

PARENTING TIME ENFORCEMENT

Parenting time in an important way for parents and children to maintain their connection when parents do not live together. The Friend of the Court (FOC) can assist with enforcing specific parenting time orders. Parents sometimes make changes and deviate from their parenting time order when they both agree. However, if these agreements break down, the FOC cannot enforce them.

If you have a specific parenting time order and the other parent changes parenting time or denies parenting time without your consent, you may ask us to help you enforce your order. To do this, you must file a [written complaint](#) with the FOC within 56 days. Be sure to include the time, date and place that the denial of parenting time took place and tell us the date of the order that was violated. It is up to the person who filed the complaint to provide the evidence that the order was violated by the other parent.

When the FOC receives a complaint, we review it to see if there is an indication that a violation of the court order may have taken place. If so, we will send a copy to the other parent and ask for their response. Options for resolution include a settlement conference at the FOC, an Order to Show Cause Hearing or termination of the complaint. If a hearing is necessary, the Court may impose sanctions which may include fines, make-up time or, if the problem continues, license suspension and/or incarceration.

More information is available on our [website](#).

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Helpful reminders:

Sign up for text or email notifications at <https://micase.state.mi.us>

Check your order for spring break parenting time.

If you don't have health insurance, go to <http://www.healthcare.gov/> to learn about options and requirements.

FILING TAXES

There are definite benefits to filing taxes. Taking the time to file your taxes may leave you with a refund! Even if you pay child support and owe arrears, it's worthwhile to file your taxes. Although you may not receive your refund, the money will be applied to your balance leaving you with decreased arrears and assist your child or children financially.

If you earned less than \$58,000 in 2015, there are options for you to file on your own for [FREE through the IRS](#).

If you do not feel comfortable filing taxes on your own, there are several places that may help you prepare your tax return at no cost. These include:

- United Way: 2-1-1 or [here](#)
- ICCF: 616-336-9333
- <http://taxhelp.davenport.edu/>



KENT COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

Our mission:

To assist the Family Division of the Circuit Court in facilitating the resolution of domestic relations matters so that children's best interests are protected.

82 Ionia NW, Ste. 200
PO Box 351
Grand Rapids, MI
49501-0351

E-mail us at:

foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov

Or visit Kent County's [website](#) for employment opportunities with Kent County and the FOC.

ASK THE FOC

I am no longer living in Kent County. How do I move my case to the county where I currently live?

A: Cases can only be transferred to another county by court order. The rules for case transfer are covered in [MCR 3.212](#), which provides that a transfer may only be granted if **all** of the following apply:

- The reason for the request is the residence and convenience of the parties or otherwise consistent with the best interests of the child,
- Neither party has resided in the current county for at least six months,
- At least one of the parties has resided in the new county for at least six months,
- The new county is not contiguous (or next to) the current county.

If you meet these conditions and would like to request that your case be transferred, you may file a motion with the Court on [your own](#) or through an attorney.

Employment Resources for Ex-Offenders

If you have spent time in prison, it may be difficult to find work after release. Employers are often reluctant to hire felons, particularly when the economy is not strong.

Even if you have a felony on your record, there are resources in your community to assist you in finding employment. Goodwill of Greater Grand Rapids and the Salvation Army frequently have job programs available to felons. Local ministries such as Mel Trotter, Guiding Light, Heartside, and Degage often have

programs to help people find work. Many of these resources also help people with transportation issues, obtaining a GED, and other barriers that make finding a job more difficult.

Do not get discouraged. The reality is that felons will have to work harder to find jobs than a non-felon with a similar work history. More and more employers are becoming felony-friendly, and the number of felony-friendly employers will continue to grow as the economy improves.



On Wednesdays, child support staff are unavailable for walk-in appointments due to court appearance and other responsibilities. Please keep this in mind when planning a visit to the office. We are available through email at foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov and by phone Monday through Friday from 8-4:30 at 632-6888.

In order to see case information 24-hours a day and receive notifications about payments and other important events in your case, sign up [here](#).