

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

IN RE THE PROCESSING  
OF CUSTODY EVALUATION  
REFERRAL ORDERS

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 1995-11A

At a session of said Court, held in the Hall  
of Justice in the City of Grand Rapids,  
in said county on November 21, 1995.

Present: HON. DENNIS C. KOLENDA  
Chief Circuit Judge

Whenever, pre-trial or post-judgment, a case involving custody of minor children is referred by a judge of this Court to its Friend of the Court for a custody evaluation, the evaluator to whom the case is assigned is to schedule a "Pre-Investigation Interview" with the parties. Said interview is to occur before any evaluation is undertaken. Counsel may attend the interview, but need not.

At the interview, the evaluator is to assist the parties in attempting to amicably resolve the custody dispute. If the parties do achieve a resolution, the evaluator is to prepare and submit to the Court an effectuating order. That order is to be prepared while the parties are still present and is to be submitted to then be signed by them stipulating to or otherwise approving its entry.

If an agreement is not achieved, the evaluator is to assess, based upon the file and what is learned at the interview, whether there is any realistic prospect that a custody evaluation will result in a recommendation to the Court to make any significant change in custody and/or visitation. If there is no such prospect, the Court is to be forthwith so notified in writing. Then, unless the Court directs within 14 days of the interview that an evaluation be conducted, nonetheless, the order of referral is to be deemed vacated.

This administrative policy supersedes Administrative Policy 1995-11 entered on October 25, 1995.

---

Dennis C. Kolenda  
Chief Circuit Judge