

PAYMENT OPTIONS MAKING PAYING CHILD SUPPORT EASIER

Most child support payers are aware that you are able to make child support payments at the [Friend of the Court office](#) or at the [Michigan State Disbursement Unit](#) through mail or online payment. These payment methods might not be convenient for all people. There are two new services that make it easier and more convenient than ever to make child support payments.

Gov Pay

You may make payments online at www.govpaynet.com. Follow the prompts. Select Michigan and then select Kent County Friend of the Court. The site will then prompt you to enter case information (name, last four digits of social security number, and docket number are required). Select your payment method and enter your payment information. It's as simple as that!!! A 3% fee is added to the payment. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, and debit cards are accepted.



Pay Near Me

Pay Near Me is an exciting new system that allows child support payments to be made at participating 7-Eleven and Family Dollar Stores. Visit www.misdu.com. Click on the "Cash Payment" option. A new information window will pop up. You will be asked to set up an account with www.paynearme.com. The last 4 digits of your social security number, docket number, and email or phone number will be required to set up an account. Once an account is established, you will be given a payment code. Present this payment code to a participating Family Dollar or 7-Eleven location and you will be able to make a cash payment on your child support. A flat fee of \$1.99 will be charged for each payment.



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Helpful reminders:

- Need a flu shot? Call the Kent County Health Dept. at (616)632-7200 for an appointment.
- The court works through written orders. Keep a copy of your own court order handy.
- A payer of support is generally automatically submitted for tax offset if he or she owes more than \$150.

The FOC has a new telephone number:

1-877-543-2660

This is a new, toll-free number for all Friend of the Court offices in the State of Michigan.





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.*

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

CHILD SUPPORT AMNESTY EVENT REPORT

On August 12th, 2016, Kent County Friend of the Court held its first Bench Warrant Amnesty event, reaching out to individuals with active child support bench warrants and resolving those warrants without fear of arrest. It took many months of planning with plenty of help from community partners like LifeQuest Ministries and Strong Fathers to help spread the word. The atmosphere at the event was relaxed which allowed staff to actively engage with the community it serves and allowed the community to see Friend of the Court differently. This event showed the problem solving side of Friend of the Court and demonstrated our desire to work with people.

Here are the numbers: 110 individuals were helped, 157 bench warrants were dismissed, and over \$4,500 was collected. Here's what some of those folks had to say:

Thank you for the opportunity, you put a smile on my face, truly.

Wow, Huge Exhale!

You see, I told you we should come!

My life starts all over again.

I'm about to get a job!

New Programs at FOC

Partnership with Kent County Sheriff's Department

At the amnesty event, we introduced two deputies who are reaching out to payers with bench warrants in order to resolve them and help ensure support for children. So far, the program has been a great success. The deputies helped a payer resolve his felony warrant in addition to the FOC warrant and make plans so the children would receive regular child support in the future while avoiding costly extradition and jail time. Another individual cried tears of relief that he was able to develop a payment plan and no longer had to live on the run. On another case, a parent received \$7000 that had been owed for years, and then forgave \$10,000 more so the other parent could get a fresh start.

Responsible Parent Program

We know that some people would love to work, but struggle to do so, so we rolled out the Responsible Parent Program at the amnesty event. This program works to identify barriers to employment in an individual's life and connect him or her with community partners to address those concerns. This will enable the individual to work and support his or her children. The program will also work to address child support obligations and open communication regarding parenting time. We have developed relationships with employers in the area, and will be working regularly from both area Michigan Works locations within the next month.