

Act No. 568
Public Acts of 2002
Approved by the Governor
October 3, 2002
Filed with the Secretary of State
October 3, 2002
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2002

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2002**

**Introduced by Reps. Raczkowski, Tabor, Hummel, DeRossett, Howell, Newell, Voorhees, Vander Veen,
Patterson, Palmer, Caul, Julian, Vear, George, Bisbee and Jansen**

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 6007

AN ACT to amend 1982 PA 295, entitled "An act to provide for and to supplement statutes that provide for the provisions and enforcement of support, health care, and parenting time orders with respect to divorce, separate maintenance, paternity, child custody and support, and spousal support; to prescribe and authorize certain provisions of those orders; to prescribe the powers and duties of the circuit court and friend of the court; to prescribe certain duties of certain employers and other sources of income; to provide for penalties and remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts," by amending sections 2, 41, 42, 44, and 45 (MCL 552.602, 552.641, 552.642, 552.644, and 552.645), section 2 as amended by 1999 PA 160, sections 41 and 42 as amended by 1996 PA 25, and sections 44 and 45 as amended by 1998 PA 334, and by adding section 42a.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

- (a) "Account" means any of the following:
 - (i) A demand deposit account.
 - (ii) A draft account.
 - (iii) A checking account.
 - (iv) A negotiable order of withdrawal account.
 - (v) A share account.
 - (vi) A savings account.
 - (vii) A time savings account.
 - (viii) A mutual fund account.
 - (ix) A securities brokerage account.
 - (x) A money market account.
 - (xi) A retail investment account.
- (b) "Account" does not mean any of the following:
 - (i) A trust.

- (ii) An annuity.
 - (iii) A qualified individual retirement account.
 - (iv) An account covered by the employee retirement income security act of 1974, Public Law 93-406, 88 Stat. 829.
 - (v) A pension or retirement plan.
 - (vi) An insurance policy.
- (c) "Address" means the primary address shown on the records of a financial institution used by the financial institution to contact the account holder.
- (d) "Cash" means money or the equivalent of money, such as a money order, cashier's check, or negotiable check or a payment by debit or credit card, which equivalent is accepted as cash by the agency accepting the payment.
- (e) "Custody or parenting time order violation" means an individual's act or failure to act that interferes with a parent's right to interact with his or her child in the time, place, and manner established in the order that governs custody or parenting time between the parent and the child and to which the individual accused of interfering is subject.
- (f) "Department" means the family independence agency.
- (g) "Domestic relations matter" means a circuit court proceeding as to child custody or parenting time, or child or spousal support, that arises out of litigation under a statute of this state, including, but not limited to, the following:
- (i) 1846 RS 84, MCL 552.1 to 552.45.
 - (ii) The family support act, 1966 PA 138, MCL 552.451 to 552.459.
 - (iii) Child custody act of 1970, 1970 PA 91, MCL 722.21 to 722.31.
 - (iv) 1968 PA 293, MCL 722.1 to 722.6.
 - (v) The paternity act, 1956 PA 205, MCL 722.711 to 722.730.
 - (vi) Revised uniform reciprocal enforcement of support act, 1952 PA 8, MCL 780.151 to 780.183.
 - (vii) Uniform interstate family support act, 1996 PA 310, MCL 552.1101 to 552.1901.
- (h) "Driver's license" means license as that term is defined in section 25 of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.25.
- (i) "Employer" means an individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, association, or private or public corporation, the United States or a federal agency, this state or a political subdivision of this state, another state or a political subdivision of another state, or another legal entity that hires and pays an individual for his or her services.
- (j) "Financial asset" means a deposit, account, money market fund, stock, bond, or similar instrument.
- (k) "Financial institution" means any of the following:
- (i) A state or national bank.
 - (ii) A state or federally chartered savings and loan association.
 - (iii) A state or federally chartered savings bank.
 - (iv) A state or federally chartered credit union.
 - (v) An insurance company.
 - (vi) An entity that offers any of the following to a resident of this state:
 - (A) A mutual fund account.
 - (B) A securities brokerage account.
 - (C) A money market account.
 - (D) A retail investment account.
 - (vii) An entity regulated by the securities and exchange commission that collects funds from the public.
 - (viii) An entity that is a member of the national association of securities dealers and that collects funds from the public.
 - (ix) Another entity that collects funds from the public.
- (l) "Friend of the court act" means 1982 PA 294, MCL 552.501 to 552.535.
- (m) "Friend of the court case" means that term as defined in section 2 of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.502. The term "friend of the court case", when used in a provision of this act, is not effective until on and after the effective date of section 5a of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.505a.
- (n) "Income" means any of the following:
- (i) Commissions, earnings, salaries, wages, and other income due or to be due in the future to an individual from his or her employer and successor employers.

