



# HOUSE BILL No. 4064

January 22, 2013, Introduced by Rep. Heise and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1961 PA 236, entitled  
"Revised judicature act of 1961,"  
by amending sections 832, 859, 1427, 2137, and 8344 (MCL 600.832,  
600.859, 600.1427, 600.2137, and 600.8344), sections 859 and 8344  
as amended by 2005 PA 326 and section 2137 as amended by 2009 PA  
239, and by adding sections 1426 and 1428; and to repeal acts and  
parts of acts.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 832. ~~(1) The probate judge or chief probate judge~~ **CLERK**  
2       **OF THE PROBATE COURT** shall have possession of the seal, records,  
3       books, files, and papers belonging to the probate court in the  
4       respective county or probate court district . ~~Each judge shall keep~~  
5       ~~a true and correct record of each order, sentence, and decree of~~  
6       ~~the court, and of all other official acts made or done by him, and~~

~~of all wills proved therein with the probate thereof, of all  
letters of authority and of all other things proper to be recorded  
in the court.~~ **AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUPREME COURT RULES, SHALL**

**MAINTAIN EVERY RECORD CREATED BY OR FILED WITH THE PROBATE COURT.**

~~—— (2) The records, except as otherwise provided by law, may be  
inspected without charge by all persons interested.~~

~~—— (3) The probate court shall maintain an alphabetical index to  
the records of probate court proceedings in each county.~~

Sec. 859. (1) The following testimony before a probate judge  
shall be recorded:

(a) Testimony in contested matters.

(b) Testimony in matters pertaining to the admission to a  
hospital or other facility for mentally ill or developmentally  
disabled persons.

(c) Testimony in matters pertaining to persons having a  
contagious disease.

(d) Testimony in other matters if requested by an interested  
party.

(e) Testimony and other proceedings required by supreme court  
rule.

(2) In matters not governed by subsection (1), testimony  
before a probate judge, probate register, or deputy probate  
register may be given orally without a record being made of the  
testimony.

(3) The court shall keep sufficient index of the testimony and  
the court shall keep the index and the original notes ~~for at least~~  
~~10 years~~ **AS PRESCRIBED BY SUPREME COURT RULES.** ~~The reporter or~~

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~~recorder need not transcribe the testimony unless a transcript is  
ordered by the court or a party. Except in those cases in which the  
testimony is transcribed and filed with the record of the case,  
notes pertaining to a hearing for the admission of any person to a  
hospital or other place of detention as a mentally ill or  
developmentally disabled person or as a person with a contagious  
disease shall be destroyed only after the discharge of the person  
from the hospital or facility.~~

~~—— (4) Notes may not be destroyed until after 10 years after the  
date of the hearing or as provided in subsection (3), whichever is  
longer.~~

SEC. 1426. (1) A COURT MAY CHARGE A REASONABLE FEE, AS  
ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME COURT, FOR PROVIDING ENHANCED ACCESS.

(2) A COURT MAY PROVIDE ENHANCED ACCESS [   
 ] TO ANOTHER COURT OR TO A  
PUBLIC AGENCY[ IN ACCORDANCE WITH A WRITTEN AGREEMENT. IF ENHANCED ACCESS  
IS PROVIDED TO ANOTHER COURT OR TO A PUBLIC AGENCY UNDER THIS  
SUBSECTION, NO FEES MAY BE CHARGED.] A WRITTEN AGREEMENT UNDER THIS  
SUBSECTION SHALL

CONTAIN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) A STATEMENT SPECIFYING THAT THE COURT OR PUBLIC AGENCY  
RECEIVING ACCESS TO OR OUTPUT FROM THE SYSTEM WITHOUT CHARGE IS  
PROHIBITED FROM SELLING OR PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE SYSTEM'S OUTPUT  
TO A THIRD PARTY, EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT.

(B) A STATEMENT SPECIFYING THE PUBLIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH ACCESS  
TO OR OUTPUT FROM THE SYSTEM IS BEING PROVIDED.

(C) PROVISIONS REGARDING THE RETURN OF OUTPUT FROM THE SYSTEM.

(D) THE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE METHOD BY WHICH THE  
AGREEMENT MAY BE RESCINDED OR TERMINATED BY EITHER PARTY BEFORE THE  
STATED DATE OF TERMINATION.

1 (3) BEFORE PROVIDING ENHANCED ACCESS, A COURT SHALL ADOPT AN  
2 ENHANCED ACCESS POLICY UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY THE  
3 SUPREME COURT.

4 (4) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE A COURT TO PROVIDE ENHANCED  
5 ACCESS.

