



**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2000**

**Reimbursement Division
Department of Management and Budget**

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OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

L. BROOKS PATTERSON, OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

OAKLAND COUNTY
JUL 12 2001
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REIMBURSEMENT DIVISION
Linda Spiekerman-Harvey, Manager

UNITS:	
CIRCUIT COURT	(248) 858-0506
PROBATE / FAMILY COURT	(248) 858-1130
CHILD SUPPORT BANKING	(248) 858-0466
CHILD SUPPORT ACCOUNTING	(248) 858-1418

June 8, 2001

Honorable L. Brooks Patterson
County Executive
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341

Dear Mr. Patterson:

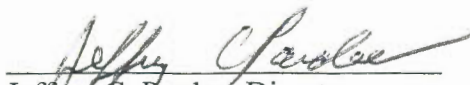
Submitted herewith is the Reimbursement Division Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000, covering the period October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000.


Total collections for the Circuit Court, Family Court-Juvenile Unit, Probate and Administrative Units (including credits and fees for Community Service) for the fiscal year were \$8,143,126, down \$249,063 or 3% from the \$8,392,189 collected in the prior fiscal year. For every dollar spent on collection costs, \$3.77 was returned to the General Fund, compared with \$3.93 last year.

The year-to-year decline can be attributed to a temporary diversion of Reimbursement Division resources from collection efforts to time commitments associated with implementation of two major computer systems that will serve as a foundation for future growth in collections and better service to our clients. Specifically, additional time was consumed for the design and development of the new Judicial Information Management System (JIMS) and to assist Friend of the Court in their efforts to comply with Federal and State mandates, thereby avoiding penalties against the County's future Title IV-D incentive payments.

Total payments processed for the fiscal year in the Child Support Unit on behalf of Friend of the Court were \$171,657,091, a 3.9% increase or \$6,465,805 more than the \$165,191,286 processed for Fiscal Year 1999.

This Division will continue to review policies, improve procedures, increase collections and investigate new areas of collections for the future. The activities of the Reimbursement Division for Fiscal Year 2000 are presented for your review.


Jeffrey C. Fardee, Director
Department of Management & Budget


Linda Spiekerman-Harvey, Manager
Reimbursement Division

**2000 ANNUAL REPORT
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**County Executive
Department of Management and Budget
Reimbursement Division
October 1, 1999 through September 30, 2000**

SERVICE STATEMENT:

The Reimbursement Division is responsible for assisting the Circuit, Family, and Probate Courts in determining ability to pay for various court services. It is responsible for collecting all monies ordered by the courts, i.e., court costs, restitution, fines, victim rights fees, attorney fees, independent medical and clinical evaluations, child care, service fees, and inmate board and care. In addition to the regular collection process, this office processes tax intercepts and garnishments, conducts administrative Order to Show Cause hearings, reviews return of bond monies, and disburses restitution checks to crime victims. The Division is also responsible for establishing and maintaining child support accounts based on court orders for Friend of the Court and performs the receipting and disbursing function for child support and spousal support payments.

GOALS:

The goals of the Reimbursement Division are to operate an efficient collections process, assess fees in an accurate and timely manner, ensure maximum recovery of costs to the courts and the County, and operate within the confines of the resources allocated to the Division.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

\$8,054,339 collected for Circuit, Family, and Probate Courts.

\$ 2,198,254 collected on behalf of crime victims.

\$ 171,657,091 collected by the Child Support Unit; disbursed 766,597 child support payments.

Continued efforts to maximize use of EFT/EDI payment processing.

Entered into a partnership with the courts and Prosecutor's Office to develop an integrated computer system, JIMS (Judicial Information Management System).

