

Order

Michigan Supreme Court
Lansing, Michigan

February 14, 2007

Clifford W. Taylor,
Chief Justice

ADM File No. 2002-09

Michael F. Cavanagh
Elizabeth A. Weaver
Marilyn Kelly

Administrative Order No. 2007-1

Maura D. Corrigan
Robert P. Young, Jr.
Stephen J. Markman,
Justices

Expanded Use of Interactive
Video Technology

By order entered February 14, 2007, this Court has adopted new rules authorizing the use of interactive video technology (IVT) for specified hearings in delinquency proceedings, child protective proceedings, and probate matters. In addition to the use of IVT specifically authorized under new Rules 3.904 and 5.738a of the Michigan Court Rules, this Court encourages courts in appropriate circumstances to expand the use of IVT in those proceedings and matters to hearings not enumerated in the new rules by seeking permission from the State Court Administrative Office. The goal of the expanded use of IVT is to promote efficiency for the court and accessibility for the parties while ensuring that each party's rights are not compromised.

Effective May 1, 2007, each court seeking to expand its use of IVT beyond the uses set forth in new MCR 3.904 and 5.738a must submit a local administrative order for approval by the State Court Administrator, pursuant to MCR 8.112(B), describing the administrative procedures for each type of hearing for which IVT will be used. Upon a court's filing of a local administrative order, the State Court Administrative Office shall either approve the order or return the order to the chief judge of the circuit court or the probate court for amendment in accordance with requirements and guidelines provided by the State Court Administrative Office.

The State Court Administrative Office shall assist courts in implementing the expanded use of IVT, and shall report to this Court regarding its assessment of any expanded IVT programs. Those courts approved for an expanded program of IVT use shall provide statistics and otherwise cooperate with the State Court Administrative Office in monitoring the expanded-use programs.

Staff Comment: Former Administrative Order Nos. 2001-4, 2003-4, 2004-3, and 2006-7 were rescinded with the adoption of MCR 3.904 and 5.738a, which allow courts to implement IVT programs without the approval of the State Court Administrative

Office. However, the Court believes that the use of IVT should be encouraged in appropriate circumstances for additional hearings in delinquency proceedings, child protective proceedings, and probate matters. Adoption of this administrative order authorizes courts to seek to use IVT in expanded settings not currently allowed under the rules, and requires SCAO to approve and monitor those expanded-use programs for evaluation and assessment as the Court considers further amendments of the rules in the future.

The staff comment is not an authoritative construction by the Court.



I, Corbin R. Davis, Clerk of the Michigan Supreme Court, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the order entered at the direction of the Court.

February 14, 2007

Corbin R. Davis

Clerk