6 (5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

7 (A) "ENHANCED ACCESS" MEANS ACCESS TO A COURT THROUGH  
8 ELECTRONIC MEANS FOR PLEADINGS, PRACTICE, AND PROCEDURE, INCLUDING,  
9 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ACCESS TO ITS CASE RECORDS AS PRESCRIBED BY  
10 SUPREME COURT RULES.

11 (B) "OPERATING EXPENSE" INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, A  
12 COURT'S DIRECT COST OF CREATING, MAINTAINING, PROCESSING, AND  
13 UPGRADING ACCESS TO THE COURT THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS, INCLUDING  
14 THE COST OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE, SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT,  
15 EMPLOYEE TIME, AND THE ACTUAL COST OF PROVIDING THE ACCESS.

16 (C) "REASONABLE FEE" MEANS A CHARGE CALCULATED TO ENABLE A  
17 COURT TO RECOVER OVER TIME THOSE OPERATING EXPENSES DIRECTLY  
18 RELATED TO THE COURT'S PROVISION OF ENHANCED ACCESS.

19 Sec. 1427. All writs, process, proceedings and records in any  
20 court within this state ~~shall be in the English language, &~~  
21 ~~except that the proper and known names of process, and technical~~  
22 ~~words, may be expressed in the language heretofore and now commonly~~  
23 ~~used, & shall be made out on paper, in a fair, legible~~  
24 ~~character, in words at length, and not abbreviated; but such~~  
25 ~~abbreviations as are now commonly used in the English language may~~  
26 ~~be used, and numbers may be expressed by Arabic figures, or Roman~~  
27 ~~numerals, in the customary manner.~~ **IN THE MANNER AND ON ANY MEDIUM**

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1 AUTHORIZED BY SUPREME COURT RULES. IF A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON  
2 ANY DOCUMENT FILED WITH OR CREATED BY A COURT, THAT REQUIREMENT IS  
3 SATISFIED BY AN ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AS PRESCRIBED BY SUPREME COURT  
4 RULES.

5 SEC. 1428. (1) THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE SHALL  
6 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN RECORDS MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
7 FOR THE COURTS, INCLUDING A RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSAL  
8 SCHEDULE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUPREME COURT RULES. THE RECORD  
9 RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE SHALL BE DEVELOPED AND MAINTAINED  
10 AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 5 OF 1913 PA 271, MCL 399.5.

11 (2) SUBJECT TO THE RECORDS REPRODUCTION ACT, 1992 PA 116, MCL  
12 24.401 TO 24.406, A COURT MAY DISPOSE OF ANY RECORD AS PRESCRIBED  
13 IN SUBSECTION (1).

14 (3) A RECORD, REGARDLESS OF ITS MEDIUM, SHALL NOT BE DISPOSED  
15 OF UNTIL THE RECORD HAS BEEN IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COURT FOR THE  
16 RETENTION PERIOD ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (1).

17 (4) A COURT MAY ASSESS A REASONABLE FEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
18 CREATION, REPRODUCTION, RETRIEVAL, AND RETENTION OF ITS RECORDS  
19 ONLY AS PRESCRIBED BY THE SUPREME COURT[, BUT A COURT SHALL NOT CHARGE A  
FEE TO RETRIEVE AND INSPECT A RECORD ON SITE].

20 (5) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, "RECORD" MEANS INFORMATION OF ANY  
21 KIND THAT IS RECORDED IN ANY MANNER AND THAT HAS BEEN CREATED BY A  
22 COURT OR FILED WITH A COURT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUPREME COURT RULES.

23 ~~Sec. 2137. (1) If a public officer reproduces court records~~  
24 ~~kept by him or her pursuant to the records reproduction act, 1992~~  
25 ~~PA 116, MCL 24.401 to 24.406, the officer may offer the original~~  
26 ~~records to the department or state agency responsible for~~  
27 ~~maintaining the state archives for placement in the state archives.~~

~~If the department or state agency responsible for maintaining the state archives accepts the offer within 30 days, the court shall transfer the records to that department or state agency. If the department or state agency responsible for maintaining the state archives does not accept the offer within 30 days, the court may dispose of or destroy the records in the manner provided for state agencies under sections 285 and 287 of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1285 and 18.1287, and section 5 of 1913 PA 271, MCL 399.5. The record of a court shall not be disposed of or destroyed until the record has been in the custody of the court for not less than 6 years.~~

~~—— (2) In a county or probate court district in which the county board or boards of commissioners pass a resolution or resolutions for reproducing records pursuant to the records reproduction act, 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401 to 24.406, the judge of probate may have the records of the probate court reproduced in accordance with the resolution or resolutions. The judge of probate shall have a copy or a duplicate kept in a building outside of the probate office and shall keep a copy available in the probate office with any suitable equipment necessary for displaying the record at not less than its original size or for preparing copies for persons entitled to copies. The judge of probate then may order a record destroyed. A reproduction in a medium pursuant to **UNDER** the records reproduction act, 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401 to 24.406, or a reproduction consisting of a printout or other output readable by sight from such a medium is admissible as evidence before a court, commission, or administrative body the same as the original .~~~~The original file~~

