



Juvenile Court Connection

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



Reminder!

The [SCAO Juvenile Justice Screening and Assessment Tools Guidelines](#) which were published in August 2024, require the courts to establish clear policies and procedures for the administration of screenings and assessments on justice-involved youth and submit those plans to SCAO.

A [Model LAO](#) and [sample written policies and procedures](#) for the use of screening and assessment tools are included in the Guidelines.

Memorandums

- [Reporting 2024 Trial Court Caseload Data to SCAO - December 2, 2024](#)

Grant Opportunity

Status Offense Diversion Project

Pursuant to Section 402 of the FY 2025 Judiciary Budget, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice (MCJJ), is pleased to present the **Status Offense Diversion Project** grant opportunity. Grant funding is available to juvenile courts for innovative, community-based diversion programs and services that work solely with youth for whom the court receives a complaint, referral, or petition for what is alleged to be a status offense.

SCAO seeks to award grant funding for up to five (5) courts in Michigan for the development of innovative pilot projects aimed at diverting status offenders towards community-based programs and services, and away from formal juvenile court involvement and secure placement.

For more information on this grant opportunity, please visit: <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/publications/grantsrfps/>

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Updated FAQ

[FAQ: MJJAS/OYAS Detention Screening Tool \(January 8, 2025\)](#)

Updated forms!

[JC 14a](#), Order of Disposition, In-Home, Delinquency Proceedings

[JC 14b](#), Order of Disposition, Out-of-Home, Delinquency Proceedings

Quick Links

One Court of Justice

- [Video Tutorials](#)
- [MJI Benchbooks](#)
- [Family Quick Reference](#)
- [Child Welfare and Justice Services](#)

Michigan Judicial Institute

- Subscribe [here](#)

Juvenile Court Rules and Legislative Updates

Enacted Legislation

[PA 0182 of 2024 - Modify Age Requirements for the Use of a Courtroom Support Dog](#)

Statute Cite: MCL 600.2163a

Effective Date: April 1, 2025

What it does: This act modifies the age of child witnesses who are allowed to be accompanied by a courtroom support dog when testifying as follows:

- 1) An individual under 16 years of age or 16 years of age or older with a developmental disability; or
- 2) An individual under 18 years of age or 18 years of age or older with a developmental disability.

Proposed or Adopted Court Rules/Administrative Orders

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

ADM File No. 2024-38

Issued: December 19, 2024

Comment Period Expires: April 1, 2025

What it does: Would update the juvenile probation officer employment standards.

[Proposed Amendments of MCR 3.993 and 6.428](#)

ADM File No. 2022-34

Issued: December 19, 2024

Comment Period Expires: April 1, 2024

What it does: Republishes a revised proposal regarding the restoration of appellate rights in juvenile and criminal cases.

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



CWJJS Resources

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

Juvenile Justice Reform and County Implementation Teams Information

- County Presentations on Court Diversion and Consent Programs
- Michigan Justice for Kids and Communities Bill Package Summary
- OJJDP Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
- Various Recorded Webinars

Juvenile Justice Services Toolkit

- **FAQ: MJJAS/OYAS Detention Screening Tool (January 8, 2025)**
- SCAO Screening and Assessment Tools Guidelines (August 2024)
- Juvenile Justice Reform Resource Compendium
- Memo: Statewide Juvenile Justices Detention Screening Tool and training (July 24, 2024)
- Court Strategic Plan Template
- Policy and Procedures Template
- Screening Tools and Assessments Sample Flow Chart

Juvenile Justice Reform Training and Development

- MJJAS/OYAS Detention Screening Training Announcement
- Screening and Assessment Tool Information
- Juvenile Justice Training in a Minute
- Recorded MJI Webinar Trainings

SCAO Resources

- Juvenile Justice Probation Standards (September 2024)
- Benchbooks
- Court Rules
- Case File Management Standards
- Juvenile Probation Officer Manual
- Records Management: Retention and Disposal Schedule
- Nonpublic and Limited Access Chart
- Model Code of Conduct for Juvenile Probation Officers

Updated FAQ!

Check out SCAO's updated [FAQ](#) for the MJJAS/OYAS Detention Screening Tool posted on January 8, 2025

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.




Training Opportunity Links

[Child Welfare
Services Recorded
Webinars](#)

[MJI Training
Opportunities](#)

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

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



Upcoming Trainings

[Understanding the Role of the Juvenile Defense Attorney](#)

January 24, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

The right to counsel in juvenile delinquency proceedings is a critical way to ensure that the proceedings are fair and that children both understand and are able to exercise their rights. In this webinar, youth defense attorney Joshua Pease will explain the unique role of counsel in delinquency cases, what the obligations of counsel are, and how they work to protect their clients' constitutional rights.

Presenter: Joshua Pease, Youth Appellate Defense Counsel, State Appellate Defender Office

Who should attend: Juvenile Justice County Implementation Team members, courts, law enforcement, school personnel, attorneys, social service providers, and other juvenile justice stakeholders

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

Registration Deadline: January 22, 2025
Register [here](#)

[Removal Hearings Under the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act](#)

February 11, 2025, 11:30am – 1:00pm

This training will address procedural and substantive requirements for the removal of Indian children in child custody proceedings under the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act. There will be a review of the obligations of the court, child placing agencies, and parties regarding initial inquiry, notice, the increased burden of proof, and the necessity of following ICWA/MIDPA placement preferences. The presenter will also review the role of the Qualified Expert Witness, including recent changes to the Michigan Court Rules regarding the application of this testimony.

Presenter: Judge Jolene A. Clearwater, Allegan County

Who should attend: This training is intended for jurists, referees, prosecutors, attorneys, Lawyer Guardians Ad Litem, juvenile court staff, MDHHS, tribes, and private agency partners

Register [here](#)

MJJAS/OYAS Detention Screening Tool

Training and Certification for Court Staff/Court Designee

SCAO is offering statewide training on the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool at no cost to the courts. Please ensure that court staff/court designees responsible for conducting detention screenings on youth complete the training prior to using the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool.

The MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool is designed to assess youth to determine if they pose a risk to reoffend, and aids in the decision of initial placement and/or release from detention. The MJJAS/OYAS-DET tool end-user training and certification is appropriate for court staff and court designated individuals responsible for conducting detention screening for justice-involved youth, and there is no pre-requisite to participate in the training. The end user training includes didactic presentation and practice of concepts and skills. The training also includes an overview of supportive research in the field, specifically the Principles of Effective Intervention. Participants will then be introduced to the MJJAS/OYAS-DET screening tool, reviewing supporting material for the tool that will be used to effectively conduct an assessment interview, and then score individual risk. Finally, the training will conclude with a “next steps” conversation to address how to begin using what they have learned.

Target Audience: These trainings are limited to court staff or court designated individuals responsible for conducting the detention screening tool. Training is exclusively focused on learning how to administer the tool and obtain certification.

Speakers: Lauren Kenney, MS (Research Associate), and Eric Willoughby (Research Associate), *University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute*

Training Dates and Registration Deadlines: See the MJJAS/OYAS-DET Tool End User Training Dates and Registration Deadlines to the right. Your registration is not complete until you receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email 7 days before a training you register for, please contact Jennifer Schwandt at schwandtj@courts.mi.gov. **REGISTRATION IS PENDING UNTIL YOU RECEIVE CONFIRMATION.**

Virtual Training: The training is two half-day sessions from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. each day and attendance both days is required. Register only for 1 Training

Important Message: Prior to attendance, please review the SCAO Juvenile Justice Screening and Assessment Tools Guidelines and the Detention Screening Tool FAQ. Questions related to court policy and procedures, or the selection of the detention screening tool are outside the scope of the certification trainings.

If you cancel or fail to attend after the training materials have been shipped to you, you are responsible for returning the materials to SCAO within 14 days of the scheduled training that you did not attend. You will be responsible for the shipping costs for the return.

For questions, please contact: Jennifer Schwandt, Administrative Assistant, CWJJS at schwandt@courts.mi.gov

Register Here!

