

You Are the ‘Key’ to Opening the Doors to Court Services, Resources

Ensuring public access to Michigan courts is a key priority of the Michigan Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), and the key to ensuring that access is the empowerment of trial court staff, administrators, and judges.

To that end, State Court Administrator Milt Mack [announced in September](#) the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance performance measure, which will enable courts to ensure access for court users with disabilities.

The measure was approved by the Trial Court Performance Measures Committee, which is chaired by Judge Paul Sullivan of the 17th Circuit Court in Grand Rapids. The Committee consists of judges and administrators from circuit, probate and district courts throughout the state, in addition to SCAO staff. Committee members come from large courts, small courts, urban courts, rural courts, and “everything in between.”

Although many courts already have ADA-related compliance practices in place, this performance measure will help courts ensure compliance by requiring them to have a Local Administrative Order in place regarding ADA, make them more aware of the requirements of the ADA by requiring updated training, and provide the public with access to an ADA coordinator by requiring courts to designate an employee to serve in this capacity.

In addition, performance measures such as this enable the Michigan judiciary to tell the story – to the public and to policymakers – about the great job Michigan’s trial courts are doing in ensuring access and improving service.

Resources for Courts:

SCAO provides a multitude of resources to support trial courts in complying with this measure, including model policies, forms to be used to request accommodations, compliance handbooks, FAQs, checklists, and more. In addition, the Michigan Judicial Institute has created a training video on this topic. Find all of this information at www.courts.mi.gov/ada.

We are here to help you!

If you have questions about the performance measure, please contact Jennifer Warner, Director of SCAO Trial Court Services, at warnerj@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-7454.

If you have questions about ADA, contact Jim Inloes, SCAO Trial Court Services Circuit Court Management Analyst, at inloesj@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-0122.