

Ohio Attorneys Guide to INTERSTATE Child Support

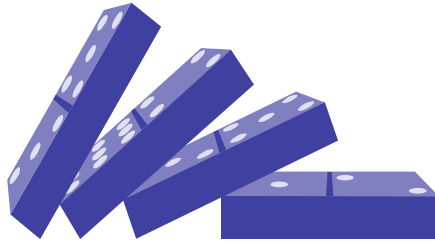


Ohio Department of Human Services
Office of Child Support
June 1999

Interstate Child Support in Ohio: A Reference Guide for Private Attorneys

Introduction

Twenty-eight percent of American children under the age of 18 are growing up in single parent households. Absence of a parent is the leading cause of poverty among children; absence of a parent is also increasingly correlated to acts of juvenile delinquency. High rates of divorce, separation and out-of-wedlock births have transformed the setting in which children are raised. This overwhelms the welfare system, child support agencies and the courts.



Keeping track of parents who move from state to state is one of the most difficult tasks in child support enforcement. Nationally, interstate cases represent about one-third of the child support caseload and 10% of child support collections. Of the families owed child support, only half receive the full amount each month and one quarter receive nothing at all.

This guide provides a quick reference for attorneys looking to familiarize themselves with the most recent changes in the law regarding interstate case processing. It also provides some information about new tools available to child support enforcement agencies and the private bar, and who to contact for assistance with child support cases in Ohio.

Background: The Child Support Enforcement Program

In 1975, Congress established the Child Support Enforcement Program under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, hence the common reference to the “IV-D program.” The purpose of the program is to collect child support payments for children in single-parent (or single-guardian) families. This program has expanded since its inception, however the goals remain to ensure that both parents financially support children and to reduce welfare expenditures.

The Ohio Child Support Enforcement program is supervised at the state level by the Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support (OCS). Services are administered locally by county Child Support Enforcement Agencies (CSEA).

Any family may receive child support services by completing a IV-D application. Families that are receiving public assistance must cooperate with the child support agency to establish paternity and collect child support. The only exception is for “good cause” reasons, such as a serious threat of physical violence.

The six basic child support enforcement services provided by the IV-D program are:

- Locating non-custodial parents
- Establishing paternity
- Establishing child support and medical support orders
- Collecting and distributing child support and medical support payments
- Enforcing child support and medical support orders
- Modifying child support orders

Family law has traditionally been the domain of the states. However, federal funding of IV-D activities by the states is now contingent upon the enactment of state laws that conform to federal specifications. These “federal mandates” evolved from innovative laws and programs created and tested by many states.

Welfare Reform (PRWORA)

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-1030 as subsequently amended by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997), known as "welfare reform," is an example of congressional directives to shape family law. PRWORA placed child support enforcement as one cornerstone of this change by focusing on self-sufficiency and personal responsibility.

Locating non-custodial parents, securing payment by income withholding and attaching financial assets to secure payment of child support are considered important elements for improving the IV-D program. PRWORA contains new locate resources through an expanded Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) operated by the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE).



PRWORA approaches interstate child support enforcement with tools that include an expanded Federal Parent Locator Service, a requirement that all states adopt the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) and other interstate enforcement tools. In addition to toughening the enforcement of financial obligations, PRWORA recognizes the importance of parental involvement in children’s lives by providing grants to states for the development of non-custodial parent access and visitation programs.

PRWORA also reflects judicial and legislative concerns about disclosing information in cases of domestic violence by requiring states to include a Family Violence Indicator where appropriate to restrict the release of information about the location of participants in child support cases.

Without the cooperation of state court judges, court administrators and the private bar, the shared policy goals of promoting self-sufficiency and economic stability in single-parent homes, fostering parental responsibility and supporting the rule of law through the enforcement of court orders cannot be attained. This reference tool is designed to introduce attorneys and judges to the federal and state locate, establishment and enforcement resources available under PRWORA as enacted in Ohio, with an emphasis on the use of UIFSA for interstate child support cases.



Significant Child Support Legislation

This section outlines several pieces of federal legislation as they relate to child support agencies. In addition to a brief outline of each law, there are explanations of how Ohio has implemented these federal directives and citations to the Ohio Revised Code [ORC].

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act

The child support enforcement system was created by Pub. L. No. 93-647, 88 Stat. 2337 (1974). This legislation established the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), established the Federal Parent Locator Service, and required every state to establish an agency to help custodial parents obtain support. Major amendments were enacted in 1984, 1988, and most recently with PRWORA in 1996. Title IV-D now mandates that states adopt the following laws and procedures:



Mandatory Income Withholding

Ohio uses a very broad definition of income subject to withholding. [ORC §3113.21 (Q)] Income means any form of monetary payment, including but not limited to: Withholding child support directly from wages has been a state requirement since

- Personal earnings
- Worker's compensation payments
- Unemployment compensation payments to the extent permitted by, and in accordance with, ORC §2301.371 and ORC §4141.28(D)(4), and federal law governing the bureau of employment services
- Pensions
- Annuities
- Allowances
- Private or governmental benefits
- Disability or sick pay
- Insurance proceeds
- Lottery prize awards
- Federal, state, or local government benefits to the extent that the benefits can be withheld or deducted under the law governing the benefits
- Any form of trust fund or endowment
- Lump-sum payments
- Any other payment in money

