



SENATE BILL No. 609

June 15, 1995, Introduced by Senators SHUGARS, GEAKE, DINGELL, HOFFMAN, GOUGEON, STILLE, MC MANUS, BYRUM, PETERS and EMMONS and referred to the Committee on Families, Mental Health and Human Services.

A bill to amend sections 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17d, 18, 19, and 31 of Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982, entitled as amended

"Friend of the court act,"

section 5 as amended by Act No. 273 of the Public Acts of 1989, section 7 as amended and section 18 as added by Act No. 208 of the Public Acts of 1985, section 11 as amended by Act No. 288 of the Public Acts of 1992, and section 17d as added and sections 19 and 31 as amended by Act No. 37 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 552.501, 552.505, 552.507, 552.509, 552.511, 552.513, 552.517d, 552.518, 552.519, and 552.531 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Sections 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17d, 18, 19, and 31
2 of Act No. 294 of the Public Acts of 1982, section 5 as amended

1 by Act No. 273 of the Public Acts of 1989, section 7 as amended
2 and section 18 as added by Act No. 208 of the Public Acts of
3 1985, section 11 as amended by Act No. 288 of the Public Acts of
4 1992, and section 17d as added and sections 19 and 31 as amended
5 by Act No. 37 of the Public Acts of 1994, being sections 552.501,
6 552.505, 552.507, 552.509, 552.511, 552.513, 552.517d, 552.518,
7 552.519, and 552.531 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are amended
8 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 1. (1) This act shall be known and may be cited as the
10 "friend of the court act".

11 (2) The purposes of this act are to enumerate and describe
12 the powers and duties of the friend of the court and the office
13 of the friend of the court; to ensure that procedures adopted by
14 the friend of the court will protect the best interests of chil-
15 dren in domestic relations matters; to encourage and assist par-
16 ties voluntarily to resolve contested domestic relations matters
17 by agreement; to compel the enforcement of ~~visitation~~ PARENTING
18 TIME and custody orders; and to compel the enforcement of support
19 orders, ~~thereby~~ ensuring that persons legally responsible for
20 the care and support of children assume their legal obligations
21 and reducing the financial cost to this state of providing public
22 assistance funds for the care of children. This act shall be
23 construed to promote the enumerated purposes and to facilitate
24 the resolution of domestic relations matters.

25 Sec. 5. Before adjudication of a domestic relations matter,
26 the office of the friend of the court shall have the following
27 duties:

1 (a) To provide an informational pamphlet, in accordance with
2 the model pamphlet developed by the bureau, to each party to a
3 domestic relations matter. The informational pamphlet shall
4 explain the procedures of the court and the office; the duties of
5 the office; the rights and responsibilities of the parties; the
6 availability of and procedures used in domestic relations media-
7 tion; the availability of human services in the community; the
8 availability of joint custody as described in section 6a of the
9 child custody act of 1970, Act No. 91 of the Public Acts of 1970,
10 being section 722.26a of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and how to
11 file a grievance regarding the office. The informational pam-
12 phlet shall be provided as soon as possible after the filing of a
13 complaint or other initiating pleading. Upon request, a party
14 shall receive an oral explanation of the informational pamphlet
15 from the office.

16 (b) To inform the parties of the availability of domestic
17 relations mediation if there is a dispute as to child custody or
18 ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME.

19 (c) To inform the parents of the availability of joint cus-
20 tody as described in section 6a of Act No. 91 of the Public Acts
21 of 1970, if there is a dispute between the parents as to child
22 custody.

23 (d) To investigate all relevant facts, and to make a written
24 report and recommendation to the parties and to the court regard-
25 ing child custody or ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME, or both, if
26 there is a dispute as to child custody or ~~visitation~~ PARENTING
27 TIME, or both, and domestic relations mediation is refused by

1 either party or is unsuccessful, or if ordered to do so by the
2 court. The investigation may include reports and evaluations by
3 outside persons or agencies if requested by the parties or the
4 court, and shall include documentation of alleged facts, if
5 practicable. A written report and recommendation regarding child
6 custody or ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME, or both, shall be based
7 upon the factors enumerated in Act No. 91 of the Public Acts of
8 1970, being sections 722.21 to 722.29 of the Michigan Compiled
9 Laws.