~~of an estate proceeding shall not be destroyed until 6 years after the date the discharge of the fiduciary is filed or 10 years after the last document is filed, whichever occurs first.~~

~~———— (3) A court of record other than the district court may order the destruction of a court reporter or recorder note, tape, or recording 15 years after the date that the note, tape, or recording was made for a felony case and 10 years after the date that the note, tape, or recording was made for any other case. One year after a transcript of a note, tape, or recording is filed with the court, the court may order the destruction of the note, tape, or recording. If a transcript of a trial or other proceeding in a court of record other than the district court is ordered other than for filing in the case file, the court reporter or recorder also shall prepare and shall file a certified copy of the transcript in the case file at the expense of the person ordering the transcript unless a copy has been filed with the court or unless the chief judge of the court orders otherwise in an order filed in the case file. As used in this subsection, "felony case" does not include proceedings in a case that occur before arraignment on information or indictment or proceedings in a case in which the defendant is not convicted of a felony.~~

~~———— (4) Except as provided in subsection (3), a judicial circuit of the circuit court may order the destruction of its files and records in a case in which action has not been taken during the 25 years immediately preceding the order of destruction. All of the following procedures shall be followed before the issuance of an order of destruction of circuit court files and records:~~

~~1 (a) The judgment or decree, if any, shall be reproduced~~  
~~2 pursuant to the records reproduction act, 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401~~  
~~3 to 24.406, or separated and retained, and the original or~~  
~~4 reproduction shall be made available for public inspection.~~

~~5 (b) The circuit court shall offer the files and records,~~  
~~6 subject to the order of destruction, to the Michigan historical~~  
~~7 commission established by section 1 of 1913 PA 271, MCL 399.1, or a~~  
~~8 historical commission created under section 2 of 1957 PA 213, MCL~~  
~~9 399.172. If the historical commission accepts the offer within 30~~  
~~10 days, the circuit court shall transfer the files and records to the~~  
~~11 historical commission. If the historical commission does not accept~~  
~~12 the offer within 30 days, the circuit court shall issue an order of~~  
~~13 destruction.~~

~~14 (5) A reproduction of a record in a medium pursuant to the~~  
~~15 records reproduction act, 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401 to 24.406, or a~~  
~~16 reproduction consisting of a printout or other output readable by~~  
~~17 sight from such a medium, made as provided by law, AND has the same~~  
~~18 force and effect as the original would have had and shall be~~  
~~19 treated as an original for the purpose of admissibility in~~  
~~20 evidence. A duly-certified or authenticated copy of the~~  
~~21 reproduction shall be admitted into evidence equally with the~~  
~~22 original reproduction.~~

~~23 (6) Except for records described in subsection (3), this THIS~~  
~~24 section only applies to records filed with the court and maintained~~  
~~25 by the court clerk or register.~~

~~26 Sec. 8344. Except as provided in this section, not less than 6~~  
~~27 years after the entry of a judgment in a civil action, including a~~



~~summary proceeding, or in an ordinance violation case or a criminal case in the district court, the court may dispose of documents, records, recordings, and notes related to that action, except the register of actions pursuant to a schedule adopted by the state administrative board. The court may order the destruction of documents, records, recordings, and notes related to a civil infraction action not less than 3 years after the entry of a finding in the action. The court may order the destruction of notes, tapes, and recordings that have been transcribed and filed with the court 1 year after the date of the filing of the transcript. The register of actions shall be in a form adequate to reveal, in summary fashion, the general nature of the action and judgment. After the disposal of the documents, records, recordings, and notes, the register of actions or a certified reproduction of the register of actions pursuant to the records media act is the official record of the action and judgment. The validity and enforceability of a judgment are not affected by the destruction of the piece of paper upon which the judgment is entered, but the register of actions itself, or a certified reproduction of the register of actions pursuant to~~ **UNDER** the records reproduction act, 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401 to 24.406, is a complete replacement of the judgment and the records of the action. This section applies to judgments **ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:**

(A) **JUDGMENTS** of municipal and common pleas courts abolished after January 1, 1969, if the judgment was entered or the action disposed of after January 1, 1969. ~~This section applies to actions~~

(B) **ACTIONS** entered in the small claims division of the

1 district court, except that a register of actions ~~need~~**IS** not  
2 **REQUIRED TO** be preserved or maintained after destruction of the  
3 file.

4 Enacting section 1. 1949 PA 66, MCL 780.221 to 780.225, is  
5 repealed.