

# Child Support Enforcement Program: Providing for Florida's Children

## CSE

### Enforcing Orders

Once a child support order is established, children should receive support.

Unfortunately, some parents choose not to pay.

As in other functions, DOR works with many partners to enforce orders: parents, employers, financial institutions, the IRS, other state and local agencies, and the judiciary. All partners must work together if children are to get the support they need.

Shown here are enforcement tools DOR may use (singly or in combination) to secure payment of child support. State and federal laws limit how and when certain tools can be used. Except for income deduction, most tools are used only to recover past-due support.

### Locating the Noncustodial Parent

The first step in enforcement is locating the noncustodial parent. DOR uses a number of databases and other resources to locate parents and their assets. The custodial parent can be a key partner in this process. Location tools include:

- Employer new hire reporting.
- Financial institution records.
- Property records.
- Driver and other license records.
- Government programs' payment records.
- Utility company records.
- Internet databases.
- Consumer credit agency information.
- Court records.

### Suspension Actions

Before suspending a license or other important government document, DOR asks a parent to pay past-due support. If the parent does not pay, DOR may suspend:

- Driver licenses.
- Passports.
- Professional licenses.
- Vessel or vehicle registrations.
- Hunting or fishing licenses.



### Judicial Intervention

DOR can refer cases to the court system for judicial intervention. Possible penalties vary depending on past behavior.

- Arrest order (civil) for failure to appear.
- Jail time up to 179 days for contempt of court.
- Full or partial payment to purge contempt.
- Misdemeanor and felony criminal prosecution by state attorneys or U.S. attorneys.



### Reports to Credit Agencies

Like other creditors, DOR reports past-due amounts to credit agencies, negatively affecting a noncustodial parent's credit rating.



### Liens

Liens against property legally prohibit any sale without satisfaction of the lien. DOR can initiate liens to collect past-due support on:

- Vehicles.
- Boats.
- Personal water craft.
- Mobile homes.
- Real estate.



### Income Deduction Order (IDO)

Automatic payroll deduction is DOR's most effective collection tool. When DOR issues an IDO, the employer is required to comply. More than half of all child support collected comes from IDOs.



### Income Interception

DOR can intercept money from:

- IRS tax refunds.
- Lottery winnings.
- Workers' compensation benefits.
- Unemployment compensation benefits.
- Insurance settlements.
- Liquidated unclaimed property.



### Asset Enforcement

DOR can freeze and then seize financial accounts nationwide. Institutions check their records against child support delinquencies to provide account information to DOR for action.

### Some CSE Success Stories:

- A Broward County noncustodial parent had his unclaimed property intercepted. This resulted in a \$24,760 collection for support owed for his 25-year-old son.
- A bank levy collection in Florida resulted from a freeze for a Hillsborough County case. The noncustodial parent owed \$146,437 and he contested the levy on his account. The court found in favor of the Department of Revenue and ordered that \$90,993 be paid. The noncustodial parent agreed to abide by the court order. What made this such a special event is that the custodial parent has brain damage and has been unable to maintain employment. She has been supported by the child in the case.
- One of the successes of the Insurance Intercept program was a Sarasota County case that was settled for \$74,415, of which \$73,941 was forwarded to the custodial parent.



For more information:  
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