



MEDICAL SUPPORT INFORMATION

Court Address
203 S Niles Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Court Telephone No.
269-657-7734

Friend of the Court – Medical Support Enforcement Information

This information explains how medical support enforcement works through the Friend of the Court (FOC). If you have a question that is not covered here, please write to the FOC and describe your specific issue in detail.

1. Submitting Complaints

All complaints about medical support must be submitted in writing to the Friend of the Court. There are two main types of medical complaints:

- A parent is not providing health insurance for the child(ren).
- A parent is not paying their share of uninsured medical expenses.

2. Try to Resolve Issues Directly First

You must first try to work out the problem with the other parent.

If the issue is insurance: Contact the other parent in writing and ask them to enroll the child in their health plan. Request copies of the insurance card and claim forms.

If the issue is unpaid medical bills: Send the other parent written notice of the unpaid expenses. Include copies of the bills and insurance statements. You must send this information within 28 days after you receive the final notice from your insurance company. Give the other parent a reasonable chance to pay you or the provider directly.

If the other parent does not respond or refuses to cooperate, you may then contact the FOC for help.

3. One-Year Limit

The Court will not enforce any uninsured medical expenses that are more than one year old from the date of service.

4. Sharing Medical Information

Each parent must provide the other parent with:

- A copy of the insurance card
- Copies of medical bills
- Insurance claim forms and related paperwork
- Copies of any insurance coverage decisions

5. What Counts as “Health Care”

“Health care” means products or services provided by licensed medical professionals, such as: Doctors, nurses, and physician assistants; dentists, orthodontists, and oral surgeons; chiropractors, podiatrists, physical therapists, and psychologists.

It also includes services provided by licensed facilities such as hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), county medical care facilities, surgical centers, ambulance services, and emergency medical services.

(Reference: Michigan Child Support Formula, Section IV-D)

6. Maintaining Required Insurance

If your court order says you must keep insurance through your job at a reasonable cost, you must do so — even if you have to pay for it yourself.

7. Deductibles

Any medical expenses that apply to a parent's insurance deductible are considered uninsured. Each parent must pay their court-ordered percentage of these costs.

8. Percentage of Payment

You are responsible for paying the percentage listed in your court order. If the order says the parents are "jointly and severally liable," that means each parent pays 50% of uninsured medical expenses.

9. Medicaid Payments

Medicaid requires copies of Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) before it pays claims. Medicaid may not pay the full amount. Any remaining balance is the responsibility of the parents according to the court order.

10. Elective or Non-Emergency Procedures

For non-emergency or elective care (for example, braces or orthodontia), the parent arranging the care must notify the other parent in writing before treatment begins. See form VBC-0545 for specific orthodontia instructions.

11. Type of Insurance Coverage

If a parent has coverage through a PPO, HMO, or similar plan, that generally meets the insurance requirement unless the court order specifies a different type. If a parent refuses to use the other parent's available insurance, the refusing parent may be responsible for up to 100% of the costs.

12. Reporting Insurance Information

Each parent must keep the FOC informed of their available health insurance. Provide:

- The name of the insurance company or plan
- The policy or contract number
- The names and birth dates of everyone covered under the plan

13. Noncompliance

A parent who repeatedly fails to pay required medical expenses or maintain health insurance as ordered may be charged court costs or other penalties.

14. Review Your Court Order

Always read your court orders carefully so you understand your rights and responsibilities for medical support.