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Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 7:11 AM
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Subject: Initial Interview Within 72 Hours

Name: Janet M Mistele
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Message: I have grave concerns about requiring an initial interview within 72 hours of appointment. While in most cases this should not pose a problem, in others it will be virtually impossible to meet this standard. In Grand Traverse County, we are regularly appointed to represent MDOC prisoners who are alleged to have committed offenses while housed at Pugsley Correctional and have subsequently been transferred to other facilities several counties away. Will clients who are housed out of county be made available to counsel via Polycom or other means? Thus far, MDOC has REFUSED to cooperate with counsel communicating with clients in such a fashion. Likewise, clients charged in one county may already be lodged in another county on different charges. How is counsel supposed to meet with those clients? Of course, they are arraigned by video for the court's convenience and the convenience of law enforcement, but what accommodation is going to be made for counsel to meet with those clients who are lodged out of county? Further, an Order granting appointed counsel is often signed by a District Judge on a Friday morning and counsel typically will not be sent notice of the appointment until the end of the day on Friday or the next day (in this example, on Monday). It is unreasonable to expect counsel to be able to meet with a new client with such short notice in these instances. Aside from this, of course, is the fact that counsel may be in the midst of a trial, or otherwise scheduled in court on Monday. At a minimum, the standard should read ". . . within 3 business days of appointment."