

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER # 15, 3rd SERIES

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Administrative Order No. 15, 3rd Series
Date of Implementation: January 1, 2019

In Re: ORDER APPOINTING BLUE EARTH COUNTY CONCILIATION COURT REFEREES

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2010, the Honorable Douglas L. Richards issued Fifth Judicial District Administrative Order No. 15, 2nd Series, which appointed and authorized certain persons to act as referees in conciliation court in Blue Earth County to address a judicial shortage in the Fifth District; and

WHEREAS, Blue Earth County, which currently has four chambered judges, continues to have a judicial need of 4.9 judges as measured by the judicial weighted caseload report for the third quarter of 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth District has 17 chambered judges and has a judicial need of 18.1 judges as measured by the judicial weighted caseload report for the third quarter of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 491A.03, subd. 1, permits the chief judge of the district to appoint one or more suitable persons to act as referees in conciliation court and to establish qualifications for the office, specify the duties and length of service of referees, and fix their compensation; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth District has established a judicial resource allocation plan which has dedicated additional judicial resources to Blue Earth County, but additional assistance in conciliation court in Blue Earth County is necessary to the implementation of that plan; and

WHEREAS, due to the continued shortage of judges in the Fifth Judicial District and to ensure the proper implementation of the judicial resource allocation plan, the appointment of referees to preside over conciliation court cases would assist in alleviating the delays in processing of other cases; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Maxwell, George “Jed” Chronic, Paul Moosbrugger, and Wade Davis are suitable persons to act as referees in conciliation court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Effective January 1, 2019, Nicholas Maxwell, George “Jed” Chronic, Paul Moosbrugger, and Wade Davis are appointed to act as referees in Blue Earth County conciliation court until they resign, they no longer meet the qualifications for the office, or further order of the court. The Blue Earth County Court Administrator shall immediately inform the Chief Judge and the Fifth District Administrator in writing if any of the foregoing individuals resign or if the Court Administrator becomes aware that any of the individuals no longer meet the qualifications for the office.
2. The referees shall not receive any compensation or remuneration for serving as a referee in conciliation court.
3. The referees shall be authorized to practice law in Minnesota and not have any record of public discipline by the Minnesota Lawyers Board of Professional Responsibility. In the event that a referee does not meet this qualification of the office, that referee shall

immediately notify the District Court Administrator of Blue Earth County and the Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial District.

4. The referees shall attend any training as requested by the district court judges of Blue Earth County or the Chief Judge.
5. The referees shall not preside over any matter that does not fall within the jurisdiction of the conciliation court as set forth in Minn. Stat. § 491A.01.
6. The appointment of the referees in Judge Richard's May 25, 2010, Order is effective through the date of this Order.
7. Howard Haugh, Marlin Kunard, Eileen Wells, Ryan Magnus, and Sean Simpson are discharged as conciliation court referees effective as of the date of this Order.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2018

Michelle A. Dietrich, Chief Judge
Fifth Judicial District