



THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MICHIGAN

ROBERT J. COLOMBO, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE

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DOCKET DIRECTIVE 2017 – 04

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

SUBJECT: The Assessment and Refund of Family Assessment Mediation and Education Fees For Custody or Parenting Time Evaluations Paid On or After October 1, 2016

This Docket Directive is issued pursuant to MCR 8.110, MCR 8.111, and MCL 552.505(3).

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

Effective: February 28, 2017

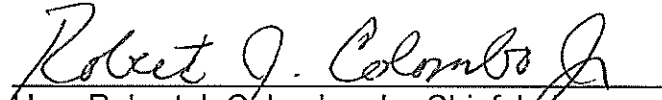
This Docket Directive applies to the assessment and refund of Family Assessment Mediation and Education Fees for custody or parenting time evaluations paid on or after October 1, 2016.

The Chief Judge has authorized the restructuring of the Friend of the Court and the Family Assessment Mediation and Education to ensure the coordination of services to benefit the families of Wayne County and to increase operational efficiencies of the Court.

Effective October 1, 2016, the Family Assessment Mediation and Education is a department of the Friend of the Court. As a department of the Friend of the Court, the Family Assessment Mediation and Education Department is governed by all statutory and regulatory responsibilities that apply to the Friend of the Court. MCL 552.505(3) permits the Friend of the Court to charge parties an amount for the expense of conducting a custody or parenting time investigation only when one is requested by a party. To ensure the coordination of services and the efficiency of case processing, the Friend of the Court will not charge parties for Family Assessment Mediation and Education's mediation, evaluation, and psychological testing services. Furthermore, the Court will refund any fees received on or after October 1, 2016 for these services.

This Docket Directive is necessary for purposes of administrative efficiency and economy.

The Divisions and Departments of the Third Circuit Court Case Processing and the Wayne County Clerk are directed to take the steps necessary to accomplish this directive.


Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

Date: February 28, 2017