

Rule 8.116 Sessions of Court

(A) Opening Court; Recesses. A definite time must be set for all court sessions, and the judge shall promptly open a session. Recesses shall be taken regularly, but should be short, and court must resume on time.

(B) Participants to be Punctual. Persons having business with a court must be in court and ready to begin at the opening of the session, and must otherwise be punctual for all court business.

(C) Staggered Scheduling. A judge shall stagger the docket schedule so that an attorney or party may be heard within a time reasonably close to the scheduled time, and, except for good cause, the docket shall be called in order.

(D) Access to Court Proceedings.

(1) Except as otherwise provided by statute or court rule, a court may not limit access by the public to a court proceeding unless

(a) a party has filed a written motion that identifies the specific interest to be protected, or the court *sua sponte* has identified a specific interest to be protected, and the court determines that the interest outweighs the right of access;

(b) the denial of access is narrowly tailored to accommodate the interest to be protected, and there is no less restrictive means to adequately and effectively protect the interest; and

(c) the court states on the record the specific reasons for the decision to limit access to the proceeding.

(2) Any person may file a motion to set aside an order that limits access to a court proceeding under this rule, or an objection to entry of such an order. MCR 2.119 governs the proceedings on such a motion or objection. If the court denies the motion or objection, the moving or objecting person may file an application for leave to appeal in the same manner as a party to the action.

(3) Whenever the court enters an order limiting access to a proceeding that otherwise would be public, the court must forward a copy of the order to the State Court Administrative Office.