



**STATE OF MICHIGAN
SAGINAW COUNTY PROBATE COURT
10th Circuit Court – Family Division**

PATRICK J. MCGRAW
Probate Judge

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**SAGINAW COUNTY PROBATE COURT
POLICY REGARDING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IN
CONSERVATORSHIPS FOR MINORS**

The general principle followed by this Court remains that it is the Court's responsibility to preserve the child's money until the minor attains the age of 18, or to spend the money only on basic items for the child that could not otherwise be obtained by the parents. This policy will apply to Petitions for Authority for the use of monies in restricted bank accounts and to the annual accounting of conservatorships where unrestricted monies are involved.

The Court will grant authority to withdraw restricted funds only in conformance with this written policy.

1. No expenditure will be allowed unless it directly benefits the child.
2. No expenditure will be allowed that benefits the child yet relieves a parental obligation that should and could otherwise be met. If the parents, however, can prove that they are unable to afford obligations, exceptions to the rule may include such things as unusual medical expenses such as braces, extra educational expenses such as computers or books, and other unusual circumstances that may create an exceptional burden for the family. Routine expenses such as clothing, food, shelter, birthday parties, class trips, routine medical and dental care, and other expenses normally associated with child rearing will not ordinarily be allowed.
3. Expenditures regarding maintenance of the principle in a child's bank account will be allowed. An example of such a situation would be taxes payable on the interest income from such principle.
4. No money will be released to the Department of Social Services or at its request to relieve a parental obligation, as it is the parent's and not the child's.
5. At the Court's discretion, attorney fees and restitution may also be ordered out of conservatorship accounts.

HONORABLE PATRICK J. MCGRAW
Saginaw County Probate Court
Chief Judge

HONORABLE FAYE M. HARRISON
Saginaw County Probate Court
Chief Judge, Pro Tem