

**CIRCUIT COURT/FAMILY
COURT JUDGES**
ANDRE' R. BORRELLO
BRITTANY A. DICKEN
JULIE A. GAFKAY
DARNELL JACKSON
PATRICK J. McGRAW
BARBARA L. METER
MANVEL TRICE III

**SAGINAW COUNTY
FRIEND OF THE COURT**
FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT – FAMILY DIVISION



CHIEF JUDGE
JULIE A. GAFKAY

FRIEND OF THE COURT
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LAO C10, 2024-06

10th Circuit Court Local Administrative Order 2024 –06

FRIEND OF THE COURT INVESTIGATION EXPENSES

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with MCL 552.505(3) and SCAO Administrative Memorandum 2010-05 Standards for Charging Friend of the Court Investigation Expenses, effective 08/06/2024. The purpose of this order is to implement charges pursuant to MCL 552.505(3) upon approval by the State Court Administrative Office.

1. Definitions

- a. "Expense" means any direct or indirect cost for an investigation or submitting a report.
- b. "Investigation" means the work done on a case to organize or gather information needed to fulfill the office's duties under MCL 552.505(1)(g).
- c. "Office" means the Saginaw County Friend of the Court.
- d. "Report" means the work and expenses associated with preparing and submitting a written document regarding an investigation to the court and parties.
- e. "Request" means an express statement by a party or party's attorney asking for an investigation, whether made in a document submitted to the office or court, a statement made on the record, or an order stipulating to an investigation, or a court finding that a party requested an investigation.

2. Charges for Expenses

- a. The office shall maintain sufficient records to document the basis of its determination that a party has requested an investigation, and to determine whether the amount charged exceeds the office's expenses for that case.

- b. If a party requests an investigation, the office shall assess charges for its expenses according to the following schedule:

<u>Expense:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
▪ FOC Custody Investigation & Report	\$100.00
▪ FOC Parenting Time Investigation & Report	\$100.00
▪ Home Inspection	\$50.00
▪ Investigation & Report – Reduced Rate due to limited ability to pay, etc.	\$50.00
▪ Investigation & Report – Court Waives or Suspends Fees Due to Inability to Pay or Indigence	\$0.00

The office shall not charge for its expenses when it is notified that the court has waived or suspended fees because of inability to pay or indigence.

- c. Unless the court orders a specific party to pay an amount, the office shall bill both parties equally for its expenses immediately upon starting an investigation or any time within 30 days following entry of an order that resolves the disputed matter if the office discovers that a party requested an investigation.

Any bill provided pursuant to this order shall contain instructions on submitting a payment and specify when payment is due.

- d. Unless a party disputes the amount charged on a case, the office shall presume that its charges do not exceed its actual expenses.

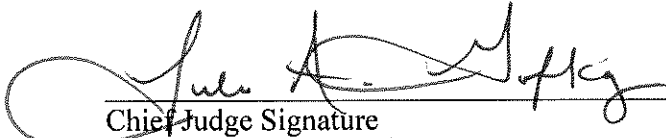
If a party, who has paid the billed amount, requests confirmation that the charges exceed the office's actual expenses on a case, the office shall provide an itemized statement showing actual expenses. If the amount collected exceeds the actual expenses that the office can document for a case, the office shall refund the difference.

3. Payments and Refunds

- a. The Friend of the Court office shall receive and process payments for amounts charged pursuant to MCL 552.505(3).
- b. To be considered timely, a party must pay as ordered in a case or within 30 days of the office providing a bill for its expenses.
- c. The office shall return any amount collected that exceeds its total expenses.
- d. The office shall notify the court if a party fails to pay the amount charged after a letter has been sent to the party reminding of the payment and a phone call was made after the deadline of the second letter. The office shall notify the court of the party's failure to pay by filing a show cause against the party, so the court can take additional action in that case.

Effective Date: 08/06/2024

Date: 7/22/2024



Chief Judge Signature