



Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan



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For Immediate Release

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Subject: **Wayne County Friend of the Court-Interception of Stimulus Checks**

Detroit, MI – Because of the difficult economic times that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, Congress recently approved the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the CARES Act), a \$2.2 trillion relief package.

This package includes a cash stimulus to provide Americans with up to \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per qualifying child in the household. The stimulus amount will be based on how much income the household earned in 2018 or 2019.

The first stimulus checks have already been deposited into bank accounts. The stimulus payments are treated as a tax refund and are subject to be intercepted for child support arrearages. Child support debts are reported to the Treasury Department every year.

Payers of child support will have their stimulus check intercepted if they owe:

- \$150 or more if their child is receiving cash assistance or is in foster care, or
- \$500 or more if their child is receiving Medicaid only or is receiving no state assistance.

The stimulus payments are treated the same as tax refunds in terms of fees, distribution time frames, and hold periods.

Because these stimulus payments are treated as a tax refund offset, the CARES Act does not provide states the option to suspend federal tax refund offset in cases meeting criteria set forth in the Social Security Act and 45 CFR 303.72.

Payers of support can sign up on MiChildSupport to view information about their child support case at www.michigan.gov/michildsupport. Information about the stimulus payments can be found on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments. Parties can also call 1-844-785-7593 if they have specific questions about their case. Further updates to any Friend of the Court Services will be posted at www.3rdcc.org.



The Mission of Third Judicial Circuit Court is to provide accessible and equal justice with timely dispute resolution. **The Third Judicial Circuit** has jurisdiction over Civil, Criminal, and Family matters arising in the County of Wayne. The National Center for State Courts has cited the Third Circuit Court as one of the model urban courts in the United States for case flow management and the timely disposition of the Court's docket. For more information, visit our website www.3rdcc.org, follow us at Twitter@3rdccorg, and like us on Facebook @3rdccorg.