10 (e) To investigate all relevant facts and to make a written
11 report and recommendation to the parties and their attorneys and
12 to the court regarding child support, if ordered to do so by the
13 court. The written report and recommendation shall be placed in
14 the court file. The investigation may include reports and evalu-
15 ations by outside persons or agencies if requested by the parties
16 or the court, and shall include documentation of alleged facts,
17 if practicable. The child support formula developed by the
18 bureau under section 19 shall be used as a guideline in recom-
19 mending child support. The written report shall include the sup-
20 port amount determined by application of the child support for-
21 mula and all factual assumptions upon which that support amount
22 is based. If the office of the friend of the court determines
23 from the facts of the case that application of the child support
24 formula would be unjust or inappropriate, the written report
25 shall also include all of the following:

26 (i) An alternative support recommendation.

1 (ii) All factual assumptions upon which the alternative
2 support recommendation is based, if applicable.

3 (iii) How the alternative support recommendation deviates
4 from the child support formula.

5 (iv) The reasons for the alternative support
6 recommendation.

7 Sec. 7. (1) The chief judge may designate as referee the
8 friend of the court; an employee of the office who is a member of
9 the state bar of Michigan; or, ~~pursuant to~~ UNDER section 22, a
10 member of the state bar of Michigan.

11 (2) A referee may do all of the following:

12 (a) Hear all motions in a domestic relations matter, except
13 motions pertaining to an increase or decrease in spouse support,
14 referred to the referee by the court.

15 (b) Administer oaths, compel the attendance of witnesses and
16 the production of documents, and examine witnesses and parties.

17 (c) Make a written, signed report to the court containing a
18 summary of testimony given, a statement of findings, and a recom-
19 mended order; or make a statement of findings on the record and
20 submit a recommended order.

21 (d) Hold hearings as provided in the support and
22 ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME enforcement act, ACT NO. 295 OF THE
23 PUBLIC ACTS OF 1982, BEING SECTIONS 552.601 TO 552.650 OF THE
24 MICHIGAN COMPILED LAWS. The referee shall make a record of each
25 hearing held.

1 (e) Accept a voluntary acknowledgment of support liability,
2 and review and make a recommendation to the court concerning a
3 stipulated agreement to pay support.

4 (f) Recommend a default order establishing, modifying, or
5 enforcing a support obligation in a domestic relations matter.

6 (3) If ordered by the court, or if stipulated by the par-
7 ties, a referee shall make a transcript, verified by oath, of
8 each hearing held. The cost of preparing a transcript shall be
9 apportioned equally between the parties, unless otherwise ordered
10 by the court.

11 (4) A copy of each report, recommendation, transcript, and
12 any supporting documents or a summary of supporting documents
13 prepared or used by the friend of the court or an employee of the
14 office shall be made available to the attorney for each party and
15 to each of the parties before the court takes any action on a
16 recommendation made under this section or section 5. In a child
17 custody dispute, the parties shall be informed of whether a cus-
18 tody preference expressed by the child was considered, evaluated,
19 and determined by the court, but the parties shall not be
20 informed of the preference expressed by the child ~~pursuant to~~
21 UNDER section 3 of the child custody act of 1970, Act No. 91 of
22 the Public Acts of 1970, being section 722.23 of the Michigan
23 Compiled Laws. If a guardian is appointed for a child, the
24 guardian shall be informed whether a custody preference expressed
25 by the child was considered, evaluated, and determined by the
26 court, and, if so, the preference expressed. The manner and time

1 within which this material is made available shall be determined
2 by supreme court rule.

3 (5) The court shall hold a de novo hearing on any matter
4 that has been the subject of a referee hearing, upon the written
5 request of either party or upon motion of the court. The request
6 of a party shall be made within 21 days after the recommendation
7 of the referee is made available to that party under subsection
8 (4), except that a request for a de novo hearing concerning an
9 order of income withholding shall be made within 14 days after
10 the recommendation of the referee is made available to the party
11 under subsection (4).

12 Sec. 9. (1) After a support order is entered in a domestic
13 relations matter, except as otherwise provided in the order or
14 judgment, the office shall receive all payments of support orders
15 and service fees; not less than once each month record the sup-
16 port payments due, paid, and past due; and disburse all support
17 receipts to the recipient of support.