(ii) A payment due or to be due in the future to an individual from a profit-sharing plan, a pension plan, an insurance contract, an annuity, social security, unemployment compensation, supplemental unemployment benefits, or worker's compensation.

(iii) An amount of money that is due to an individual as a debt of another individual, partnership, association, or private or public corporation, the United States or a federal agency, this state or a political subdivision of this state, another state or a political subdivision of another state, or another legal entity that is indebted to the individual.

(o) "Insurer" means an insurer, health maintenance organization, health care corporation, or other group, plan, or entity that provides health care coverage in accordance with any of the following acts:

(i) Public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.1101 to 333.25211.

(ii) The insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.100 to 500.8302.

(iii) The nonprofit health care corporation reform act, 1980 PA 350, MCL 550.1101 to 550.1704.

(p) "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 1396r-6 and 1396r-8 to 1396v.

(q) "Occupational license" means a certificate, registration, or license issued by a state department, bureau, or agency that has regulatory authority over an individual that allows an individual to legally engage in a regulated occupation or that allows the individual to use a specific title in the practice of an occupation, profession, or vocation.

(r) "Office of child support" means the office of child support established in section 2 of the office of child support act, 1971 PA 174, MCL 400.232.

(s) "Office of the friend of the court" means an agency created in section 3 of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.503.

(t) "Order of income withholding" means an order entered by the circuit court providing for the withholding of a payer's income to enforce a support order under this act.

(u) "Payer" means an individual who is ordered by the circuit court to pay support.

(v) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity.

(w) "Plan administrator" means that term as used in relation to a group health plan under section 609 of part 6 of subtitle B of title I of the employee retirement income security act of 1974, Public Law 93-406, 29 U.S.C. 1169, if the health care coverage plan of the individual who is responsible for providing a child with health care coverage is subject to that act.

(x) "Political subdivision" means a county, city, village, township, educational institution, school district, or special district or authority of the state or of a local unit of government.

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

(i) The spouse, if the support order orders spousal support.

(ii) 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.

(iii) The department, if support has been assigned to that department.

(z) "Recreational or sporting license" means a hunting, fishing, or fur harvester's license issued under the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.101 to 324.90106, but does not include a commercial fishing license or permit issued under part 473 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.47301 to 324.47362.

(aa) "Referee" means a person who is designated as a referee under the friend of the court act.

(bb) "Source of income" means an employer or successor employer or another individual or entity that owes or will owe income to the payer.

(cc) "State disbursement unit" or "SDU" means the entity established in section 6 of the office of child support act, 1971 PA 174, MCL 400.236.

(dd) "State friend of the court bureau" means that bureau as created in the state court administrative office under section 19 of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.519.

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

(i) 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.

(ii) The payment of money ordered by the circuit court under the paternity act, 1956 PA 205, MCL 722.711 to 722.730, for the necessary expenses incurred by or for the mother in connection with her confinement, for other expenses in connection with the pregnancy of the mother, or for the repayment of genetic testing expenses.

(iii) A surcharge accumulated under section 3a.

(ff) “Support order” means an order entered by the circuit court for the payment of support, whether or not a sum certain.

(gg) “Title IV-D” means part D of title IV of the social security act, chapter 531, 49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. 651 to 655, 656 to 657, 658a to 660, and 663 to 669b.

(hh) “Title IV-D agency” means the agency in this state performing the functions under title IV-D and includes a person performing those functions under contract including an office of the friend of the court or a prosecuting attorney.

(ii) “Work activity” means any of the following:

(i) Unsubsidized employment.

(ii) Subsidized private sector employment.

(iii) Subsidized public sector employment.

(iv) Work experience, including work associated with the refurbishing of publicly assisted housing, if sufficient private sector employment is not available.

(v) On-the-job training.

(vi) Referral to and participation in the work first program prescribed in the social welfare act, 1939 PA 280, MCL 400.1 to 400.119b, or other job search and job readiness assistance.

(vii) Community service programs.

(viii) Vocational educational training, not to exceed 12 months with respect to an individual.

(ix) Job skills training directly related to employment.

(x) Education directly related to employment, in the case of an individual who has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency.

(xi) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalence, in the case of an individual who has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate.

(xii) The provisions of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

Sec. 41. (1) For a friend of the court case, a friend of the court shall do 1 or more of the following in response to an alleged custody or parenting time order violation stated in a complaint submitted under section 11b of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.511b:

(a) Apply a makeup parenting time policy established under section 42.

(b) Commence civil contempt proceedings under section 44.

(c) File a motion with the court under section 17d of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.517d, for a modification of existing parenting time provisions to ensure parenting time, unless contrary to the best interests of the child.

(d) Schedule mediation subject to section 13 of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.513.

(e) Schedule a joint meeting subject to section 42a.

