


CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN ABSENT FROM
COURT-ORDERED PLACEMENTS WITHOUT LEGAL PERMISSION

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with *Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2002-4*. The purpose of this order is to establish a plan for reviewing cases involving children who are absent from court-ordered placements without permission from the court upon approval by the State Court Administrative Office.

1. The judge responsible for ensuring compliance with this plan is the chief circuit court judge..
2. The court and MFIA will conduct an initial inventory regarding AWOLP children within their respective jurisdiction(s).
3. The court will request that MFIA identify a local FIA liaison who will be responsible for coordinating and implementing policy in conjunction with expedited hearings on AWOLP cases. The Livingston County FIA liaison is Robert Davidson. Please see attachment "A" for foster care and juvenile youth escape policies and reporting requirements.
4. Upon notification by the MFIA, or upon the courts own initiative of a child's absence without legal permission (AWOLP) status, an immediate hearing will be held or other action taken by the court. If an emergency hearing is scheduled, the FIA/agency will notify all respondents and other interested parties of the hearing date and time. The court will notify the attorneys of record and the assistant prosecuting attorney. The court will utilize all statutory and court rule authority to locate and expeditiously return a child to a proper custodial placement. In its discretion, the court may use informal measures to locate, communicate with and ensure proper placement of an AWOLP child.
5. Reviews of a child listed as AWOLP will be held within 14 days of notification/identification. The review will address the following:
 - A. Coordination efforts of the Family Independence Agency and the court to locate the absent children,
 - B. Process for reviewing such cases,
 - C. Frequency of additional reviews, and
 - D. Any special problems that the court has identified.
6. All children 15 years and younger who are AWOLP shall have priority in hearings and reviews, with particular emphasis being placed on cases of younger children who may have been abducted.
7. Effective date: January 1, 2003.

Date: January 10, 2003



Hon. Susan L. Reck, Chief Judge
44th Circuit Court