1984, Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-378, 98 Stat.1305(1984), encoded at 42 U.S.C. §666. The Family Support Act (FSA) of 1988 Pub. L. No. 100-485, §101, 102 Stat. 2343 (1988), codified in various sections of Title 42, U.S.Code, expanded this requirement to all new child support orders as of 1994. Ohio served as a model for mandatory income withholding in all cases and has met this requirement since 1986. [ORC § 3113.21]

Child Support Guidelines

The Child Support Amendments of 1984 provide that there is a rebuttable presumption that the amount of support resulting from the application of child support guidelines is the correct amount to be ordered.

Ohio's Child Support Guidelines are authorized at Ohio Revised Code §3113.215. They are based on a model known as Income Shares. This model assumes that parents of children should share the responsibility for their support in proportion to their income. The model also assumes that children have a right to the same standard of living based upon the combined incomes of their parents regardless of the marital status of the parents.

Deviation from the guidelines requires a written finding or specific finding on the record that the guideline amount is inappropriate in a particular case. [ORC §3113.215(B)(3)]

ORC §3115.16 (C) requires that a copy of the guideline calculation be included in the support order. See *Marker v. Grimm*, 65 O.S.3d 1139 (1992).

Expedited Procedures

The IV-D agency has the authority to take certain actions without the necessity of obtaining an order from any judicial or administrative tribunal. Ohio CSEAs have administrative powers to:

- Order genetic testing. [ORC §3111.22]
- Subpoena information or require entities in the state to provide employment information and access certain records. [ORC §5101.37]
- Change payees in cases of assignment. [ORC §2301.36]
- Order income withholding. [ORC §3111.23, ORC §3113.21]
- Intercept or seize periodic or lump-sum payments. [ORC §3111.23, ORC §3113.21]
- Attach and seize assets of the obligor held in financial institutions. [ORC §3111.23, ORC 3113.21]
- Attach public and private retirement funds. [ORC §3111.23, ORC §3113.21]
- Impose liens [ORC §2301.43]
- Increase the amount of the monthly payment to cover amounts for arrearages. [ORC §3113.21(B)]

Locate

CSEAs may receive the following records and information without the need to obtain an order from any judicial or administrative tribunal [ORC §5101.31(G)]:

- **Tax information:** Contained in state and local tax and revenue records, including residential addresses and information about employers, income and assets.
- **Employment security information:** Contained in records maintained by the State Employment Security Agency, such as unemployment, worker's compensation benefits and wage information reported by employers.
- **Public assistance information:** Maintained by state and local agencies administering public assistance programs.
- **State correctional records**
- **State motor vehicle records**
- **Information in vital records:** Maintained by state and local agencies, including marriage, birth and divorce records.
- **Licensing records:** Including records maintained by state licensing agencies and boards for professional and occupational licenses.
- **Property records:** Including information contained in real and titled personal property records.
- **Business ownership records:** Maintained in public records regarding the ownership and control of businesses including corporations, partnerships and other business entities.
- **Employment records:** Employment information from all public and private employers in the state including state new hire information.
- **Public utility and cable records:** Limited to information on the names, addresses and employers of specific obligors and obligees.

CSEAs also have broad powers using an administrative subpoena. [ORC §5101.37] To facilitate locate using automated searches, 42 U.S.C. §666(a)(13) and Ohio law require social security numbers on:

- Applications for professional licenses, commercial driver's licenses, and marriage licenses
- Records relating to divorce decrees, support orders and paternity acknowledgments
- Death certificates and records

Paternity Establishment

All States were required to adopt an in-hospital, voluntary acknowledgment process, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, Pub.L. No. 103-66, 107 Stat. 312. The paternity acknowledgment process was expanded and modified in PRWORA.

Ohio law provides for these acknowledgments to automatically become a legal finding of parentage. Ohio's acknowledgment statute can be found at ORC §§5101.314 and 3111.21 and contain the following provisions:

- Judicial or administrative ratification of an unchallenged acknowledgement is not permitted and the acknowledgements are entitled to full faith and credit.
- The signatory may rescind the acknowledgment within the earlier of (1) 60 days, or (2) the date of an administrative or judicial proceeding to establish a support order in which the signatory is a party.
- After this period, the acknowledgment may only be contested in court based on fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact.
- The burden of proof is on the person challenging the acknowledgment.
- In order to rescind an acknowledgement the signatory must request a determination of parentage and genetic testing.
- The support obligation may not be stayed during the proceedings to challenge the acknowledgement.

