



The Circuit Court
for the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan

DARNELL JACKSON
CHIEF JUDGE, SAGINAW COUNTY

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TO: MEMBERS OF THE SAGINAW COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

I want to inform you all that the state has recently awarded Saginaw County Trial Courts a one-year Virtual Backlog Reduction Docket grant to assist in clearing up the backlog of criminal cases we now face. As the name implies cases are to be primarily handled virtually via ZOOM. There should be very limited or no in person hearings.

Ideally judges, assistant prosecutors and defense counsel will only need to appear twice in most instances. At the pretrial/plea hearing and for the subsequent sentencing hearing. There may occasionally need to be more involvement than this based upon unforeseen motions etc., but even those should be at a minimum.

Defendants will be required to appear at all pretrial/plea hearings in order to cut down on unnecessary delays in the resolution of cases. So counsel will need to plan for the client to be present with you in your office or at some other location on ZOOM during the pretrial/plea. If a case is not resolved at the pretrial/plea hearing then it will be referred back to the judge who was originally assigned the case for further disposition.

I have appointed retired Judges Janet Boes, James Borchard and Harry Gill under the grant. They will be assigned to preside over non-capital felony cases and attendant misdemeanors through the pretrial/plea and sentencing hearings. The judges will not be conducting any trials.

I anticipate a potential start-up date being sometime during the first two weeks of June. That of course is subject to change depending upon circumstances. Should you have any questions please feel free to email them to me. Thanx.

Darnell Jackson
Darnell Jackson
Chief Judge, Saginaw County Trial Courts
May 23, 2023