18 (2) The office shall provide annually to each party, without
19 charge, 1 statement of account upon request. Additional state-
20 ments of account shall be provided at a reasonable fee sufficient
21 to pay for the cost of reproduction. Statements provided under
22 this subsection are in addition to statements provided for admin-
23 istrative and judicial hearings.

24 (3) The office shall initiate and carry out proceedings to
25 enforce all orders entered in a domestic relations matter regard-
26 ing custody, ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME, and support, in
27 accordance with this act, ~~the support and visitation enforcement~~

1 ~~act~~ ACT NO. 295 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1982, and supreme court
2 rules.

3 Sec. 11. (1) Each office shall initiate enforcement pursu-
4 ant to the support and ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME enforcement
5 act, Act No. 295 of the Public Acts of 1982, being
6 sections 552.601 to 552.650 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, when a
7 fixed amount of arrearage is reached, except as otherwise pro-
8 vided in section 4(3) of Act No. 295 of the Public Acts of 1982,
9 being section 552.604 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. The amount
10 of arrearage so fixed shall be an amount equal to the amount of
11 support payable for 1 month under the payer's support order. The
12 office shall not initiate enforcement under this subsection if
13 the support order was entered ex parte and the office has not
14 received a copy of proof of service of the order.

15 (2) For a custody or ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME order, the
16 office may initiate enforcement proceedings under subsection (3)
17 upon its own initiative and shall initiate enforcement proceed-
18 ings upon receipt of a written complaint stating the specific
19 facts alleged to constitute a violation, if the office determines
20 that there is reason to believe a violation of a custody or
21 ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME order has occurred. Upon request,
22 the office of the friend of the court shall assist a person in
23 preparing a complaint under this subsection.

24 (3) The office shall send, by ordinary mail, a notice to an
25 alleged violator of a custody or ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME
26 order, informing the alleged violator of the nature of the
27 alleged violation, the proposed action under this or other

1 applicable act, and the availability of domestic relations
2 mediation. The notice shall contain the following statement in
3 boldface type of not less than 12 points:

4 "FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THE FRIEND OF THE COURT OFFICE
5 WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO WORK OUT A
6 SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT MAY RESULT IN CONTEMPT OF COURT
7 PROCEEDINGS BEING BROUGHT AGAINST YOU."

8 (4) A copy of the notice described in subsection (3) shall
9 be sent by ordinary mail to the party alleging a violation.

10 (5) Fourteen days after the date of the notice to the
11 alleged violator under subsection (3), the office may do 1 or
12 more of the following:

13 (a) Schedule a joint meeting with the parties to discuss the
14 allegations of failure to comply with a custody or ~~visitation~~
15 PARENTING TIME order, and attempt to resolve the differences
16 between the parties.

17 (b) Refer the parties to meet with a domestic relations
18 mediator as provided in section 13, if the parties agree to
19 mediation.

20 (c) If appropriate, proceed under section 41 of Act No. 295
21 of the Public Acts of 1982, being section 552.641 of the Michigan
22 Compiled Laws, or other applicable act.

23 Sec. 13. (1) The office shall provide, either directly or
24 by contract, domestic relations mediation to assist the parties
25 in settling voluntarily a dispute concerning child custody or
26 ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME that arises from a domestic relations
27 matter. Parties shall not be required to meet with a domestic

1 relations mediator. The service may be provided directly by the
2 office only if such a service is in place on ~~the effective date~~
3 ~~of this act~~ JULY 1, 1983, if the service is not available from a
4 private source, or if the court can demonstrate that providing
5 the service within the friend of the court office is cost
6 beneficial. Any expansion of existing services provided by the
7 court on ~~the effective date of this act~~ JULY 1, 1983 shall be
8 provided by an individual meeting the domestic relations mediator
9 minimum qualifications listed under subsection (4).

10 (2) If an agreement is reached by the parties through domes-
11 tic relations mediation, a consent order incorporating the agree-
12 ment shall be prepared by the friend of the court; an employee of
13 the office who is a member of the state bar of Michigan;
14 ~~pursuant to~~ UNDER section 22, a member of the state bar of
15 Michigan; or by the attorney for 1 of the parties. The consent
16 order shall be provided to, and shall be entered by, the court.

