

Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association

- Serving Wisconsin Courts

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September 15, 2011

Clerk of the Supreme Court

Re: Supreme Court Rule 10-08

DearJustices:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Supreme Court Rule 10-08 which is scheduled for a public hearing on October 4, 2011. The Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association agrees with the petition's lofty goal of representation for all individuals, it is the practical application that gives us pause.

Our Association is concerned with the budgetary impact on the counties and local courts of this proposed rule. If the court agrees that representation is required, the next question would be how it is funded. This would likely be determined by the legislature. Even if the State assumed the cost initially, in tight budgetary times this cost would likely shift to the counties.

The petitioners projected that the annual cost of this proposal could be \$56 million statewide. If those costs are shifted to the counties, county courts costs could be as high as 25% of their entire operating budget. Therefore, we would ask the Court to consider the operational budget challenges that the county and the state are facing and will likely continue to face. Given those challenges, we would ask the Court to decline this petition.

There is nothing that would suggest that current budgetary pressures will subside anytime soon assuming that the budgets are flat or decreasing. This would have the effect of shrinking our budgets and reducing access to justice that is currently provided to individuals in our State. It does not make sense to shut court operations down in order to provide attorneys for everyone.

As we said earlier, we agree with the lofty goal of representation for individuals in Civil cases. To that end we would ask the Court to encourage the Bar to provide pro bono assistance and to push the Governor, the Legislature and local governments to increase funding for self-help centers throughout the State.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Rule.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Wolf President WCCCA

CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING PLAN Attachment 7 Treatment of Excess Funds or Shortfalls / Floor and Cap Adjustments

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County	FFY10 Caselond	Federal Measure 1 Earnings	Pederal Measure:2 Barrings	Federal Measure 3 Earnings	Federal Measure 4 Earrdings	Proficiency Measure 5 Earnings	Earnings Total	Prorate Excess	Allocation Earned Total	2011 Actual Allocation Level	\$ Reduction from 2011	% Reduction from 2011	% Floor-Cap Adjusted	Allocation Based on FFY10 Data
				07.07	000000	28 562	98.311.1	9.0511	105,362	130,029	(24,667)	Ш	Ц	106,362
ADAMS	1,148	18,649	18,649	10,412	18 047	15 809	94.189	8,851	103,040	143,782	(40,741)	1		106,398
ASHLAND	304	27,184	77,184	200.61	A4 488		223 581	21.011	244,592	330,755	(86,163)		-28.00%	244,738
BARRON	2,948	47,891	47 891	45, 104	4 4		54 178	5.091	59,269	80,588	(21,317)	1		68,634
BAYFIELD	713	11,583	11,583	10.886	10.195	-	1 068 014	100.367	1 168,381	1,531,701	(363,321)			1,168,381
BROWN	13,321	218 402	218,402		102,301	1	38 786	3.648	42,441	58,081	(15,640)			42,980
BUPPALO	512	8,318	8,318		1,518	No. of Contract of	86 157	8,097	94,254	113,661	(19,408)			93,202
BURNETT	1,007	18,359	16,359	16,032	10, 20g	Sales Sales	105 R28	9 927	115.583	157,421	(41,858)	15		116,492
CALUMET	1,401	22,759	22,769	20,939	18,000		240 682	23.453	273.015	346,440	(73,425)			273,015
CHIPPEWA	3,059		49,694	48,712			245,304	B7C 0	108 007	138,507	(28,500)			108,007
CLARK	1,204		19,559	18,388	1000	September 1	20,143	40 338	225 DRG	290.632	(85,544)			226,089
COLUMBIA	2,584		41,653		41,653		203,733	18,330	AR 038	97 181	(29,145)	-29.99%	-28.00%	71,914
CRAWFORD	838		13,613		11 435		124,181	461 463	1 878 109	2.475.432	(599,324)	.24.21%	6 -24.21%	1,876,109
DANE	22,181	360,334	360,334				714,840	20 000	367 345	448 689	(89.345)	-20 00%	-20.00%	357,345
DODGE	3,963	64,380	64,380		STATE OF		326,040	30,087	401 108	128 096	(26.901)	1 -21.00%	6 -21.00%	101,196
DOOR	1,138		18,454				92,503	0,000	788 587	367 240	(100,653)		4 -28.00%	271,758
DOUGLAS	3,244	SHEET.	52,699	10 m	To the control	TOTAL PROPERTY.		22,301	475 449	27. A.18	96 09)		6 -25.79%	175,448
DUNN	2,105	34,196	34,196	32,144				170,61	22.000		(131.050)	.23.07%	6 -23.07%	437,030
EAUCLAIRE	5,021	100	81,587		6781603			3/ 342	427,030					17,831
FLORRNCE	212	3,444	3,444		3,100			706,1	00*11	130000				420,679
FOND DITLAC	4.830	1000000	78.484	75,326		The second		36,137	420,679	280,190			L	
FOREST	77.2		12,541	10,785				4,997						
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CDEEN	1 507							11,726				17.65		
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10WA	862			14,003				7,021						300000
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MORADAT	1 309		21,285					9,220						
MODERAN	1858			58,913		72,855		29,698						
IIINPAII	1778									Ì				
MANUGHA	12 458			145,692		5-10-5	1,038,264	3	10000					81.917
THE STATE OF THE PERSON	741			L	10,352	2 10,133								
1 A COOCE	4 447		200		100000	9 119,855		1000000						
TACK COSE	003			L		11,165		4,635					1	
LAFAYETTE	070	20701		STORES OF	2000	2009-003	119,302	11,211	STEEL ST				8	
LANGLADE	1,022	W 18 500						12,086					1	
LINCOLN	1,593		20,073	076,82	40,420	R 72 583	1000	OF STREET	341 996	3 434,414	(92,418)	(8) -21.27%	7% -21 27%	741,996
MANITOWOC	3,868	62,836	Valley					-						

CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING PLAN Attachment 7 Treatment of Excess Funds or Shortfalls / Floor and Cap Adjustments

				All Measures			Redist	Redistribution of Excess	Research	STATE OF STREET	Floor	Floor-Cap Adjustment	l l l	Projected CY12
County	FFY10 Caseload	Federal Measure 1 Earnings	Federal Measure 2 Earnings	Pederal Measure 3 Earnings	Rederal Measure 4 Earnings	Proficiency Measure 5 Earnings	Earnings Total	Prorate Excess	Allocation Earned Total	Actual Allocation Level	\$ Reduction from 2011	% Reduction from 2011	% Floor-Cap Adjusted	Allocation Based on FFY10 Data
		007 707	2000	1.07.70	000 000	000 00	1909 047	1 707 44	K14 853	705 838	(190,985)	-27.06%	L	622,320
MAKATHON	6,3/4	101.476	782.50	121,18	200 00	34,000	470,020	40 400	225 948	284 381	(58 435)	L	-20.55%	225,946
MAKINETTE	1007	40.782	40,782	38,180	30.00	49.09/	55.673	5.23	80.804	78.767	(17,863)			60,904
MARKUBITE	007 101	2050 476	2 425 043	2400 700	4 406 444	1 828 ANA	8 618 607	RN9 937	9 428 544	11.964.283	(2,535,739)	-21.19%	-21.19%	9,428,544
MILMAGNES	131,40U	43 242	49 242	30.755	40.819	98 99	222 785	20,834	243,700	301,430	(57,731)	83		243,700
CONTROL	2 003	30 530	32 530	31 888	28 682	25.803	149.252	14,028	163,277	216,866	(53,589)			163,277
ONRIDA	1 889	30.887	30 887	28 848	28 846	25.848	144,912	13.618	158,530	212,774	(54,244)			158,530
OITTAGAMIR	7 723	125 461	125.481	112.915	105.388	148,269	817.494	58,029	675,523	866,100	(190,577	-22.00%	l	676,623
OZAITKER	2 102	34 147	34 147	33.464	28.684	37 045	167,488	15,740	183,227	237,211	(53,984)			163,227
PEPIN	271	4.402	4.402	4,050	3,962	4,823	21,640	2,034	23,673	30,802	(7,129)			23,673
PIRRCE	1 269	20 615	20615	18 141	18.554	20,315	98,240	9 232	107,472	136,053	(28,581)			10/4/2
POLK	1 664		27 032	23 247	23.247	34 028	134,585	12,648	147,233	186,746	(39,513)			147,233
PORTAGE	2 835	100	46 055	45.134	39.607	51.533	228,384	21,462	249,846	319,730	(69,883)			243,840
PRICE	645		10.478	9.849	9.640	8,920	49,366	4,639	54,005	73,198	(19,193)			04,100
RACINE	17877	290 415	290 415	217.81.1	212.003	277.783	1,288,436	121,081	1,409,517	2,012,489	(602,972)	8		747,884,1
RICHLAND	860	13,971	13.971	12.853	12.294	L	64,130	6,027	70,157	99,567	(29,410)			73,680
ROCK	11 842	10000000	192 375	144 281	144.281	201.596	874,909	82,220	957,129	1,333,478	(376,347			2//996
RUSK	1.055		17,139	16,453	17,139	L	81,826	7,690	89,516	119,004	(29,487)			919,616
SAINT CROCK	2774		45 064	42.360	42,360	64,913	239,762	22,532	262,294	314,160	(51,866)			T10,/02
SAUK	3.245		52,716	50,607	50,607		262,612	24,679	287,291	366,331	(78.040)			187,187
SAWYER	1 428	100 March	23.198	17,631	17.167	21,016	102,210	909'6	111,815	161,627	(49,812)	5		
SHAWANO	1,768		28,721		24,700	37,805	145,223	13.647	158,870	199,703	(40 B33)			100,070
