

PROBATE COURT

Probate Court in Michigan is an evolved version of the old widows' and orphans' court. We handle minor guardianships and conservatorships, adult guardianships and conservatorships, decedent estates, trusts, involuntary commitments under the mental health code and guardianships for developmentally disabled individuals.

Basic rules in Probate: read the code, the Estates and Protected Individuals Code, MCL 700.1101 *et seq.* It will serve you well. Our particular court rules are found at MCR 5.101 *et seq.* If you jump into the mental health arena, familiarize yourself with the Mental Health Code, found at MCL 330.1200 *et seq.*

One practice tip: Read the form. Read the form. Read the form. Probate practice is highly forms-driven. If the way forward is not clear after reading the form, each of our forms has fine print at the bottom which gives you citations for statutes and court rules involved in the particular action for which you are using the form.

Welcome to the practice of law.

Key people with the Washtenaw Trial Court, Probate Division

Chief Judge, Washtenaw County Trial Court

Hon. Donald E. Shelton

Chief Judge *Pro Tem*

Hon. David Swartz

Probate Judge

Hon. Darlene A. O'Brien

Judicial staff

Debra Crocker 734-222-3006

Teresa Killeen

Washtenaw County Trial Court Administrator
Dan Dwyer 734-222-3057

Probate Court Administrative Office

Cynthia Bostwick, Register	734-222-3039
Kenyetta Fields (mental health)	734-222-3098
Andrea Hayward (DD guardianships)	734-222-3062
Monica Hicks (adoptions)	734-222-6938
Kathryn Lowell (estates)	734-222-3072
Kanisha Thomas (guardianships)	734-222-6916
Susan Watson (mental health)	734-222-3003

General information concerning scheduling in Probate Court

Wednesday mornings, Mental Health
Wednesday afternoons, Developmental Disabilities
Thursday mornings, Compliance (Register)
Thursday mornings, Adoption Finalizations and Consents (Register)
Thursday afternoons, Probate
Fridays, Probate compliance (non-appearance)

Probate Division
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