, and then sent on to SCAO in Lansing, where it is reviewed again and filed until further action is necessary.

Local court rules, however, have a different focus. Local court rules are appropriate when users outside the court need to know about a particular practice. There are two main inquiries to make when drafting a local court rule. First, you must ensure that the rule does not conflict with an existing rule. If it conflicts, the Court will not consider adoption of the local court rule.<sup>1</sup> However, if the proposed local court rule does not conflict with an existing rule, AND “reasonably depends on attorneys or litigants being informed of the practice for its effectiveness, or . . . requires an attorney or litigant to do some act in relation to practice before that court,” then your court should request a local court rule. Thus, there are local court rules that have to do with pleading requirements (some courts require a praecipe be filed with a pleading), and appearance (some courts believe people must be on notice regarding what they are expected to wear to court). Some courts request local court rules to set out motion practice requirements, and procedures for mediation and settlement conferences.

I have one final word on local court rules. Unless there is a need for immediate action, MCR 8.112 requires that a court give “reasonable notice and an opportunity to comment on a proposed local court rule to the members of the bar in the affected judicial circuit, district, or county. The court shall send the rule and comments received to the Supreme Court clerk.” If a court forgets to circulate the proposed local court rule to the local bar, I will remind the court to do so before the proposal is considered by the Court. You can save yourself some time by including local bar representatives when you are drafting and seeking approval of local court rules, as the local bar representatives can disseminate the proposed rule quickly and effectively.

If you have any questions, I am happy to discuss any of these aspects. Feel free to call me at 517-373-2858 or e-mail me at [boomera@courts.mi.gov](mailto:boomera@courts.mi.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> A proposed local court rule that conflicts with an existing court rule should instead be submitted to the Court as a proposed revision of an existing rule.



## True/False Answers from page 2:

1. True. MCL 750.532 states, "Any man who shall seduce and debauch any unmarried woman shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the state prison not more than 5 years or by fine of not more than 2,500 dollars; but no prosecution shall be commenced under this section after 1 year from the time of committing the offense."

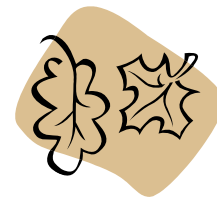
2. True. In *Sugawara v Pepsico, Inc.*, the plaintiff filed a suit claiming that she believed "Crunch Berries" were a "redeeming fruit" and she was shocked to learn that there is no fruit in the cereal. The United States District Court (for the Eastern District of California) dismissed the case and stated, "The survival of the instant claim would require this Court to ignore all concepts of personal responsibility and common sense. The Court has no intention of allowing that to happen." Editor: We'll wait for the plaintiff to file a lawsuit when she realizes the "Cap'n" isn't really a captain.

3. True. MCL 750.542 prohibits playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" or any part thereof or selection from the same, . . . as a part of a medley of any kind; . . ."

4. True. Yes, in the auto capital of the world it is illegal to sell cars on Sundays. MCL 435.251 states, "It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of buying, selling, trading or exchanging new, used or second-hand motor vehicles or offering to buy, sell, trade or exchange, or participate in the negotiation thereof, or attempt to buy, sell, trade or exchange any motor vehicle or interest therein, or of any written instrument pertaining to, on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday."

5. False. (We had to have one false here.) Michigan law does not prohibit Sunday or holiday arrests. However, criminals should consider vacationing in Ohio on the Fourth of July. See Section 2331.12 of Ohio Revised Code, which states, "No person shall be arrested during a sitting of the senate or house of representatives, within the hall where such session is being held, or in any court of justice, during the sitting of such court, or on Sunday, or on the fourth day of July."

## Upcoming Events



### September 2009

- 22-23 MSC Annual Judicial Conference, Lansing Center
- 22-23 MPJA Meeting, Lansing Center
- 24 CWS Luncheon Webcast: Appellate Advocacy in Child Welfare, Hall of Justice
- 29 State Roster Committee Meeting, Hall of Justice
- 30-Oct 2 MADCM Conference, Traverse City

### October 2009

- 2 FCRB Advisory Committee Meeting, Hall of Justice
- 2 Region 3 Circuit Court Support Staff Meeting, Mt. Pleasant
- 5-6 CWS Training: Minority Overrepresentation, East Lansing, Kellogg Center
- 7-8 Family Division Referees, Hall of Justice
- 8-9 MACCP Conference, Birch Run/Frankenmuth
- 8-9 MAFCA Conference, Mt. Pleasant
- 9 MPJRA (Juvenile) Meeting, Mt. Pleasant, Comfort Inn
- 14-16 MFSC Meeting, Boyne Highlands
- 15 County Clerk Training, Lansing, Detroit, Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant, Marquette
- 15 Circuit Court Clerk Training, Lansing, Detroit, Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant, Marquette
- 15 FOCA Meeting, Mt. Pleasant, Cheers
- 15-16 MACCA Conference, Gaylord
- 16 Region 2 District Court Administrators Meeting, Lansing
- 16 MDJA Meeting, Lansing, State Bar
- 20 MJA Meeting, East Lansing, University Club
- 23 CWS Training: Adoption Forum III (by invitation), Lansing
- 23 MPJRA (Probate) Meeting, Mt. Pleasant, Comfort Inn
- 23 Region 3 District Court Administrators and Magistrates Meeting, Mt. Pleasant
- 26-27 FOC Custody Evaluators, Hall of Justice
- 30 MCAA Meeting, Hall of Justice
- 30 CWS Training, Adoption Forum, East Lansing, Kellogg Center

### November 2009

- 4-5 Problem Solving Court Symposium, Hall of Justice
- 5-6 FCRB/CWS Training, Grand Rapids
- 10 MFSC Meeting, Lansing
- 10 CWS New Judge Training, Hall of Justice
- 11 State Holiday
- 12 Region 2 Circuit Judges Meeting, Hall of Justice
- 17 MJA Meeting, East Lansing, University Club
- 19 FOCA Meeting, Mt. Pleasant, Cheers
- 20 MDJA Meeting, Lansing, State Bar
- 20-21 MACC Meeting, Lansing, Radisson
- 24 Michigan Adoption Day
- 26-27 State Holiday

### December 2009

- 3 Judicial Elections Seminar, Hall of Justice
- 8 CWS Training: Representing Parents, Hall of Justice
- 8 MFSC Meeting, Lansing
- 11 MDJA Meeting, Lansing, State Bar
- 15-16 New District Court Probation Officers Seminar, Hall of Justice