January 15 & 16, 2025
Registration Closed
Training Full

February 12 & 13,
2025 Registration Closed
Training Full

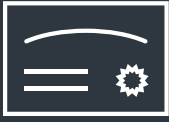
March 3 & 4, 2025
Registration Closed
Training Full

April 7 & 8, 2025
Registration Deadline:
March 10, 2025
Registration Link:
<https://cvent.me/MmZLka>

May 12 & 13, 2025
Registration Deadline:
April 14, 2025
Registration Link:
<https://cvent.me/K2BnXr>

June 9 & 10, 2025
Registration Deadline:
May 12, 2025
Registration Link:
<https://cvent.me/IA3kM2>





Preregister [HERE](#)

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
January 24, 2025

You must use your court/agency e-mail address to register. If you do not have a court/agency e-mail address, please contact Adam Pfau at pfaua@courts.mi.gov.

After registration, you will receive an e-mail to confirm your account and set a password on the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) Learning Center, where the exam is hosted. Registration through the virtual link above and then confirming your account on the Learning Center is required.

Juvenile Probation Officer/Caseworker Certification

Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1985-5 requires a juvenile [court] probation officer/caseworker to complete the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI) certification training within two years of employment.

The certification process is two-phased and can be completed in any order. Phase I requires participation in (or waiver of) the MJI “Basic Interviewing, Counseling, and Communication Techniques” webinar series. Waiver forms can be provided by request. Phase II consists of a self-paced study of the MJI *Juvenile Probation Officer and Caseworker Self-Instructional Manual* and satisfactory completion of the certification examination.

Manual:

Study using the Self-Instructional Manual, revised in October 2024. The manual is available on our website [here](#).

Examination is Online:

The exam is a computer-based application that you may take from the comfort of your home or office. However, you must still preregister to take the exam. Register for one of the following times:

Thursday, January 30, 2025, 9:00am-12:00pm OR 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Examination Details:

- The examination is timed. You will have up to three hours to complete the exam. The examination is “open book,” so you may utilize your manual to assist you in answering questions.
- The format for the examination is primarily true-false, multiple-choice, and fill-in-the-blank.
- The examination is approximately 211 questions.
- There are no grades – it is pass-fail. You must achieve a score of 85 percent or better to pass the examination. This is based upon a cumulative score on the entire test.



Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 Webinar: Justice Reimagined: AI and AI Governance for Juvenile Courts

Juvenile Justice Vision 20/20 is excited to announce a groundbreaking presentation by Kevin J. Bowling JD on the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and AI technology applications within the juvenile justice system. He will also address the challenges that run parallel to the technology's implementation.

As we strive to enhance the efficiency, fairness, and effectiveness of our juvenile justice system in Michigan, and as a fairly new technology, AI stands as a beacon of innovation and potential worthy of great discussion.

Presenter: Kevin J. Bowling JD, MSJA, ICM Fellow

Mr. Bowling has extensive knowledge of the courts and AI. He retired from the judicial branch of government following a 44-year career as an attorney, court administrator, judicial branch educator, and consultant. Mr. Bowling served as the Trial Court Administrator and Attorney Referee for the 20th Judicial Circuit Court and the Ottawa County Probate Court in Michigan. He also served for 20 years in a variety of positions with the Michigan Supreme Court, including State Judicial Educator and Regional Court Administrator. Additionally, he is a Past President of the National Association for Court Management (NACM); Co-Chair of the Joint Technology Committee (a collaboration of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA), the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and NACM; and Past Chair of the Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Administration's Global Advisory Committee. His work in the judicial system includes judicial branch training in numerous US states and service in western Africa as Deputy Chief of Party for the Nigeria Justice Sector Assistance Project. As the current Chief Administrative Officer of the International Assoc. for Court Administration, he recently returned from presenting at their 20th Annual Conference in Singapore in which there were 53 countries present to learn about AI and its potential impact on the courts. Following the conference, he presented at the Singapore Supreme Court on AI and the Courts.

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2025, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Who Should Attend: Judges, court administrators, juvenile court staff and supervisors, juvenile detention administrators/staff, court referees, juvenile justice stakeholders, and anyone interested in learning more.

