

Chief Judge  
David J. Reader

Circuit Court Judge  
Michael P. Hatty

Probate Court Judge  
Miriam A. Cavanaugh



Livingston County Trial Courts  
204 S. HIGHLANDER WAY, HOWTILL, MI 48843

District Court Judges  
Theresa M. Brennan  
L. Suzanne Geddis  
Carol Sue Reader

State of Michigan  
In the 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court  
Local Administrative Order: 2016- 1

**SUBPOENAS FOR FRIEND OF THE COURT  
CUSTODY, PARENTING TIME AND SUPPORT INVESTIGATORS**

This Administrative Order is issued to maximize the Livingston County Friend of the Court (FOC) resources and in accordance with MRE 1101(b)(9) allowing for the admission of reports submitted by the FOC pursuant to MCL 552.505.

**THE COURT FINDS:**

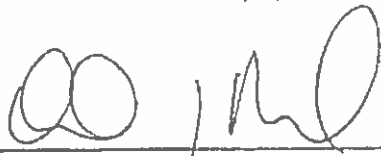
1. The FOC investigates child custody and parenting time disputes when ordered by the Court. MCL 552.505(1)(g).
2. The FOC investigates child support reviews when ordered by the Court. MCL 552.505(1)(h).
3. At the conclusion of the investigation, the FOC investigator submits a written report to the Court and the parties. MCL 552.505(1)(g)(h).
4. Subpoenas requiring the FOC investigator to appear for custody, parenting time, and support hearings require the investigator to devote several hours to preparation, in addition to court time.
5. Due to limited FOC resources, it is necessary to maximize office and personnel efficiencies in order to produce meaningful and timely investigation reports.
6. Testimony by a FOC investigator is cumulative to the admissible written report and nonessential to the presentation of a custody, parenting time, or support case.
7. FOC reports are admissible pursuant to MRE 1101(b)(9). Parties seeking to dispute information contained in the report must present direct evidence disputing the issue.
8. In the event that the Court directly requests the presence of the FOC investigator, the FOC investigator will be present at the hearing.
9. FOC investigators are employees of the 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court.

**THE COURT ORDERS:**

1. The 44<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court will neither issue nor enforce subpoenas against its own employees, specifically, Friend of the Court investigators. The FOC will return the subpoena and any accompanying fee submitted to the issuing party/attorney with a copy of this administrative order.

2. Should a party request that an investigator be present for a hearing, the court will determine whether it is necessary, and if so, will direct the investigator to appear. The court will provide as much advance notice as possible of the date and time for appearance by notifying the investigator or the Friend of the Court in writing or by email.

Effective date: February 1, 2016



1-26-2016

Hon. David J. Reader  
Chief Judge, Livingston County Courts