



**Appointment of Domestic Relations Referee
Patricia Woodruff**

**LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
C03 2025-17**

Court Address
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 711, Detroit, MI 48226

Court Telephone No.
(313) 224-5261

This administrative order is issued in accordance with Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 2009-6, effective January 1, 2010. In accordance with MCL 552.507(1) and MCR 3.215(A), and upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO),

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Chief Judge of the Third Circuit Court appoints **Patricia Woodruff** as Attorney Referee. The referee's contact information is:

Name	Patricia Woodruff
Bar Number	P80550
Court Address	645 Griswold Street
	10th Floor, Penobscot Building
	Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone Number	(313) 224-0488
E-mail Address	patricia.woodruff@3rdcc.org

It is the responsibility of the Referee to notify the State Court Administrative Office of changes in the individual's contact information during the course of the appointment.

2. **Referee Patricia Woodruff:**
 - a. Will serve at the pleasure of the Chief Judge of the circuit court.
 - b. Will take the constitutional oath of office.
 - c. Is a member, in good standing, of the State Bar of Michigan, pursuant to MCR 3.215.
3. The following types of motions may be heard initially by Domestic Relations Referees. Referee Patricia Woodruff is authorized to perform the following duties pursuant to MCL 552.507(1) and MCR 3.215(A):

Hear all domestic relations motions.
 Hear all domestic relations motions and any ancillary (related non-domestic relations) motions that the court determines to be related to a domestic relations case.
 Hear all domestic relations motions, with the exception of those listed below:

Exceptions:

- a. Motions pertaining to an increase or decrease in spousal support.
- b. Other motions: Orders to Show cause for failure to pay support; Motions for Discovery; Motions to Vacate the Home; Motions to Appoint Experts and Receivers and to Assess Fees; Motions for Change of Domicile; Motions to Enforce a Judgment; Motions for Relief from Judgment; Motions regarding Statute of Limitations; Motions seeking determination of a Legal Issue; and Motions regarding Financial Aspects other than child support.

The following types of domestic relations motions shall be initially heard by a circuit court referee:

- a. Post-judgment custody motions;
- b. Parenting time motions; and
- c. Child support motions.

4. The Domestic Relations Referee is authorized to conduct the following scheduling and settlement conferences in domestic relations cases in accordance with MCR 3.215:

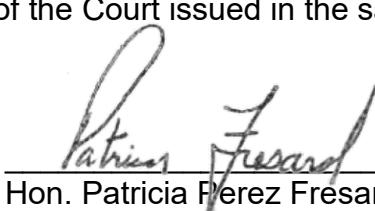
- Scheduling conferences in domestic relations cases. The court must review and may either approve or modify the referee's scheduling.
- Settlement conferences in domestic relations cases.
- This provision does not apply.

5. Recommendations for certain orders by the Domestic Relations Referee shall be given interim effect pending a judicial hearing on a timely objection or pending the twenty-one (21) day waiting period as authorized by MCR 3.215(G):

- Orders establishing custody
- Orders establishing support
- Orders establishing parenting time
- Orders modifying support when custody does not change
- Orders implementing income withholding
- This provision does not apply.

6. Except as limited by sub rules MCR 3.215(G)(2) and (G)(3), the recommended order of a Domestic Relations Referee shall be given interim effect (pending a judicial hearing) only upon an order of the Court issued in the same case.

Dated: 10/8/2025



Hon. Patricia Perez Fresard, Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

From: [Region1_Info](#)
To: [Hardester, Frank](#); [Fresard, Patricia](#)
Cc: [Wilson, Kimberly](#); [Wade, Lynn](#)
Subject: C03 2025-17 Appointment of Domestic Relations Attorney Referee Patricia Woodruff- Approved
Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 12:45:19 PM

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C03 2025-17 Appointment of Domestic Relations Attorney Referee Patricia Woodruff- Approved

This is to advise that we have reviewed the above referenced administrative order and find that it conforms to the requirements of MCR 8.112(B). This order is being accepted and filed until advised by your court of any change.

Donald Coleman
Region 1 Administrator
Michigan State Court Administrative Office
P.O. Box 02984
Detroit, MI 48202
313-972-3300

Megan Burkall
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