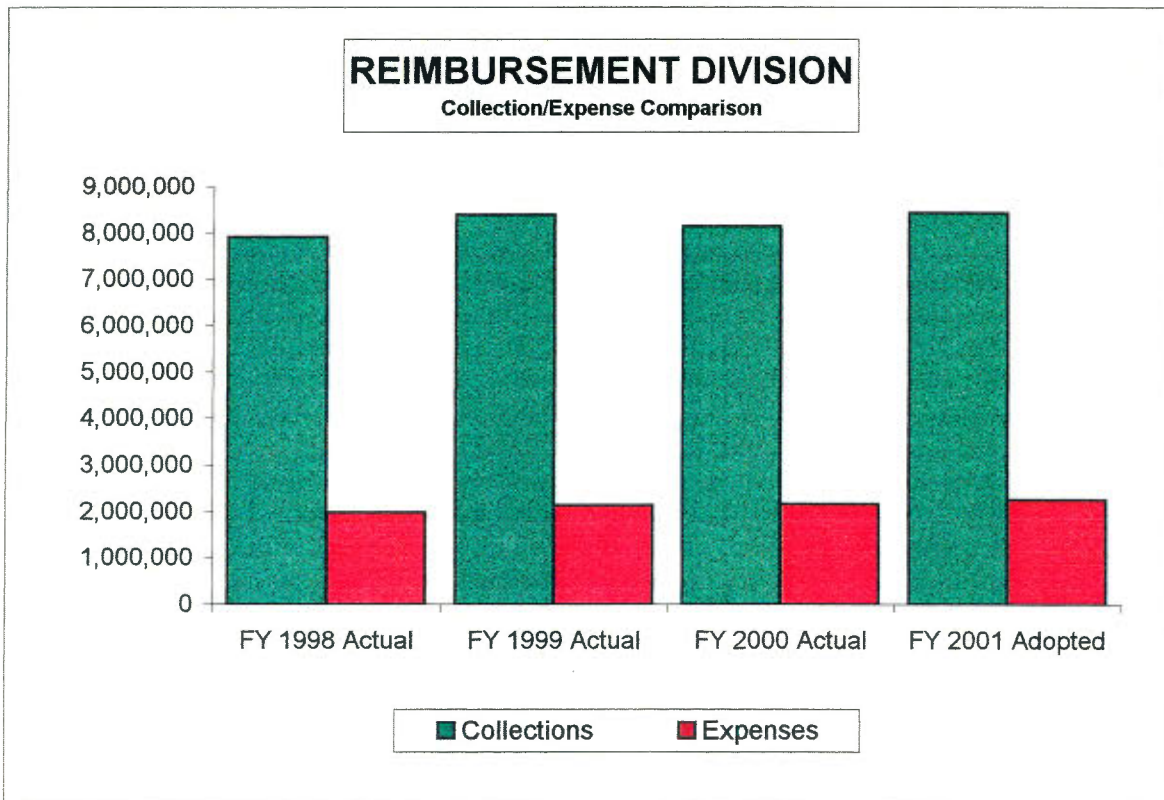
Allocated more resources to enhance the victim allocation program.

Continued coordinating efforts with Friend of the Court and the State of Michigan for Centralized Collections and PRWORA requirements.

**REIMBURSEMENT DIVISION
FISCAL YEAR 2001 ADOPTED BUDGET
COLLECTION / EXPENSE COMPARISON STATEMENT**

	<u>FY 1998 Actual</u>	<u>FY 1999 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2000 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2001 Adopted</u>
Reimbursement				
Salaries & Fringes *	\$ 1,494,451	\$ 1,498,171	\$ 1,554,535	\$ 1,676,472
Operating Expense	486,240	638,333	603,553	580,653
Total Expenses	\$ 1,980,691	\$ 2,136,504	\$ 2,158,088	\$ 2,257,125
Total Collections	\$ 7,694,981	\$ 8,238,820	\$ 8,054,339	\$ 8,350,000
Community Service	215,907	153,369	88,787	80,000
Total Collections & Service	\$ 7,910,888	\$ 8,392,189	\$ 8,143,126	\$ 8,430,000
Collection/Expense Ratio	\$ 3.99	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.73

* Salary and fringe benefit expenses for administrative staff have been adjusted to reflect responsibilities in the Child Support Unit.



