

STATE OF MICHIGAN 6TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT AND OAKLAND COUNTY PROBATE COURT	ADMINISTRATIVE MERGER OF 6TH CIRCUIT AND OAKLAND PROBATE COURTS	JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2000-03J
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This joint administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Court Rule 8.112(B) which allows a trial court to issue administrative orders governing internal court management and MCL 600.1001 which establishes the family division of circuit court.

This order authorizes the administrative merger and organizational restructuring of the circuit and probate courts and their staff. The merger is in keeping with the intent of the family division plan promulgated by the circuit and probate courts and approved by the Supreme Court in 1997. The family division plan contemplated the administrative restructuring of the courts two years after the family division began operations.

The revised organizational structure (attached) is a collaborative effort involving the circuit and probate courts, the County Clerk's Office, and the administrative departments of the County Executive's Office. The revised organizational structure reflects the operation of the circuit and probate courts since the implementation of the family division.

The revised organizational structure establishes three divisions of circuit court: the family division with jurisdiction over cases set forth in MCL 600.1021; the general jurisdiction division with jurisdiction over cases set forth in MCL 600.601 et. seq.; and the business division which shall provide administrative support to the family and general jurisdiction divisions and the probate court.

The administrative merger will be accomplished in two phases. Phase one established the organizational structure and corresponding administrative positions and was effective on June 17, 2000. During phase two, the circuit court budget and that portion of the probate budget pertaining to the family division will be consolidated. In addition, the circuit and probate chief judges will be working towards transferring probate employees currently assigned to the family division to the circuit court.

IT IS ORDERED that the administrative merger of the circuit and probate courts and their staff is approved and that the organizational structure of the courts is established effective June 17, 2000. The operations of the courts, administrative control and oversight, and managerial authority shall be conducted in accordance with the revised organizational structure, and as determined by the chief circuit and probate judges in accordance with MCR 8.110.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that consolidation of the circuit court budget and the family division portion of the probate court budget shall be effective, subject to Board of Commissioners approval, on September 23, 2000.

Barry Howard
Chief Judge, 6th Judicial Circuit Court

Linda Hallmark
Chief Judge, Oakland County Probate Court

Dated: _____