

Effective Date: Immediately

Pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Memorandum 2002-12 the Washtenaw County Trial Court adopts the following plans for children who are Absent Without Legal Permission (AWOLP).

PLAN

The Washtenaw County Trial Court has in place a plan for reviewing all cases under its jurisdiction, not just those of minors AWOLP. The Juvenile Center Referees are required to strictly adhere to statute and court rule and schedule review hearings every 91 days for all children placed outside of the home. When a specific case requires hearings on a faster, or more frequent track, the court has the capacity to modify this schedule on a case-by-case basis. In addition, all court appointed attorneys, and all Family Independence Agency and purchase of service caseworkers have been instructed in how to schedule an emergency review hearing if needed.

At these review hearings the hearing officer examines interested parties who may be able to provide information leading to the return of missing children; makes decisions regarding actions that should be initiated to locate children; and determine appropriate actions to be taken for children who have been located. The court will utilize all statutory and court rule authority to locate and expeditiously return a child to a proper custodial placement

Upon receiving notification that a child under the age of 15 is AWOLP or has been abducted the court will hold a review hearing within two business days. The court will, through the lawful exercise of its power, coordinate the efforts of the FIA, local law enforcement, school and court personnel to make substantial efforts to locate these children who are under the court's jurisdiction.

The Chief Judge or his designee will be responsible for the Court's individualized response to each child determined to be AWOLP. The Bench meets weekly with the juvenile center referees for a status report on all open cases. In addition, the court's systems manager prepares a monthly data report on all cases where there is an outstanding pick up order.

As requested, the court will continue to regularly update the SCAO regarding the status of its efforts to assist in locating AWOLP children, including the dates of any scheduled hearings.

Date: February 27, 2003

Archie C. Brown
Chief Judge