



SENATE BILL No. 586

June 15, 1995, Introduced by Senators STEIL, GEAKE, HOFFMAN, GOUGEON, SHUGARS and STILLE and referred to the Committee on Families, Mental Health and Human Services.

A bill to amend the title and sections 3, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 31 of Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982, entitled as amended

"Friend of the court act,"

sections 19 and 31 as amended by Act No. 37 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 552.503, 552.519, 552.521, 552.522, 552.523, 552.524, 552.525, 552.526, 552.527, and 552.531 of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to add sections 4, 4a, and 4b.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT: --

1 Section 1. The title and sections 3, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24,
2 25, 26, 27, and 31 of Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982,
3 sections 19 and 31 as amended by Act No. 37 of the Public Acts of
4 1994, being sections 552.503, 552.519, 552.521, 552.522, 552.523,
5 552.524, 552.525, 552.526, 552.527, and 552.531 of the Michigan

1 Compiled Laws, are amended and sections 4, 4a, and 4b are added
2 to read as follows:

3 TITLE

4 An act to revise and consolidate the laws relating to the
5 friend of the court; to provide for the appointment of the friend
6 of the court; to create the office of the friend of the court; to
7 establish the rights, powers, and duties of the friend of the
8 court and the office of the friend of the court; to establish a
9 state friend of the court bureau and to provide the powers and
10 duties of the bureau; to prescribe powers and duties of the cir-
11 cuit court AND OF CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND OFFICERS;
12 to prescribe certain duties of certain employers and former
13 employers; and to repeal ~~certain~~ acts and parts of acts.

14 Sec. 3. (1) There is created in each judicial circuit of
15 this state an office of the friend of the court, except as pro-
16 vided in subsection (2).

17 (2) If each county in a multicounty judicial circuit has a
18 separate office of the friend of the court on the day before the
19 effective date of ~~this~~ THE AMENDATORY act THAT ADDED SECTION 4,
20 each county in that circuit shall have a separate office of the
21 friend of the court on the effective date of ~~this~~ THAT act. If
22 a vacancy occurs in the position of the friend of the court in
23 such a county, the ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY BOARD may merge the
24 office of the friend of the court in that county with the office
25 of the friend of the court in another county of the judicial cir-
26 cuit SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THAT OTHER
27 COUNTY.

1 (3) The head of each office is the friend of the court
2 serving under section 21(1) or appointed ~~pursuant to~~ UNDER sec-
3 tion 4 OR 23.

4 (4) Except as provided in this subsection, the friend of the
5 court is an employee of the ~~circuit court in the judicial~~
6 ~~circuit~~ COUNTY served by the friend of the court. The friend of
7 the court for the third judicial circuit, and for any other judi-
8 cial circuit in which the employees serving in the court are paid
9 by the state, is an employee of the state judicial council.

10 (5) The ~~duties of the office shall be performed under the~~
11 ~~direction and supervision of the chief judge~~ LIAISON SHALL
12 DIRECTLY SUPERVISE THE OFFICE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4A.

13 (6) Each friend of the court shall take all necessary steps
14 to adopt office procedures to implement this act, supreme court
15 rules, and the recommendations of the bureau.

16 SEC. 4. (1) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL APPOINT THE FRIEND OF
17 THE COURT WHO SHALL SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COUNTY BOARD.
18 WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ITS LIAISON, A COUNTY BOARD SHALL DIRECTLY
19 OVERSEE THE OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT IN ITS COUNTY. THE
20 FRIEND OF THE COURT SHALL DIRECT THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE
21 OFFICE.

22 (2) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE OFFICE'S BUDGET,
23 BASIC INTERNAL STRUCTURE, AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS. THE COUNTY
24 BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH QUALIFICATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE
25 FRIEND OF THE COURT AND FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE FRIEND
26 OF THE COURT.

1 (3) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL ANNUALLY REVIEW THE OPERATIONS OF
2 ITS OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT AND SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT
3 ON THAT REVIEW TO THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE.

