

# MiSDU Questions and Answers

June 2003



**Q. Why must my child support payments be sent to the MiSDU?**

A. The MiSDU is a federally mandated program established by the federal welfare reform legislation. When fully implemented the MiSDU will provide a single location for non-custodial parents to send support payments. To avoid possible enforcement action being taken against you by the Friend of the Court Office your payment must be processed through the MiSDU. If the court has taken special enforcement action against you and mandated that your payments must be made at the local friend of the court office you should follow that special court order.

**Q. Do I need to include any information with my support payment?**

A. Yes. To assure that your support payment is posted quickly and correctly to your account you need to include a payment coupon for each docket number with your check. The coupon will identify your name, social security number, docket number and correct county. **You must correctly identify each docket number with your payments. You will not get credit for a payment posted in error if the correct information is not provided with your payment.**

**Q. When should I begin sending payments to the MiSDU?**

A. You should begin sending payments for the docket number referenced in this letter to the MiSDU immediately upon receiving this notice.

**Q. I just mailed a payment to the Friend of the Court. Is that a problem?**

A. No. The Friend of the Court is prepared to handle recent payments, but future payments must be mailed to the MiSDU.

**Q. I make child support payments in more than one county. Can I send all my payments to the MiSDU?**

A. You will receive a separate redirection notice for each docket number (order) you have in each county. **ONLY** send payments to the MiSDU on orders for which you have received an official redirection notification.

**Q. When will I receive notification for my support orders in other counties?**

A. The remaining county notifications will be mailed over the next four months. Notifications are being sent in regional groupings to coincide with Michigan's conversion to a statewide child support enforcement computer system and database.

**Q. I recently received a supply of payment coupons from my Friend of the Court. Can I still use them?**

A. No. Please dispose of your old payment coupons. You will receive a new supply of coupons each month. Until you receive new coupons, use the temporary coupons on the reverse side of this page. You may photocopy the coupons if you need more than the number provided.

**Q. Can I have my employer take my child support directly out of my payroll check?**

A. Yes. Contact your local Friend of the Court office and they will prepare the paperwork to have your child support automatically withheld from your payroll check.

**Q: Does this change the amount of child support I owe?**

A: You should pay the amount of child support that has been ordered by the court. If your court ordered child support obligation is different than the amount printed on the coupon, write your payment amount on the coupon and return the coupon with your payment.

**Q: I owe child support on more than one case. How does this change affect me?**

A: Once your child support cases are on the new statewide computer system, your child support payments will be distributed proportionately across those cases (as required by state and federal law).

**EXAMPLE:** Terry (the non-custodial parent) is ordered by the court to pay \$60 on Case 1 and \$40 on Case 2.

- If Terry makes a \$100 payment, that \$100 will be distributed proportionally across both cases: 60% (\$60) to Case 1 and 40% (\$40) to Case 2.
- If Terry makes a \$70 payment, that \$70 will be distributed proportionally across both cases: 60% (\$42) to Case 1, and 40% (\$28) to Case 2.