(2) Notwithstanding the requirement of subsection (1), the office of the friend of the court may decline to respond to an alleged custody or parenting time order violation under any of the following circumstances:

(a) The party submitting the complaint has previously submitted 2 or more complaints alleging custody or parenting time order violations that were found to be unwarranted, costs were assessed against the party because a complaint was found to be unwarranted, and the party has not paid those costs.

(b) The alleged custody or parenting time order violation occurred more than 56 days before the complaint is submitted.

(c) The custody or parenting time order does not include an enforceable provision that is relevant to the custody or parenting time order violation alleged in the complaint.

(3) This section shall be implemented in compliance with the guidelines developed as required in section 19 of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.519.

Sec. 42. (1) Each circuit shall establish a makeup parenting time policy under which a parent who has been wrongfully denied parenting time is able to make up the parenting time at a later date. The policy does not apply until it is approved by the chief circuit judge. A makeup parenting time policy established under this section shall provide all of the following:

(a) That makeup parenting time shall be at least the same type and duration of parenting time as the parenting time that was denied, including, but not limited to, weekend parenting time for weekend parenting time, holiday parenting

time for holiday parenting time, weekday parenting time for weekday parenting time, and summer parenting time for summer parenting time.

(b) That makeup parenting time shall be taken within 1 year after the wrongfully denied parenting time was to have occurred.

(c) That the wrongfully denied parent shall choose the time of the makeup parenting time.

(d) That the wrongfully denied parent shall notify both the office of the friend of the court and the other parent in writing not less than 1 week before making use of makeup weekend or weekday parenting time or not less than 28 days before making use of makeup holiday or summer parenting time.

(2) If wrongfully denied parenting time is alleged and the friend of the court determines that action should be taken, the office of the friend of the court shall send each party a notice containing the following statement in boldfaced type of not less than 12 points:

“FAILURE TO RESPOND IN WRITING TO THE OFFICE OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT WITHIN 21 DAYS AFTER THIS NOTICE WAS SENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS AN AGREEMENT THAT PARENTING TIME WAS WRONGFULLY DENIED AND THAT THE MAKEUP PARENTING TIME POLICY ESTABLISHED BY THE COURT WILL BE APPLIED.”

(3) If a party to the parenting time order does not respond in writing to the office of the friend of the court, within 21 days after the office sends the notice required under subsection (2), to contest the application of the makeup parenting time policy, the office of the friend of the court shall notify each party that the makeup parenting time policy applies. If a party makes a timely response to contest the application of the makeup parenting time policy, the office of the friend of the court shall utilize a procedure authorized under section 41 other than the application of the makeup parenting time policy.

Sec. 42a. (1) A joint meeting scheduled by the office of the friend of the court under section 41 and procedures following a joint meeting are governed by this section.

(2) A joint meeting may take place in person or by means of telecommunications equipment.

(3) Only an individual who completes the training program described in section 19(3)(b) of the friend of the court act, 1982 PA 294, MCL 552.519, shall conduct a joint meeting. At the beginning of a joint meeting, the individual conducting the joint meeting shall do the following:

(a) Advise the parties that the purpose of the meeting is for the parties to reach an accommodation.

(b) Advise the parties that the individual may recommend an order that the court may issue to resolve the dispute.

(4) At the conclusion of a joint meeting, the individual conducting the joint meeting shall do 1 of the following:

(a) If the parties reach an accommodation, record the accommodation in writing and provide a copy to each party.

(b) Submit an order to the court stating the individual's recommendation for resolving the dispute.

(5) If the individual conducting a joint meeting submits a recommended order to the court under subsection (4), the individual shall send a notice to each party who participated in the joint meeting that includes all of the following:

(a) A copy of the recommended order.

(b) Notice that the court may issue the recommended order resolving the dispute unless a party objects to the order within 21 days after the notice is sent.

(c) The place where and time when a written objection can be submitted.

(d) Notice that a party may waive the 21-day objection period by returning a signed copy of the recommendation.

(6) If a party files a written objection within the 21-day limit, the office shall set a court hearing, before a judge or referee, to resolve the dispute. If a party fails to file a written objection within the 21-day limit, the office shall submit the proposed order to the court for entry if the court approves it.

(7) If a hearing under subsection (6) is held before a referee, either party is entitled to a de novo hearing before a judge as provided in section 7 of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.507.

Sec. 44. (1) If the office of the friend of the court determines that a procedure for resolving a parenting time dispute authorized under section 41 other than a civil contempt proceeding is unsuccessful in resolving a parenting time dispute, the office of the friend of the court shall commence a civil contempt proceeding to resolve a dispute concerning parenting time with a minor child by filing with the circuit court a petition for an order to show cause why either parent who has violated a parenting time order should not be held in contempt. The office of the friend of the court shall notify the parent who is the subject of the petition. The notice shall include at least all of the following:

(a) A list of each possible sanction if the parent is found in contempt.