4 (4) IN A MULTICOUNTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, THE COUNTY BOARDS
5 SHALL FORM A CONSORTIUM COMPOSED OF EQUAL REPRESENTATION FROM
6 EACH COUNTY BOARD. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, THE CONSORTIUM
7 SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS THE COUNTY BOARD FOR THAT JUDICIAL
8 CIRCUIT. THE COUNTY BOARD OF A COUNTY MAY RESOLVE TO ESTABLISH
9 AND FINANCE A SEPARATE OFFICE FOR ITS COUNTY.

10 SEC. 4A. (1) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL APPOINT A FRIEND OF THE
11 COURT LIAISON WHO SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE COUNTY BOARD.
12 THE LIAISON SHALL NOT BE THE FRIEND OF THE COURT AND OPERATES
13 INDEPENDENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT. THE COUNTY
14 BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE LIAISON OFFICE'S BUDGET AND STAFFING.

15 (2) THE LIAISON HAS THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND DUTIES:

16 (A) DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT UNDER
17 AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

18 (B) COMPILATION OF REPORTS AND DATA ON THE OFFICE OF THE
19 FRIEND OF THE COURT OPERATIONS.

20 (C) INVESTIGATION OF AND RESPONSE TO GRIEVANCES FILED
21 AGAINST THE OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT.

22 (D) OTHER DUTIES THAT THE COUNTY BOARD CONSIDERS NECESSARY.

23 SEC. 4B. (1) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH FOR ITS COUNTY
24 A CITIZENS' FRIEND OF THE COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH SHALL
25 REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE COUNTY BOARD. A CITIZENS' ADVISORY COM-
26 MITTEE IS COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

1 (A) THE LIAISON.

2 (B) THE FRIEND OF THE COURT.

3 (C) AN INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING THE CIRCUIT COURT.

4 (D) AN INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS.

5 (E) AN INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING CUSTODIAL PARENTS.

6 (F) AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN.

7 (G) AN INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

8 (H) AN ATTORNEY WHO ENGAGES PRIMARILY IN FAMILY LAW
9 PRACTICE.

10 (I) A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

11 (2) THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL APPOINT THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY
12 COMMITTEE MEMBERS, EXCEPT FOR THOSE MEMBERS SERVING EX OFFICIO.
13 A MEMBER APPOINTED UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(D), (E), (F), (H), AND
14 (I) HAS A 2-YEAR TERM. A VACANCY ON THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COM-
15 MITTEE SHALL BE FILLED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM IN THE SAME
16 MANNER AS THE POSITION WAS ORIGINALLY FILLED. THE COUNTY BOARD
17 SHALL ATTEMPT TO COMPOSE THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE SO THAT
18 ITS MEMBERSHIP REFLECTS THE ETHNIC, RACIAL, AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION
19 OF THE COMMUNITY THAT IT SERVES.

20 (3) A CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE IS ADVISORY ONLY AND
21 SHALL DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

22 (A) MEET NOT LESS THAN 1 TIME EACH CALENDAR QUARTER. THE
23 CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL KEEP MINUTES OF EACH MEETING
24 AND SUBMIT A COPY TO THE COUNTY BOARD.

25 (B) DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE TREATMENT OF GENDER BIAS
26 ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH IT SERVES.

1 (C) ADVISE THE COUNTY BOARD ON THE OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF
2 THE COURT'S AND THE FRIEND OF THE COURT'S DUTIES AND PERFORMANCE,
3 AND ON THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS RELATING TO THE OFFICE'S SERVICES.

4 (D) AT THE END OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR, SUBMIT AN ANNUAL
5 REPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE COUNTY BOARD AND THE STATE COURT
6 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE.

7 (4) A CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER SHALL ONLY BE COM-
8 PENSATED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER
9 IS REIMBURSED FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE THE
10 LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHES UNDER SECTION 19.

11 Sec. 19. (1) The state friend of the court bureau is cre-
12 ated within the ~~office of the~~ state court ~~administrator~~
13 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, under the supervision and direction of the
14 supreme court.

15 (2) The bureau shall have its main office in Lansing.

