

INVESTIGATION FEES INFORMATION

(For parties ordered to have their cases investigated for custody and/or parenting time through the Friend of the Court (FOC) office)

Before the investigative process can begin, \$300 must be paid at the FOC Office located at 82 Ionia NW, Suite 200, Grand Rapids, MI, 49503. The \$300 must be paid before an initial interview is scheduled to start the evaluation process. The only variation to this is if your court order specifically waives or changes the fee amount.

If the \$300, or other amount indicated in your order, is not paid within 7 days from the entry of the order, then a report stating that the fee has not been paid will be sent to the court. No investigation will be completed, and the court will determine the next action.

Payments to the FOC must occur at the payment window in the lobby of the Friend of the Court Office, and payments must be made only by *cash, certified check, or money order made out to the Kent County Friend of the Court*. Once the investigation has started, there will be no refund of the fee. You should bring a copy of the order requiring the Friend of the Court to conduct an investigation for custody and/or parenting time with you when you make the payment.

Should the court refer you to a Troubleshooting meeting, payment can be made the day of the appointment. If payment is not made, **no** meeting will take place and a report to that effect will be sent to the court.

Make sure you bring with you all your documentation to support your position to the first appointment with the Friend of the Court. The more prepared you are, the faster the process can be completed.

If you currently do **not** have a FOC case, either because you have an Order Exempting case from FOC services, or you did not sign a written request for IV-D services, you will be required to sign the request on a form that will be provided to you when you make the payment of the fee, or at the initial meeting. The investigation cannot take place unless you sign the request.

Friend of the Court telephone:
877-543-2660

Payment window hours:
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday