

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

**REALLOCATION OF
FAMILY CASELOADS**

**LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER 2023-02**

The 17th Circuit Court previously had two Family Division caseloads that were allocated specific case types. One judge received only neglect and abuse, juvenile delinquency, adoption, and PPO case types while the other only received divorce and domestic case types.¹ The Court's current Family Division Plan eliminated the specific allocations for those caseload's new filings. To adjust the current caseloads for Judge Bryant and Judge West, the court has adopted the following policy for reassignment of cases filed prior to 2023²:

1. Divorce and domestic cases currently assigned to Judge Bryant or Judge Zemaitis (case types DC, DM, DO, DP, DS, DZ, UD, UE, UI, UF, UN, UM, UW, and UT)
 - a. Any case number ending in an odd digit (1, 3, 5, 7, 9), filed prior to December 31, 2022, will be reassigned to Judge West upon receipt of a motion. The motion(s) will remain on Judge Bryant's docket to be heard, but any subsequent hearings will be heard on Judge West's docket.
 - b. The judge's clerks will review the case and search for any related Family Division cases. If there are related divorce, domestic, and/or juvenile cases these will be included in the reassignment request regardless of the case number. The judge's clerk will notify the Clerk's Office of the need for a reassignment in the court's case management system (CMS) including all related cases.
 - c. Upon receipt of notification for reassignment, the Clerk's Office will reassign the case and any related cases identified in 1(b). The Clerk's Office will change the judge in the Court's CMS and enter a docket entry on each Register of Action reflecting the change.
2. Juvenile cases currently assigned to Judge West, Judge Feeney, or Judge Zemaitis (case types NA, JG, VF, DL, and DJ)
 - a. Any juvenile case filed prior to December 31, 2022 with a family identification number (FID)³ ending in an odd digit (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) will be reassigned to Judge Bryant when the next hearing is to be scheduled.

¹ In 2017, Judge Kathleen Feeney and Judge Daniel Zemaitis were assigned the split docket. When Judge Zemaitis retired, Judge Scott Noto was assigned as his successor. Judge Alida Bryant was Judge Noto's successor when he was reassigned to the Civil Criminal Division. Judge Clay West is Judge Feeney's successor.

² Cases filed in 2023 are covered the Court's Family Division Plan.

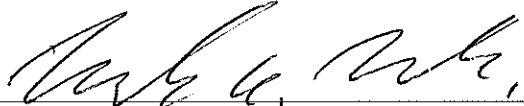
³ The court uses a seven-digit family identification number that follows the petition number for NA, JG, VF, DL, and DJ case types. Each child is assigned a specific two-digit number that follows the FID (i.e. 01, 02, 03, etc.) those two digits are excluded for this LAO when identifying odd or even cases.

- b. The judge's clerks will search for related divorce, domestic, and/or juvenile cases. If there are related cases these will be included in the reassignment request even if they are even numbered. The judge's clerk will notify the Clerk's Office of the need for reassignment in the court's (CMS).
- c. Upon receipt of notification for reassignment, the Clerk's Office will reassign the case and any related cases identified in 2(b). The Clerk's Office will change the judge in the Court's CMS and enter a docket entry on each Register of Action reflecting the change.

3. Conflicts or multiple cases

- a. If multiple motions are filed at one time in domestic relations cases, the oldest case number will determine the judge for all cases.
- b. If a search for related cases reveals even numbered domestic cases when reassigning based on a current juvenile case, the juvenile assigned judge will be applied to the domestic cases.
- c. If a search for related cases reveals an even numbered FID when reassigning based on a domestic case, the domestic assigned judge will be applied to the juvenile FID.
- d. Any other reassignments that do not apply to sections 1 and 2 of this order must be done by a reassignment order in each case.

Date: MAY 11 2023



Mark A. Trusock
Chief Circuit Court Judge
17th Circuit Court, Kent County