



Juvenile Court Connection

SCAO~CWJJS Monthly Newsletter for Michigan's Juvenile Court Professionals



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(June 11, 2025)

[Juvenile Justice Technical Assistance to Courts](#)

Based on technical assistance needs identified by courts through a recent survey, the Juvenile Justice Services Team has compiled a technical assistance menu for customized technical assistance opportunities for courts. Courts may inquire about the technical assistance opportunities through their Regional Administrator. A snapshot is provided on [page 7](#).

[YouthCenter – A Powerful Tool for Michigan's Juvenile Justice System](#)

SCAO has partnered with BizStream to provide YouthCenter, a juvenile justice client-centered data management system, to courts and secure detention facilities in Michigan. The Juvenile Justice Services Team developed a flyer describing the implementation timeline, key features, and helpful resources. Courts may inquire about YouthCenter through their Regional Administrator. A snapshot is provided on [page 8](#).

[Michigan Reunification Day](#)

On June 26, 2025, the Michigan Supreme Court (MSC) hosted its 8th Annual Reunification Day at the Hall of Justice in Lansing, celebrating the resilience of families who have successfully reunified through the state's child welfare system. The Child Welfare Services Team administers this annual event, in collaboration with MDHHS and the Michigan Federation for Children and Families.

This year's program featured families from the 30th Circuit Court with Presiding Judge Lisa K. McCormick.

Judge McCormick, recognized by the MSC for her tireless leadership of the Family Treatment Court, introduced three families she supported through the program. Their reunification stories – marked by overcoming addiction, homelessness, incarceration, and trauma – brought many in the crowd to tears. These families noted how they found strength and healed through recovery, community resources, and sustained judicial support.

See the full news release [here](#) or visit the [Michigan Reunification Day](#) web page.

MJI IMPACT

IMPACT is an MJI newsletter which contains summaries of the most recent court and legislative activity impacting trial court procedure. Each edition is separated into five global Topics: Administrative, Civil, Criminal, Family and Probate. To view IMPACT's webpage and subscribe, click [here](#).

Here are the most recent releases of the MJI Impact:

[6/18/2025 MJI IMPACT](#)

Juvenile Court Rules and Legislative Updates

Proposed Legislation

[HB 4530 of 2025 – Deadline to release mental health information pertinent to child abuse or neglect investigation to MDHHS](#)

Statute Cite: MCL 330.1748a

Status Update: Introduced on 6/3/2025, referred to Committee on Families and Veterans

What it does: Amends sec. 748a of 1974 PA 258 (MCL 330.1748a). TIE BAR WITH: HB [4531'25](#). Requires mental health professionals to provide mental health records and information that is pertinent to the child abuse and neglect investigation within 7 days of receiving a request.

[HB 4531 of 2025 – Continuing Education for Mandated Reporters](#)

Statute Cite: MCL 722.629

Status Update: Introduced on 6/3/2025, referred to Committee on Families and Veterans

What it does: Amends sec. 9 of 1975 PA 238 (MCL 722.629). TIE BAR WITH: [HB 4530'25](#), requires all individuals to report child abuse or neglect to complete training every 3 years.

[HB 4396 of 2025 – Diversion Records Access](#)

Statute Cite: MCL 722.829

Status Update: Introduced 4/29/2025, Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, Reported with recommendation without amendment on 6/11/2025. Passed by the House of Representatives on 6/25/2025. Referred to the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Service.

What it does: This bill would allow certain information sharing for research purposes in juvenile justice cases.

Adopted Court Rules and Administrative Orders

[Amendment of Administrative Order No. 1985-5](#)

ADM File No. 2024-38

Effective Date: September 1, 2025

What it does: Updates the juvenile probation officer employment standards.

