

STATE OF MICHIGAN GENESEE COUNTY 7 th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PROBATE COURT	In Re: Hours of Court Operation Judicial Coverage	LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER C07 2026-03J P25 2026-02J
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7th Judicial Circuit Court, 900 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 (810) 257-3252
Genesee County Probate Court, 900 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 (810) 257-3528

This Local Administrative Order rescinds previously submitted order 2023-08J (Circuit) and 2023-05J (Probate).

WHEREAS the Genesee County Probate Court and the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court desire to establish a system to ensure that judicial coverage is available and

WHEREAS the judges of both courts deem it to be necessary and appropriate to provide notice of the system so developed and to establish hours of court operation

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Genesee County Courthouse shall be open for operation during the hours of 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. and that a system of judicial coverage is established so that each judge has an alternate who is authorized to act in their absence, under the circumstances set forth below.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the alternate assignments are as follows:

Circuit Court

Criminal – Civil Division

<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Newblatt	Hanible
Hanible	Newblatt
Christenson	Pickell
Latchana	Kelly
Kelly	Latchana
Pickell	Christenson

Probate Court

<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Barkey	Heath

Family Division

<u>Assigned</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Weier	Hood
Hood	Weier
McDowell	Hood or Weier

If an assigned alternate is not available, the next option is the presiding judge of the family, criminal or civil division depending on the nature of the litigation involved with the emergency matter.

The above is not to be utilized to address MCR 2.003 disqualifications.

If a judge disqualifies, the matter is to be reassigned consistent with MCR 8.111(C)(1).

As a matter of local procedure, the first judge assigned to a case will consult with the chief judge, if the disqualification issue has the potential for a bench wide disqualification.

If the chief judge concurs, the matter will be circulated among all judges for their review. If there is more than one judge who does not disqualify, the matter will be reassigned by lot consistent with MCR 8.111(C)(1).

The utilization of an alternate judge will be used only when the assigned judge is absent and the matter is compelling in nature.

Except for appeal, if an alternate (or presiding) judge denies the matter presented for consideration, no further review shall be available.

By March 1 of each year, the judges are encouraged to submit requests to the chief judge for anticipated judicial absences for the remaining year. This allows for planning and a determination of courtroom availability.

Dated: May 21, 2026

David J. Newblatt /s/
David J. Newblatt, Chief Judge
7th Judicial Circuit Court
Genesee County Probate Court