

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CASE MANAGEMENT
SPECIAL MAGISTRATE FOR MARYLAND CHILD VICTIMS ACT LITIGATION

Whereas, the Maryland Child Victims Act, 2023 Md. Laws Ch. 6 (codified as amended in relevant part at Md. Code Ann, Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 5-117.1), eliminated all time restrictions applicable to child sexual abuse claims;

Whereas, between October 1, 2023, and May 31, 2025, more than 13,000 plaintiffs filed more than 2,000 lawsuits involving allegations of child sexual abuse that would have been time-barred if not for the Child Victims Act;

Whereas, Maryland Rule 16-302(d) authorizes the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland to “appoint one or more senior judges as case management special magistrates to develop and implement a consolidated case management plan for the prompt and efficient scheduling and resolution of actions in multiple circuit courts that would benefit from consolidated case management”;

Whereas, by letter dated April 3, 2026, Attorney General Anthony G. Brown requested the appointment of a case management special magistrate pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-302(d) to manage litigation filed against the State of Maryland (including departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the State) in 17 different circuit courts across the State brought pursuant to the Child Victims Act (the “State CVA Litigation”). Attorney General Brown’s letter states that more than 12,000 plaintiffs sued one or more State agencies in approximately 1,200 complaints filed between October 1, 2023 and May 31, 2025;

Whereas, Attorney General Brown’s letter identifies the multiple courts involved and different approaches to case management across those courts; inconsistent rulings on motions, including on foundational legal issues; challenges managing discovery given the “nearly 70-year allegation timeframe” and “approximately 16-20 million pages of documents” already located; different methods of managing cases; and complications arising from statutory protection of juvenile records as factors supporting the appointment of a case management special magistrate;

Whereas, by letter dated April 10, 2026, eight attorneys representing plaintiffs in actions filed against State agencies opposed the appointment of a case management special magistrate. The attorneys’ letter identifies possible delays in resolving the pending litigation, effective management of the litigation by the circuit courts currently, existing efforts to coordinate discovery, and a concern that judicial efficiency would be

hampered, rather than promoted, by the Attorney General's request, as factors opposing the appointment of a case management special magistrate;

Whereas, upon further review of the status of the State CVA Litigation, given the significant volume of cases, volume of discovery and challenges coordinating discovery, and burden on judicial resources, the appointment of a case management special magistrate will promote the prompt, fair, and efficient scheduling and resolution of the State CVA Litigation. However, the appointment of a case management special magistrate should not unduly delay the progress or resolution of cases. It is therefore appropriate to appoint a case management special magistrate with focused authority primarily to promote consistency and efficiency in discovery coordination across courts, while preserving the authority of each court to manage its docket and advance pending proceedings without unnecessary delay;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested by Maryland Rule 16-302(d), it is this 14th day of May 2026,

ORDERED

1. **Appointment.** The Honorable Keith R. Truffer (ret.) is hereby appointed as Case Management Special Magistrate for the State CVA Litigation pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-302(d). The Special Magistrate shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Justice.

2. **Scope of Authority—Discovery Coordination.** The Special Magistrate shall develop a consolidated case management plan for review and approval by the Chief Justice for the coordination of discovery in all State CVA Litigation pending in the circuit courts of Maryland. Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of the consolidated case management plan, and decisions made pursuant to it, shall apply to all parties in State CVA Litigation cases. The consolidated case management plan may include, without limitation, authorizing the Special Magistrate or a circuit court judge assigned to handle State CVA Litigation to:

- a. issue scheduling orders and protocols governing the production, exchange, and use of documents and electronically stored information across all State CVA Litigation or subsets of the State CVA Litigation;
- b. establish procedures for the production of juvenile records consistent with § 3-8A-27 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article and other applicable law;

- c. resolve discovery disputes that present a common or recurring issue across the State CVA Litigation;
- d. facilitate the organization and categorization of plaintiffs and defendants to reduce duplication of effort; and
- e. issue such other orders and directives as may be reasonably necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Order with respect to discovery.

3. **Scope of Authority—Pretrial Coordination.** In addition to discovery coordination, the consolidated case management plan may address the coordination of pretrial matters of common application across the State CVA Litigation, including but not limited to common issues arising on motions to dismiss and motions to sever, case management conferences, the development of unified scheduling protocols, and alternative dispute resolution protocols. The case management plan may provide for coordination by the Special Magistrate or a circuit court judge assigned to handle State CVA Litigation. The case management plan shall allow the Administrative Judge of a circuit court to opt out of any pretrial coordination protocols (but not discovery coordination) by written notice to the Special Magistrate and the Chief Justice.

4. **Expeditious Proceedings; No Unnecessary Delay.** The Special Magistrate shall proceed expeditiously in the discharge of all duties assigned by this Order. The Special Magistrate shall take all reasonable steps to avoid delaying any pending State CVA Litigation case, to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the overall goal of providing for the prompt, fair, and efficient disposition of these cases. Pending the development and approval of a consolidated case management plan, existing scheduling orders, hearing dates, and trial dates shall remain in effect and subject to modification only by the circuit court in which they are pending. However, nothing in this order shall prevent a circuit court from modifying such dates upon consultation with the Special Magistrate to promote the prompt, fair, and efficient scheduling and resolution of all State CVA Litigation.

5. **Consultation.** In developing a proposed consolidated case management plan, the Special Magistrate shall consult and consider input from County Administrative Judges of the circuit courts in which State CVA Litigation is pending, counsel representing parties in the State CVA Litigation, and anyone else the Special Magistrate considers appropriate.

6. **Authority of Circuit Courts.** Nothing in this Order shall be construed to divest any circuit court of jurisdiction over State CVA Litigation assigned to it, to limit the authority of a judge presiding over State CVA Litigation cases to manage proceedings

before that judge, or to supersede any order entered by a circuit court before the date of approval of a consolidated case management plan.

/s/ Matthew J. Fader
Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Maryland

Filed: May 14, 2026

/s/ Gregory Hilton
Gregory Hilton Clerk
Supreme Court of Maryland

Pursuant to the Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (§§ 10-1601 et seq. of the State Government Article) this document is authentic.



Gregory Hilton, Clerk