(b) The right of the parent to a hearing on a proposed modification of parenting time if requested within 21 days after the date of the notice, as provided in section 45.

(2) If the court finds that either parent has violated a parenting time order without good cause, the court shall find that parent in contempt and may do 1 or more of the following:

(a) Require additional terms and conditions consistent with the court's parenting time order.

(b) After notice to both parties and a hearing, if requested by a party, on a proposed modification of parenting time, modify the parenting time order to meet the best interests of the child.

(c) Order that makeup parenting time be provided for the wrongfully denied parent to take the place of wrongfully denied parenting time.

(d) Order the parent to pay a fine of not more than \$100.00.

(e) Commit the parent to the county jail.

(f) Commit the parent to the county jail with the privilege of leaving the jail during the hours the court determines necessary, and under the supervision the court considers necessary, for the purpose of allowing the parent to go to and return from his or her place of employment.

(g) If the parent holds an occupational license, driver's license, or recreational or sporting license, condition the suspension of the license, or any combination of the licenses, upon noncompliance with an order for makeup and ongoing parenting time.

(h) If available within the court's jurisdiction, order the parent to participate in a community corrections program established as provided in the community corrections act, 1988 PA 511, MCL 791.401 to 791.414.

(3) The court shall state on the record the reason the court is not ordering a sanction listed in subsection (2)(a) to (h). For the purpose of subsection (2), "good cause" includes, but is not limited to, consideration of the safety of a child or party who is governed by the parenting time order.

(4) A commitment under subsection (2)(e) or (f) shall not exceed 45 days for the first finding of contempt or 90 days for each subsequent finding of contempt. A parent committed under subsection (2)(e) or (f) shall be released if the court has reasonable cause to believe that the parent will comply with the parenting time order.

(5) If a parent fails to appear in response to an order to show cause, the court may issue a bench warrant requiring that the parent be brought before the court without unnecessary delay to show cause why the parent should not be held in contempt. Except for good cause shown on the record, the court shall further order the parent to pay the costs of the hearing, the issuance of the warrant, the arrest, and further hearings, which costs shall be transmitted to the county treasurer for distribution as provided in section 31.

(6) If the court finds that a party to a parenting time dispute has acted in bad faith, the court shall order the party to pay a sanction of not more than \$250.00 for the first time the party is found to have acted in bad faith, not more than \$500.00 for the second time, and not more than \$1,000.00 for the third or a subsequent time. A sanction ordered under this subsection shall be deposited in the friend of the court fund created in section 2530 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.2530, and shall be used to fund services that are not title IV-D services.

(7) A fine ordered under subsection (2), costs ordered under subsection (5), or a sanction ordered under subsection (6) becomes a judgment at the time they are ordered.

(8) If the court finds that a party to a parenting time dispute has acted in bad faith, the court shall order the party to pay the other party's costs.

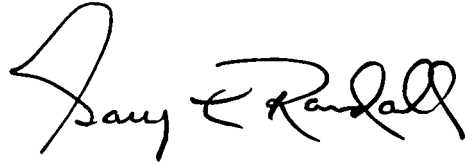
Sec. 45. (1) If the court enters an order under section 44(2)(g) and the parent fails to comply with the makeup and ongoing parenting time schedule, the court shall find the parent in contempt and, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, may order suspension of the parent's license or licenses with respect to which the order under section 44(2)(g) was entered and proceed under section 30.

(2) After entry of a suspension order under subsection (1), a parent may agree to a makeup parenting time schedule. The court may order a makeup parenting time schedule if the parent demonstrates a good faith effort to comply with the parenting time order. If the court orders a makeup parenting time schedule, the court shall enter an order rescinding the suspension order that is effective as provided in section 4 of the regulated occupation support enforcement act, 1996 PA 236, MCL 338.3434, section 321c of the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.321c, or section 43559 of the natural resources and environmental protection act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.43559. Within 7 business days after entry of the order rescinding the suspension order, the office of the friend of the court shall send a copy of the order rescinding the suspension order to the licensing agency.

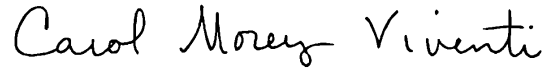
(3) Within 21 days after the date of the notice under section 44, a parent who is notified of a petition to show cause under section 44 may request a hearing on a proposed modification of parenting time. The court shall hold the requested hearing unless the parenting time dispute is resolved by other means. The court shall combine the hearing prescribed by this subsection with the hearing on the order to show cause unless the court finds for good cause shown on the record that the hearings should be held separately. If the court finds that the hearings should be held separately, the hearing on a proposed modification of parenting time shall be held before the hearing on the order to show cause.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect December 1, 2002.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



Clerk of the House of Representatives.



Secretary of the Senate.

Approved _____

Governor.