REPORT OF TRANSACTION ACTIVITY

	Transactions		
	FY2000	FY1999	FY1998
Circuit Court:			
Restitution	10,648	10,760	9,518
Court Costs	13,894	12,967	13,046
Attorney Fees	12,746	12,710	12,307
Inmate Board and Care	5,162	5,126	4,922
Crime Victim's Rights Fees	13,255	14,241	14,102
Fines	2,231	1,719	1,658
Forensic Lab Fees	3,129	7,386	4,195
Extradition Fees	53	57	8
Community Service Fees	323	526	473
Psychological Testing	-	4	2
Interpreter Fees	-	-	4
Total	<u>61,441</u>	<u>65,496</u>	<u>60,235</u>
Family Court:			
Board and Care (Juvenile Maintenance)	13,284	13,141	12,901
Collection Offset (Board and Care)	13,284	13,141	12,902
Governmental Benefits (Juvenile Maintenance)	997	1,279	988
Probation Service Fees	2,813	2,969	3,488
Attorney Fees	3,330	3,159	4,013
State Juvenile Maintenance	1,735	1,943	1,868
Restitution	972	1,025	1,310
Clinical Evaluations	1,175	752	851
Court Costs	745	502	688
Tax Intercept Fees	495	494	457
Traffic Service Fees	376	295	390
Crime Victim's Rights Fees	499	618	668
Community Mental Health	22	17	13
Ordinance Violations	186	342	267
Forensic Lab Fees	23	165	57
Children's Village Aftercare	36	33	17
Sec. of State-Traffic Service Fees	54	57	72
Probate Support	53	55	34
Family Court-Other	2	-	7
Total	<u>40,081</u>	<u>39,987</u>	<u>40,991</u>
Probate Court-Mental Health:			
Attorney Fees	470	556	553
Medical Evaluations	-	-	1
Total	<u>470</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>554</u>
Miscellaneous:			
Friend of the Court Fees	1,584	1,522	1,778
Medical Care Facility	1	-	-
Witness and Mileage Fees/Service Fees	1,204	857	650
Recovery Fees for Returned Checks	211	223	215
Filing Fees	785	887	475
Miscellaneous	11	9	12
Reimbursement of Postage Expense	366	-	-
Interpreter Fees	1	-	-
Lien Interest	1	5	24
Total	<u>4,164</u>	<u>3,503</u>	<u>3,154</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u><u>106,156</u></u>	<u><u>109,542</u></u>	<u><u>104,934</u></u>

Three Year Summary Comparison Statement
 FY 1998 - 2000
 Collections vs. Expenses

	Collections		
	FY2000	FY1999	FY1998
Circuit Court:			
Restitution	\$ 2,108,473	\$ 2,139,404	\$ 1,931,089
Court Costs	1,050,890	1,059,737	1,051,299
Attorney Fees	767,044	793,535	752,323
Inmate Board and Care	410,877	405,418	358,709
Crime Victim's Rights Fees	201,630	225,906	207,058
Fines	198,898	166,910	147,934
Forensic Lab Fees	111,106	94,302	79,295
Extradition Fees	12,908	14,212	4,877
Community Service Fees	11,884	20,762	18,843
Psychological Testing	-	650	795
Interpreter Fees	-	-	116
Total	<u>\$ 4,873,710</u>	<u>\$ 4,920,836</u>	<u>\$ 4,552,338</u>
Family Court:			
Board and Care (Juvenile Maintenance)	\$ 796,294	\$ 814,063	\$ 681,733
Collection Offset (Board and Care)	282,881	288,480	247,792
Governmental Benefits (Juvenile Maintenance)	241,967	314,978	293,074
Probation Service Fees	210,136	228,873	227,861
Attorney Fees	205,017	162,894	190,838
State Juvenile Maintenance	121,040	104,962	123,592
Restitution	89,781	150,217	120,516
Clinical Evaluations	69,406	48,883	36,212
Court Costs	22,397	18,545	22,242
Tax Intercept Fees	22,331	21,389	16,735
Traffic Service Fees	13,740	9,073	11,030
Crime Victim's Rights Fees	9,972	12,304	13,274
Community Mental Health	6,600	5,355	2,169
Ordinance Violations	4,625	8,585	6,375
Forensic Lab Fees	2,213	4,551	2,145
Children's Village Aftercare	2,195	1,771	1,360
Sec. of State-Traffic Service Fees	885	993	1,245
Probate Support	600	3,428	6,001
Family Court-Other	550	-	595
Total	<u>\$ 2,102,630</u>	<u>\$ 2,199,344</u>	<u>\$ 2,004,789</u>
Probate Court-Mental Health:			
Attorney Fees	\$ 39,451	\$ 50,152	\$ 53,631
Medical Evaluations	-	-	300
Total	<u>\$ 39,451</u>	<u>\$ 50,152</u>	<u>\$ 53,931</u>
Miscellaneous:			
Friend of the Court Fees	\$ 991,598	\$ 1,044,919	\$ 1,069,385
Medical Care Facility	17,811	-	-
Witness and Mileage Fees/Service Fees	16,676	11,879	8,769
Recovery Fees for Returned Checks	4,713	4,519	669
Filing Fees	4,464	5,751	3,010
Miscellaneous	1,477	413	1,225
Reimbursement of Postage Expense	1,155	-	-
Interpreter Fees	600	-	-
Lien Interest	54	1,007	865
Total	<u>\$ 1,038,548</u>	<u>\$ 1,068,488</u>	<u>\$ 1,083,923</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 8,054,339</u>	<u>\$ 8,238,820</u>	<u>\$ 7,694,981</u>
Community Service Credits	<u>\$ 88,787</u>	<u>\$ 153,369</u>	<u>\$ 215,907</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$ 8,143,126</u>	<u>\$ 8,392,189</u>	<u>\$ 7,910,888</u>
Reimbursement Division Expenses:	\$ 2,158,088	\$ 2,136,504	\$ 1,980,691
Collection/Expense Ratio:	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.93	\$ 3.99

