

## PARENTAL CONSENT FOR PASSPORTS

Many people travel abroad during the summer months. Often a passport is required. You should always check with the U.S. Department of State ([travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)) to see if a passport or a passbook is required for your travel destination.

Children also need to have passports when traveling abroad. Any child under the age of 16 must have the consent of both parents to have a passport issued. This can often be difficult in single-parent or blended-family households.

Both parents should appear at a designated Department of State office when applying for a minor's passport. If both parents cannot appear, then the non-applying parent must complete *Form DS-3053: Statement of Consent*. This form is available on the U.S. Department of State's website.

The applying parent must provide evidence of sole authority to apply for a minor if the non-applying parent is unable or unwilling to participate. Sole authority can be shown with either a:

1. Court order granting sole legal custody to the applying parent;
2. Court order permitting the applying parent to apply for the child's passport;
3. Judicial declaration of incompetence of the non-applying parent; or
4. Death certificate of the non-applying parent.

If you are unable to obtain any of these proofs, then it is highly recommended that you contact the U.S. Department of State for further assistance.

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#### Helpful reminders:

- ✓ It takes an order to change an order. If your circumstances have changed, be sure to act right away.
- ✓ We want to protect your information. It's best to use your case number when you contact us.
- ✓ Always keep your address up to date with us. Address changes must be received in writing with your signature. We cannot change your address over the phone.

## ENJOY SUMMER BREAK!

Summer has arrived which means warmer days and no school for the kids! Find some enjoyable free or low cost activities for the family. Need some ideas? Here are some suggestions:

Listen to some music: Most cities in the area have free music during the summer nights.

Visit a zoo or a farm: Children under the age of 2 are free at the John Ball Zoo.

Watch a movie: You can watch free movies at Ah-Nab-Awen Park and in East Grand Rapids on certain nights this summer.

Enjoy Pure Michigan: Go camping or fishing with the family.

Visit the library: Your local library branch has many events for kids planned all year round. Join a summer reading club!

Explore the Children's Museum: Thursdays from 5-8, the cost is only \$1.75 per person.

Visit the market: Each Saturday morning through August, the Downtown Market has free kids activities.

Look for other daily events at <http://grkids.com/events/>





## KENT COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT

82 Ionia NW, Ste. 200  
PO Box 351  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49501-0351

### **Our mission:**

*To assist the Family  
Division of the  
Circuit Court in  
facilitating the  
resolution of  
domestic relations  
matters so that  
children's best  
interests are  
protected.*

E-mail us at:

[foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:foc.mail@kentcountymi.gov)

Or visit Kent County's  
[website](#) for employment  
opportunities with  
Kent County and the  
FOC.

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

Do you have questions about your case but don't speak English? Do you need an interpreter for a Friend of the Court appointment or court hearing? Did you know that Friend of the Court provides language services for our clients whose primary language is not English?

Our staff can connect with an interpreter Monday through Friday between 8am and 4:30pm to answer any questions you may have. FOC can arrange to have an interpreter come to your FOC appointments or hearings (please request the interpreter at least 7 days in advance).

Sometimes it may seem easier to have a friend or family member call on your behalf, but our office has confidentiality rules that mean we can only discuss your case with you. If you have questions or concerns about your case, our staff is more than happy to connect with an interpreter to make sure you are getting complete and accurate information.

The Hispanic Center may be able to assist you in filling out paperwork that is written in English:

Hispanic Center, 1204 Grandville Ave SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503, (616) 742-0200

<http://hispanic-center.org/>

*This article is included in Spanish below.*

## HABLAS ESPANOL?

Tienes preguntas sobre su caso? Necesita un intérprete para su cita con Friend of the Court (FOC) o para su juicio? Sabías que Friend of the Court ofrece servicios de idiomas para su clientes que el Ingles no es su idioma nativo.

Nuestros empleados pueden conectarse con un intérprete de lunes a viernes entre las 8:00AM y 4:30PM para responder sus preguntas. FOC puede organizar que un intérprete este presente para su cita con FOC o para su juicio (por favor solicite su interprete por lo menos 7 días de anticipación).

Abecés es más fácil utilizar un amigo o un miembro de su familia que llame por usted, pero nuestra oficina tiene reglas de confidencialidad que nada mas nos deja hablar con usted sobre su caso. Si tienes preguntas o una preocupación sobre su caso, nuestros empleados estarán más de felices de conectarse con un intérprete para asegurar que recibas la información más completa y más precisa.

El Centro Hispano le podrá ayudar a llenar los formularios que están escritos en inglés:

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503, (616-742-0200)

<http://hispanic-center.org/>

