
From: Howard, Brandon <BHoward@Ingham.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:25 PM
To: ADMcomment
Cc: Swayze, Rhonda
Subject: ADM File No. 2014-13

Dear Michigan Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the proposed amendment to MCR 2.403. I do not believe the proposed amendment would shorten the length of cases or speed up the trial process. From a scheduling perspective, dates for pretrial and trial are set far in advance so reducing the response time to 14 days would not bring a case closer to the dates already set for pretrial and trial. Parties also have the ability to stipulate to a shorter accept/reject period in those cases that it is needed. Changing the response time to 14 days may in fact reduce the effectiveness of case evaluation due to the important decisions the parties must consider after the evaluation. Since case evaluation is one of the last dispute resolution processes before cases go to trial, parties and counsel should have sufficient time to weigh their options.

A compromise may be to reduce the time to 21 days or amend the rule to allow the clerk or court to send out notice once all parties have responded rather than wait the full 28 days. For example, if all parties responded by day 11 the clerk or court would then send out notice of the results within a reasonable amount of time.

I am opposed to the amendment as it currently stands.

Respectfully,

Brandon Howard
ADR/Case Processing Coordinator
30th Circuit Court