17 (3) Except as provided in subsection (2), a communication
18 between a domestic relations mediator and a party to a domestic
19 relations mediation is confidential. The secrecy of the communi-
20 cation shall be preserved inviolate as a privileged
21 communication. The communication shall not be admitted in evi-
22 dence in any proceedings. The same protection shall be given to
23 communications between the parties in the presence of the
24 mediator.

25 (4) A domestic relations mediator who performs mediation
26 under this act shall have all of the following minimum
27 qualifications:

1 (a) One or more of the following:

2 (i) A license or a limited license to engage in the practice
3 of psychology ~~pursuant to~~ UNDER parts 161 and 182 of the public
4 health code, Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, being sec-
5 tions 333.16101 to ~~333.16311~~ 333.16349 and 333.18201 to
6 333.18237 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or a master's degree in
7 counseling, social work, or marriage and family counseling; and
8 successful completion of the training program provided by the
9 bureau under section 19(3)(b).

10 (ii) Not less than 5 years of experience in family counsel-
11 ing, preferably in a setting related to the areas of responsibil-
12 ity of the friend of the court and preferably to reflect the
13 ethnic population to be served, and successful completion of the
14 training program provided by the bureau under section 19(3)(b).

15 (iii) A graduate degree in a behavioral science and success-
16 ful completion of a domestic relations mediation training program
17 certified by the bureau with not less than 40 hours of classroom
18 instruction and 250 hours of practical experience working under
19 the direction of a person who has successfully completed a pro-
20 gram certified by the bureau.

21 (iv) Membership in the state bar of Michigan and successful
22 completion of the training program provided by the bureau under
23 section 19(3)(b).

24 (b) Knowledge of the court system of this state and the pro-
25 cedures used in domestic relations matters.

1 (c) Knowledge of other resources in the community to which
2 the parties to a domestic relations matter can be referred for
3 assistance.

4 (d) Knowledge of child development, clinical issues relating
5 to children, the effects of divorce on children, and child cus-
6 tody research.

7 Sec. 17d. (1) After a final judgment containing a
8 ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME order has been entered in a domestic
9 relations matter, if there is a dispute as to ~~visitation~~
10 PARENTING TIME that is not resolved voluntarily by the parties
11 through a meeting with the office of the friend of the court
12 under section 11 or through domestic relations mediation under
13 section 13, the office may petition the court for a modification
14 of the ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME order. A written report and
15 recommendation shall accompany the petition.

16 (2) Before a court hearing on a proposed modification of a
17 ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME order, the office shall notify both
18 parties of the proposed modification and afford the parties an
19 opportunity for review and comment.

20 Sec. 18. (1) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), upon the
21 request of the office of the friend of the court, any employer or
22 former employer of a custodial parent or an absent parent as
23 defined in section 1 of the office of child support act, Act
24 No. 174 of the Public Acts of 1971, being section 400.231 of the
25 Michigan Compiled Laws, shall provide ALL OF the following infor-
26 mation relative to the custodial parent or absent parent:

1 (a) Full name and address.

2 (b) Social security number.

3 (c) Date of birth.

4 (d) Amount of wages earned by or other income due the custo-
5 dial parent or absent parent. As used in this subdivision and
6 subdivision (e), "income" means income as defined in section 2 of
7 the support and ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME enforcement act, Act
8 No. 295 of the Public Acts of 1982, being section 552.602 of the
9 Michigan Compiled Laws. Both net and gross income shall be
10 reported, regardless of method of payment.

11 (e) The following information concerning the person's cur-
12 rent and former employment status: whether or not the custodial
13 parent or absent parent is currently employed, laid off, on sick,
14 disability, or other leave of absence, or retired, and amount of
15 income due from an employment related benefit plan, if any.

16 (f) Dependent health care coverage available to the custo-
17 dial parent or absent parent as a benefit of employment.

18 (2) A request for information under this section shall cer-
19 tify that the information obtained will be treated as confiden-
20 tial and shall not be used or released except for the purposes of
21 administering, enforcing, and complying with state and federal
22 laws governing child support.

23 (3) A former employer shall not be required to provide
24 information concerning a person who was last employed by the
25 former employer more than 3 years before the date of the
26 request.

1 (4) This section ~~shall~~ DOES not ~~be construed to~~ require
2 the creation or maintenance of records not otherwise required to
3 be created or maintained, or ~~to~~ require an employer or former
4 employer to discover information not contained in records of, or
5 otherwise known to, the employer or former employer.