IV-D agencies have the authority to order genetic testing before filing a petition and without judicial or administrative agency approval. The CSEA is also required to pay the cost of testing, subject to court ordered reimbursement. [ORC §3111.22]

PRWORA and Ohio law also authorize:

- Admission of genetic test results and a presumption of paternity based on them. [ORC §3111.03]
- Entry of a judicial default order. [ORC §3111.08]
- Precluding a jury trial in a contested paternity matter.
- A putative father to initiate a paternity action. [ORC §3111.04]
- Entry of a temporary support order based on probable paternity in a contested matter. [ORC §§3111.111 and 3115.31 (B)]

Liens Arise by Operation of Law

The requirements for a lien in Ohio are found at ORC §2301.43 through ORC §2301.46. Unpaid support becomes a judgment by operation of law when past due. Liens also arise by operation of law against any real or personal property for the amount of overdue support and these liens must be able to be imposed administratively. States must also accord full faith and credit to liens arising in another state without registration of the underlying support order.

Additional Provisions of PRWORA

PRWORA provides for denial, revocation or limitation of an obligor's passport with a threshold arrearage of \$5,000, or if arrears have remained unpaid for more than a year. (42 U.S.C. §652(k)) Reinstatement of a passport may be negotiated through county CSEAs.

PRWORA also provides for financial institution data matching, to locate and seize assets of obligors. [ORC §5101.315]

Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA)

Employer group health plans must comply with a Qualified Medical Child Support Order (QMCSO) if a plan participant is required to provide coverage to a dependent child as a result of divorce. The Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974, as amended in 1993, 29 U.S.C. §1169(a) also requires group retirement plans to comply with a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) for child support.

Child Support Recovery Act of 1992, as amended by the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998 (18 U.S.C. §228)

One tool CSEAs can use for enforcement is to submit a case for federal prosecution. Willful failure to pay support to a child living in another state or nation is a federal crime if the unpaid amount exceeds \$5,000 or has been unpaid for more than a year. Penalties include imprisonment and fines §228(c); restitution is mandatory §228(d). The 1998 amendments toughed this law, making the presumption of “willful failure” explicit and by creating a felony offense.

Full Faith and Credit for Child Support Orders Act (FFCCSOA) of 1994, 28 U.S.C. §1738(b)

FFCCSOA requires states to give full faith and credit to child support orders issued by another state that properly exercised jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter. Objections are limited to the standard defenses. Since it was amended by PRWORA, this federal law mirrors the UIFSA requirements regarding which of multiple existing orders prospectively controls the current support obligation, as well as UIFSA’s modification and choice of law provisions.

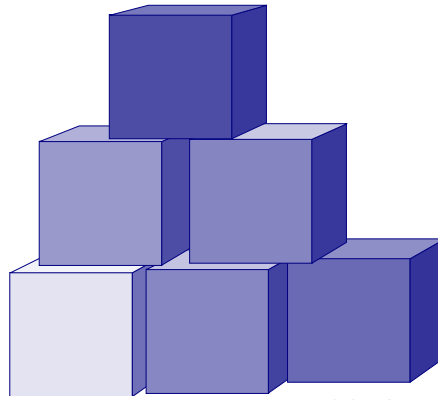
A significant provision of the Act is that it prohibits the entry of a new order by another state if the issuing state continues to have jurisdiction. A state cannot enter a new order or modify an existing child support order issued by another state unless all of the individual parties and the child(ren) have left the issuing state or the parties have filed a written consent in the court of the issuing state to have another state modify the order.

FFCCSOA provides that the law of the forum state applies in any proceeding to establish or modify a support order. The law of the issuing state is applied to interpret an existing support order.

Included in the Appendix is a Modification Jurisdiction worksheet to assist with determining the appropriate jurisdiction for a modification to be heard, and a Determining the Controlling Order worksheet. The Determining the Controlling Order worksheet is useful when there are multiple support orders, as it must be ascertained which order is to be prospectively enforced. For additional information regarding controlling orders and modification, see the UIFSA section-“Top Ten Things To Know About UIFSA – One Controlling Order.”

The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)

Since 1950, the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA) was the primary mechanism used to resolve interstate litigation of family support cases. URESA was revised (RURESAs) in 1968. In 1992 the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) drafted the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) to replace RURESAs.



During the summer of 1996, NCCUSL approved amendments to clarify UIFSA. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 required states to adopt UIFSA by January 1, 1998, including the 1996 amendments officially adopted by NCCUSL. UIFSA has been enacted in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Ohio enacted UIFSA effective January 1, 1998 as ORC Chapter 3115 *et seq.*

The Top Ten Things to Know about UIFSA

1. One Controlling Order

Support orders entered under URESA existed independently, often resulting in multiple, conflicting orders governing the same parties and children. The drafters of UIFSA were committed to ending this *de novo* interstate practice and creating a new system of “one order, one time, one place.” A tribunal issuing an order has continuing and exclusive jurisdiction (CEJ) to modify it prospectively so long as either an individual party or a child continues to reside there. If multiple orders exist, a controlling order determination needs to be initiated. The controlling order is the order to be prospectively enforced for current support.

