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State of Michigan

Local Administrative  
Order

Washtenaw County  
Trial Court

Subpoenas for Friend of the Court Staff

C22 2022-03

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Effective Date: February 11, 2022

This Administrative Order is issued to maximize Washtenaw County Friend of the Court (FOC) resources and provide the Court with the exclusive authority to compel the appearance of FOC staff at court proceedings.

**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, FOC staff submit a written report to the Court and the parties. MCL 552.505(1)(g)(h).
4. Subpoenas requiring FOC staff to appear for custody, parenting time, and support hearings may require the staff member 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 to produce meaningful and timely investigation reports.
6. Testimony by FOC staff is cumulative to the written report and is therefore nonessential to the presentation of the parties' case.
7. If the Court directly requests the presence of FOC staff, the FOC employee will be present at the hearing.
8. FOC staff are employees of the Washtenaw County Trial Court.

**THE COURT ORDERS:**

1. The Washtenaw County Trial Court will neither issue nor enforce subpoenas against its own employees. 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 FOC employee be present for a hearing, the court will determine whether it is necessary, and if so, will direct the employee to appear. The court will provide as much notice as possible of the date and time for appearance by notifying the employee or the Friend of the Court in writing or by email.

Date: 2-9-2022

Chief Judge Signature: 