For the most up to date proposed and adopted court rules and administrative orders, click [here](#)

Outside Resource Links

[National Center for State Courts \(NCSC\) Webinars](#)

[Coalition for Juvenile Justice Webinars and Trainings](#)

[Interstate Commission for Juveniles \(ICJ\) On-Demand Training modules](#)

[CMHSP Key Contacts for Youth/Young Adult Reentry](#) OR use this barcode:



[Bureau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy & Supports](#)

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services Home Page

The following information is on the [CWJJS webpage](#)

Juvenile Justice Toolkit

- Screening & Assessment Tools
 - Guidelines and Sample Court Plan
 - Information
 - Data Collection Sample Template
 - Recorded Material
- Detention Screening Tool
 - MJJAS Detention Screening Tool FAQ (January 2, 2025) and Detention Sample Flowchart
 - Recorded Materials
- SCAO/BizStream
 - ***NEW*** [YouthCenter FAQ](#)

JJS Training and Development

Communications

- [June 2025 SCAO Juvenile Court Connection](#)
- [May 2025 SCAO Juvenile Court Connection](#)
- [April 2025 SCAO Juvenile Court Connection](#)
- [March 2025 SCAO Juvenile Court Connection](#)
- [February 2025 SCAO Juvenile Court Connection](#)
- [January 2025 SCAO Juvenile Court Connection](#)
- [Fines, Fees, and Costs](#)
- [Court Communications](#)
- [SCAO Memos](#)
- [JIS Blog](#)

Outside Resources

- [Michigan Legislature](#)
- [National Center for State Courts](#)
- [National Institute of Justice – Juvenile Justice](#)
- [California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse](#)

Quick Links

One Court of Justice

- [Video Tutorials](#)
- [MJI Benchbooks](#)
- [MJI IMPACT](#)
- [Family Quick Reference](#)
- [Child Welfare and Justice Services](#)
- [Juvenile Justice Toolkit](#)
- [JJS Training and Development](#)

Stay informed!

Click [here](#) to sign up for the Court Subscription Services to receive information on Michigan appellate court opinions, administrative rules, news about and of interest to Michigan Courts.

Upcoming SCAO CWJJS Trainings

Court-Led Juvenile Justice County Implementation Teams: Development, Expansion, and Maintenance of a Successful County Team

Collaboration + Cooperation = Celebration of Success

July 25, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm*

**The presenter will be available for an additional 30 minutes from 1:00-1:30 for Q&A.*

This webinar will discuss how a court-led County Implementation Team approach can help to support juvenile justice reform efforts by engaging local stakeholders in the planning process. This training is intended for judges and court administrators interested in learning how to develop, maintain, or expand a court-led County Implementation Team. Courts will be offered the opportunity to receive consultation after the webinar to further assist with the development or improvement of a County Implementation Team.

Several key topics will be addressed, including:

- The establishment of a court-led Juvenile Justice County Implementation Team
- The importance of judicial and court leadership, and effective strategies for managing County Implementation Team meetings.
- Examples of strategic planning tools to assist County Implementation Teams.
- Finding common ground and achieving collaboration with all key stakeholders
- Training and retraining on key components of Juvenile Justice Reform

Intended Audience: judges, referees, and court administrators

Registration Deadline: July 23, 2025

Register [here](#).

SCAO: All Rise Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Best Practices Webinar

July 18, 2025 12:00pm-1:00pm

This virtual training will provide an overview of best practices for juvenile drug treatment courts and explore strategies to improve outcomes. It is designed for court team members seeking to strengthen program effectiveness.

Registration deadline: Wednesday, July 16 at 5:00 p.m.ET.

Register [here](#).

For more information, please contact PSC@coruts.mi.gov

SAVE THE DATES:

Upcoming Webinar Series:
**What Juvenile Division
Jurists and Justice
Professionals Need to
Know About Cyber
Crime:**

**Part 1: Introduction to
Cybercrime and Online
Juvenile Delinquency
Matters**

8/22/2025, 12:00pm-
1:00pm*

**Part 2: Digital Evidence
and Legal Processing**

9/26/2025, 12:00pm-
1:00pm*

**The presenters for each
webinar will be available for
an additional 30 minutes from
1:00-1:30 for Q&A.*

**More information and
registration details for
this training series
coming soon!**



Leading with Compassion: A Retreat for Referees in Child Protection Cases

September 10-12, 2025
Butzel Retreat Center at
Camp Tamarack in
Ortonville, Michigan

As referees in child protection cases, you bear daily witness to profound human suffering. Yet while you strive to show understanding to others, you may often lack the space, tools, and community to tend to your own well-being. Over time, the weight of these cases can lead to burnout, isolation, and a diminished sense of purpose.