SHEBOYCAN	5,110	1000	63,013	76,372	83 013	1000	438,492	41,207	479,700	577,400	(97,701)		-10.00 -	
TAYLOR	941		15,287	15,287	14,064	15,379		7.077	82,379	108,614	(24 235)	52.7379		
TREMPEALEAU	1,311	21,297	21,297	20,871	16,742	Mention		9886	115,223		(32,764)		9	
VERNON	1,042	16,927	16,927	16,927	16,589	17,231	84,602	7,951	82,552				100	
VILAS	728	11,826	11,826	11,117	11,590	11,458	57,818	5,433	83,251	82,748	11.0	4) -23.00%		
WALWORTH	4.609	74.874	74,874	59,899	62,894	90,372	382 913	34 105	397,018	520,115			-23.01.70	
WASHBURN	1.071			15,311	18,355	23,333	89,796	8,439	98,234	120,836	(22,701)			
WASHINGTON	3,724		L		58,077	52,442		27 442	319,452	417,819			1	200000
WAUKESHA	900'6		146,791	137,984	123,305	TAXON.	1000	65,981	768,090	1 016 815				
WAUPACA	2.519		40.922	L	38,466		199,552	18,753	218,308					
WAUSHARA	1.207	STORY S	530000		17,647	27,709		9.753	113,541	Service Value	A CARLON			173,041
WINNEBAGO	8 605			Ĺ	104.842	154,228	661,664	62,180	723,844	_	٦			
WOOD	4.176		67,840	1000	689'69	1363	345,786	32,495		471,695	4			1
TOTALS	361.336	361.335 \$ 6.782.435 \$	1	6.869.943 \$ 4.675,234	\$ 4.278.869	L	6,098,610 \$ 26,705,090	\$ 2,609,623	\$ 29,214,713	_	(8,610,160)	TVa	E/II	4 48,040,000

County CSAs serve the State by:

- 1. Establishing paternity last year we established paternity for 23,544 children
- 2. Establishing Support Order we established 41,210 child support and health insurance orders last year
- 3. Collecting Current Support we collected over \$900 million in support in 2009 during the month in which it was due (for which we are 3rd in nation)
- 4. Collecting Support Arrears

While these services obviously benefit custodial parents and their children, CSAs also serve:

- Absent parents, by providing paternity establishment services to men who may have fathered a child and modification services to support payers; CSAs also help payers address arrearages by providing Alternative Payment Plans and settlements on arrears owed to the State
- The business community, including employers, title companies, car dealerships, etc., who need information and assistance from CSAs regarding a variety of child support issues
- Taxpayers, by detecting fraud in State assistance programs; our unique ability to check parents' benefit status against what they report in court during support hearings allows us to address 'gaming' of the system

All this is done in a cost-effective manner: between 2002 and 2009 the amount collected per dollar spent on administrative costs was \$6.82, well above the national average of \$4.78. This was accomplished despite the challenges facing CSAs:

- ▲ 7.5% increase in county caseload since 2004;
- ➤ 17% decrease in county child support employees since 2004;
- Federal regulations require CSA's to review and, if necessary, adjust more than 120,000 orders each year.

