

INFORMATION ABOUT SAGINAW COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

If you have a case in Saginaw County, below is information on what to expect when you file paperwork to modify custody, parenting time, or child support.

CHILD SUPPORT MODIFICATION

1. File Motion Regarding Support with the Clerk's office. Forms can be found on <https://www.saginawcounty.com/media/2hnfd04v/support-motion.pdf>
2. Clerk's office will send motion to FOC Referee's office to schedule hearing
3. Referee hearing held via Zoom and a Notice will be sent to the parties.
4. Parties should attend Referee hearing to provide income information.
5. Referee will take income information, run child support calculations, prepare report and child support order to send to Judge to sign.
6. Report and child support order will be mailed to the parties, along with an objection form.
7. Parties will have 21 days from the date the child support recommendation is mailed to file an objection to the child support recommendation.
8. If no objection is filed, the recommended child support order will become a final order.
9. If an objection is filed, a hearing will be scheduled before Judge.
10. Hearing held before Judge on a Monday. Judge may make a decision or may set it for different day for an evidentiary hearing.

CUSTODY & PARENTING TIME MODIFICATION

1. File Motion Regarding Parenting Time, Motion regarding Custody, or Motion Regarding Joint Legal Custody Dispute with the Clerk's office. Custody motion form can be found on <https://www.saginawcounty.com/media/k3ncahna/custody-motion.pdf>. Parenting time motion form can be found on <https://www.saginawcounty.com/media/1llbufdp/pt-motion.pdf>. The legal custody dispute motion can be found on <https://www.saginawcounty.com/media/odynprve/joint-legal-motion.pdf>.
2. Clerk's office will put date and time on the motion for hearing with Judge.
3. Hearing with Judge will be held on a Monday.
4. At the hearing, 3 things could happen:
 - a. FOC attorney will meet with parties and try to resolve the matter. If not, then hearing will be held before Judge. If agreement reached, then attorney will prepare order.
 - b. No hearing will be held, and matter will automatically be referred for mediation, a Friend of the Court investigation/FIG conference/joint meeting, or referee hearing.
 - c. Hearing will be held, and Judge will either dismiss the matter or refer matter for mediation, a Friend of the Court investigation, or referee hearing.
5. If matter is referred to mediation, CRC (Community Resolution Center) will contact the parties to set up mediation. Parties will meet with CRC to see if the matter can be settled. If agreement is reached, order will be prepared. If not, then the matter may be referred for investigation with FOC.

6. If matter is referred for investigation, an interview with both parties and an FOC representative will be scheduled. Parties will meet with investigator via Zoom. After meeting, investigator will write report and recommendation. Report and recommendation will be sent to the parties. Parties can object to the recommendation within 21 days from the date the recommendation is mailed. If no objection is filed then recommendation will be sent to Judge to sign. If objection is filed, then hearing will be held before Judge on a Monday. Judge may end up setting it for different day for evidentiary hearing.
7. If matter is referred to referee, then hearing will be held before referee and referee will issue report and recommendation. Report and recommendation will be sent to parties. Parties can object to recommendation within 21 days from the date the recommendation is mailed. If no objection is filed, then the recommendation will be signed by the Judge. If objection is filed, then a hearing will be held before Judge on a Monday. Matter may be referred for different day for evidentiary hearing.

PARENTING TIME ENFORCEMENT

1. Request for parenting time enforcement should be filed with the Friend of the Court office. Forms can be found at <https://www.saginawcounty.com/media/kj2lcspf/request-for-pt-enforcement.pdf>.
2. FOC will review to determine if qualifies for enforcement (filled out correctly, within last 56 days, parenting time order in place, etc.)
3. If request qualifies for enforcement, enforcement request will be sent to the other party with a 21-day notice.
4. If no response is received, then make-up parenting time policy will be followed.
5. If response is received, then a joint meeting or mediation may be scheduled, or a show cause may be filed.
6. If the enforcement is regarding anything other than parenting time, FOC will follow the process above. In addition, FOC usually calls the parties to try to work it out. If the matter can't be resolved, then it will be set for joint meeting, or maybe even a show cause.