See the Determining the Controlling Order and Modification Jurisdiction worksheets in the Appendix. These worksheets are designed to assist with the process of determining which of multiple orders is controlling and the appropriate jurisdiction to hear a modification action. The rules for determining the controlling order are:

- If only one state has issued a child support order, that order must be recognized as controlling even if that tribunal cannot prospectively modify the order because all the individual parties and the child(ren) have left the jurisdiction and it no longer has CEJ. [ORC §3115.09(A)]
- If there are multiple orders and only one of the tribunals has CEJ, that order is controlling and must be recognized. [ORC §3115.09(B)(1)]
- Where there has been no prior determination of a controlling order and there is more than one child support order but none of the states involved have CEJ, none controls. Rather a tribunal must enter a new support order. This order is prospectively controlling and sets the non-modifiable terms. The proper jurisdiction is that of the non-requesting party. [ORC §3115.09(B)(3)]
- If there are orders from two or more states with CEJ, the order from the “child home state” prevails. Home state is defined as the state in which the child lived at least 6 months immediately before the UIFSA petition was filed or since birth for a child under 6 months of age. [ORC §3115.09(B)(2)]
- If there are two or more orders from states with CEJ and none is the child home state, the most recent order prevails. [ORC §3115.09(B)(2)]

Until a controlling order determination is made by a tribunal, all orders remain in full force and effect with payments made under one being credited (*pro tanto* discharge) against the others. [ORC §3115.11] The obligor owes the amount due under the highest order.

The controlling order sets the non-modifiable terms (principally duration of the order) for the life of the obligation. [ORC §3115.48(C)] A tribunal issuing an order that is not controlling retains jurisdiction to enforce pre-existing arrears. [ORC §3115.07(C)]

A determination of the controlling order can be made by any tribunal with personal jurisdiction over the parties. The request for a controlling order determination must be accompanied by a certified copy of every order in effect and every party whose rights may be affected by this determination must be given notice of the request. [ORC §3115.09(C)] In Ohio, the tribunal for UIFSA matters is exclusively the trial court. [ORC §3115.01(W)]

The order determining which of multiple orders is controlling or a finding that a new controlling order must issue under ORC §3115.09(B)(3), must include the basis upon which the determination was made.

Within 30 days after such an order is issued, the party obtaining the order must file a certified copy with each tribunal that had issued or registered an earlier order of child support. Failure to do so, subjects the party to sanctions but has no effect on the validity or enforceability of the controlling order. [ORC §3115.09(F)]

Modification

Only a state with continuing, exclusive jurisdiction (CEJ) can prospectively modify a child support order.

If there are multiple orders, a tribunal must determine which is to be recognized as the controlling order. After a controlling order is determined, the concept of CEJ is used to identify the tribunal with jurisdiction to modify. If the state that issued the controlling order no longer has CEJ because the individual parties and children no longer reside there, the controlling order must be registered in the state of the non-requesting party. The modification must be heard in that state, unless the parties agree in writing to move the case to a different jurisdiction.

The Modification Jurisdiction worksheet in the Appendix is a useful tool to determine where a modification request shall be heard.

After a state has entered a modified order, that order is controlling as to the amount of support, and that state has CEJ. If there is a request for modification in the future and the state that entered the modification still has CEJ, the modification occurs in the CEJ state regardless of who requests it.

The first controlling order sets the non-modifiable terms for all future orders. Non-modifiable terms, include, but are not limited to the duration of the support obligation.

Federal Case Registry

The Federal Case Registry (FCR), implemented on October 1, 1998, consists of information about individuals in IV-D cases and on non IV-D orders entered or modified after October 1, 1998. The Federal Case Registry is a tool to provide information about the existence of orders in multiple states. Access to information contained in the FCR is available through county CSEAs.

2. One-State and Two-State Proceedings

UIFSA is applicable to all cases where an individual seeking an order resides in a different state from that of the responding party. UIFSA has both one-state and two-state procedures under which either the custodial party or the non-custodial parent can obtain a support order.

Long-Arm Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction over non-residents may be based on one or more of the following circumstances [ORC §3115.03]:

- The individual is personally served with [citation, summons, notice] within Ohio.
- The individual submits to the jurisdiction of Ohio by consent, by entering a general appearance, or by filing a responsive document having the effect of waiving any contest to personal jurisdiction.
- The individual resided with the child in Ohio.
- The individual resided in Ohio and provided prenatal expenses or support for the child.
- The child resides in Ohio as a result of the acts or directives of the individual.
- The individual engaged in sexual intercourse in Ohio, and the child may have been conceived by that act of intercourse.
- The individual asserted parentage in the putative father registry maintained in Ohio.
- There is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of Ohio and the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction.

Included in the Appendix is a **Personal Jurisdiction Over Non-Resident Worksheet** to assist in determining if long-arm jurisdiction may be pursued.