16 (3) The bureau shall do all of the following:

17 (a) Develop and recommend guidelines for conduct, opera-
18 tions, and procedures of the office and its employees, including,
19 but not limited to, the following:

20 (i) Case load and staffing standards for employees who per-
21 form domestic relations mediation functions, investigation and
22 recommendation functions, referee functions, enforcement func-
23 tions, and clerical functions.

24 (ii) Orientation programs for clients of the office.

25 (iii) Public educational programs regarding domestic rela-
26 tions law and community resources, including financial and other
27 counseling, and employment opportunities.

1 (iv) Procedural changes in response to the type of
2 grievances received by an office.

3 (v) Model pamphlets and procedural forms, which shall be
4 distributed to each office.

5 (vi) A formula to be used in establishing and modifying a
6 child support amount and health care obligation. The formula
7 shall be based upon the needs of the child and the actual
8 resources of each parent. The formula shall establish a minimum
9 threshold for modification of a child support amount. The for-
10 mula shall consider the child care and dependent health care cov-
11 erage costs of each parent.

12 (b) Provide training programs for the friend of the court,
13 domestic relations mediators, and employees of the office, to
14 better enable them to carry out the duties described in this act
15 and supreme court rules.

16 (c) Gather and monitor relevant statistics.

17 (d) Annually issue a report containing a detailed summary of
18 the types of grievances received by each office, and whether the
19 grievances are resolved or outstanding. The report shall be
20 transmitted to the legislature and to each office.

21 (e) Develop and recommend guidelines to be used by an office
22 in determining whether or not visitation has been wrongfully
23 denied by the custodial parent.

24 (f) Develop standards and procedures for the transfer of
25 part or all of the responsibilities for a case from one office to
26 another in situations considered appropriate by the bureau.

1 (g) Certify domestic relations mediation training programs
2 as provided in section 13.

3 (h) Establish a 9-person STATE advisory committee, serving
4 without compensation except as provided in subsection (4), com-
5 posed of the following:

6 (i) Three public members who have had contact with an office
7 of the friend of the court.

8 (ii) Three attorneys who are members of the state bar of
9 Michigan and whose practices are primarily ~~domestic relations~~
10 FAMILY law. Not more than 1 attorney may be a circuit court
11 judge.

12 (iii) Three human service professionals who provide family
13 counseling.

14 (i) Cooperate with the office of child support in developing
15 and implementing a statewide information system as provided in
16 the office of child support act, Act No. 174 of the Public Acts
17 of 1971, being sections 400.231 to 400.235 of the Michigan
18 Compiled Laws.

19 (j) Develop and make available guidelines to assist the
20 office of the friend of the court in determining the appropriate-
21 ness in individual cases of the following:

22 (i) Imposing a lien or requiring the posting of a bond,
23 security, or other guarantee to secure the payment of support.

24 (ii) Implementing the offset of a delinquent payer's state
25 income tax refund.

26 (k) Develop and provide the office of the friend of the
27 court with:

1 (i) Form motions, responses, and orders for use by a payer
2 or payee in requesting the court to modify his or her child sup-
3 port order, or in responding to a motion for modification without
4 the assistance of legal counsel.

5 (ii) Instructions on preparing and filing the forms,
6 instructions on service of process, and instructions on schedul-
7 ing a support modification hearing.

8 (4) The STATE advisory committee established under subsec-
9 tion (3)(h) shall advise the bureau in the performance of its
10 duties under this section. ~~Advisory~~ STATE ADVISORY committee
11 members shall be reimbursed for their expenses for mileage,
12 meals, and, if necessary, lodging, ~~pursuant to~~ UNDER the sched-
13 ule for reimbursement established annually by the legislature.
14 Meetings of the STATE advisory committee shall be open to the
15 public. Members of the public attending a meeting of the STATE
16 advisory committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to
17 address the committee on any issue under consideration by the
18 committee. If a vote is to be taken by the STATE advisory com-
19 mittee, the opportunity to address the committee shall be given
20 before the vote is taken.

21 (5) The bureau may call upon each office of the friend of
22 the court for assistance in performing the duties imposed in this
23 section.