Please Register at: https://miscasc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XO6aUv1eSnGHliW95ICC7A

Questions? Email Sandi Metcalf at smetcalf774@gmail.com



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Trainings

MDHHS Cross-system learning event: Public Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

Save the date! Registration information coming soon!

Dates and Location: The event will be held on two separate dates; content will be the same in both locations:

- **April 15, 2025: Traverse City, MI**
- **April 22, 2025: Livonia, MI**

Description: The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Bureau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy and Supports, in partnership with the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice, the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), are pleased to announce two cross-systems learning events for Public Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. Training content will include:

- Partnership highlights between the Public Mental Health and Juvenile Justice systems
- Legislative updates from SCAO
- Examples of communities partnering to effectuate juvenile justice reforms
- Opportunities to create partnership agreements within your community

Intended Audience: Community Mental Health (CMH) staff, Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) staff, Juvenile Court (delinquency matters) staff, and Juvenile Justice professionals that work with children, youth, and young adults. Agency leaders and decision makers will be an integral part of implementing cross-system partnership and collaboration at the local level, so these individuals are encouraged to attend.

COST: There is no cost to participate in these events; attendees will be responsible for travel costs associated with attendance. Pre-Registration is required.

Registration information will be coming soon.

Questions? Please reach out to Danielle Domzalski at domzalskid@michigan.gov

A Stakeholders Guide to Competency to Proceed in Michigan's Juvenile Courts

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is pleased to offer on-demand learning opportunities in reference to juvenile competency stakeholder information. Court personnel (including probation officers and managers, judges, referees, prosecutors, and attorneys), as well as advocates, behavioral health providers, MDHHS juvenile justice specialists and managers, and other MDHHS staff, are encouraged to complete the training. The training is designed to meet the specific needs of individuals in these different roles. The training for juvenile court personnel is about three hours in duration, and the training for other interested individuals is about two hours.

The department continues to contract with highly qualified experts at the National Youth Screening & Assessment Partners (NYSAP) to provide this training in collaboration with Concept Continuing & Professional Studies, Palo Alto University, to provide an overview of practices and court processes related to juvenile competency in the State of Michigan. Funding is provided by the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of the Mental Health Diversion Council.

Speakers: Ivan Kruh, Ph.D. and Christina Riggs Romaine, Ph.D.

Click [here](#) to access the training

Please contact MDHHS-Juvenile-Competency@michigan.gov with any questions



MJJAS Full Suite of Tools

Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System (MJJAS) FY25 Training

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Division of Juvenile Justice (JJ) is pleased to announce the ninth year of Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System (MJJAS) risk assessment training on the full integrated suite of tools. The MJJAS is provided to MDHHS through a contractual agreement with the University of Cincinnati Research Institute and is also known as the Ohio Youth Assessment System® (OYAS). The MJJAS (aka: OYAS) is a structured risk assessment tool that identifies the likelihood of a youth engaging in future criminal behavior and informs appropriate risk classification. The MJJAS assessments can be re-administered over time to determine changes in risk level based upon changes in behavioral profile or life situation. The MJJAS can be used at five different decision points for a youth: diversion, detention, disposition, juvenile justice residential placement and reentry to the community from residential placement. In addition to risk assessment, results from the disposition, residential and reentry tools are assistive for case planning and for identification of residential and re-entry service needs.

Juvenile Justice Case Management

The MJJAS is the designated risk assessment system for juvenile justice youth under the care and supervision of MDHHS. Service plans and residential treatment plans entered in the Michigan Statewide Child Welfare Information System (MiSACWIS) require administration of the MJJAS for juvenile justice youth.

Recommended Recertification

MJJAS recertification training is recommended for MDHHS JJ specialists and supervisors, as well as public and private juvenile justice facility case workers and supervisors who write service plans or residential treatment plans for MDHHS juvenile justice youth who were certified three or more years ago to ensure fidelity to the tool. Participants must successfully complete this training to be certified to administer the MJJAS risk assessment instruments.

