

Act No. 373  
Public Acts of 2014  
Approved by the Governor  
December 17, 2014  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
December 17, 2014  
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 17, 2015

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
97TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014**

Introduced by Rep. Rendon

# ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5472

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 section 2 (MCL 552.602), as amended by 2009 PA 193, and by adding section 35a.

*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.

(v) A pension or retirement plan.

(vi) An insurance policy.

(c) "Alternative contempt track" means the alternative contempt track docket established under section 35a.

(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 department of human services.

(g) "Domestic relations matter" means a circuit court proceeding as to child custody, parenting time, child support, 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) The 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) The revised uniform reciprocal enforcement of support act, 1952 PA 8, MCL 780.151 to 780.183.

(vii) The 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 the friend of the court act, 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.

(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 or a successor employer.

(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) The 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, 42 USC 1396 to 1396w-5.
- (q) “Most recent semiannual obligation” means the total amount of current child support owed by a parent during the preceding January 1 to June 30 or July 1 to December 31.
- (r) “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.
- (s) “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.
- (t) “Office of the friend of the court” means an agency created in section 3 of the friend of the court act, MCL 552.503.
- (u) “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.
- (v) “Payer” means an individual who is ordered by the circuit court to pay support.
- (w) “Person” means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity.
- (x) “Plan administrator” means that term as used in relation to a group health plan under section 609 of title I of the employee retirement income security act of 1974, 29 USC 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.
- (y) “Political subdivision” means a county, city, village, township, educational institution, school district, or special district or authority of this state or of a local unit of government.
- (z) “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.
  - (iv) The county, if the minor child is in county-funded foster care.
- (aa) “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.
- (bb) “Referee” means a person who is designated as a referee under the friend of the court act.
- (cc) “Source of income” means an employer or successor employer, a labor organization, or another individual or entity that owes or will owe income to the payer.
- (dd) “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.
- (ee) “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.
- (ff) “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 connected to the mother’s pregnancy or the birth of the child, or for the repayment of genetic testing expenses.
  - (iii) A surcharge under section 3a.
- (gg) “Support order” means an order entered by the circuit court for the payment of support, whether or not a sum certain.
- (hh) “Title IV-D” means part D of title IV of the social security act, 42 USC 651 to 669b.

(ii) "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.

(jj) "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 or successor 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) A community service program.

(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 provision of child care services to an individual who is participating in a community service program.

Sec. 35a. (1) A payer who meets the criteria in subsection (2) may, with the consent of the court, agree to have his or her case placed on an alternative contempt track docket.

(2) The alternative contempt track is available for a payer who is determined by the court to have difficulty making support payments due to any of the following:

(a) A documented medical condition.

(b) A documented psychological disorder.

(c) Substance use disorder.

(d) Illiteracy.

(e) Homelessness.

(f) A temporary curable condition that the payer has difficulty controlling without assistance.

(g) Unemployment lasting longer than 27 weeks.

(3) The alternative contempt track shall provide for all of the following:

(a) A payer who is in the alternative contempt track is subject to probation for a period of up to 1 year.

(b) The court shall approve a plan to address the conditions in subsection (2).

(c) The court may direct the sheriff to take into custody a payer who fails to comply with the plan described in subdivision (b) under the conditions and for the time that the court directs to bring the payer into compliance with the plan described under subdivision (b). A payer shall not be ordered to remain in the sheriff's custody longer than 45 days for any single plan violation.

(d) If a payer willfully fails to comply with the terms of the plan described in subdivision (b), the court may punish that payer by ordering his or her commitment to jail for a period not to exceed 10 days.

(e) The payer is required to appear for review hearings as scheduled by the court and is subject to arrest according to section 31.

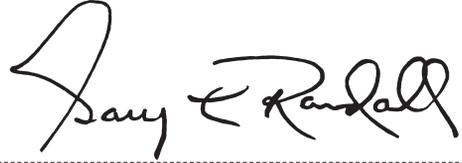
(f) The plan described in subdivision (b) may provide notice of modification to the payer and recipient of support. The court may enter a temporary support order or stay the current order based on the person's ability during the period a payer is under an alternative contempt track plan. Subject to section 3(2), the court shall enter a final support order upon completion or termination of the plan described in subdivision (b). Either party may object to a proposed final support order resulting from a plan described in subdivision (b). If an objection is made, the court must hold a separate hearing on the matter of entry of a final support order.

(g) The court may discharge arrears owed to the state with the state's approval and may also discharge arrears owed to a payee with the payee's consent upon successful completion of the alternative contempt track.

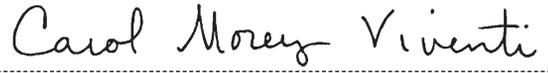
(4) Each court that uses an alternative contempt track must submit a plan for the alternative contempt track and obtain approval of the plan by the state court administrative office under the supervision of the supreme court.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days after the date it is enacted into law.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Secretary of the Senate

Approved .....

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Governor