

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

PILOT PROJECT REQUIRING SELECTED Local Administrative Order
DIVORCE CASES TO USE SPECIAL PARENTING 2009-01
PLAN FORMS AND NON-ADVERSARIAL ORDER LANGUAGE

Pursuant to the Supreme Court's *Administrative Order 2008-1*, and *Administrative Order 2009-02* the 17th Circuit Court adopts the following procedures for use during the Cooperative Parenting Project.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

1. Effective dates: The 17th Circuit Court's Cooperative Parenting Project will begin on February 2, 2009, and continue until February 28, 2011. The pilot project will operate beyond the later date only if the Michigan Supreme Court approves an extension.
2. Assignment of cases: For the purposes of the pilot project, the nonpilot and pilot cases will be selected as follows:

Nonpilot data: DM cases filed from January 1, 2008, through July 31, 2008, with a final disposition on or before January 31, 2009.

Pilot data: DM cases filed from February 2, 2009, through August 31, 2009, with a final disposition on or before February 28, 2010.

These dates and timeframes may be adjusted based on nonpilot and pilot cases counts.

3. Participation also shall include postjudgment proceedings in qualifying cases that were included in the pilot pool.
4. This is a mandatory project. A self-represented party is not excused from the project merely because the individual does not have counsel.

5. Nonadversarial Terms: The pilot project will incorporate the use of nonadversarial terms, such as “mother” or “parent” instead of “plaintiff” or “defendant.” However, the use of nonadversarial language will not change the roles of parents as custodians for purposes of any state or federal law for which custody is required to be determined. Judgments and orders produced in the pilot project will clearly delineate how custody is to be determined or purposes of state and federal laws that require a person to be designated as a custodian.
6. When an attorney or a pro se parent files a complaint with the clerk’s office, and the clerk’s office determines that the new case meets the requirements of the pilot project, that parent will be given two informational pamphlets explaining the purpose of the project, as well as two sets of instructions for a parenting time plan and two blank forms for proposed parenting time plans.
7. The parent’s attorney or the pro se parent seeking the divorce will be responsible for serving the informational pamphlet regarding parenting time instructions and the proposed parenting time plan on the other parent. The parent’s attorney must ensure that his or her client receives the informational pamphlet containing the parenting time instructions and the proposed parenting time plan.
8. Each parent must complete the proposed parenting time plan and file it with the court within 28 days of filing his or her initial pleadings. The parents must also serve the other parent’s attorney, or the other parent if that parent is not represented, and the friend of the court with a copy of the proposed parenting time plan.

Effective Date: February 2, 2009

Paul J. Sullivan
Chief Circuit Judge

January 20, 2009
Date