This two-and-a-half-day retreat offers an opportunity to step back, reconnect with your own humanity, and explore how compassion — for families, for colleagues, and for yourself — can transform not only your professional role but your personal resilience.

This training is limited to referees with a child protection court docket.

The full announcement and registration information can be found [here](#).

Upcoming SCAO CWJJS Trainings

Identifying and Addressing Emotional Maltreatment During Child Protective Investigations

July 29, 2025, 11:30am - 1:00pm via Zoom Webinar

We know about the pervasive and negative effects of EM, this raises concerns about children and families not getting help that they need. Analysis of state laws suggests that legal definitions of EM create challenges for identifying and addressing it in the child welfare context. However, research has also shown that child welfare practice related to EM may be more conservative than necessary, creating opportunities for child welfare agencies. This workshop will review the impacts of EM and factors that make EM less likely to be identified in the child welfare context an

Target Audience: This training is intended for all child welfare professionals including CPS and foster care workers, attorneys, Lawyer-Guardians Ad Litem, tribes, private agencies, and Foster Care Review Board members.

The full Training Announcement and registration information can be found [here](#).

Beyond Comfortably Uncomfortable: The Practical Application of Engaging in Difficult Conversations About Sex and Sex Abuse

August 26, 2025, 8:30am – 3:30pm in-person at the Michigan Hall of Justice

Participants will learn practical steps to have conversations surrounding difficult, sensitive, and often taboo topics such as sexuality, sexual behavior, pornography, and technology-facilitated sexual behaviors. A brief review of the existing research on sexuality, pornography, and technology will be provided; highlighting key points as they relate to sexually abusive behaviors. This training will focus on how to have empirically informed discussions about sex and sexual abuse. These conversations can be polarizing, which is why the material will identify ways to navigate the topics as well as how to find common ground when perspectives and values differ. Finally, strategies on how to gain support from stakeholders and create strong partnerships that can help to reduce victimization will be provided.

Target Audience: This training is intended for all child welfare professionals including prosecutors, attorneys, Lawyer-Guardians Ad Litem, CPS and foster care workers, tribes, private agencies, law enforcement, medical professionals, mental health providers, education professionals, and Foster Care Review Board members.

The full Training Announcement and registration information can be found [here](#).

Beyond the Bruises: Identifying Child Abuse vs. Medical Mimics

September 17, 2025, 11:30am - 1:00pm via Zoom Webinar

Evaluating children suspected of maltreatment requires a thorough and systemic approach. Some medical conditions and injuries can resemble signs of child abuse, leading to potential misdiagnosis. This presentation will take a case-based approach, featuring numerous photos to illustrate conditions that can mimic child abuse. It will highlight the importance of a careful, structured assessment to avoid misdiagnosis while recognizing that children with medical mimics may also be victims of abuse.

Target Audience: This training is intended for all child welfare professionals including prosecutors, attorneys, Lawyer-Guardians Ad Litem, CPS and foster care workers, tribes, private agencies, law enforcement, medical professionals, mental health providers, education professionals, and Foster Care Review Board members.

The full Training Announcement and registration information can be found [here](#).

MDHHS Announcements and Deadlines

CCF Regional Virtual Roundtable Mini Sessions

The Child Care Fund (CCF) team is excited to invite you to our voluntary Regional Virtual Roundtable – Mini Sessions with counties, as we continue to collaborate on planning for FY26.

To date, we've conducted AP&B preparation calls with nearly 60 counties. We appreciate your participation and hope that the guidance provided has been helpful as you begin crafting your FY26 plans.

As a next step, we are hosting a voluntary **Regional Virtual Roundtable Sessions** to bring counties together to share ideas, strategies and learn:

- Best and promising practices
- Aligning services with needs
- Use of diversion and detention alternatives
- Community Based Eligible Expenditures
- Out of Home Care Eligible Expenditures
- Quality Assurance and Data Collection
- Program Descriptions

These sessions are organized by region, following the SCAO regional map. Please see the link below to Register for your county/tribe. Please ensure your registration matches your SCAO Region. Again, this is NOT MANDATORY. We hope you can join us and be part of these meaningful conversations.

