



# Cass County Friend of the Court

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## **NOTICE REGARDING BRACES/ORTHODONTIA TREATMENT**

Prior to obtaining non-emergency orthodontia treatment for a minor child, you must notify the other parent of the proposed treatment and the costs for the treatment. You must try to reach an agreement with the other parent for the payment of the orthodontia treatment. If you can reach an agreement, you must put the agreement in writing and make sure that both parents sign the agreement.

IN THE EVENT YOU CANNOT REACH AN AGREEMENT, YOU MUST REQUEST A HEARING AND OBTAIN A COURT ORDER FOR PAYMENT OF ORTHODONTIA TREATMENT PRIOR TO STARTING ANY ORTHODONTIA TREATMENT.

FAILURE TO REACH A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THE OTHER PARENT AND FAILURE TO OBTAIN A COURT ORDER FOR PAYMENT OF ORTHODONTIA TREATMENT PRIOR TO STARTING ORTHODONTIA TREATMENT MAY RESULT IN YOU BEING SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COSTS OF THE TREATMENT.

If you have tried to reach an agreement with the other parent and have been unsuccessful, and if you want assistance from the FOC's office, you need to put your request in writing and state all of the following:

1. Your child needs orthodontia treatment (the treatment is medically necessary).
2. You tried to reach an agreement with the other parent and were not successful. (NOTE: Saying that you and the other parent do not talk so you did not try to reach an agreement is not satisfactory. A child has two parents—your first plan of action should always be to discuss long-term health care treatments and the associated costs with the other parent.)
3. Name of the provider of the orthodontia treatment.
4. Estimated cost of the orthodontia treatment.
5. Estimated insurance coverage, if any.

When the FOC office receives a written request as outlined above from you, the FOC will file a motion with the Court and schedule a hearing so that the Court can determine the amount each parent should pay for orthodontia treatment.