

CONCILIATION

Conciliation is a meeting where both parents attend to speak with a conciliator about issues, such as custody, parenting time, and child support matters.

During conciliation, attorneys participate as observers only. Conciliation is a chance for both parents to come together and try to agree on what is best for their children.

If the parents reach an agreement, then the conciliator will draft a Stipulation/Order for the parents to sign. The conciliator would then send it to the judge for the judge's signature.

REFEREES

A referee is a quasi-judicial officer. A hearing with a referee is a formal process that is similar to being in court. Referees usually hold hearings when there is an objection to a conciliator's recommendation or if ordered to by a judge.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Ingham County Friend of the Court
<http://fc.ingham.org>
(517) 483-6103
Fax: (517) 483-6107
focinfo@ingham.org

Interactive Voice Response System:
(517) 676-5885

Michigan State Administrative Office
courts.mi.gov/scao

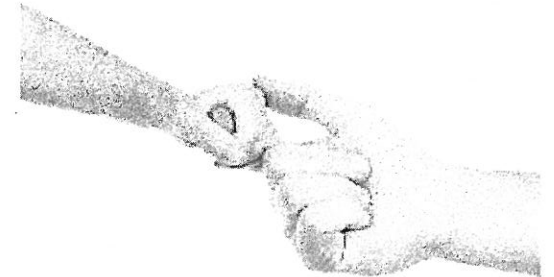
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
<http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs>

MiSDU, Office of Child Support
www.misdu.com

Ingham County Probate Court
Veterans Memorial Courthouse
313 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-6300
<http://pr.ingham.org>



INGHAM COUNTY PROBATE COURT



FACTS ABOUT FRIEND OF THE COURT

FRIEND OF THE COURT

The Friend of the Court is part of the 30th Circuit Court's Family Division dealing with custody, child support, parenting time matters, and other related matters.

Friend of the Court becomes involved once a court action has been filed with the Clerk's office for multiple types of cases.

Friend of the Court investigates these issues, makes recommendations, and then helps enforce court orders.

Friend of the Court can attempt to assist you with enforcing child support orders and helping locate parents.



CHILD SUPPORT

Child support is money paid from one parent to another pursuant to a court order. The purpose of child support is to provide for a child's everyday needs. The form used is called the Uniform Child Support Order.

Child support payments must be made through the Michigan State Disbursement Unit (MiSDU).

Child support orders are enforced through the Friend of the Court. The orders can be enforced through income withholding, tax refund intercept, consumer reporting, civil contempt of court hearing, liens, passport denial, or license suspension.

If a child lives with someone who has become legally responsible for the child, such as a guardian, the child support can be redirected through the Friend of the Court.



PARENTING TIME

Parenting time, which is time allotted for a parent to spend time with his or her child, is determined by court order. Parenting time is a separate issue from child support.

Supervised parenting time is determined by court order and involves a third party present with the parent who is receiving the parenting time. The court order determines the details, such as the length of the parenting time and the time and date.

If one parent is not following the court order, the court order can be enforced:

1. Through the Friend of the Court by filing a parenting time complaint that outlines the denial of court ordered parenting time, or
2. By filing a motion with the court that asks the court to enforce the court order.