CIRCUIT COURT ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

	FY2000	FY1999	FY1998
Accounts:			
Court Costs	\$ 1,050,890	\$ 1,059,737	\$ 1,051,299
Attorney Fees	767,044	793,535	752,323
Inmate Board and Care *	410,877	405,418	358,709
Fines	198,898	166,910	147,934
Extradition Fees	12,908	14,212	4,877
Community Service Fees	11,884	20,762	18,843
Forensic Lab Fees-County Share	5,555	4,715	3,965
Forensic Lab Fees-Prosecutor	5,555	4,715	363
Psychological Testing	-	650	795
Interpreter Fees	-	-	116
Total	\$ 2,463,611	\$ 2,470,654	\$ 2,339,224
Trust Accounts:			
Restitution	\$ 2,108,473	\$ 2,139,404	\$ 1,931,089
Crime Victim's Rights Fees	201,630	225,906	207,058
Forensic Lab Fees-State Share	99,996	84,872	74,967
Total	\$ 2,410,099	\$ 2,450,182	\$ 2,213,114
TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED	\$ 4,873,710 **	\$ 4,920,836	\$ 4,552,338

The Circuit Court Unit of the Reimbursement Division is responsible for collection of all funds ordered by the Circuit Court for court costs, attorney fees, restitution, fines, forensic lab fees, and crime victim's rights fees. The Unit also collects inmate board and care charges as well as fees associated with the Community Service Program.

For fiscal year 2000, there were 7,542 restitution payments made to the victims of crime for a total of \$2,177,223.

On October 30, 1989, Public Act 196 became effective requiring each defendant to pay a fee for the Crime Victim's Rights Fund. These funds are collected on behalf of the State; the County is authorized to retain an administrative fee. The County retains 10% of the amount collected for administrative costs.

*MCLA 801.83 allows the County to seek reimbursement for board and care from inmates. In May 1995, the County began billing inmates for time served in the Oakland County Jail. Inmates are billed at a rate that does not exceed \$60 per day. The rate can be adjusted based on ability to pay.

**A program requiring a defendant's bond to be applied toward costs assessed by the Court resulted in the recovery of \$379,817. In addition, \$71,834 of the above funds was collected from defendants on the Work Release Program with the assistance of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department.



CIRCUIT COURT ACCOUNTS

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEYS

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
Cost to Oakland County:			
Regular Cases	\$ 3,085,132	\$ 2,957,986	\$ 2,825,304
Appellate Cases	385,431	556,658	643,055
Total	<u>\$ 3,470,563</u>	<u>\$ 3,514,644</u>	<u>\$ 3,468,359</u>
TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED	<u>\$ 767,044</u>	<u>\$ 793,535</u>	<u>\$ 752,323</u>
Percent Recovered	22.1%	22.6%	21.7%

Defendants represented by a court-appointed attorney are ordered to repay the County for services provided.

COURT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
Community Service Credits:			
Attorney Fees	\$ 44,423	\$ 59,576	\$ 116,381
Court Costs	44,364	92,376	99,296
Fines	-	1,417	230
TOTAL CREDITS RECOVERED	<u>\$ 88,787</u>	<u>\$ 153,369</u>	<u>\$ 215,907</u>
Community Service Fees	<u>\$ 11,884</u>	<u>\$ 20,762</u>	<u>\$ 18,843</u>
TOTAL SERVICE FEES COLLECTED	<u>\$ 11,884</u>	<u>\$ 20,762</u>	<u>\$ 18,843</u>
TOTAL CREDITS AND FEES	<u>\$ 100,671</u>	<u>\$ 174,131</u>	<u>\$ 234,750</u>

The Court Community Service Program has provided the courts with an alternative means of enforcing monetary orders against indigent defendants rather than imposing costly jail sentences. Defendants provide labor hours and receive credits which reduce court-ordered fees. In fiscal year 2000, 148 individuals completed 17,757 hours of service for non-profit agencies in the greater Oakland County area.