24 Sec. 21. (1) ~~Each person appointed as friend of the court~~
25 ~~under former Act No. 412 of the Public Acts of 1919 who is serv-~~
26 ~~ing in that position~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SERVING AS FRIEND OF
27 THE COURT on the day before the effective date of ~~this~~ THE

1 AMENDATORY act THAT ADDED SECTION 4 shall continue to serve in
2 that position ~~, as reconstituted by this act~~ AT THE PLEASURE OF
3 THE COUNTY BOARD.

4 (2) All files, records, funds, and pending cases of an
5 office of the friend of the court under former Act No. 412 of
6 the Public Acts of 1919 are transferred to the corresponding
7 office as reconstituted by this act.

8 (3) Except in the county of Wayne, the employees of a friend
9 of the court appointed under former Act No. 412 of the Public
10 Acts of 1919 shall become employees of the corresponding office
11 of the friend of the court as reconstituted by this act, in simi-
12 lar positions, and with salary ranges and benefits not inferior
13 to their status under former Act No. 412 of the Public Acts of
14 1919. In the county of Wayne the employees of the state judicial
15 council serving in the court in the third judicial circuit and
16 supervised by the friend of the court on the day before the
17 effective date of this act shall continue in their present
18 positions.

19 Sec. 22. If the friend of the court serving a judicial cir-
20 cuit is not an attorney who is a member of the state bar of
21 Michigan and that office does not employ such an attorney, the
22 ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY BOARD may appoint an attorney who is a
23 member of the state bar of Michigan to assist the friend of the
24 court when legal assistance is necessary to carry out the duties
25 imposed in this act. An attorney appointed under this section to
26 assist an office shall be compensated in a reasonable amount,
27 based upon time and expenses, to be determined by the county

1 board or boards ~~of commissioners~~ of the judicial circuit served
2 by that office. If the judicial circuit is one in which the
3 employees serving in the circuit court are employees of the state
4 judicial council, the compensation of an attorney appointed under
5 this section shall be paid by the state and fixed by the state
6 judicial council as provided in section 9104 of the revised judi-
7 cature act of 1961, Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, being
8 section 600.9104 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

9 Sec. 23. (1) If the position of friend of the court becomes
10 vacant for any reason, the ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY BOARD shall
11 appoint a person to the position of friend of the court not later
12 than 6 months after the vacancy occurs.

13 (2) If necessary, the chief judge may appoint an interim
14 friend of the court to serve for not longer than 6 months until a
15 friend of the court is appointed ~~pursuant to this section~~ UNDER
16 SUBSECTION (1).

17 (3) A friend of the court appointed under this section shall
18 demonstrate experience or education in 1 or more of the following
19 areas:

20 (a) A human service or behavioral science field.

21 (b) Domestic relations law.

22 (c) Administration.

23 Sec. 24. The ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY BOARD annually shall
24 review the performance record of each friend of the court serving
25 that circuit to determine whether the friend of the court is
26 guilty of misconduct, neglect of statutory duty, or failure to
27 carry out written orders of the court relative to a statutory

1 duty; whether the purposes of this act are being met; and whether
2 the duties of the friend of the court are being carried out in a
3 manner that reflects the needs of the community being served.
4 Public notice of the annual review shall be given. Members of
5 the public may submit written comments to the ~~chief judge~~
6 COUNTY BOARD relating to the above criteria. A written evalu-
7 ation, which shall include a summary of any public comments
8 received, shall be made. The friend of the court and the bureau
9 shall each receive a copy of the evaluation. The friend of the
10 court shall have an opportunity to make a written response to the
11 evaluation. A copy of the response shall be included with the
12 evaluation.

13 Sec. 25. (1) In a judicial circuit in which the friend of
14 the court is employed by the state judicial council, the ~~chief~~
15 ~~judge~~ COUNTY BOARD may remove the friend of the court or place
16 the friend of the court on probation upon making a determination
17 that the friend of the court is guilty of misconduct, neglect of
18 statutory duty, or failure to carry out written orders of the
19 court relative to a statutory duty.

