



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, life is very different in Michigan right now. You may be facing uncertainty about how to handle situations related to your child support order. We hope the information below gives you the answers and help you need.

**Q. I've lost my job. Can I change my child support order?**

A. Yes, you can request a change to your child support order by contacting your friend of the court office and requesting a review of your child support order. Otherwise, your order will not change. Support orders cannot be changed retroactively, so do this as soon as you are able.

[Here is a list of contact information for FOC offices](#) or you can call 877-543-2660. Ask for information on how to change your support order. You can also use the "Ask a Question" link on [MiChildSupport](#).

[Michigan Legal Help also provides information on how to change your child support order.](#) You should keep the friend of the court informed of any changes in your employment, and it is always good to let the other parent know if things are happening that will keep you from paying your support.

**Q. What if the parent who pays support lost his/her job? Will I still receive support payments?**

A. You may continue to receive support payments if the parent paying support receives unemployment payments. Support should be automatically deducted from unemployment payments; however, the support amount may vary. There may be a delay in processing unemployment payments due to the Unemployment Insurance Agency processing so many requests due to the pandemic. You may also receive a payment if the other parent makes a direct payment.

**Q. I can't pay my child support. What should I do?**

A. If you can, pay some of your child support. If you have employment or receive unemployment, support should be deducted automatically, but until it is, please pay on your own when you get paid. If you expect to continue to have a loss of employment, you may request a change to your child support order by contacting your friend of the court office. [Here is a list of contact information for FOC offices](#) or you can call 877-543-2660. [Michigan Legal Help also provides information on how to change your child support order.](#) You should keep the friend of the court informed of any changes in your employment, and it is always good to let the other parent know if things are happening that will keep you from paying your support.

**Q. Will my federal stimulus payment be taken to pay child support I owe?**

A. Yes. Just like tax refunds, federal law permits child support to be withheld from this new stimulus payment. The IRS will be sending stimulus payments to individuals like tax refunds. Normally, tax refunds are intercepted or offset by several kinds of debts, including taxes, student loans, and child support arrears. The [CARES Act](#) says that this 2020 stimulus payment allows the offset to pay child support arrears.

**Q. What if I am arrested on a child support bench warrant during the COVID-19 state of emergency?**

A. If arrested on child support bench warrant, you will be given the chance to be released after paying a bond (appearance bond). If you cannot post a bond, you will be held until your nonpayment of support hearing or until the court sets a bond to make sure you appear at a future hearing.

**Q. How can I make a child support payment?**

A. There are many different options for making a child support payment, including cash, check, debit or credit card. [Check out your payment options on this page.](#)

**Q. I normally pay cash to my friend of the court, but I think they are closed. How can I make a payment?**

A. Some friend of the court offices may have a cash drop box or other method so that you can pay. You can also use the PayNearMe or MoneyGram available at many retail stores. Check out your options on this [payment options page](#). [Check to see here if your Friend of the Court is still open.](#)

**Q. What are my self-service options for my child support case?**

A. There are a number of self-service options.

Customers may use [MiChildSupport](#) to access: your payment summary, assigned support information, amount owed, billing coupons, income withholding, hearing information, bench warrant and local office information.

Customers may use the [MiSDU.com](#) website to make a payment and obtain forms like direct deposit and change of address. You can also call 877-543-2660.

The [MiSDU.com](#) website can also respond by email to confirm receipt of address change forms, direct deposit forms, debit card authorization forms, and pin change forms.

**Q. How will the COVID-19 state of emergency affect my court case or other legal issue?**

A. This [FAQ from Michigan Legal Help](#) will provide helpful information. You can also review this [information from the State Court Administrative Office.](#)

**Q. With the Stay Home, Stay Safe order, how will parenting time work? Can I still see my child?**

A. All court orders for a child's custody, parenting time and support still apply. Gov. Whitmer's order permits travel for child support orders. Please see Executive Order 2020-21 section 7(b)(3), the [associated FAQ](#) and this [statement](#).

You can read more about custody and parenting time, support, and support enforcement [in this FAQ document](#).

**Q. I'm having an issue with parenting time. Where can I get help?**

A. Parenting time issues are handled by local friend of the court office, which may be temporarily closed due to COVID-19. [Check to see here if your friend of the court is still open](#).

You may be able to contact your caseworker using the [MiChildSupport](#) web portal and Ask a Question link to reach your FOC worker. If you or your child are in immediate danger you should call 911. If you are not in immediate danger call Child Protective Services at 855-444-3911. You can also read the [State Court Administrative Office FAQs about Custody and Parenting Time During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#).

**Q. I'm having trouble reaching my friend of the court or the prosecuting attorney office that handles my child support case. What should I do?**

A. Like many businesses, these offices may be closed, overloaded or operating in a limited capacity. If you are unable to reach your child support office, please call 877-543-2660. [Check to see here if your friend of the court is still open for other contact options](#).

**Q. I can't reach my child support worker, but I've received letters saying my benefits may be stopped. I'm worried. What can I do?**

A. If you have received a letter from the Office of Child Support, please call OCS at 866-540-0008. If you have received a letter from a prosecuting attorney, please contact your local prosecuting attorney's office. [Find out if the prosecuting attorney is available here](#). If the prosecuting attorney is not available or not responding, contact [your MDHHS office](#) and tell them you aren't able to reach the child support office.

If your child is receiving public assistance, you must provide information necessary for establishing a child support order unless you have a significant reason to not assist. It is one of the requirements for receiving public assistance. To learn more, [visit this page](#).