



**BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT
FAMILY DIVISION
COURT SERVICES FOR DELINQUENT YOUTH
PARENTAL REIMBURSEMENT
(PURSUANT TO MCLA 712A.18B)**

Listed are some of the commonly asked questions when your child becomes involved with Court Services in the Family Division.

How does my child get a court appointed attorney?

At the Preliminary Hearing, an attorney is appointed to represent your child's interests. You may hire your own attorney.

The fees for a court appointed attorney are as follows:

Arraignments:	\$25.00 per hearing
Re-arraignments:	\$25.00 per hearing
Pre-trials:	\$25.00 per hearing
Dispositional Hearings:	\$25.00 per hearing
Bench Trials:	\$175.00 per hearing
Jury Trials:	\$175.00 per hearing

What if I can't afford the court appointed attorney?

Your child is required by law to have an attorney to represent them in Court. They will still be appointed an attorney. The ability for you to reimburse the Court will be based on your income and ability to pay.

What is a Dispositional Hearing?

The Dispositional Hearing is the "sentencing" of the child by the Court. The Order of Disposition may require:

- Probation fees \$20.00 per month, due on the first of the month.
- Victim Rights Assessment fees: \$25.00 per disposition - due upon receipt of order
- State costs: \$50- \$68.00 per conviction - due upon receipt of the order.
- DNA Assessment: \$60.00-due upon receipt of the order.
- Other fines & costs - varies - due upon receipt of the order.
- Restitution - amount varies; ordered at the dispositional hearing or later hearing. Both parents and child can be required to pay restitution.

What other services could I be ordered to pay?

Counseling services (home and/or office based), out of home placement, the Truancy Academy, clothing allowances, tether, medical services, assessments and any other expenses your child might have incurred.

What are out of home placements?

When your child is placed at the Juvenile Center, in foster care or in residential placement in state or out of state. Any time that the Trial Court is paying for a placement, you may be ordered to reimburse the Trial Court.

How much does out of home placement cost?

Out of home placements cost from \$30.00 to \$330+ per day. Reimbursement for placement is based on family income and the ability to pay. But there are certain circumstances when it is not based on your income. They are as follows:

If the mother, father or guardian is currently receiving child support payments, the child support checks will be sent to the Trial Court. In addition, the mother or father or guardian may also be required to reimburse for placement for services based on their income and ability to pay.

If the mother, father or guardian is currently receiving Social Security benefits for the juvenile, the Trial Court will apply to become payee for these benefits. The parents/guardians may also be required to reimburse the Court for the costs of placement and/or services until those funds are paid to the Court.

If you are currently receiving Adoption Subsidy for the juvenile, you will be ordered to surrender the subsidy to the Trial Court. The parents/guardians may also be required to reimburse the Court for the costs of placement and/or services until those funds are paid to the Court.

Where do I provide my income information?

The Probation Officer that is assigned to your child's case prepares an Information Sheet that is forwarded to the Finance Officer. If needed, the Finance Officer verifies wages and recommends reimbursement amounts and prepares the Order for Reimbursement.

What if I disagree with the Order of Reimbursement or my income changes?

If you disagree with the Order for Reimbursement, you may request a hearing in front of the Judge. You must write a letter to the Enforcement Officer assigned to your case and request a hearing.

Your case is assigned to the Enforcement Officer based on the Juvenile's last name. You may contact your Enforcement Officer with any questions.

JUVENILE LAST NAME	ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	Telephone Number
A-G	Dianne Sarmiento	983-7111, Ext. 8363
H-O	Susan Akens	983-7111, Ext. 8362
P-Z	Clinton Mettler	983-7111, Ext. 8409

My child does not live with me, am I still required to reimburse?

Yes, both parents are legally responsible for costs incurred regardless of whom has custody.

If I am required to pay but am unable to pay the ordered amount, can I make smaller payments?

Contact the Enforcement Officer assigned to your case to arrange a payment plan.

Where do I make my payments? May I mail my payments?

You may make your payments by cash, check or money order at the Trial Court Finance Office window on the first floor of the Courthouse. Make your check or money order payable to the **Berrien County Trial Court**. Please include the Juvenile ID number found on Court Orders with payment.

You may mail your check or money order (NO CASH), payable to the **Berrien County Trial Court Finance Office**, 811 Port St., St. Joseph MI 49085. Please include the Juvenile ID number found on Court Orders with payment.

What if I need an interpreter?

Please call 983-7111, Ext. 8354 and let us know what type of interpreting services you will need. An interpreter will be appointed to assist you at all court hearings, at no cost.

(Si usted necesita un interpretor, por favor llama 983-7111 Ext. 8354)