

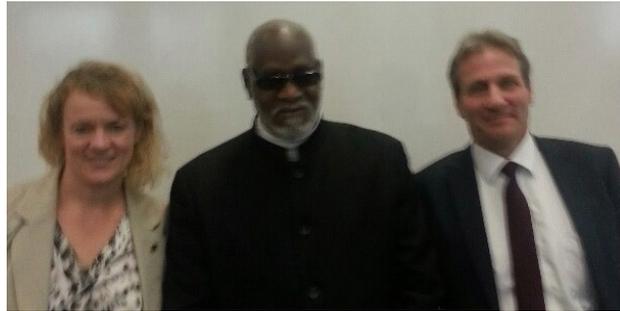
FOC NEWSLETTER

KENT COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

DID YOU KNOW?

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Kent County is one of two counties that has a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), appointed by the Kent County Board of Commissioners. The CAC reviews and investigates grievances concerning the friend of the court and advises the [Court](#) and the [County Board of Commissioners](#) of the FOC's duties and performance, and on the community's needs relating to the office's services. Click [here](#) to learn more.

RESOLVING CHILD SUPPORT WARRANTS: The Friend of the Court is looking to resolve child support warrants without arrest. Do you know a relative or a friend with an FOC warrant? Have him or her call: 616-632-5733



Undersheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young; Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Bishop Durham; FOC Director Dan Fojtik

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WINTER 2017

Helpful reminders:

The FOC has a new phone number:
877-543-2660

The [Family Resource Guide](#) has information on local services and events for children and families.

The FOC can now accept credit card payments for child support at the payment window in our office.

HELPFUL VIDEO REMINDERS

Learning about the [Friend of the Court](#) just became more entertaining! We partnered with students at GVSU's Film and Production Program to develop two videos that provide important information about working with the Friend of the Court. Take a minute to watch these short, animated videos here:

[Friendly Reminder #1](#) [Friendly Reminder #2](#)

Special thanks goes to professor Suzanne Zack and students Jason Gant, Coleson Anderson, Markus Fowler, Nicole Stoner and Montae Dolby, for their work.



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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Grand Rapids, MI
49501-0351

E-mail us at:

foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov

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

KENT COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT—A YEAR IN REVIEW

There were a lot of positive changes for the Kent County Friend of the Court in 2016. We were assigned two community-oriented Sheriff Deputies to resolve warrants, implemented the Responsible Parent Program to assist individuals in obtaining and maintaining employment, and held amnesty events to assist people in the community with active FOC warrants without the fear of arrest.

Friend of the Court staff takes a great deal of pride in the work that we provide to clients. The Friend of the Court's Client Information Services Department answered 112,436 calls and assisted 17,334 clients in our lobby. The Imaging Department scanned 123,404 documents and our Order Processing Department processed 14,805 orders. We collected over \$99,000,000 with 92% of that collection going to families. The Auditing Department completed 1,284 child support audits. The Income Review Department completed 3,262 income reviews and our Health Care Enforcement Department processed 4,252 uninsured health care reimbursement requests. The Parenting Time Department processed 2,493 complaints and our Interstate Department registered 247 cases in other states. The Alternative Dispute Resolution Department received 904 custody evaluations and troubleshoots. And lastly, our Bench Warrant Department resolved 802 more warrants in 2016 than in 2015.

The Friend of the Court will continue, as always, to work on ways to improve our customer service and efficiency so that 2017 is an even better year than 2016!

It's Tax Time!

Filing taxes can be a chore, but many people are eligible for a tax refund from monies that were withheld from their earnings or through the Earned Income Tax Credit. Taking the step of filing your tax return could result in a substantial refund! Even if you pay child support and owe arrears, it's worth it to file your taxes. While you might not receive your refund, it will be applied to your balance, so you can make progress toward paying off your obligation and provide a benefit to your children.

If you aren't sure about filing taxes on your own, there are several places that may help you prepare your tax return at no cost. You can contact the United Way by calling 2-1-1 or go to Davenport's website [here](#) to see if you qualify for assistance with filing your taxes.