Training Registration

There is no registration fee for this training. JJ specialists and supervisors, and public and private residential treatment staff and supervisors working with juvenile justice youth under the care and supervision of MDHHS will be given priority to register for this training. Registration for others is on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants who fail to attend, arrive late, depart early or attend only portions of the training will not be eligible to receive certification to administer the MJJAS. Virtual classes will close approximately two weeks prior to registration or sooner if class size is reached – maximum class size is limited to 15 participants.

Registration for MJJAS classes should be completed using the MDHHS Learning Management System (LMS) for all MDHHS staff and private contracted facilities. County Court and detention staff can inquire and register by contacting MDHHS-MJJAS@michigan.gov. MDHHS and private contracted facility staff with access to MiSACWIS should have MDHHS LMS access and should follow the listed steps in LMS to register for the training. If you encounter problems or need assistance registering for training, contact the LMS helpdesk at MDHHSstraining@michigan.gov. If you need to cancel after you have been confirmed to attend the training, this should also be completed through the LMS. If you do not have access to the LMS, you may contact Michelle Sage at MDHHS-MJJAS@michigan.gov or Clinton Wirtz, at wirtzc@michigan.gov for information on how to register.

Schedule

*Virtual Sessions consist of four consecutive half days. Training hours are 8:30am-12:30pm with one 15-minute break

January 21-24, 2025

February 2025 – (dates TBD)

March 17-20, 2025

April 14-17, 2025

May 12-15, 2025

June 23-26, 2025

August 11-14, 2025

September 22-25, 2025

October 20-23, 2025

December 15-18, 2025

OJJDP Announces New Funding Opportunities

OJJDP FY25 Enhancing Youth Defense Training and Technical Assistance

Closing Date: February 18, 2025

Grants.gov Deadline: February 4, 2025

Application JustGrants Deadline: February 18, 2025

Through specialized training, tools, resources, and intensive training and technical assistance, this program supports states' and localities' efforts to implement sustainable system improvements that result in improved youth outcomes, reduced recidivism, safer communities, cost savings, and increased public confidence in the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP FY25 Enhancing Youth Defense

Closing Date: February 19, 2025

Grants.gov Deadline: February 5, 2025

Application JustGrants Deadline: February 19, 2025

This funding opportunity seeks to implement youth defense system efforts that strengthen and improve the representation of youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

OJJDP FY25 Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program

Closing Date: February 19, 2025

Grants.gov Deadline: February 5, 2025

Application JustGrants Deadline: February 19, 2025

This funding opportunity seeks to build the capacity of states, state and local courts, units of local government, and federally recognized Tribal governments to implement new and innovative approaches to enhance existing juvenile drug treatment courts (JDTC) and improve outcomes for youth with substance use disorder or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders, including those with histories of trauma.

OJJDP FY25 Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children

Closing Date: February 20, 2025

Grants.gov Deadline: February 6, 2025

Application JustGrants Deadline: February 20, 2025

This funding opportunity seeks to support states, units of local government, Tribal communities, and community-based organizations to implement, develop, or expand programs within detention or correctional facilities to respond to the needs of incarcerated parents (juvenile or adult) who have children younger than age 18 to prevent violent crime, reduce recidivism, and provide support for minor children.

U.S. Department of Justice Funding Opportunity

FY25 U.S. Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation

Closing Date: March 25, 2025

Grants.gov Deadline: March 18, 2025

Application JustGrants Deadline: March 25, 2025

This Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) funding opportunity seeks to provide funding to improve public safety and victim services in Tribal communities. This provides federally recognized tribes and Tribal consortia an opportunity to apply for funding to aid in developing a comprehensive and coordinated approach to public safety. Many of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) existing Tribal government-specific programs are included in and available through this single coordinated funding opportunity.



OJJDP Webinars and Events:

Tailoring Mentoring to Youth and Needs

January 15, 2025

1:00-2:30pm

Register [here](#)

Justice and Joy:

Exploring Youth and

Family Engagement

January 16, 2025

3:00-4:30pm

Register [here](#)

OJJDP Links:

[How to Apply FAQs](#)

[Past Funding](#)

[Performance Measures](#)

[Peer Review](#)