

I think orthodontia is cosmetic, why do I have to pay my share if I do not agree with the necessity of the services?

Orthodontic expenses are considered uninsured medical expenses per the Michigan Child Support Formula. However, you have the right to object and a hearing will be scheduled. You will be responsible for stating your position to the court and the court will make the final decision whether you will be responsible for your portion of the expense(s).

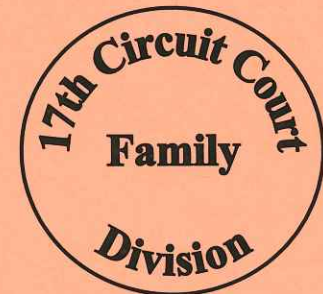
How will the expense(s) be charged into the account and how will I receive my reimbursement?

The expense(s) that have already been paid to the orthodontist will be added to your account as a support arrearage and collected in the same manner as child support arrears. Any future payments will be charged to the account as a current monthly charge and collected in the same manner as child support.

Uninsured Orthodontia Expenses



Friend of the Court



Kent County Friend of the Court
PO Box 351
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0351
Phone: 877-543-2660 or 616-632-6888
Fax: 616-632-6871
Email: Web: www.accesskent.com/foc

Kent County Friend of the Court (FOC) Health Care Enforcement Unit

Request for orthodontia reimbursement through the FOC

The FOC can assist you with the collection of uninsured orthodontia expenses for your minor child(ren) when you follow the statutory requirements under MCLA 552.511a. There are forms that must be used for this purpose. The forms and instructions can be found in the FOC lobby or at www.accesskent.com/foc.

Unlike other uninsured medical expenses, orthodontia is always treated as an extraordinary medical expense. Per the Michigan Child Support Formula Manual, "On average, families routinely spend \$403 per year per child on ordinary medical expenses." The formula also states that "...amounts may be added to compensate for higher uninsured known or predictable expenses (e.g., **orthodontia**, special medical need, ongoing treatment, uninsured child, etc.)." Since most orders do not add additional monies to compensate for orthodontia and because a child who incurs orthodontia expenses will still incur the "ordinary medical expenses" that a child without orthodontia will incur, orthodontia is treated as extraordinary expenses. What this means is that the orthodontic expense is immediately subject to the uninsured medical percentage split in your order.

It is important to note the following when you are seeking reimbursement from the other parent for orthodontia expenses for your child(ren):

- The down payment must be made to the orthodontist (if required) and **treatment must have begun.**
- A copy of the orthodontic contract must be included with the medical reimbursement forms you submit.
- You must also include the proof that the down payment was made.
- You must send the "Request for Health Care Expense Payment" along with the orthodontic contract and proof of the down payment to the other parent and wait 28 days for the other parent to pay you directly before you can submit both the "Request for Health Care Expense Payment and the "Complaint for Enforcement of Health Care Expense Payment" to the Friend of the Court.
- To avoid a delay in processing your request, make sure that the date on the "Complaint for Health Care Expense Payment" is at least **28 days** after the date on the "Request for Health Care Expense Payment."

If you have signed a contract with the orthodontist and are making monthly payments, you do not have to resubmit a medical reimbursement request every month.

Once the medical reimbursement request

has been processed by the Friend of the Court, both parents will receive a copy of the forms with a cover letter showing the total amount due and an orthodontic worksheet to show how we calculated the amount due. To comply with the statute, the parent who is being asked to pay the uninsured expense(s) will be given 21 days to submit a written objection. If our office receives a written objection within the 21 day period, a hearing will be scheduled and both parents will be given written notice of the date and time of the hearing.

If no objections are received, the uninsured expense(s) will be charged into the account and will be subject to enforcement.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am paying the orthodontist on a monthly basis for my child's braces. Can I ask for reimbursement from the other parent before I have paid the orthodontist in full?

Yes. If there are no objections, Friend of the Court will charge the other parent his/her share of your monthly contract payments according to the terms of your contract.

My child is 18 and will be graduating high school before the orthodontist will be paid in full. Can I still ask for reimbursement?

Yes. However, we can only charge the other parent for his/her share up to the point that the child emancipates.