

WALK-IN MEDIATION

FOC understands that it is not easy to make changes to your court order, even when both parties agree to the change. To help make this an easier process, we are now offering Walk-in Mediation sessions. Mediations focus on changing the provisions to the parenting time and custody order. Changes may include creation or modification of a parenting time schedule, transportation, exchange locations, or holiday and school break times. The mediations can also focus on custody issues surrounding legal or physical custody, school issues, communication problems, and co-parenting options or ideas. Mediations are voluntary and only the issues that parents agree upon will be updated in the order. Each mediation will be limited to 60 minutes so we are able to help as many clients as we can.



To see if your case is eligible for our walk-in mediation, you can e-mail us at foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov or ask the representative at the front window. Walk-in mediation may not be the answer for everyone; however, lack of eligibility for a walk-in session may help determine eligibility for other services such as co-parenting sessions, statutory mediation, or FOC evaluations.

Walk-in hours: Tuesday 8-10:30 am & Thursday 1-3 pm

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WINTER 2018

Friendly reminders:

Get access to your child support case online at www.michigan.gov/micase.
 1 hour free parking is available at the Monroe Center Ramp located on Ionia.
 Avoid the wait—email us at foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov.

Find and follow us on Facebook for important updates and outreach information.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - VISITING JUDGES

Child support enforcement hearings, or Order To Show Cause (OTSC), are held each week on Wednesday mornings. The Friend of the Court began using visiting judges to hear OTSC cases earlier this year to help with the flow of the judges' caseloads. This means that a case may have a visiting judge, not the regularly assigned judge, hear testimony and make a decision during an OTSC. The visiting judge is in place to act for the assigned judge for only the support enforcement hearings and will not replace the assigned judge on the case for all other family support matters. The visiting judge has the same enforcement ability as the assigned judge including sentencing jail time, ordering lump sum payments, etc.



KENT COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

*Our mission:
To serve the Court
and the families of
Kent County to
ensure children are
supported, both
financially and
emotionally.*

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Follow us on Facebook

E-mail us at:

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Visit Kent County's
[website](http://www.accesskent.com) for employment
opportunities with
Kent County and the FOC.

HOLIDAY GIFT HELP

The winter months and holiday season will soon be approaching! We all know this can be a wonderful time of year but it can also be stressful. Families may struggle between the choice of paying bills and purchasing gifts. If you are seeking assistance getting gifts for your children this year, a few organizations are listed below to help Kent County residents;



1). **Toys for Tots or Angel Tree-**
Call United Way Land line 211 or
1-800-887-1107

DISTRIBUTION DATE:
December 22, 2018

2). **Santa Claus Girls** -You can

register online at www.santaclausgirls.org/family-register. You will need to provide information like an adult name, address, number of children, phone number etc. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that an adult over 18 years of age is available the morning of delivery, December 15, 2018, to accept the gifts.

KEEP YOUR ADDRESS UPDATED



It is imperative that every person maintains up-to-date contact information with FOC. Much of the paperwork sent by FOC is time sensitive and requires some type of timely response to prevent or induce action. An incorrect address could mean a missed objection deadline that results in an inappropriate monthly support obligation; a missed hearing notice, resulting in a bench warrant or suspended license; or even a missed opportunity to enter an agreement into an order that provides stable parenting time or custody.

If you don't live in a place where you can receive mail, provide us with an address at which a reliable person can let you know you've received mail right away. Your address can only be updated in writing with your signature. You can find a form to fill out online on www.accesskent.com or by requesting the form from the office. However, you are not required to use this form; a simple letter with a signature is sufficient. Finally, update the US Post Office to ensure your contact information is accurate so they do not return your mail to us.