

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATOR / FRIEND OF THE COURT  
**THIRTY-SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MICHIGAN**  
**CALHOUN COUNTY PROBATE COURT**

KRISTEN L. GETTING  
*Circuit/Probate Court Administrator/  
Friend of the Court*  
(269) 969-6523

MICHAEL L. JACONETTE  
*Chief Judge*



MEGAN A. REYNOLDS  
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Deputy Friend of the Court*

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**LOCAL CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER C37-2020-02**

**Re: Friend of the Court Bench Warrant Resolution for Arrested Child Support Payers During the COVID-19 State of Emergency.**

Pursuant to MCR 8.110(C)(2)(c) and (3)(c), and in response to the States of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic declared by both the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Michigan, and as an extension of Local Joint Administrative Order C37-202-01J, which closed the courts to the public with the exception of certain enumerated court functions, the Court hereby finds that the ends of justice will be served by expediting the resolution of Friend of the Court bench warrants previously issued under the Support and Parenting Time Enforcement Act (MCL 552.601 et. seq.).

MCL 552.631 provides that if a child support payer has been arrested on a bench warrant issued under the Support and Parenting Time Enforcement Act, the payer shall remain in custody until the time of a bond review hearing, which must occur within 48 hours of the payer's arrest, unless the arrested payer pays a cash performance bond. MCL 552.631(3) requires the court to set the cash performance bond at not less than \$500.00 or 25% of the total outstanding child support arrearage, whichever is greater.

Given the public health interest in limiting COVID-19 transmissions within the Calhoun County jail, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that arrested child support payers who are unable to pay the statutory minimum cash performance bond may be released after posting a reduced cash performance bond, up to and including release without bond, at the discretion of the Friend of the Court. An agent of the Friend of the Court shall meet with each arrested payer in order to arrange for the payer's release at the earliest possible opportunity, but in no case later than the date and time of this Court's regularly scheduled FOC bond review hearings.

Friend of the Court will provide a notice with the language mandated by MCL 552.632(2) to the payer with the date and time of the hearing on the merits of the contempt charge before the payer is released from custody. Hearings on the merits will be scheduled within 21 days of the time of arrest, as required by MCR 3.221(B) unless delayed for court closure consistent with Local Joint Administrative Order C37-202-01J.

Dated: March 18, 2020

Hon. Michael L. Jacquette  
Chief Judge, Calhoun County Courts

Calhoun County Justice Center  
161 E. Michigan Ave.  
Battle Creek, MI 49014-4066

The Court is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.