

**Osceola County Friend the Court**  
301 West Upton Avenue  
**P.O. Box 135**  
Reed City, MI 49677  
(231) 832-6131

**MOTION REGARDING CUSTODY – FOC 87**

USE THIS FORM IF:

-You are a party of a case and a custody order has been established through a judgment of custody, divorce, separate maintenance, or an order of filiation, and request the order be modified.

**\*\*YOU MAY NOT USE THIS FORM TO START A CUSTODY CASE OR IF YOU ARE A THIRD PARTY AND WANT TO INTERVENE TO GET CUSTODY OF THE MINOR CHILD(REN) IN A PENDING CASE.\*\***

By using this form, you are representing yourself in a court action regarding custody.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- A. Before you fill in the Case No., get your court papers for custody, divorce, separate maintenance or paternity and copy the Case No. from those court papers onto this form.
- B. Also use your court papers to fill in the "Plaintiff" and "Defendant" boxes and if applicable, the "Third Party" box. Copy the names from these court papers onto this form. For example, if your name is in the box that says "plaintiff", then you should write your name in the "plaintiff" box on this motion form.

You are the "moving party". Once you have written both names where they belong, you must check the box "moving party" in the same box as your name

- C. **Check only one box.** If you have a judgment or order for custody, divorce, separate maintenance, or paternity, read it carefully to find out if there is any information in it about custody. If there is information about custody, check box a. If there is no information about custody, check box b. If you checked box "a", fill in the date that the judge signed the Order.
- D. Check this box only if you checked box a. in C above. Read your court papers for custody, divorce, separate maintenance, or paternity to find out who was ordered to have custody. Write this information here along with the name(s) of the child(ren).
- E. State who the child(ren) are living with now, the address or location where the child(ren) are living, and the date the child(ren) started living there even if it is different than what was ordered.
- F. State the circumstances that require a custody order or a change in custody. **Explain in as much detail** as possible what has happened. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper. Print this information as neatly as you can. You will need to make **3 copies** of this sheet to attach to the copies of this form.

- G. State the causes that require a custody order or a change in custody. The judge or referee will review these causes using factors from the Child Custody Act to determine the best interests of the child(ren). **Explain in as much detail** as possible what the causes are. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper. Print this information as neatly as you can. You will need to make **3 copies** of this sheet to attach to the copies of this form.
- H. Check this box if you and the other party agree about custody. **Explain in as much detail** as possible what you agreed to, including support and parenting time. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper. Print this information as neatly as you can. You will need to make **3 copies** of this sheet to attach to the copies of this form.
- I. You need to **explain in as much detail** as possible what you want the court to order. If you checked **H** above, you only need to write "Same as H. above". If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper. You need to include information about support and parenting time as well. Print this information as neatly as you can. You will need to make **3 copies** of this sheet to attach to the copies of this form.
- J. Write in today's date and sign your name.
- K. To obtain a hearing date you will first need to go to the County Clerk's Office and pay the \$20.00 filing fee, then with your receipt showing you paid the filing fee, and the copies of the Motion go to the Friend of the Court Office to get a hearing date.
- L. On the date that you file this Motion, complete the certificate of mailing on all of you copies. **File the original** with the **County Clerk**, a copy with the Friend of the Court Office, mail a copy to the other party along with the Response Form, and keep a copy for yourself.

**This Motion, Including Notice of Hearing, must be served at least 9 days (not including holidays) before the hearing date. They may be served by regular, first class mail.**

**You must attend this hearing. Since you are representing yourself, you are expected to follow the same general rules as an attorney would. It is your responsibility to back up your petition with facts as to why this would be in the best interest of the child(ren). The Friend of the Court Office will not represent you or the other party.**

If you feel you need to subpoena someone to attend this hearing follow the procedure in Michigan Court Rule 2.506 or consult an attorney.

After the hearing, the Friend of the Court Referee will make a Recommendation. If no Objection is filed within **21 days** of the proof of mailing, the Recommendation will become an Order of the court.