In the last biennial budget, the legislature provided a base of \$8.5 million in funding for County CSAs on an annual basis. Due to the availability of federal ARRA funds during that biennium, this funding level required an actual expenditure of only \$4.25 million GPR in SFY 2011. The base budget, then, for Governor Walker's 2012-2013 proposed budget was set at \$4.25 million instead of the intended \$8.5 million. This technical discrepancy was addressed by the Joint Finance committee in December, when it restored the \$4.25 million for CY 2011. A \$4.25 million shortfall remains in the proposed budget, however, which equates to a \$12.5 million with the federal match.

A funding decrease of \$12.5 million will result in:

- A reduction in paternities established, resulting in 4,662 children not having a legal father each year
- A reduction in orders established, resulting in 8,160 cases having no court order each year \triangleright
- An estimated 63,765 additional families will receive nothing in child support for their children.

A \$4.25 million investment by the State will:

- > Draw down an additional \$8.25 million in federal funds for a total of \$12.5 million
- > Result in the collection of \$85.25 million of child support for families to support their children, and
- Directly save the government over \$14.75 million in public assistance costs according to federal cost-avoidance statistics.

Additionally:

- The need for services remains high: 50% of Wisconsin's children ages 5 and under who live in a female headed, single parent household, live in poverty, and data compiled by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) reveals that for families that receive child support, that support makes up 40% of household income for poor families and 63% for deeply poor families
- CSAs anticipate additional funding reductions of \$8.35 million per year if birth cost reimbursement is eliminated as proposed in federal budget



State of Misconsin 2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



2011 SENATE BILL 173

August 30, 2011 – Introduced by Senators Darling, Lazich, Olsen and Wanggaard, cosponsored by Representatives Vos. Bernier, Brooks, Jacque, Kaufert, Kestell, Knodl, Petersen, Strachota, Stroebel and Ziegelbauer. Referred to Committee on Judiciary, Utilities, Commerce, and Government Operations.

AN ACT to amend 48.396 (1), 48.396 (2) (a), 938.396 (1) (a), 938.396 (2) and 938.396 (2g) (c); and to create 938.396 (2m) of the statutes; relating to: the disclosure of electronic juvenile court records to law enforcement agencies and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the director of state courts has established an automated information system, known as the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP), that contains information about cases filed in the circuit courts in this state, including cases filed in the courts assigned to exercise jurisdiction under the Juvenile Justice Code (juvenile courts). Records of the juvenile court, however, are confidential and may not be opened to inspection, nor may their contents be disclosed, except under certain statutory exceptions or by an order of the juvenile court. Currently, those exceptions include an exception that requires a juvenile court to disclose its records on the request of a law enforcement agency to review those records for the purpose of investigating alleged criminal gang activity.

This bill permits the juvenile court to transfer to a law enforcement agency the electronic records of the juvenile court, permits the director of state courts to use CCAP to facilitate that transfer of those electronic records, and requires the director of state courts to determine what types of information from those electronic records may be transferred to a law enforcement agency. In addition, the bill requires a law enforcement agency to keep any information from those records transferred to the agency confidential and permits a law enforcement agency to use or allow access to

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that information only for the purpose of investigating alleged criminal or delinquent activity. Also, the bill requires an individual who is allowed access to any information from those electronic records to keep the information confidential and to use and further disclose the information only for the purpose of investigating alleged criminal or delinquent activity. Finally, the bill provides for a forfeiture of not more than \$5,000 for any person who intentionally discloses information in violation of the bill.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 48.396 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

