

ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT

The Friend of the Court is required to automatically begin enforcement action against a payer of support whose arrearage is greater than 1 month of their support obligation. The Friend of the Court may also begin enforcement upon receiving a complaint from the parent who receives the support. If both parents wish to temporarily stop the Friend of the Court from enforcing the support obligation, they must file a joint written request with the Friend of the Court. If the custodial parent receives public assistance or there is money owed to the Michigan Department of Human Services, the parties cannot stop enforcement.

The Friend of the Court has several options available to enforce support orders. These options include but are not limited to the following:

1. Income withholding: An income withholding notice requires the payer's employer or other source of income to withhold support from their paycheck or source of income. All support orders issued in Michigan must provide for income withholding.
2. Show Cause Hearing: If income withholding is unsuccessful and the payer is not meeting their monthly support obligation the Friend of the Court may start a civil contempt proceeding requiring the payer to appear at a hearing. If the show cause hearing is held and the payer does not appear the Court may issue a bench warrant for that person's arrest. The responsibility for the payer's arrest lies exclusively with law enforcement agencies.
3. Tax Offset: If the payer owes an arrearage their taxes may be intercepted to pay the arrearage.
4. Liens: In some instances the Friend of the Court may be able to obtain a lien against a payer's property i.e. bank accounts or other personal assets. For more information you should contact the Friend of the Court.
5. Driving and Professional License Suspension

The Michigan Supreme Court State Court Administrative Office has developed a pamphlet which provides some general information regarding the enforcement of child support.

The link to a copy of this pamphlet is:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/pamphlets/focb/psa27.pdf>.