Regions 1 and 6

July 9, 2025, 10:30am-11:30am

Region 4

July 10, 2025, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Region 3

July 11, 2025, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Region 5

July 15, 2025, 10:30am-11:30am

Region 2

July 16, 2025, 10:30am-11:30am

FY26 Child Care Fund Budget Deadlines

- **August 15, 2025:** Deadline for submission of Annual Plan & Budgets to MDHHS
- **September 30, 2025:** Deadline for MDHHS approval of Annual Plan & Budget.

For more CCF information, please contact MDHHS-CCFMU@michigan.gov

CCF Resources:

[MDHHS CCF Main Page](#)




[FY26 CCF Handbook](#)

Juvenile Justice Technical Assistance to Courts

SCAO Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services


Your Challenges — Our Support


The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) recently surveyed courts on juvenile justice reform efforts. Here are the top concerns we heard:


-  Limited staff time to implement new statutory practices
-  Lack of services/programs for justice-involved youth
-  Difficulty with data collection and reporting

SCAO offers courts the following customized technical assistance opportunities:


1. Building Effective County Teams

 **Live Webinar: Court-Led Juvenile Justice County Implementation Teams: Collaboration + Cooperation = Celebration of Success**

 **Date: Friday, July 25, 2025 12:00 p.m.**





 **Presenter: Richard Smart III, Juvenile Justice Consultant, Smart Move Consulting**


The webinar will discuss how a court-led County Team approach can help to support juvenile justice reform efforts by engaging local stakeholders in the planning process. Courts will be offered the opportunity to receive individual consultation after the webinar to develop or improve a court-led County Implementation Team

 **Register here:** [Registration link](#)

2. Efficient Juvenile Court Processes

SCAO Analysts work directly with your court to improve daily operations, such as:

-  Screening/assessment tool processes
-  Tool selection and training plans
-  Intake-to-closure process reviews
-  Case planning based on risk and needs

 **End goal:** Clear, streamlined practices tailored to your court's resources.





3. Service Gap Analysis & Community Collaboration

Need more programs for youth? We can help you:

- Map existing services and identify gaps
- Connect with local providers
- Explore grant opportunities, maximize Child Care Fund reimbursement and facilitate peer mentorships

4. Data Collection Support

Data doesn't have to be a burden. We can provide:

-  Tools to track screening & assessment usage
-  Help identifying key data needs
-  Recorded trainings for data tools
-  Information about YouthCenter data management system. YouthCenter will provide courts the ability to easily capture and share juvenile justice data, including:
 - Statistics on the use of screening and assessment tools
 - Statistics on youth outcomes related to:
 - Diversion
 - Detention Placements
 - formal probation
 - Community based-programming

Ready to Get Started?

Contact your Regional Administrator to request assistance for your court.

SCAO Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Services

Juvenile Justice Data Management System

A Powerful Tool for Michigan's Juvenile Justice System

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has partnered with BizStream to provide YouthCenter, a modern juvenile justice client-centered data management system, to all courts and secure detention facilities in Michigan.

Implementation Timeline

- Statewide implementation is expected to be completed by June 2026
- Post-Onboarding: 24/7 System & Service Monitoring by YouthCenter

 Resources: [YouthCenter Website](#) Schedule a Demo! [YouthCenter FAQ](#)

Key Features

- Built-in Screening and Assessment Tools
- Program, placement and services tracking
- CaseStream Connect Portal for parents/caregivers
- Easy data collection & reporting
- New Customizations
- Real-time statistics on:
 - Diversion
 - Detention placements
 - Formal probation
 - Community-based programming
 - Screening and Assessment Tools
- Efficient way to respond to NICS enhanced background check requests

Additional Court and Probation Features

- Drug and Alcohol Testing Results
- Case notes, including 'voice-to-text' dictation through mobile devices
- Court-wide data reports
- Custom document workflow management
- Push notifications, automated text and email reminders

Additional Detention Facility Features

- Medication management
- Meal tracking
- Intake/Release information
- Visitation information
- Incident Reports
- Daily bed counts/availability
- "Keep Separate" alerts

Ready to Get Started?

Trial courts, please reach out to your Regional Administrator to submit questions. Detention centers may contact Kellie Fischer at Fischerk@courts.mi.gov.