
STATE OF MICHIGAN
7TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

**In Re:
ADAPT PILOT
PROGRAM**

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER 2014 - 7

7th Judicial Circuit Court, 900 S. Saginaw St., Flint, MI 48502 (810) 424-4355

ADAPT Pilot Program

The ADAPT Pilot Program is an initiative to develop an expedited process to establish paternity, a child support case and services for eligible families.

Eligible participants will be identified through Friend of the Court informational sessions and outreach at the Hurley Hospital Prenatal Clinic.

A summary description of the ADAPT Program is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as part of this local administrative order.

The concept for the ADAPT Program has been discussed with Maura D. Corrigan, Director, Michigan Department of Human Services and Steven D. Capps, Director, Friend of the Court Bureau, SCAO, both of whom have expressed their support.

Judicial Assignment

All new DP or DS case filings that are identified as ADAPT cases will be assigned to Judge Duncan M. Beagle. For each ADAPT case assigned to Judge Beagle, the next DP or DS case that would otherwise be assigned to Judge Beagle will be re-assigned by blind draw to another family division judge.

Any open or closed case with the same male respondent shall be reassigned to Judge Beagle.

Evaluation

The program will be evaluated approximately 6 months after implementation by the IV-D Program Leadership Group.

The program evaluation will include a review of the following data: (1) length of time from birth of child to establishment of paternity, (2) child support payment status, (3) frequency of parenting time in final orders, (4) enforcement activities needed at the Friend of the Court, (5) use of holistic services, and (6) compliance with the outlined ADAPT Court process.

In addition, all of the Family Division judges shall participate in a review of docket implications to determine if caseload assignments should be adjusted to incorporate the ADAPT Program beyond the initial pilot program.

/S/
Richard B. Yuille
Chief Judge

November 20, 2014
Date

7th Circuit Court
Acquiring DNA and Paternity Timely (ADAPT) Pilot Program

Summary Description of the ADAPT Program

The ADAPT pilot program is an expedited paternity establishment project that will be conducted at Hurley Hospital and Hurley Hospital's Prenatal Clinic. This pilot program will be offered to parents who are residents of Genesee County. Women who are pregnant and men who are believed to be biological fathers will be informed about the different methods of establishing paternity. They will be given the option of signing an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP) or given the opportunity for early genetic/DNA testing. In addition, participants in the ADAPT program will be given the opportunity to expedite their child support case and receive holistic services for their family.

Project Goals

- Expediting the paternity establishment process by allowing the parties to sign an AOP or by offering genetic testing at the birthing hospital.
- Expediting the entry of support, custody, and parenting time orders after establishing paternity through the parties' stipulation.
- Increasing child support collection by entering child support orders earlier and encouraging payment by involving both parties with the court process.
- Providing for the emotional and financial support of children through an established order, with results targeting healthy relationships between parents and their children.
- Providing holistic services to parents (e.g., anger management, substance abuse counseling, educational services, and job training) after entry of the child support order.

The ADAPT Process

Step 1

Individuals may attend the ADAPT informational meetings held at Hurley Medical Center. At these meetings, representatives from the Friend of the Court will be present to provide detailed information about paternity establishment and the ADAPT program. Individuals interested in the ADAPT program will be enrolled in the ADAPT program by filling out the ADAPT waiver form. If the individuals are requesting DNA testing at this time, the mother and alleged father may provide an oral sample for the DNA test.

Step 2

Mothers and alleged fathers participating in the ADAPT program will, at the time of the child's birth, complete and sign an ADAPT waiver form. The ADAPT waiver form is a stipulation to waive the formal filing of a summons, complaint, and answer and includes a request for Court assistance with the creation of an order. Depending on the families' needs, the mother and alleged father will either sign an affidavit of parentage or provide an oral sample for the DNA test. The parties will also complete and sign the DHS 1201 for funding purposes. An ADAPT

meeting will be scheduled four weeks from the date of the birth of the child. The parties will be informed of the date and time of the ADAPT meeting. The ADAPT meeting will be a combination of settlement conference and scheduling conference at which the Court, the Friend of the Court, and the Prosecuting Attorney will attempt to resolve the issues of custody, parenting time, and support.