In 1996, a community service fee was authorized to be assessed for individuals involved in the program to supplement state and county funding. The Reimbursement Division assisted Community Corrections staff in collecting \$11,884 during fiscal year 2000.

FAMILY COURT ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS

	FY2000	FY1999	FY1998
Accounts:			
Board and Care (Juvenile Maintenance)	\$ 796,294	\$ 814,063	\$ 681,733
Collection Offset (Board and Care)	282,881	288,480	247,792
Governmental Benefits (Juvenile Maintenance)	241,967	314,978	293,074
Probation Service Fees	210,136	228,873	227,861
Attorney Fees	205,017	162,894	190,838
Clinical Evaluations	69,406	48,883	36,212
Court Costs	22,397	18,545	22,242
Tax Intercept Fees	22,331	21,389	16,735
Traffic Service Fees	13,740	9,073	11,030
Community Mental Health	6,600	5,355	2,169
Ordinance Violations-County Share	3,083	5,723	4,266
Children's Village Aftercare	2,195	1,771	1,360
Adoption Attorney	300	-	-
Forensic Lab Fees-County Share	111	228	107
Forensic Lab Fees-Prosecutor	111	228	10
Transcript Fees	-	-	148
Total	\$ 1,876,569	\$ 1,920,483	\$ 1,735,577
Trust Accounts:			
State Juvenile Maintenance	\$ 121,040	\$ 104,962	\$ 123,592
Restitution	89,781	150,217	120,516
Crime Victim's Rights Fees	9,972	12,304	13,274
Forensic Lab Fees-State Share	1,991	4,095	2,028
Ordinance Violations-Municipalities Share	1,542	2,862	2,109
Sec. of State-Traffic Service Fees	885	993	1,245
Probate Support	600	3,428	6,001
Public Library Fund	250	-	200
State of Michigan-Aid to Dependent Children	-	-	247
Total	\$ 226,061	\$ 278,861	\$ 269,212
TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED	\$ 2,102,630 *	\$ 2,199,344	\$ 2,004,789

The Family Court Unit of the Reimbursement Division is responsible for collection of the cost of care for court wards, attorney fees, restitution, court costs, service fees, crime victim's rights fees, and clinical evaluations as ordered by the Family Court. A financial statement is taken and an order is entered based on the parents' ability to pay according to the State Court Administrator's guidelines.

The Family Division of Circuit Court (Family Court) was established January 1, 1998, in an effort to consolidate the handling of domestic relations and juvenile cases to better serve families.

The Juvenile Code provides for a 25% administrative fee (Collection Offset) to cover the cost of collecting funds as the result of an order for board and care.

Family Court assesses the parents of juveniles charged with delinquent acts a monthly service fee when the child is placed on probation or under supervision in their home.

Effective May 1, 1994, MCLA 780.901 required the courts to order juveniles to pay a \$20 assessment to the Crime Victim's Rights Fund for orders of disposition on juvenile offenses. The Michigan Department of Treasury receives 90% of this fee and the County is entitled to retain 10% of collections.

This unit acts as the collection agent for monies ordered by Family Court for restitution. For fiscal year 2000, there were 647 restitution payments made to the victims of crime for a total of \$93,844.

*A program which requires a child's bond be applied toward costs assessed by the Court resulted in the recovery of \$43,134 of the above funds.

FAMILY COURT ACCOUNTS

BOARD AND CARE COLLECTIONS

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
Juvenile Maintenance	\$ 1,321,142	\$ 1,417,521	\$ 1,222,599
State Juvenile Maintenance*	121,040	104,962	123,592
TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED	\$ 1,442,182	\$ 1,522,483	\$ 1,346,191

*This includes one-half of the governmental benefits collected by the Michigan Family Independence Agency and credited to the County for children placed in state facilities. For fiscal year 2000 the amount is \$59,510.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEYS

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
Cost to Oakland County	\$ 891,937	\$ 758,792	\$ 666,484
TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED	\$ 205,017	\$ 162,894	\$ 190,838
Percent Recovered	23.0%	21.5%	28.6%

If the Family Court appoints an attorney to represent a child, parent, guardian or custodian, an order is entered requiring the responsible individual to repay the funds in accordance with their ability to pay.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED	\$ 6,600	\$ 5,355	\$ 2,169

The Family Court and Community Mental Health have developed joint funding agreements in an effort to expand placement options for juveniles needing mental health services while under the Court's jurisdiction.

