

Marla McCowan

From: Nathan Collison <ncollison@saginawcounty.com>
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 3:41 PM
To: mmccowan@michiganidc.gov
Subject: Comments

Marla,

I have had the opportunity to get input from our members on the proposed standards. Most of the attorneys that responded agreed that the CLE requirement was good. Some of the members were concerned with the initial contact within 72 hours requirement. For the most part, they were in agreement that initial contact should occur within that time limit. But, some expressed that it could be difficult if the client was in prison. This is especially true when people's schedules have to be rearranged to travel out-of-town. Also, Saginaw County does not pay appointed counsel to travel. The suggestion was made that if the client is in prison, contact should at least be made prior to the first court date.

A main comment was that the standards as proposed do not address compensation. This was a primary issue for respondents.

Finally, some attorneys were concerned over the on-duty arraignment attorney portion. Most of the respondents liked the idea, but again were focusing on compensation versus cost to the county. Additionally, our members were concerned over the amount of time being on arraignment duty, and how it would affect the remainder of their practice. Further, they were curious as to who would do it if a county, like ours, does not have a public defender office.

Hope this helps.

Respectfully,
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