

CONSENT HEARING INFORMATION

The Wayne County Friend of the Court has created a special **CONSENT DOCKET** to hear cases in which the parties have resolved certain issues on their own and have agreed come to court together to have these issues heard by a referee. The consent docket check in is in rooms **1032 and 1033 on the 10th floor. Please go directly to the assigned rooms on scheduled consent days.**

The **CONSENT HEARING** is a service provided by the Friend of the Court to speed up the **In Pro Per** (self-representation) hearing process and to reduce the number of motions filed. It is important to remember that although both parties are in agreement, the referee has the final decision to approve the agreement and to enter it as an order of the Court.

A **CONSENT HEARING** is designed to handle some of the following domestic relations issues:

- **CHANGE IN CUSTODY** (this is subject to the referee's determination of the best interest of the child/children). **PLEASE BRING A COPY OF YOUR MOST RECENT CUSTODY ORDER.**
- **MOVING OUT OF STATE** (change of domicile)
- **CREDIT OF ARREARAGE:** (this does not include arrears owed to the state, service fees, or processing fees.)
- **CHANGE OF PARENTING TIME** (modification of child support based on change of parenting time will not be addressed at the consent hearing; however, it is at the discretion of the referee)
- **OTHER APPROPRIATE ISSUES:** (such as: change in income withholding, etc.)

The following are some of the issues that **CANNOT** be heard at a consent hearing:

- State Arrears cannot be credited or waived. A party may file the documents to request a payment plan for State owed arrears.
- Active public assistance cases or newly closed public assistance cases. State assistance cases must be closed for at least **90 days**.
- Direct pay of current support will not be permitted. A party may file the appropriate pleadings to seek that relief.
- Any matter if a license suspension notice has been mailed or a hearing has been scheduled
- Any matter if there is an active bench warrant
- Requests to change medical insurance provisions.
- Modification of the current monthly support or medical obligation. A party must file a motion.
- Any issue deemed inappropriate by the consent referee or the Friend of the Court personnel.

BEFORE YOU COME TO COURT, PLEASE CALL (313) 224-0155. Call before 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday or Friday of each week to hear up-to-date information on the consent hearing schedule. This phone line is for information only. It is not staffed and there is not a voice message box. **(CONSENTS ARE CANCELED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT) THERE ARE NO CONSENTS ON THE 4TH FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

CONSENT HEARING PROCEDURES

BOTH PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT to check in at **8:00 am** on **WEDNESDAYS OR FRIDAYS**. Remember to allow time for the security screening.

- 2) **No children are allowed in the consent hearing process or in the courtroom. PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN.**
- 3) The consent sign-in procedure is on a first-come, first serve basis. No appointments can be scheduled. We can only add parties to the list when both are present.
- 4) The maximum number of hearings per day is **8**. Once the maximum is reached, no more parties can be added to the consent list for that day.
- 5) The length of time needed to complete the hearing process is unpredictable; therefore, parties should be prepared to stay all day.
- 6) Both parties must show valid government issued preferred photo identification.
- 7) A Domestic Relations Specialist will interview the parties together to determine eligibility. Parties should be able to clearly define their agreement without prompting from the interviewer. **The interviewer cannot give legal advice.** If the interviewer determines the parties are not eligible, they will not go before a referee. However, a motion can be filed.
- 8) The parties will go before a referee and they will be asked to state the facts of their agreement and show any supporting documentation if necessary.
- 9) It is our intent to hold the consent hearings every week, but in the event that the FOC determines that consents are canceled the information hotline will be updated.
- 10) Parties can no longer choose to **ABATE CHILD SUPPORT** or **DIRECT PAYMENT CHILD SUPPORT** on the Consent Docket. They must file the appropriate motion.

Updated 01/23/18