Jurisdiction based upon the above circumstances is subject to challenge on due process claims that the nexus between the act involved and the jurisdiction is too remote to pass the "fundamental fairness" test. *Thus, recording the basis for jurisdiction over a non-resident in the order or agreement is critical.*

Continuing Jurisdiction

If the issuing state remains the residence of either the individual obligee, the obligor, or a child, that state retains continuing and exclusive jurisdiction (CEJ) to prospectively modify its child support order unless the individual parties file written consent with the issuing tribunal to transfer jurisdiction for modification to another state. [ORC §3115.07]

A tribunal may also initiate an action in a state that retains CEJ over the controlling order. In spousal support cases, CEJ for modification of the spousal order continues in the issuing state, even if all parties and the child(ren) have left the state. [ORC §3115.07(F)]

Two-State Actions

When the forum state cannot obtain long arm jurisdiction over the out-of-state party or if using long arm jurisdiction presents a litigation disadvantage, UIFSA provides for two-state litigation similar to URESA. [ORC §3115.05]

The RURESAs Certificate and Order has been eliminated. A petitioner has the election of filing through the initiating state tribunal or directly to the responding state. [ORC §§3115.12 and 3115.16(A)] In IV-D cases, federal regulations require the filing to be made through the responding state's Interstate Central Registry. The responding state does not have the option of declining the petition, even if they believe the initiating jurisdiction could have legally asserted jurisdiction over the out-of-state respondent.

URESAs made exclusive use of a court-to-court process; UIFSA uses the term 'tribunal' when referring to the decision making body for interstate actions. UIFSA grants to each state the ability to place the decision making with a court, administrative agency or quasi-judicial entity (or a combination of these) authorized by the state to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage. In Ohio, the tribunal for UIFSA matters is exclusively the trial court. [ORC §3115.01(W)]

3. Evidentiary Improvements

UIFSA includes innovative techniques for the transmission of evidence and relaxation of the "best evidence" rule. ***These key provisions [ORC §3115.27 (evidentiary provisions) and ORC §3115.29 (assistance with discovery)] apply to long arm and continuing jurisdiction proceedings under UIFSA as well as the traditional two-state cases:***

- Verified and sworn pleadings, affidavits, documents complying with federally mandated forms and documents incorporated by reference therein can be admitted, so long as they are not otherwise excluded under the hearsay rule if given in person and so long as the party or witness making such statements resides in another state.
- A copy of the record of support payments can be admitted so long as certified as true by the custodian of the records.
- Copies of bills for parentage testing and for prenatal and postnatal health expenses of mother and child can be admitted so long as provided to the adverse party at least 10 days before trial.
- Documentary evidence transmitted from another state to a tribunal of the forum state by telephone, telecopier, or other means that do not provide an original writing can be admitted.
- Depositions and testimony by telephone, audiovisual means or other electronic means at a designated tribunal or other location is allowed.
- The physical presence of the petitioner in a responding tribunal may not be required.

The use of teleconferenced hearings may prove to be the most economical and effective means of securing the participation of both parties at the hearing. The intended result is more equitable and efficient resolution of support matters.

Assistance with Discovery

ORC §3115.29 authorizes a tribunal in the initiating or responding state to request assistance with discovery. Ohio law applies regarding the means to compel discovery and sanctions for noncompliance.

Communication Between Tribunals

ORC §3115.28 authorizes communication between tribunals to obtain information about a sister State's laws, the legal effect of a judgment, decree or order in that state, and the status of a proceeding in the sister state. This section is modeled on similar provisions in the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) and applies only in two-state cases.

4. Access to UIFSA

Both obligors and obligees, acting *pro se*, through private counsel or through a CSEA, may petition under UIFSA. The federally mandated forms referenced in ORC §3115.27 are available from a CSEA or from the OCS website.

UIFSA is a family support act; it is not limited to IV-D cases. It is up to each state to define what agency or agencies will serve as the UIFSA "support enforcement agency" under ORC §3115.18. The Ohio Office of Child Support is broadly defined as this agency under ORC §3115.01(U). Direct services are provided through the county administered CSEAs.

Representation in UIFSA Cases

UIFSA offers child support enforcement services to any petitioner upon request. This can be either party to a support matter. UIFSA expressly addresses and authorizes private attorney involvement [ORC §3115.20], including the award of attorney fees. [ORC §3115.24]

In IV-D cases, federal regulations require a responding state to provide any necessary services, including legal services (45 CFR §303.7(c)(1) and (7)). However, personal representation of parties is not viewed as necessary. ORC §3115.18 (C) in concert with the Ohio Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline of the Supreme Court Opinion 90-10 clarifies that CSEA attorneys do not represent either party; they represent the interests of the state on behalf of the child.

5. Visitation

Visitation issues cannot be raised in a UIFSA proceeding and are not a defense to nonpayment of support. [ORC §3115.16(D)]

6. Increased Accountability

UIFSA includes many notice requirements usually accompanied by timeframes designed to avoid the "black hole" problems that existed under URESA.

The calculation upon which the child support order is based must accompany the order, a copy of which must be mailed to the petitioner, respondent and any initiating tribunal. [ORC §3115.16(C)]

The UIFSA drafters recognized that there are significant problems of domestic violence and parental kidnapping in society. They included in UIFSA a provision that allows for nondisclosure of certain information because of a risk to one of the parties or the child. The provision allows a tribunal to direct that identifying information – such as a home address – be kept out of the petition or other UIFSA documents that the other party will see. This mechanism allows the support proceeding to continue while safeguarding information that would place a party or the child at risk. [ORC §3115.23]

7. Paternity

UIFSA permits a party to bring a "pure parentage" action independent from any request for child support, as well as litigating paternity in a support action when that issue has not been previously determined. Non-parentage may not be raised as a defense in a UIFSA proceeding by a party who has been previously determined pursuant to law to be the parent of a child. [ORC §3115.52]

Acknowledgment of Parentage

Determining paternity under a state's law has grown more complex based on the need to interpret the effect of the voluntary acknowledgments (in-hospital and otherwise) that exist in every state.

