

What is the Friend of the Court Alternative Contempt Track (ACT) Program?

ACT is a specialized program designed to help payors of child support overcome challenges and remove barriers in their lives which prevent them from paying their support. Some of the barriers ACT is able to assist with are chronic unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, mental health conditions, medical conditions, illiteracy, and a lack of education. ACT also seeks to help support payors break the cycle of being in and out of jail for nonpayment.

The goal of ACT is to put parents in contact with service providers to overcome the challenges they face so they may provide the much needed emotional and financial support for their child(ren).

ACT is a yearlong intensely supervised probationary program, which is entered into voluntarily by the support payor. Participants who are accepted into the program work with a Specialized Enforcement Officer, who will directly assist them in addressing the barriers and challenges experienced by the payor. ACT works with various employment services, substance abuse treatment services, mental health services, educational services and many other community agencies and resources. Participants are required to meet with the Specialized Enforcement Officer weekly, who monitors their progress. Participants are set up for success, but will face swift sanctions for their failures to comply with the orders of the court.

BENEFITS OF ACT

- Child(ren) have both parents actively involved in their lives
- Modification of the child support obligation
- More frequent and timely support payments
- Increased financial support for the child(ren)
- Assistance in accessing community resources/providers
- Family centered approach

PARTICIPATION

An individualized Case Service Plan will be created based upon the needs of the participant. The Case Service Plan may include, but is not limited to obtaining assistance with any of the following areas:

- Employment Services
- Substance Abuse Treatment Services
- Mental Health Treatment Services
- Medical Treatment Services
- Transportation and Housing Services
- Educational Services



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Once a participant has been ordered into the ACT program, participants must comply with their individualized Case Service Plan and all terms of probation. Participants must:

- Meet with the Specialized Enforcement Officer as required in the Case Service Plan
- Comply will the Case Service Plan and terms of probation
- Submit to random drug testing (if required)
- Obtain employment/attend education or job skills program
- Attend counseling and/or treatment services
- Attend All ACT Program court hearings as required
- Make minimum monthly child support payments as ordered by the court

In 2017, ACT was created in accordance with MCL 552.635a. Allegan FOC was the first, and is currently, one of only two FOCs in the state to have an ACT program.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the ACT Program, please contact the Allegan County Friend of the Court at 1-877-543-2660.

"I was never excited to see a judge until I was in the ACT Program. It felt good telling the judge about my progress." ~Former ACT Participant

"I was able to get my CNA with the help of ACT, and now I'm going to be going to college to become an LPN or RN." ~Veronica Boyett, Former Participant



ALTERNATIVE CONTEMPT TRACK (ACT) PROGRAM