

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 12-04**

Performance Measure – Time to Disposition, with Excludable Time

Supersedes Administrative Order 09-12

WHEREAS, Strategy 6.2.3 of *Delivering Justice, Strategic Plan of the District of Columbia Courts, 2008-2012*, calls for the implementation of courtwide performance measures adopted by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration; and

WHEREAS, *time to disposition* is a case processing measure which assesses whether cases are timely disposed from the date they are filed with the Court; and

WHEREAS, *time to disposition* standards help to ensure that parties receive timely case resolution, further the interests of litigants and the public in timely justice, help to assure effective utilization of resources, and promote high quality justice; and

WHEREAS, *time to disposition* standards are separate and distinct from statutory time limits that are imposed on the Court by the U.S. or D.C. Codes or by case law, and shall be superseded by statutory time limits where applicable, unless such statutory requirements are waived; and

WHEREAS, an examination of best practices indicates that periods of case inactivity beyond the court's control, known as *excludable time*, should be subtracted from *time to disposition* calculations; and

WHEREAS, a Performance Standards workgroup recognized the need for a system-wide approach to successfully implement *time to disposition* standards and therefore consulted with many different institutions, agencies, and individuals having key roles in case processing to develop time standards in Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2007 the Performance Standards workgroup unanimously approved *time to disposition* standards and *excludable time* categories; and

WHEREAS, the Court has several years of operational experience with the original standards, the Performance Standards workgroup recently reviewed and refined the time standards based on performance history, current environment, and available best practices and model *standards*;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that updated *time to disposition* standards with *excludable time* categories, issued herewith (copies are attached to this Order, along with Supplemental Information), are hereby adopted for use until further Order of the Court; and it is further,

ORDERED, these standards shall apply to all cases filed in all divisions on and after March 1, 2008.

ORDERED, that the standards will be disseminated to the District of Columbia Bar and all agencies and institutions involved in case processing to encourage their establishment of practices to help achieve the Court's *time to disposition* standards; and it is further,

ORDERED, that the standards will be incorporated in interim reports and in fully automated *time to disposition* reports as soon as development of the Court's Business Intelligence System permits.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

Date: March 23, 2012

/s/

**Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge**

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