Prior to PRWORA, the legal effect of these acknowledgments varied according to state option - from creating a presumption of parentage that was admissible but did not preclude blood testing and full litigation of the issue to establishing a legal determination of that issue.

UIFSA requires establishment of paternity actions to be conducted by a tribunal. Ohio's UIFSA statute at ORC §3115.01(W) defines tribunal as a court of record. Therefore, a paternity established in Ohio under UIFSA must be processed using a judicial proceeding as outlined in ORC §3111.01 through §3111.19. Where no prior determination exists, the law of the forum state applies regarding presumptions of paternity, the admissibility of genetic tests or other issues governing the litigation of the issue. [ORC §3115.14]

Federal regulations, 45 CFR §302(70)(a)(11), require all states to have procedures under which full faith and credit is given to a determination of parentage made by any state, regardless of whether paternity was established through a voluntary acknowledgment or through an administrative or judicial process. The law of the state where the acknowledgment was filed determines its legal effect.

If paternity has not been determined, the alleged father can raise the issue of non-paternity as a defense to the duty of support. However, ORC §3115.31(B) permits the tribunal to order temporary support during any continuance if there is a verified acknowledgment of paternity or any other clear and convincing evidence that he is the father.

Federal regulations (45 CFR §303.7(d)(2)) place responsibility on the initiating state to advance the cost of genetic testing, subject to an order for reimbursement. The forum state uses its testing laboratory and procedures.

8. Direct Enforcement

UIFSA provides for two new procedures for direct interstate enforcement: Direct Income Withholding and Administrative Enforcement.

Direct Income Withholding

The introduction of immediate income withholding under the Family Support Act of 1988 made direct payment from the obligor's income an important enforcement tool. UIFSA provides for recognition of an income withholding order of a sister state without first registering it under ORC §3115.32.

An income withholding order/notice may be mailed directly to the obligor's employer/payor in another state, which triggers income withholding unless the obligor contests. No pleadings or registration are required. A copy of an interstate income withholding order/notice is shown in the "Employers" section of this guide. An Ohio employer/payor must:

- Treat an interstate income withholding order/notice as if it had been issued by the appropriate tribunal with jurisdiction over the employer/payor, if, upon receipt, the document appears regular on its face. [ORC §3115.33].
- Immediately provide a copy of the withholding order/notice to the obligor.
- Withhold and distribute the funds as directed in the withholding order.
- Comply with the law of the **obligor's principal place of employment** about any fee for processing the income withholding order, the maximum amount to be withheld from the obligor's income and the time period for forwarding payment. [ORC §3115.34(D)] The law of the obligor's place of employment also governs how the employer/payor establishes priorities for withholding and allocating sums withheld when the employer/payor receives multiple orders to withhold for the same obligor. [ORC §3115.34]

ORC §3115.35 protects an employer/payor who complies with these rules from civil liability (to any individual or agency) regarding the withholding. Correspondingly, under ORC §3115.36, an employer who fails to comply with the withholding order of another state is subject to the same penalties as would apply if the order had been issued in Ohio.

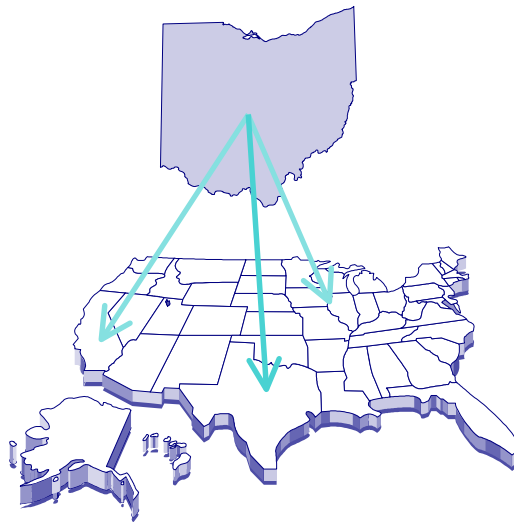
To contest the validity or enforcement of an income withholding order of another state received directly by an Ohio employer, the obligor files an action for a declaratory judgment under ORC Chapter 2721 in the court of common pleas in the county in which the employer's principal place of business is located. [ORC §3115.37]

Administrative Enforcement

States may use available administrative enforcement remedies to the fullest extent possible. The documents necessary to register the support order for enforcement are sent to the child support enforcement agency. If the obligor does not contest the administrative action taken, the order need not be registered. If either the validity of the order or the administrative remedy sought is contested by the obligor, the agency must register the order and proceed in the manner set forth below.

