



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

Child Welfare Services

Michigan Hall of Justice

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Phone (517) 373-8036

Daniel J. Wright
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 5, 2009

TO: Family Division Judges

cc: Chief Circuit Judges
Circuit Court Administrators
Family Division Administrators

FROM: Daniel J. Wright

RE: SCAO Best Practice Recommendation
Adoption Scheduling Order

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has compiled a set of model documents that may improve the quality and depth of court hearings in child protection cases. SCAO recommends that courts consider using these model orders as they represent “best practices” developed by other courts. They are not required by statute or court rule, and have not gone through the SCAO Forms Committee for official approval. Courts should note that the Department of Human Services (DHS) adoption policy is under review, so there is the possibility that the timelines in the model order may not mirror DHS policy.

The model forms include an Adoption Scheduling Order, Lawyer Guardian Ad Litem (LGAL) checklist, LGAL Adoption Status Report, Order Discharging LGAL and Terminating Jurisdiction, and Order to Produce List of Eligible Children Awaiting Adoption.

SCAO has heard from many judges who believe these model orders will result in more efficient and productive court hearings, which can lead to faster permanency dispositions. Many courts already use some or all of these orders, and have requested that SCAO share the orders with courts statewide. In addition, Justice Maura Corrigan’s Permanency Options Workgroup strongly recommends that courts begin to use these resources, as modified to fit the court’s specific needs, to ensure that actions are completed as expeditiously as possible in every case.

If you have any questions about these model orders, please contact Kelly Howard at 517- 373-8671, or howardk@courts.mi.gov, or Dan Wright at 517-373-5526, or wrightd@courts.mi.gov.