20 (2) In a judicial circuit other than as described in subsec-
21 tion (1), THE COUNTY BOARD MAY CONVENE a hearing to consider
22 whether the friend of the court is guilty of misconduct, neglect
23 of statutory duty, or failure to carry out written orders of the
24 court relative to a statutory duty. IF REQUESTED BY THE CHIEF
25 JUDGE IN A STATEMENT SETTING FORTH THE REASONS REQUESTED FOR THE
26 HEARING, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL CONVENE A HEARING DESCRIBED IN

1 THIS SUBSECTION. ~~shall be convened by 1 of the following~~
 2 ~~procedures:~~

3 ~~(a) By the chief judge on his or her own motion.~~

4 ~~(b) By a visiting judge requested by the chief judge to be~~
 5 ~~assigned pursuant to section 225, 226, 558, or 8212 of the~~
 6 ~~revised judicature act of 1961, being sections 600.225, 600.226,~~
 7 ~~600.558, and 600.8212 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, after the~~
 8 ~~chief judge has received either of the following, as applicable:~~

9 ~~(i) In a judicial circuit composed of a single county, a~~
 10 ~~request in the form of a resolution passed by a majority of mem-~~
 11 ~~bers of the county board of commissioners.~~

12 ~~(ii) In a judicial circuit composed of more than 1 county, a~~
 13 ~~request in the form of a resolution passed by a majority of mem-~~
 14 ~~bers of not less than 50% of the county boards of commissioners.~~

15 ~~(3) A resolution passed pursuant to subsection (2)(b)(i) or~~
 16 ~~(ii) shall state the reasons for the requested hearing.~~

17 (3) ~~(4)~~ Before commencing a hearing under subsection (2),
 18 the ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY BOARD shall give, personally or by ordi-
 19 nary mail, to the friend of the court, notice of the facts that
 20 are alleged to warrant the hearing. The friend of the court
 21 shall have an opportunity to be heard at the hearing.

22 (4) ~~(5)~~ The ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY BOARD may remove the
 23 friend of the court or place the friend of the court on probation
 24 if the hearing held under subsection (2) results in a determina-
 25 tion that the friend of the court is guilty of misconduct,
 26 neglect of statutory duty, or failure to carry out written orders
 27 of the court relative to a statutory duty.

1 Sec. 26. (1) A party to a domestic relations matter who has
2 a grievance concerning office operations or employees shall uti-
3 lize the following grievance procedure:

4 (a) File the grievance, in writing, with the appropriate
5 friend of the court office. The office shall cause the grievance
6 to be investigated and decided as soon as practicable. THE
7 OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE GRIEVANCE TO THE LIAISON.

8 (b) A party who is not satisfied with the decision of the
9 office under subdivision (a) OR THE LIAISON'S RESPONSE, may file
10 a further grievance, in writing, with the ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY
11 BOARD. The ~~chief judge~~ COUNTY BOARD shall cause the grievance
12 to be investigated and decided as soon as practicable.

13 (2) Each office shall maintain a record of grievances
14 received and a record of whether the grievance is decided or
15 outstanding. The record shall be transmitted not less than bian-
16 nually to the bureau. Each office shall provide public access to
17 the report of grievances prepared by the bureau under section
18 19.

19 Sec. 27. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3),
20 the compensation and expenses of the friend of the court for each
21 judicial circuit and of the employees of the office and all oper-
22 ating expenses incurred by the office shall be fixed by the
23 ~~chief judge as provided in section 591 of the revised judicature~~
24 ~~act of 1961, Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, being sec-~~
25 ~~tion 600.591 of the Michigan Compiled Laws~~ COUNTY BOARD. The
26 compensation and expenses shall be paid by the county treasurer
27 from the general fund, and the friend of the court fund created

1 under section 2530 of the revised judicature act of 1961, Act
2 No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, being section 600.2530 of
3 the Michigan Compiled Laws, of the county or counties served.

4 (2) In the third judicial circuit the compensation of the
5 friend of the court and the employees of the state judicial coun-
6 cil serving in the third judicial circuit and supervised by the
7 friend of the court shall be paid by the state and shall be fixed
8 as provided in sections 592 and 9104 of the revised judicature
9 act of 1961, Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961, being sec-
10 tions 600.592 and 600.9104 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

11 Pursuant to section 595(1) of Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of
12 1961, being section 600.595 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the
13 state shall maintain and operate the office of the friend of the
14 court as the successor to the friend of the court appointed under
15 former Act No. 412 of the Public Acts of 1919.

