

Act No. 24
Public Acts of 1996
Approved by the Governor
February 15, 1996
Filed with the Secretary of State
February 16, 1996

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
88TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1996**

Introduced by Rep. Bullard

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5045

AN ACT to amend section 31 of Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982, entitled as amended "An act to revise and consolidate the laws relating to the friend of the court; to provide for the appointment of the friend of the court; to create the office of the friend of the court; to establish the rights, powers, and duties of the friend of the court and the office of the friend of the court; to establish a state friend of the court bureau and to provide the powers and duties of the bureau; to prescribe powers and duties of the circuit court; to prescribe certain duties of certain employers and former employers; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," as amended by Act No. 37 of the Public Acts of 1994, being section 552.531 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. Section 31 of Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982, as amended by Act No. 37 of the Public Acts of 1994, being section 552.531 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 31. (1) "Bureau" means the state friend of the court bureau created in section 19.

(2) "Chief judge" means the following:

(a) The circuit judge in a judicial circuit having only 1 circuit judge.

(b) Except in the county of Wayne, the chief judge of the circuit court in a judicial circuit having 2 or more circuit judges.

(c) In the county of Wayne, the executive chief judge of the circuit court in the third judicial circuit and the recorder's court of the city of Detroit.

(3) "Consumer reporting agency" means a person that, for monetary fees or dues, or on a cooperative nonprofit basis, regularly engages in whole or in part in the practice of assembling or evaluating consumer credit information or other information on consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports to third parties, and that uses any means or facility of interstate commerce for the purpose of preparing or furnishing consumer reports. As used in this subsection, "consumer report" means that term as defined in section 603 of the fair credit reporting act, title VI of the consumer credit protection act, Public Law 90-321, 15 U.S.C. 1681a.

(4) "Court" means the circuit court.

(5) "Domestic relations mediation" means a process by which the parties are assisted by a domestic relations mediator in voluntarily formulating an agreement to resolve a dispute concerning child custody or visitation that arises from a domestic relations matter.

(6) "Domestic relations matter" means a circuit court proceeding as to child custody or visitation, or child or spouse support, that arises out of litigation under a statute of this state, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Chapter 84 of the Revised Statutes of 1846, being sections 552.1 to 552.45 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(b) The family support act, Act No. 138 of the Public Acts of 1966, being sections 552.451 to 552.459 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(c) The child custody act of 1970, Act No. 91 of the Public Acts of 1970, being sections 722.21 to 722.29 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(d) Act No. 293 of the Public Acts of 1968, being sections 722.1 to 722.6 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(e) The paternity act, Act No. 205 of the Public Acts of 1956, being sections 722.711 to 722.730 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(f) Revised uniform reciprocal enforcement of support act, Act No. 8 of the Public Acts of 1952, being sections 780.151 to 780.183 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(7) "Friend of the court" means the person serving under section 21(1) or appointed pursuant to section 23, as the head of the office of the friend of the court.

(8) "Medical assistance" means medical assistance as established under title XIX of the social security act, chapter 531, 49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. 1396 to 1396g and 1396i to 1396v.

(9) "Office" and "office of the friend of the court" mean the agency created in section 3.

(10) "Payer" means a person ordered by the circuit court to pay support.

(11) "Public assistance" means aid to families with dependent children, general assistance, foster care maintenance, or a combination of those items.

(12) "Recipient of support" means the following:

(a) The spouse, if the support order orders support for the spouse.

(b) The custodial parent or guardian, if the support order orders support for a minor child or a child who is 18 years of age or older.

(c) The state department of social services, if support has been assigned to the state department.

(13) "Support" means all of the following:

(a) The payment of money for a child or a spouse ordered by the circuit court, whether the order is embodied in an interim, temporary, permanent, or modified order or judgment. Support may include payment of the expenses of medical, dental, and other health care, child care expenses, and educational expenses.

(b) The payment of money ordered by the circuit court under the paternity act, Act No. 205 of the Public Acts of 1956, for the necessary expenses incurred by or for the mother in connection with her confinement or of other expenses in connection with the pregnancy of the mother.

(c) A surcharge accumulated under section 3a of the support and visitation enforcement act, being section 552.603a of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(14) "Support and visitation enforcement act" means Act No. 295 of the Public Acts of 1982, being sections 552.601 to 552.650 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(15) "Support order" means an order entered by the circuit court for the payment of support in a sum certain, whether in the form of a lump sum or a periodic payment.

Section 2. This amendatory act shall not take effect unless House Bill No. 5028 of the 88th Legislature is enacted into law.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Secretary of the Senate.

Approved -----

Governor.