

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**  
**ENFORCEMENT OF PARENTING TIME ORDERS**

BCFOCF-5

The Friend of the Court is required to enforce parenting time orders.

The Friend of the Court will initiate enforcement when it receives a written complaint stating specific facts that show a violation of an order governing custody or parenting time. However, the Friend of the Court may decline to respond if (1) the alleged violation occurred more than 56 days before the complaint is made, or (2) the complaining party has previously made two or more similar complaints that were found by the court to be unwarranted and the complaining party has failed to pay the costs assessed in those prior proceedings.

This office can only enforce orders of the court. If filing a complaint for denial of parenting time, it must be in accordance with a court order. Additionally, a consistent parenting time schedule is assumed.

If you believe you have been denied parenting time, you need to submit a written complaint within 56 days of the alleged incident to the Barry County Friend of the Court Office and the complaint must contain the dates of the alleged incident.

If the complaint is legitimate, the Friend of the Court will begin enforcement proceedings by sending a "21 Day Notice to Alleged Violator of Custody or Parenting Time Provisions" to the accused party within 14 days after the Friend of the Court receives the complaint.

After the 21 Day Notice is sent, the parties have the following options:

- Agree on a make up parenting time schedule.
- Request a show cause hearing for the court to determine if parenting time was wrongfully denied.
- Both parties agree to participate in domestic relations mediation to resolve the dispute.
- File a motion to modify the parenting time order.