
**STATE OF MICHIGAN
7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COURT**

**CASES INVOLVING
CHILDREN ABSENT FROM
COURT - ORDERED
PLACEMENT WITHOUT
LEGAL PERMISSION**

**LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER 2003-5**

7th Judicial Circuit Court, 900 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 810.424-4355

WHEREAS the Michigan Supreme Court having issued Administrative Order 2002-4 regarding the need for the family division of the circuit courts to review practices relative to the welfare of children under their jurisdiction and to specifically address the number of children who are absent from court ordered placement without legal permission and

WHEREAS the Family Division of the 7th Judicial Circuit Court shares the concern and has taken the opportunity to address this matter

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Family Division of the 7th Judicial Circuit Court shall continue to make the location of children that are absent from court-ordered placement a priority and shall establish a specialized docket of expedited reviews to insure that the welfare of children under the jurisdiction of the Court is the number one priority.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court acknowledges the supervisory responsibility of the Family Independence Agency (FIA) and specifically incorporates by reference herein, FIA AWOLP Bulletin 1 (October 18, 2002). This directive sets forth the practices and procedures that are required of FIA staff when a child is absent from court-ordered placement.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following plan is established:

1. The court will issue a pick up order for youth who truant from court ordered placement, fail to appear in court or need to be placed in protective custody.
2. Juvenile court staff may ask the assigned judge for the pick up order.
3. FIA pick up requests must be submitted to the Court Intake Unit.

4. The court will create a pick up list to include the names of all youth on pick up status. As youth are brought before the court, the list will be updated and names deleted.
5. Signed Pick up orders are returned to the juvenile caseworkers and hand delivered to the police agency for the jurisdiction in which the child resides on child protective proceedings. Pick up orders on delinquency proceedings are hand delivered to the Detective Division of the Genesee County Sheriff and immediately entered on LEIN.
6. Once the child is apprehended, there is a procedure in place to remove the pick up order from LEIN and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.
7. Once FIA supervised wards are apprehended, a referee will issue an order canceling the pick up order. Court Intake staff will make the necessary law enforcement notifications.
8. A Family Division Referee is assigned the responsibility of conducting hearings on all children listed as AWOLP. FIA is directed to have a representative at the hearings and provide documentation of the following:
 - ◆ When was child last seen and in whose custody was the child at that time
 - ◆ Whose custody do you suspect the child is in now
 - ◆ List the risk factors for the child, i.e. young age, medical issues, stranger abduction
 - ◆ Current physical description if known
 - ◆ Documentation of any of the following actions taken to locate child:
 - a. Contacts with family and friends
 - b. Contacts with school officials
 - c. Contacts with medical facilities staff
 - d. Contacts with other social services agencies
 - e. Contacts with both local and state police agencies
9. The Court will continue to have weekly contact with the local school officials, law enforcement and FIA to solicit their information about the whereabouts of any children who remain AWOLP.
10. Review hearings will be scheduled on a bi-monthly basis for all children who remain AWOLP with a goal of locating every child on the list.

11. Court caseworkers will be approved to expend overtime hours to concentrate on the location of every child on the list.
12. Bi-monthly administrative meetings will be held between the FIA Administrative Staff and the Court to review efforts and suggest any changes that may be beneficial in locating the AWOLP children.
13. The judge who has responsibility for ensuring compliance with the plan is Judge Thomas L. Gadola, Presiding Judge, Family Division.
14. Monthly Status Reports will be submitted to SCAO.

Robert M. Ransom
Robert M. Ransom, Chief Judge
7th Judicial Circuit Court

01/21/2003
Dated