Effective January 1, 2013 the St. Clair County Friend of Court will no longer be conducting custody investigations, either pre or post-judgment. In addition, orders of referral for custody investigations will no longer be approved by the Friend of Court. In these difficult budgetary times, change is inevitable and we are forced to adapt and reinvent the way we do business. We have designed a program that we feel will have the least impact on clients, attorneys, and the Court.

Regarding <u>pre-judgment</u> matters, the Friend of Court will be holding resolution conferences on all DM, DC and DZ cases. The parties and attorneys are required to appear at this conference and participate in permanent resolution of custody, parenting time and support matters.

Regarding <u>post-judgment</u> custody matters, if a custody motion is filed with the Friend of Court, said motion will be heard before the Judge.