PROBATE COURT-MENTAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS

REIMBURSEMENT FOR COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEYS

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
Cost to Oakland County	\$ 172,866	\$ 160,059	\$ 155,665
TOTAL FUNDS RECOVERED	\$ 39,451	\$ 50,152	\$ 53,631
Percent Recovered	22.8%	31.3%	34.5%

Every individual who is the subject of a petition for involuntary hospitalization is required to be represented by legal counsel.

CHILD SUPPORT UNIT

COLLECTIONS REPORT

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS COLLECTED	\$ 171,657,091	\$ 165,191,286	\$ 156,193,097
Less Fees Collected:			
Medicaid Confinements	\$ 1,040,177	\$ 1,368,381	\$ 1,359,005
Service Fees	576,676	619,727	626,417
Processing Fees-State Portion	259,675	294,850	294,107
Processing Fees-County Portion	64,918	73,711	73,525
Court Costs	60,234	43,732	52,429
Judgment Fees*	37,072	117,212	1,820
Domestic Psychological Evals.	13,168	-	-
Psychological Evaluations	12,470	11,514	19,827
Guardian Ad Litem Fees	3,828	509	1,020
Paternity Blood Test Fees	632	875	1,548
Witness Fees	-	-	470
	<u>2,068,850</u>	<u>2,530,511</u>	<u>2,430,168</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 169,588,241 **</u>	<u>\$ 162,660,775</u>	<u>\$ 153,762,929</u>

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS PROCESSED

	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY1998</u>
Court Orders & Correspondence:			
Miscellaneous Documents	29,770	28,217	25,507
Income Withholding Orders	13,598	13,138	13,061
Support Orders	9,585	4,056	6,741
Judgments	4,740	4,512	4,053
Defaults	2,378	2,439	2,546
TOTAL PROCESSED***	<u>60,071</u>	<u>52,362</u>	<u>51,908</u>

This unit is responsible for establishing and maintaining child support accounts based on court order on behalf of the Friend of the Court. The Unit also receipts and disburses child support and spousal support. Currently, this unit is responsible for maintaining over 50,726 active Friend of the Court cases including 70,076 payees.

Currently 15% of all payments are processed by an automated payment processing program, the Lockbox Operation, at Bank One. Sixty-percent of all disbursements are electronically transmitted to the payee.

*Fiscal year 2000 figure reflects all fees collected and transferred to the Clerk's Office electronically. Fiscal year 1999 was the first year monies were transmitted electronically for judgment collections and ended the process of money being held in the Friend of the Court accounts cash balance until the entire judgment fee was collected. Prior to fiscal year 1999, figures only reflected the County's portion of judgment fees.

**Included in this amount are payments made to the Michigan Family Independence Agency in the amount of \$6,703,034.

***Imaged court orders and correspondence routed to the Unit are used as a measure of child support activity.

**CHILD SUPPORT UNIT
FISCAL YEAR 2001 ADOPTED BUDGET
REVENUE / EXPENSE COMPARISON STATEMENT**

	<u>FY 1998 Actual</u>	<u>FY 1999 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2000 Actual</u>	<u>FY 2001 Adopted</u>
Child Support				
Salaries & Fringes *	\$ 1,170,225	\$ 1,199,383	\$ 1,246,598	\$ 1,295,697
Operating Expense	411,613	397,962	392,915	512,433
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,581,838</u>	<u>\$ 1,597,345</u>	<u>\$ 1,639,513</u>	<u>\$ 1,808,130</u>
Total Revenues **	<u>\$ 1,778,166</u>	<u>\$ 1,812,543</u>	<u>\$ 1,680,637</u>	<u>\$ 1,113,597</u>
Revenue/Expense Ratio	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.03	\$ 0.62

* Salary and fringe benefit expenses for administrative staff have been adjusted to reflect responsibilities in the Child Support Unit.

** Revenue attributable to Reimbursement/Child Support efforts based on a percentage of the expenses incurred to overall revenues recognized by the Friend of the Court.

