

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-03
RECUSAL AND REASSIGNMENT OF CASES

Chief Justice Directive 95-01 delegates to the Chief Judge the responsibility to assign cases in the event that a District or County Court Judge or Magistrate recuses from a previously assigned case. CJD 95-01 also authorizes the Chief Judge to in turn delegate that responsibility.

The judicial officers of the 7th Judicial District are listed in Attachment A.

If a Judge or Magistrate in one of the District or County Courts in the 7th Judicial District recuses from presiding over a case, the order of the reassignment will be as outlined in Attachment B.

In cases in which two judges recuse, the Chief Judge will make final reassignment giving consideration to balancing caseloads, and addressing other potential recusal issues.

The Court Executive is hereby delegated the authority to reassign cases when the Chief Judge recuses from reassignment, and those assignments shall give consideration to balancing caseloads and addressing other potential recusal issues.

In the event that all judicial officers in the 7th Judicial District are subject to recusal or otherwise unavailable to preside over a case, the Chief Judge, through the Court Executive, will make a request for a Senior Judge assignment or notify the State Court Administrator, who may obtain from the Chief Justice the assignment of a replacement judge.

This Administrative Order supersedes and vacates any prior administrative order on the assignment of recusal cases.

Dated and Effective this 15th day of July, 2026.

BY THE COURT:



D. Cory Jackson
Chief Judge

District Court Judges

Division 1	Steven Schultz
Division 2	Kellie Starritt
Division 3	Keri Yoder
Division 4	D. Cory Jackson
Division 5	Laura Harvell
Division 6	Matthew Margeson

Magistrates

Division MD1	Joseph Gaffney
Division E	Kurt Beckenhauer

County Court Judges

Division A	Bo Zeerip
Division B	Ashley Burgemeister
Division C	James McDonald
Division D	Ryan Hess
Division E	Kurt Beckenhauer
Division F	Lane Thomasson
Division G	Melanie Morgan

Recusing Division	Division Reassignment
Division 1	Division 2
Division 2	Division 4
Division 3	Division 5
Division 4	Division 3
Division 5	Division 6
Division 6	Division 1
Division A	Division F
Division B	Division C
Division C	Division B
Division D	Division E
Division E (Montrose)	Division D
Division E (Nucla)	Division G
Division F	Division G
Division G	Division F
Division MD1	Division 5