

# **JAMES V. YOUNG**

## **SANILAC COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

---

**Brenda S. Sanford**  
Chief Assistant

**Eric G. Scott**  
Assistant

**Courtney E. Driscoll**  
Assistant

**Lucille Higgins**  
Administrative Assistant

### **IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE BY JAMES V. YOUNG**

The Sanilac County Prosecutor's Office has been the subject of numerous media stories. These articles relate to a paternity action that was initiated by the Michigan Department of Human Services in July of 2017. The paternity action was a result of a twenty-one year old woman who requested financial assistance and as a condition of receiving that financial assistance was advised by Human Services that she was required to cooperate with pursuing paternity and support for her minor child. This young woman came to the Sanilac County Prosecutor's Office and completed and signed a paternity questionnaire in which she disclosed the alleged father's name and address. She further signed an agreement to cooperate with pursuing paternity and signed a statement authorizing the disclosure of her address.

The alleged father, Christopher Mirasolo was contacted and given a copy of the complaint for paternity. He indicated that he would discuss the matter with an attorney. He later returned on August 16, 2017, and requested DNA testing. Subsequently, all parties were tested, which determined that Mr. Mirasolo was the father of the minor child.

A standard order that is used in all paternity cases was prepared and was given to Mr. Mirasolo, who indicated that he would have it reviewed by an attorney. Later, Mr. Mirasolo returned with the order, signed by him, and he consented to its entry by the court. The Prosecutor's Office also signed the order, as is our standard procedure. The order was then referred to the Friend of the Court on September 21, 2017. On September 22, 2017, the order was signed by the Court. The order further awarded the mother sole physical custody of the minor child.

While the mother did request that the father not receive visitation, the order stated:

**"Parenting time shall be as the parties agree. If they are unable to agree, either party may file a motion."**

The order is clear that, if the mother does not want the father to have visitation, she does not have to provide it.

The Sanilac County Prosecutor's Office first received an appearance from Ms. Rebecca Kiessling on September 28, 2017, which was after the order had already been entered by the court. On October 6, 2017, Ms. Kiessling filed a motion with the court to modify the order.

**Courthouse – 60 West Sanilac Avenue, Room 314, Sandusky, Michigan 48471**  
**Telephone: 810-648-3402 Fax: 810-648-2332**  
**Victim Services' Telephone: 810-648-5463**

---

Based on the above facts, the Prosecutor's Office wants to make the following points:

- 1) This case was initiated by the mother asking for financial assistance from the Department of Human Services;
- 2) DHS referred her to the Prosecutor's Office to initiate a paternity action;
- 3) Mr. Mirasolo never requested any determination of paternity, visitation, or custody; and
- 4) as stated previously, the mother was not ordered to provide any visitation of any kind.

Further, it has been reported that Mr. Mirasolo has stipulated to the entry of an order agreeing to pay child support, but waiving all other rights to the child, which, if true, the Prosecutor's Office fully supports.

Finally, as a result of this case, the Prosecutor's Office will be conducting an internal review of the policies and procedures as to how these matters are handled and will be making changes as deemed appropriate.