

# Docket Changes

---

*by Lisa Langton  
Family Division Administrator -  
Probate/Juvenile Register*

---



**A**s you know by now, Circuit Court has welcomed three new judges since December 2002. Judges Martha Anderson and Daniel Patrick O'Brien were elected to fill the two new judge positions in Oakland County. Judge Michael Warren was appointed by Governor Engler to replace the Honorable Alice Gilbert, who retired in December 2002. Judges O'Brien and Anderson are assigned to the Circuit Court Family Division while Judge Warren has taken over Judge Gilbert's General Jurisdiction docket. Additionally, Judge Brennan has moved from the Family Division to the General Jurisdiction Division effective January 1, 2003.

In that vein, we have made some adjustments to our docket which will affect the Probate Court.

As you know, currently Judge Barry Grant receives 75 percent of all Probate Court matters (decendent estates, adult conservatorships and guardians, trust matters and minor conservatorships) and Judge Moore hears 25 percent of this docket. Those numbers will remain the same. However, due to changes in Family Division, Judge Moore will be hearing the majority of our minor guardianship cases. Starting in December, the Probate Court began assigning all new petitions for minor guardianships to Judge Moore. Further, any minor guardianship case that was assigned to a Family Division judge will be reassigned to Judge Moore.

Please note there are exceptions to this general rule. If a new minor guardianship petition is filed and there is an ongoing domestic or juvenile case, the minor guardianship case will be assigned to the Family Division judge hearing the domestic or juvenile matter (if it is not Judge Moore). Further, if a case has been reassigned from a Family Division judge who is again currently hearing a domestic or

juvenile case, that case will ultimately be transferred back to that Family Division judge. Judge Moore will continue to hear all of his motions, including guardianship petitions, on Wednesday morning.

If a minor guardianship petition is filed and there is no current active domestic or juvenile case, Judge Moore will be assigned the case and will hear it. Please bear with us while we make some of these docket changes, and notify the court if you believe your case has been transferred inappropriately.

Another modification to our docket has been the hearing of the weekly Mental Health docket on Monday and Thursday mornings. As you know, the Mental Health hearings have been heard by our duty judge, an assignment which is rotated among the Probate and Family Division judges. Judge Moore, in addition to his regularly scheduled duty judge weeks, will be assigned several additional weeks of hearing the Mental Health docket on Mondays and Thursdays. During those additional weeks, Judge Moore will only hear the Mental Health docket. All other duty judge functions will remain with the assigned duty judge. Judge Moore's office will be responsible for appointing the attorneys for all of the weeks he is hearing the Mental Health call.

As with all of our docket changes over the years, even where a case has been transferred to a new judge, the former judge would be responsible for hearing all motions for reconsideration, motions for rehearing, and motions for clarification of order.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these many changes, please contact my office directly. Stay tuned!