



# OAG

Office of the Auditor General

## Report Summary

### *Performance Audit*

### *Statewide Child Support Program:*

### *Establishment of Child Support*

### *Cases and Orders*

### *Michigan Department of Health and Human*

### *Services (MDHHS)*

**Report Number:**

**431-0701-15**

**Released:**

**January 2019**

MDHHS's Office of Child Support is the State agency that administers the Statewide Child Support Program and partners with Prosecuting Attorney (PA) offices and Friend of the Court offices in each county to deliver child support services, including the establishment of child support cases and orders. From October 1, 2012 through July 17, 2016, MDHHS established 281,160 child support cases. From October 1, 2012 through July 19, 2016, PAs established 65,277 child support orders.

Audit Objective			Conclusion
Objective: To assess the effectiveness of the Statewide Child Support Program's efforts to establish child support cases and orders.			Effective
Findings Related to This Audit Objective	Material Condition	Reportable Condition	Agency Preliminary Response
MDHHS did not always make timely determinations of custodial parents' good cause claims for not cooperating with establishing paternity and/or child support orders. Determinations were delayed more than 1.5 years for over 75% of the entire population of 5,095 good cause claim cases that existed as of August 22, 2016. The impact of MDHHS's untimeliness caused it to inappropriately provide at least \$2.3 million in public assistance benefits to those parents who ultimately had determinations of noncooperation and should have had their benefits reduced or terminated ( <u>Finding #1</u> ).		X	Agrees

#### **Obtain Audit Reports**

Online: [audgen.michigan.gov](http://audgen.michigan.gov)

Phone: (517) 334-8050

Office of the Auditor General  
201 N. Washington Square, Sixth Floor  
Lansing, Michigan 48913

**Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA**  
Auditor General

**Laura J. Hirst, CPA**  
Deputy Auditor General