

Frequently Asked Questions

What is CAS?

The CAS is the Counsel Appointment System through which courts submit data required by MCR 8.123(D) and (F).

When is the annual report due?

The annual report is due February 15.

Which type of appointments should be included?

Trial courts can appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal matters, in appeals of criminal matters, juveniles in delinquency cases, and all parties in child protective cases. Courts can also appoint counsel for certain individuals in mental competency, guardianship, and conservatorship proceedings.

Is this report limited to appointments for indigent defendants?

No. Pursuant to MCR 8.123(D) it “applies to appointments of attorneys in any capacity, regardless of the indigency status of the represented party.”

My court contracts with a public defender’s office or an attorney’s office. Do I need to report the amount paid to each attorney in that office?

It depends. If a judge or court employee determines which attorney gets a particular case, then the amounts should be reported for each attorney. If the attorney’s office determines which attorney gets a particular case, then the amount paid to the attorney’s office can be reported as a group payment.

Should appellate counsel appointments be included in the circuit court’s report?

Yes. Under both MCR 6.425(G) and Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 1989-3, the circuit court is responsible for appointing counsel for appeals.

I received a request from a local attorney for detailed information on the amounts paid to other attorneys. Am I required to provide this information?

Yes. Under MCR 8.123, each trial court must compile an annual report of the total public funds paid to each court-appointed attorney. Further, the “records must be available at the trial court for inspection by the public, without charge. The court may adopt reasonable access rules, and may charge a reasonable fee for providing copies of the records.”

What does SCAO do with the data?

The data is included in the courts’ annual data packets shared with each court for informational purposes. It is also published, at the court level, on the web at:

<http://courts.mi.gov/education/stats/program-reports/Pages/CASmap.aspx>. Finally, it is also used for research purposes, including analyses conducted by SCAO and the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC).

Who can I contact with more questions about CAS?

You can contact the Statistical Research Division at 517-373-2222 or Trial Court Services at 517-373-0122.