6 (5) A copy of information provided to the office under this
7 section shall be made available to the custodial parent or absent
8 parent, or both, upon his or her request.

9 Sec. 19. (1) The state friend of the court bureau is cre-
10 ated within the office of the state court administrator, under
11 the supervision and direction of the supreme court.

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

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

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

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

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

22 (iii) Public educational programs regarding domestic rela-
23 tions law and community resources, including financial and other
24 counseling, and employment opportunities.

25 (iv) Procedural changes in response to the type of griev-
26 ances received by an office.

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

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

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

14 (c) Gather and monitor relevant statistics.

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

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

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

25 (g) Certify domestic relations mediation training programs
26 as provided in section 13.

1 (h) Establish a 9-person advisory committee, serving without
2 compensation except as provided in subsection (4), composed of
3 the following:

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

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

9 (iii) Three human service professionals who provide family
10 counseling.

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

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

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

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

23 (k) Develop and provide the office of the friend of the
24 court with:

25 (i) Form motions, responses, and orders for use by a payer
26 or payee in requesting the court to modify his or her child

1 support order, or in responding to a motion for modification
2 without the assistance of legal counsel.

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

6 (4) The advisory committee established under subsection
7 (3)(h) shall advise the bureau in the performance of its duties
8 under this section. Advisory committee members shall be reim-
9 bursed for their expenses for mileage, meals, and, if necessary,
10 lodging, pursuant to the schedule for reimbursement established
11 annually by the legislature. Meetings of the advisory committee
12 shall be open to the public. Members of the public attending a
13 meeting of the advisory committee shall be given a reasonable
14 opportunity to address the committee on any issue under consider-
15 ation by the committee. If a vote is to be taken by the advisory
16 committee, the opportunity to address the committee shall be
17 given before the vote is taken.

18 (5) The bureau may call upon each office of the friend of
19 the court for assistance in performing the duties imposed in this
20 section.

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

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

24 (a) The circuit judge in a judicial circuit having only 1
25 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) "Consumer reporting agency" means a person that, for
8 monetary fees or dues, or on a cooperative nonprofit basis, regu-
9 larly engages in whole or in part in the practice of assembling
10 or evaluating consumer credit information or other information on
11 consumers for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports to third
12 parties, and that uses any means or facility of interstate com-
13 merce for the purpose of preparing or furnishing consumer
14 reports. As used in this subsection, "consumer report" means
15 that term as defined in section 603 of THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING
16 ACT, title VI of the consumer credit protection act, Public Law
17 90-321, 15 U.S.C. 1681a.

18 (4) "Court" means the circuit court.

19 (5) "Domestic relations mediation" means a process by which
20 the parties are assisted by a domestic relations mediator in vol-
21 untarily formulating an agreement to resolve a dispute concerning
22 child custody or ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME that arises from a
23 domestic relations matter.

24 (6) "Domestic relations matter" means a circuit court pro-
25 ceeding as to child custody or ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME, or
26 child or spouse support, that arises out of litigation under a

1 statute of this state, including but not limited to the
2 following:

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

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

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

11 (d) Act No. 293 of the Public Acts of 1968, being sections
12 722.1 to 722.6 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

13 (e) The paternity act, Act No. 205 of the Public Acts of
14 1956, being sections 722.711 to 722.730 of the Michigan Compiled
15 Laws.

16 (f) Revised uniform reciprocal enforcement of support act,
17 Act No. 8 of the Public Acts of 1952, being sections 780.151 to
18 780.183 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

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

22 (8) "Medical assistance" means medical assistance as estab-
23 lished under title XIX of the social security act, chapter 531,
24 49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. 1396 to 1396g and 1396i to 1396v.

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

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

3 (11) "Public assistance" means aid to families with depen-
4 dent children, general assistance, foster care maintenance, or a
5 combination of those items.

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

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

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

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

14 (13) "Support" means either of the following:

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

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

25 (14) "Support and ~~visitation~~ PARENTING TIME enforcement
26 act" means Act No. 295 of the Public Acts of 1982, being sections
27 552.601 to 552.650 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

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

4 Section 2. This amendatory act shall not take effect unless
5 Senate Bill No. 624
6 of the 88th Legislature is enacted into law.