9. Two-State Enforcement Remedies

Registration of another state's order is the process used for two-state enforcement. **A contest to the amount of arrears requested in the registration must be raised by the obligor at the time registration is sought.** [ORC §3115.39] **There is no subsequent hearing on this issue.** When an order is registered for enforcement only, the registering State does not obtain jurisdiction to modify. [ORC §3115.40] UIFSA allows enforcement actions to be taken simultaneously in any and every state where the paying parent has assets or income subject to attachment.



10. Choice of Law

Generally in a UIFSA proceeding local laws apply. [ORC §3115.55] However, there are certain unique rules for UIFSA cases that apply even if not consistent with local law. Examples include:

- The contents of an interstate petition.
- Nondisclosure of information in certain circumstances.
- Authority to award fees and costs, including attorneys fees.
- Limitation on the assertion of non-parentage as a defense.
- UIFSA evidentiary rules.
- The preclusion of raising visitation issues in a UIFSA proceeding.

The choice of law rule for interpretation of the order is the law of the issuing state. However, where there is a difference in the statute of limitations for enforcement between the issuing state and the enforcing state, the longer statute of limitations period is to be applied. [ORC §3115.41] In Ohio there is no statute of limitations for enforcement of support orders. Therefore, support remains owed until paid in full.

Ohio Employers/Payers and Child Support

New Hire Reporting

Ohio employers/payers are required to report new hires within 20 days of the date of hire to the state New Hire Reporting Agency.

The new hire report must contain the following information:

- Employee name
- Employee address
- Employee Social Security Number
- Employer name
- Employer address
- Employer Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)

This information is available to CSEAs to speed the issuance of income withholding notices.

Direct Income Withholding

Employers/payers are required to honor direct income withholding orders and notices issued by another state as long as the order/notice appears “regular on its face.” [ORC §3115.33] A blank interstate direct income withholding order/notice is provided on the following page.

Ohio uses a very broad definition of income subject to withholding. [ORC §3113.21(Q)] Income means any form of monetary payment, including but not limited to:

- Personal earnings
- Worker’s compensation payments
- Unemployment compensation payments to the extent permitted by, and in accordance with, ORC §2301.371 and ORC §4141.28(D)(4), and federal law governing the bureau of employment services
- Pensions
- Annuities
- Allowances
- Private or governmental benefits
- Disability or sick pay
- Insurance proceeds
- Lottery prize awards
- Federal, state, or local government benefits to the extent that the benefits can be withheld or deducted under the law governing the benefits
- Any form of trust fund or endowment
- Lump-sum payments
- Any other payment in money

Medical Support

A court or administrative agency may require that an employee provide medical insurance coverage for his/her child(ren) if it is available to an employee “at a reasonable cost.” [ORC §3111.241 or §3113.217]

Ohio law requires employers to permit the enrollment of a child without regard to enrollment restrictions. [ORC §3924.49] In addition, a child may not be denied coverage on the grounds that the parents were not married, that the child is not claimed as a dependent on the employee’s tax return, or because the child does not reside with the employee or in the insurer’s service area. [ORC §3924.46]

An employee may not eliminate the insurance coverage unless the employee provides written proof that the order is no longer in effect or that a child will be enrolled in comparable health insurance coverage elsewhere. [ORC §3924.49(B)]

The employer may not eliminate coverage unless the employer has eliminated dependent coverage for all employees. [ORC §3924.49(B)]

The court or administrative agency shall include a provision in all orders for health insurance, directing the employer to enroll and deduct an amount sufficient to provide for health care premiums. Income withholding for child and medical support has priority over all other legal process against income, except for federal liens. [ORC §3113.21, ORC §3113.217]

Income withholding for medical support and/or child support cannot exceed the maximum amount authorized by the Consumer Credit Protection Act (CCPA). [ORC §3113.21]

Insurance Company Responsibility

Health insurance companies have the following responsibilities:

- The health insurance plan may not discriminate against the dependent if the dependent receives Medicaid, is adopted by the non-custodial parent, or has a pre-existing condition.
- Health insurance companies must provide necessary information to the custodial parent so he/she may directly submit claims for covered services without the approval of the employee and to reimburse the custodial parent, the providers, or state agency directly for claims submitted. [ORC §3924.49(B)]

ORC NO. 6875-0154
EXPIRATION DATE: 12/31/90

ORDER/NOTICE TO WITHHOLD INCOME FOR CHILD SUPPORT

State: _____
 Co./City/Dist. of: _____
 Date of Order/Notice: _____
 Court/Case Number: _____

Original Order/Notice _____
 Amended Order/Notice _____
 Terminated Order/Notice _____

Employer/Withholder's Federal EIN Number: _____) RE: *
 Employer/Withholder's Name: _____) Employee/Obligor's Name (Last, First, MI)
 Employer/Withholder's Address: _____) Employee/Obligor's Social Security Number
 _____) Employee/Obligor's Case Identifier
 _____) Custodial Parent's Name (Last, First, MI)

Child(ren)'s Name(s): _____ DOB: _____ Child(ren)'s Name(s): _____ DOB: _____

ORDER INFORMATION: This is an Order/Notice to Withhold Income for Child Support based upon an order for support from _____ By law, you are required to deduct these amounts from the above-named employee's/obligor's income until _____ even if the Order/Notice is not issued by your State.

