

KENT COUNTY FOC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



FOC COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXPANDING

EXPUNGEMENT RESOURCE FAIR
Friday January 17th, 11AM - 3PM
LINC UP Gallery - 341 Hall St SE

NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING YOUR EXPUNGEMENT ELIGIBILITY?

This FREE Expungement Resource Fair provides valuable information and one-on-one support from attorneys to help you navigate the expungement process. Anyone in the Grand Rapids community seeking expungement resources is welcome!

For more information contact Jamell Hatchett:
(616) 451-9140 • Jamell@lincup.org

The [Kent County Friend of the Court](#) values community partnership and working with parents and caregivers out in the community. For 2024, our [Resources for Parents Program](#) set a goal of participating in 50 outreach efforts for the year. Our team far exceeded that goal by participating in **80 outreaches in 2024**. We worked with over 30 valued community partners.

We are looking forward to even more outreach in 2025. We are kicking off 2025 with community engagement events with [Safe Haven Ministries](#), [Puertas Abiertas](#), and [LINC UP](#). For 2025 we are also looking forward to working with [All Things Fatherhood](#) on an educational initiative, as well as with the U.S. Military to assist active duty military personnel.

Would your organization like to partner with us to support parents and caregivers with FOC cases? If so, email us at FOC.RPP@kentcountymi.gov.

Need to talk to FOC but can't make it to an outreach? No problem. Schedule an appointment [here](#) to talk to a case manager about your case.

FOC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WORKGROUP: 2025 PROJECTS

The Kent County Friend of the Court has its own domestic violence workgroup that collaborates to review, assess, and revise FOC practices to make them more domestic violence informed. In 2024, the workgroup revised our arrears forgiveness policy and practices. Over the course of 2024, the new practice proved successful to help ensure forgiveness of past due support was voluntary and understood. The request form to forgive arrears can be found [here](#).

The workgroup accomplished even more in 2024. They organized two domestic violence simulations and presented at a statewide child support conference on handling domestic violence scenarios and how to form a local domestic violence workgroup. The group also partnered with the YWCA on new initiatives to help deliver important FOC information to parents and caregivers experiencing domestic abuse.

In 2025, the group looks forward to:

- Continuing to raise awareness by hosting a domestic abuse training and another domestic violence simulation
- Having more information and resources available at the FOC office
- Problem-solving difficult parenting time issues when there is a personal protection order or no contact order between parents/caregivers
- Finishing work with the YWCA and expanding on that work
- And more...

Individuals with FOC cases who have questions or concerns about FOC domestic violence screening can schedule a telephone meeting to discuss [here](#).

FOC Mission: "To serve the Court and the families of Kent County to ensure children are supported, both financially and emotionally."