



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30048
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone (517) 373-0128

Milton L. Mack, Jr.
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 18, 2016

TO: Judges, Court Administrators/Clerks, Probate Registers

FROM: Milton L. Mack, Jr.

RE: SCAO Administrative Memorandum 2016-01
Rescission of Standards for County Law Library

Under MCL 600.4851(2), money credited to a county law library fund is used to “establish[], operat[e], and maintain[] a law library for use by the circuit, district, and probate court in the county and for the officers of the courts and persons having business in the courts.” For many years, the State Court Administrative Office has provided standards for these law libraries as a tool that courts could use in developing a county law library. However, there is no requirement that courts comply with specific law library standards. Furthermore, the increased availability of electronic legal resources in recent years offers courts a more affordable alternative to maintaining a physical law library with books. Therefore, effective immediately, the State Court Administrative Office is rescinding the Minimum Standards for County Law Library.

Courts should still make legal resources available, and may do so by partnering with a local legal assistance center or self-help center such as [Michigan Legal Help](#). Also, because electronic legal resources can be made available for the public’s use at little or no cost, a court may choose to allocate its library funds for space, maintenance, and access to frequently-used electronic legal research resources (such as federal and state statutes, case law, and court rules) instead of a physical law library.

Questions about making legal resources available to the public can be directed to Stacy Westra or Jim Inloes at TrialCourtServices@courts.mi.gov.