



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 JUVENILE ATTORNEY REFEREE

Administrative Order 2024 - 4

This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2009-6, effective January 1, 2010. In accordance with MCL 712A.10 and MCR 3.913, and upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO),

IT IS ORDERED:

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

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:

- a. Will serve at the pleasure of the chief judge of the circuit court.

- b. Has taken the constitutional oath of office.
- c. Is licensed to practice law in Michigan.

3. Referee Benjamin S. O'Hearn is authorized to perform the following duties pursuant to MCR 3.913 and MCL 712A.10:

- a. Conduct a preliminary inquiry or preside at hearings under the Juvenile Code, MCL 712A.1, *et seq.*, and make recommended findings and conclusions except for those hearings specified in MCR 3.912(A), which include the following:
 - 1. a jury trial;
 - 2. a waiver proceeding under MCR 3.950;
 - 3. the preliminary examination, trial, and sentencing in a designated case; and
 - 4. a proceeding on the issuance, modification, or termination of a minor personal protection order.
- b. In conducting hearings, a referee shall do all of the following:
 - 1. administer oaths and examine witnesses;
 - 2. if a case requires a hearing and the taking of testimony, make a written signed report to the judge containing a summary of the testimony taken and a recommendation for the court's findings and disposition.
- c. In addition, an attorney referee may issue an interim *ex parte* placement order under MCR 3.963(B).

7-8-24
Date:


William M. Doherty Chief Judge

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