16 (3) In any other judicial circuit in which employees serving
17 in the circuit court are employees of the state judicial council,
18 the compensation of the friend of the court and the employees of
19 the state judicial council serving in that judicial circuit and
20 supervised by the friend of the court shall be paid by the state
21 and shall be fixed as provided in section 9104 of the revised
22 judicature act of 1961, Act No. 236 of the Public Acts of 1961.

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

25 (2) "Chief judge" means the following:

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

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

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

7 (3) "CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE" MEANS A CITIZENS' FRIEND
8 OF THE COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED AS PROVIDED IN SEC-
9 TION 4B.

10 (4) ~~(3)~~ "Consumer reporting agency" means a person that,
11 for monetary fees or dues, or on a cooperative nonprofit basis,
12 regularly engages in whole or in part in the practice of assembl-
13 ing or evaluating consumer credit information or other informa-
14 tion on consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports
15 to third parties, and that uses any means or facility of inter-
16 state commerce for the purpose of preparing or furnishing con-
17 sumer reports. As used in this subsection, "consumer report"
18 means that term as defined in section 603 of THE FAIR CREDIT
19 REPORTING ACT, title VI of the consumer credit protection act,
20 Public Law 90-321, 15 U.S.C. 1681a.

21 (5) "COUNTY BOARD" MEANS THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
22 OR, FOR A MULTICOUNTY CIRCUIT, A CONSORTIUM OF COUNTY BOARDS AS
23 PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.

24 (6) ~~(4)~~ "Court" means the circuit court.

25 (7) ~~(5)~~ "Domestic relations mediation" means a process by
26 which the parties are assisted by a domestic relations mediator
27 in voluntarily formulating an agreement to resolve a dispute

1 concerning child custody or visitation that arises from a
2 domestic relations matter.

3 (8) ~~(6)~~ "Domestic relations matter" means a circuit court
4 proceeding as to child custody or visitation, or child or spouse
5 support, that arises out of litigation under a statute of this
6 state, including but not limited to the following:

7 (a) Chapter 84 of the Revised Statutes of 1846, being sec-
8 tions 552.1 to 552.45 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

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

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

15 (d) Act No. 293 of the Public Acts of 1968, being sections
16 722.1 to 722.6 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

17 (e) The paternity act, Act No. 205 of the Public Acts of
18 1956, being sections 722.711 to 722.730 of the Michigan Compiled
19 Laws.

20 (f) Revised uniform reciprocal enforcement of support act,
21 Act No. 8 of the Public Acts of 1952, being sections 780.151 to
22 780.183 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

23 (9) ~~(7)~~ "Friend of the court" means the person serving
24 under section 21(1) or appointed pursuant to section 23, as the
25 head of the office of the friend of the court.

26 (10) "LIAISON" MEANS THE FRIEND OF THE COURT LIAISON
27 APPOINTED UNDER SECTION 4A.

1 (11) ~~(8)~~ "Medical assistance" means medical assistance as
2 established under title XIX of the social security act, chapter
3 531, 49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. 1396 to 1396g and 1396i to 1396v.

4 (12) ~~(9)~~ "Office" and "office of the friend of the court"
5 mean the agency created in section 3.

6 (13) ~~(10)~~ "Payer" means a person ordered by the circuit
7 court to pay support.

8 (14) ~~(11)~~ "Public assistance" means aid to families with
9 dependent children, general assistance, foster care maintenance,
10 or a combination of those items.

11 (15) ~~(12)~~ "Recipient of support" means the following:

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

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

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

19 (16) "STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE" MEANS THE COMMITTEE ESTAB-
20 LISHED BY THE BUREAU UNDER SECTION 19.

21 (17) ~~(13)~~ "Support" means either of the following:

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

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

6 (18) ~~(+4)~~ "Support and visitation enforcement act" means
7 Act No. 295 of the Public Acts of 1982, being sections 552.601 to
8 552.650 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

9 (19) ~~(+5)~~ "Support order" means an order entered by the
10 circuit court for the payment of support in a sum certain,
11 whether in the form of a lump sum or a periodic payment.