



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
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Milton L. Mack, Jr.
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 15, 2015

TO: Judges, Court Administrators/Clerks, Probate Registers

FROM: Milton L. Mack, Jr.

RE: Trial Court Standards and Guidelines for Websites and Social Media

In response to numerous requests from the trial courts in the *2014 State Court Administrative Office Customer Satisfaction Survey*, standards and guidelines for trial court social media sites and websites were developed and presented to the Supreme Court for approval. On April 29, 2015, the Supreme Court entered an order for the establishment of Michigan Trial Court Standards and Guidelines for Websites and Social Media “to improve trial court service to the public, other agencies, and the judiciary, and to meet the public’s growing expectation that courts communicate directly with the public.”

The standards and guidelines for websites were made available to the trial courts on May 7, 2015, while the standards and guidelines for social media sites were to be made available following regional presentations. The presentations have been completed and the standards and guidelines for both websites and social media are now available in the [Michigan Trial Court Standards and Guidelines for Websites and Social Media](#). If you did not attend a presentation, it is highly recommended you view the presentation. The Michigan Judicial Institute will send a notification in November when the presentation is available.

Before launching a trial court social media site, a few words of caution. The standards and guidelines presume that your court is knowledgeable about the types of social media and the typical uses of this technology and understands the terms and conditions of service in using this technology. If your court is considering launching a social media site, your court should have a thorough understanding of the social media type you are going to use and a social media administrator to effectively manage content. The requirement for an administrator is for the protection of your court. If social media sites are not continuously monitored and thoroughly understood, they can lead to negative outcomes and hamper the very communication the court is striving to improve. If a trial court launches its own social media platform, I ask that you follow the Michigan Supreme Court’s social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter).

If you have questions regarding the standards and guidelines or implementation of the standards, contact Amy Garoushi at 517-373-4864 or elgaroushia@courts.mi.gov.