Step 3

The DHS 1201 will be submitted to the Genesee County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, who will work with Support Specialists from the Office of Child Support. The IV-D case will be created in MiCSES via the DHS 1201 and a Court Action Referral will be created. The creation of the IV-D case and Court Action Referral is expected to take no more than two business days. The ADAPT Form will be filed with the Clerk's Office by the Prosecuting Attorney, which will start the court case.

Step 4

After mailing the DNA collection material to the DNA Diagnostic Center (DDC), DDC will provide DNA test results in approximately two weeks. The genetic/DNA test results are made available to both the Prosecutor's Office and the Friend of the Court involved in the ADAPT program. The Prosecutor's Office and Friend of the Court workers will share the DNA test results with the parties at the ADAPT meeting. If the DNA test results result in a genetic exclusion, then the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Friend of the Court will work with the mother to indicate a second alleged father and complete DNA testing with the second alleged father.

Step 5

The parties will meet in Judge Duncan Beagle's courtroom pursuant to MCR 2.401 and will include the presence of both staff from the Friend of the Court and the Prosecuting Attorney's office to discuss their DNA test results and the issues of custody, parenting time, and support. Prosecuting Attorney staff will be present to establish paternity, run child support guidelines, and represent the Department of Human Services regarding the entry of an order for child support, custody, and parenting time. Friend of the Court staff will be present to provide recommendations to assist the court, ensure that the parties are able to comply with the court's orders, and to address the issues of providing holistic services. If both parents attend the ADAPT meeting and have reached a complete agreement about custody, parenting time, and support, that agreement will be reduced to a consent order that the parents will sign. That consent order will be submitted to the court for the Judge's signature.

If both parents attend the ADAPT meeting and have either (1) reached a partial agreement or (2) have reached no agreement regarding custody, parenting time, and support, then the court will be provided with an all the information that is available regarding custody, parenting time, and support. A temporary order may be prepared upon the agreed upon issues and a Conference Status Report and Order will be prepared, indicating the issues to be addressed at a subsequent hearing and what information the parties must produce at the hearing.

If one or both parents fail to appear at the ADAPT meeting, then the court will be provided with all the information that is available regarding custody, parenting time, and support. Unresolved custody, parenting time, and support will be resolved at the hearing at the discretion of the court.

If the DNA test results have resulted in a genetic exclusion then only the mother shall appear for the meeting. Any other alleged fathers will be discussed with mother. If another alleged father is present for the ADAPT meeting, the parties will be asked to sign an ADAPT form and a DHS-1201 if they wish to participate in the program. They will be given the option to submit to genetic/DNA testing or sign an AOP. If another alleged father is not present, then a follow up ADAPT meeting will be scheduled to conduct genetic testing/DNA of the parties. Follow up outreach may occur to contact the alleged fathers.

If no party appears for the ADAPT meeting or mother cannot provide information regarding another alleged father, the case will go before Judge Beagle. The Prosecuting Attorney and Friend of the Court will inform Judge Beagle of the limited information available and the attempted outreach efforts to locate an alleged father(s).

Step 6

After both the Prosecuting Attorney's office and the Friend of the Court staff have met with the parties, the matter will go before Judge Beagle. If a consent order has been reached, the Court will review the order with the parents and discuss possible holistic services. If a consent order was not reached because of unavailability of either party, the court will decide whether to enter an order based on the available information, adjourn the matter, or allow the Friend of the Court to do further outreach to the parents. If a consent order was not reached because of a disagreement between the parties, the Court will decide the matter based on the available information and within the Court's discretion. On all cases, the Court will screen the parties for possible additional holistic service referrals for the benefit of the family and the best interest of the minor child. A temporary order may be entered if holistic services are appropriate.