



Lottery Intercept

Any person who has past due child support due in the amount of \$500.00 is reported to the State Lottery. Upon a lottery winning of \$600.00 or more, the proceeds, after payment of state and federal taxes, shall be offset up to the amount of past due child support. The balance of the lottery proceeds will be payable to the claimant after offset.

License Revocation

The Office of Child Support Services will serve notice upon a non-custodial parent who owes ninety (90) days' worth of child support payments of the agency's intention to submit his/her name for license revocation or suspension.

Administrative Liens

The Office of Child Support Services may send written notice of an intent to lien personal or real property of the non-custodial parent for past due support which is required for the administrative lien process. The lien includes any unpaid child support that may accrue in the future.

State Criminal Prosecution

An individual who has incurred past due support in the amount of \$10,000.00 or who has willfully thereafter having the means to do so, fails to pay for over a period of three (3) years, shall be guilty of a felony for each instance of failure to pay and upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment or a period not to exceed five (5) years. These cases may be referred to the Attorney General's Office for prosecution.

**More questions?
Contact us!**

RI Department of Human Services

Office of Child Support Services

77 Dorrance Street

Providence, RI 02903

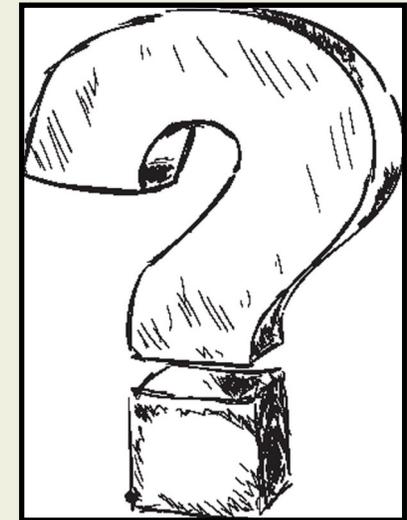
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Enforcement of Child Support Orders

What you need to know



**State of Rhode Island
Department of Human Services
Office of Child Support Services**



ENFORCEMENT METHODS

Once a child support order is entered, it continues in full force until it is modified or suspended by the Rhode Island Family Court.

Non-custodial parents often make the mistake of not filling a motion to modify or suspend a court order when their situation has changed from the time the order was first entered. The order continues to run causing **arrears (amount overdue)** to accumulate and enforcement measures to take place.

All enforcement is system automated. This means that custodial parents do not need to contact the child support agency to request enforcement of a past due order.

Body Attachments

A non-custodial parent is served with a witness subpoena and a summons to appear in court. Failure to appear may result in a body attachment being issued for the arrest of the person who did not appear.

Administrative Offset Program

This is triggered when the non-custodial parent owes at least \$25.00 and is at least thirty (30) days late in payments. The federal government will intercept federal payments to pay past due child support before a non-custodial parent is entitled to payments from the federal government. Examples of this would be private vendors who perform federal government works, small business loans and federal retirement benefits.

Some payments cannot be intercepted such as:

Interest

Any past due child support accrues interest at 12% annually or 1% per month on the unpaid balance.

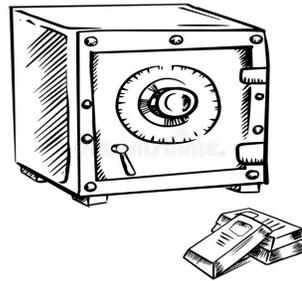
Motion to Adjudge in Contempt

If a non-custodial parent falls behind in child support payments, a motion to adjudge in contempt may be filed by the child support agency. This motion may be filed if facts support that the non-custodial parent had the ability to pay child support and willfully failed to pay.

Federal Tax Refund Offset Program

This program collects past due child support payments from parents who have fallen behind by \$150.00 and are due a tax refund. Only cases receiving full services under the child support program are entitled to this.

If the non-custodial parent owes past due child support but files a joint return with a current spouse, the spouse may be able to request return of part of the refund due.



Passport Denial

All cases receiving full services from the child support agency are entitled to the passport denial process. Persons who owe \$2,500.00 or more in payments will be sent a notice and be referred to the federal government for passport denial. The Office of Child Support Services may consider certain hardship exceptions.

Bank Match

The Office of Child Support Services will report a non-custodial parent who owes \$500.00 to participating banks to match against their records. The banks will provide information about the savings or checking account and the agency will place a lien on that account in accordance with the lien procedure.

Insurance Intercept

The “Insurance Intercept Act” says that any insurance company making a settlement of any claim of \$3,000.00 or more must look up the case on the Rhode Island Child Support Lien website to determine if the non-custodial parent is on the list of parents who owe past due support of \$500.00 or more. If he/she is on the list, the insurance company must pay the Rhode Island Family Court the insurance proceeds up to the amount of past due child support. Attorneys’ fees and medical payments may be deducted.

Credit Bureau Reporting

The Office of Child Support Services shall provide information regarding the amount of overdue support to consumer reporting agencies. The non-custodial parent is provided written notice ten (10) days prior to the release of information to allow him/her an opportunity to contest.