



BARRY COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Vicky L. Alspaugh
Circuit Judge
220 West State Street
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1286

William M. Doherty
Chief Judge
206 West Court Street, Ste. 302
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1390

Michael L. Schipper
District Court Judge
206 West Court Street, Ste. 202
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-1404

APPOINTMENT OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS ATTORNEY REFEREE

Administrative Order 2024 - 5

This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2009-6, effective January 1, 2010. In accordance with MCL 552.507(1) and MCR 3.215(A), and upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO),

IT IS ORDERED:

The chief judge of the 5th Circuit Court appoints Benjamin S. O'Hearn as attorney referee. The referee's contact information is:

1.

Name	Benjamin S. O'Hearn
Bar Number	79252
Court Address	206 W. Court Street
	Suite 302
	Hastings, MI 49058
Phone Number	269-945-1390
E-mail Address	BOhearn@barryco.org

It is the responsibility of the referee to notify the State Court Administrative Office of changes in the individual's contact information during the course of the appointment.

2. Benjamin S. O'Hearn:

- Will serve at the pleasure of the chief judge of the circuit court.
- Has taken the constitutional oath of office.
- Is a member, in good standing, of the State Bar of Michigan, pursuant to MCR 3.215.

3. The following types of motions may be heard initially by Domestic Relations Referees. Referee Benjamin S. O'Hearn is authorized to perform the following duties pursuant to MCL 552.507(1) and MCR 3.215(A):

☒ Hear all domestic relations motions.

☒ Hear all domestic relations motions and any ancillary (related non-domestic relations) motions that the court determines to be related to a domestic relations case.

4. The Domestic Relations Referee is authorized to conduct the following scheduling and settlement conferences in domestic relations cases in accordance with MCR 3.215:

☒ Scheduling conferences in domestic relations cases. The court must review and may either approve or modify the referee's scheduling.

☒ Settlement conferences in domestic relations cases.

5. Recommendations for certain orders by the Domestic Relations Referee shall be given interim effect pending a judicial hearing on a timely objection or pending the twenty-one (21) day waiting period as authorized by MCR 3.215(G):

☒ Orders establishing custody

☒ Orders establishing support

☒ Orders establishing parenting time

☒ Orders modifying support when custody does not change

☒ Orders implementing income withholding

6. If a domestic relations referee's recommended order does not have interim effect pursuant to this order, the court may enter a case-specific order giving the recommended order interim effect pending the judicial hearing, unless interim effect is prohibited by MCR 3.215(G)(3).

7-8-24

Date



William M. Doherty, Chief Judge

(P41960)