48.396 (1) Law enforcement officers' records of children shall be kept separate from records of adults. Law enforcement officers' records of the adult expectant mothers of unborn children shall be kept separate from records of other adults. Law enforcement officers' records of children and the adult expectant mothers of unborn children shall not be open to inspection or their contents disclosed except under sub. (1b), (1d), (5), or (6) or s. 48.293 or 938.396 (2m) (c) or by order of the court. This subsection does not apply to the representatives of newspapers or other reporters of news who wish to obtain information for the purpose of reporting news without revealing the identity of the child or adult expectant mother involved, to the confidential exchange of information between the police and officials of the public or private school attended by the child or other law enforcement or social welfare agencies, or to children 10 years of age or older who are subject to the jurisdiction of the court of criminal jurisdiction. A public school official who obtains information under this subsection shall keep the information confidential as required under s. 118.125, and a private school official who obtains information under this subsection shall keep the information confidential in the same manner as is required of a public

school official under s. 118.125. This subsection does not apply to the confidential exchange of information between the police and officials of the tribal school attended by the child if the police determine that enforceable protections are provided by a tribal school policy or tribal law that requires tribal school officials to keep the information confidential in a manner at least as stringent as is required of a public school official under s. 118.125. A law enforcement agency that obtains information under this subsection shall keep the information confidential as required under this subsection and s. 938.396 (1) (a). A social welfare agency that obtains information under this subsection shall keep the information confidential as required under ss. 48.78 and 938.78.

SECTION 2. 48.396 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

48.396 (2) (a) Records of the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 938 and of courts exercising jurisdiction under s. 48.16 shall be entered in books or deposited in files kept for that purpose only. They Those records shall not be open to inspection or their contents disclosed except by order of the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 938 or as permitted under this subsection, sub. (3) (b) or (c) 1. or (6), or s. 48.375 (7) (e) or 938.396 (2m) (b) or (c).

SECTION 3. 938.396 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

938.396 (1) (a) *Confidentiality*. Law enforcement agency records of juveniles shall be kept separate from records of adults. Law enforcement agency records of juveniles may not be open to inspection or their contents disclosed except under par. (b) or (c), sub. (1j), (2m) (c), or (10), or s. 938.293 or by order of the court.

SECTION 4. 938.396 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

938.396 (2) COURT RECORDS; CONFIDENTIALITY. Records of the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48 and of municipal courts exercising jurisdiction under s. 938.17 (2) shall be entered in books or deposited in files kept for that purpose only. Those records shall not be open to inspection or their contents disclosed except by order of the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48 or as permitted under sub. (2g). (2m) (b) or (c). or (10) or s. 48.396 (3) (b) or (c) 1.

SECTION 5. 938.396 (2g) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

938.396 (2g) (c) Law enforcement agencies. Upon A law enforcement agency, upon request of a the law enforcement agency to review court records or as permitted under sub. (2m) (b), for the purpose of investigating a crime that might constitute criminal gang activity, as defined in s. 941.38 (1) (b), the court shall open for inspection by authorized representatives of the law enforcement agency the records of the court relating to any juvenile who has been found to have committed a delinquent act at the request of or for the benefit of a criminal gang, as defined in s. 939.22 (9), that would have been a felony under chs. 939 to 948 or 961 if committed by an adult alleged criminal activity or activity that may result in a court exercising jurisdiction under this chapter.

SECTION 6. 938.396 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

938.396 (2m) ELECTRONIC COURT RECORDS. (a) In this subsection, "court" means the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under this chapter and ch. 48.

(b) The court may transfer to a law enforcement agency information contained in the electronic records of the court, regardless of whether the law enforcement agency is a party to or is otherwise involved in the proceedings in which the electronic records containing that information were created. The director of state courts may

use the circuit court automated information systems established under s. 758.19 (4)
to facilitate the transfer of those electronic records from the court to a law
enforcement agency. The director of state courts shall determine what types of
information may be transferred under this paragraph.

- (c) 1. A law enforcement agency shall keep any information transferred to the law enforcement agency under par. (b) confidential and may use or allow access to that information only for the purpose of investigating alleged criminal activity or activity that may result in a court exercising jurisdiction under this chapter. A law enforcement agency may allow that access regardless of whether the person who is allowed that access is a party to or is otherwise involved in the proceedings in which the electronic records containing that information were created.
- 2. An individual who is allowed access to any information transferred under par. (b) shall keep the information confidential and may use and further disclose the information only for the purpose described in subd. 1.
- (d) Any person who intentionally discloses information in violation of par. (c) may be required to forfeit not more than \$5,000.

17 (END)