If checked, you are required to enroll the child(ren) identified above in any health insurance coverage available through the employee's/obligor's employment. _____

\$ _____ per _____ in current support
 \$ _____ per _____ in past-due support Arrears 12 weeks or greater? yes no
 \$ _____ per _____ in medical support
 \$ _____ per _____ in other (specify) _____
 \$ _____ per _____ in other (specify) _____
 for a total of \$ _____ per _____ to be forwarded to the payee below.

You do not have to vary your pay cycle to be in compliance with the support order. If your pay cycle does not match the ordered support payment cycle, use the following to determine how much to withhold:
 \$ _____ per weekly pay period. \$ _____ per semi-monthly pay period (twice a month).
 \$ _____ per bi-weekly pay period (every two weeks). \$ _____ per monthly pay period.

REMITTANCE INFORMATION:

You must begin withholding no later than the first pay period occurring _____ working days after the date of this Order/Notice. Send payment within _____ working days of the payday/date of withholding. You are entitled to deduct a fee to defray the cost of withholding. Refer to the laws governing the work state of the employee for the allowable amount. The total withheld amount, including your fee, cannot exceed _____% of the employee's/obligor's aggregate disposable weekly earnings. For the purpose of the limitation on withholding, the following information is needed (see #9 on back).

When remitting payment provide the payday/date of withholding and the case identifier _____
 If remitting by EFT/EDI, use the FIPS code: * _____; Bank routing code: * _____
 Bank account number: * _____

Makes it payable to: _____ Payee and case identifier _____

Send check to: _____ Payee's Address _____

Authorized by _____
 Print Name _____

W-102 Information

Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS)

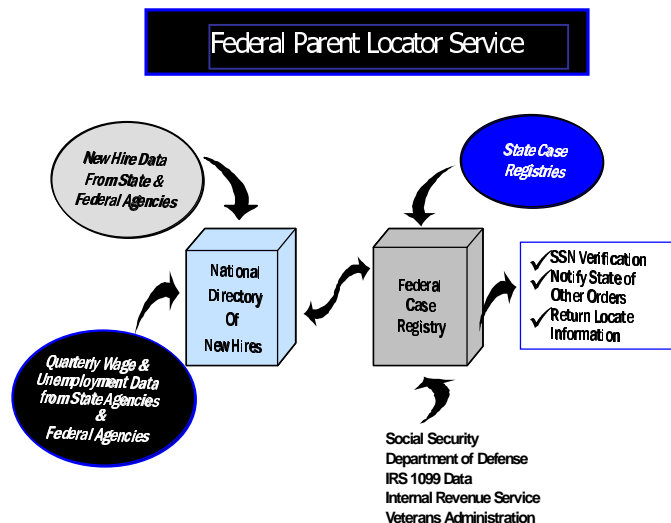
The Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) is a computerized national database network that expedites the location of custodial and non-custodial parents and children, as well as their income and assets.

It also identifies support orders or support cases involving the same parties in other states by matching with the Federal Case Registry. This information is valuable to prevent entry of multiple support orders - a violation of UIFSA and FFCCSOA.

The FPLS database is a consolidation of information from:

- State Case Registries
- State Directories of New Hires
- The National Directory of New Hires

The expanded Federal Parent Locator Service matches locate requests against the databases of the following federal agencies: Social Security Administration (SSA); Internal Revenue Service (IRS); Department of Defense (DOD); Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the Veterans Administration (VA); and the National Personnel Records Center. The graphic shows how the information is gathered and transmitted between the FPLS, the agencies and the state requesting information about a person.



Who may submit a request to the Federal Parent Locator Service?

Under 42 U.S.C. §453 and §463, the services of the Federal Parent Locator Service are available to authorized persons for authorized purposes:

Authorized Person:	Authorized Purpose:
Court (or agent of the court) with authority to issue a child support order	Establish paternity, establish, modify, or enforce child support obligations
Court with jurisdiction to make or enforce a custody or visitation order	To make or enforce a child custody or visitation determination and to enforce a federal or state law regarding the unlawful taking or restraint of a child
Agent/attorney of a state who has authority/duty to collect child support and spousal support	Establish paternity, establish, modify or enforce child support obligations
The resident parent, legal guardian, attorney or agent of the child (not receiving TANF benefits)	Establish paternity, establish, modify or enforce child support obligations
State IV-D agencies	Program administration and for the location of individuals in paternity or child support cases
Agent or attorney of a state with the duty to enforce a child custody or visitation order	Make or enforce a child custody or visitation determination
Agent/attorney of the U.S. or a state with the authority/duty to investigate, enforce or prosecute the unlawful taking or restraining of a child	Enforce federal or state law regarding the unlawful taking or restraint of a child

Although unable to submit a request directly or through private counsel, the non-custodial parent may petition a court with proper jurisdiction to submit the request to the Ohio Parent Locator Service (OPLS) on his or her behalf. Such requests must contain information about the individual whose location is sought, including name and SSN. The request is sent to the CSEA for processing. If the SSN is unknown, the CSEA will make a reasonable effort to obtain the SSN before submitting the request to OPLS. The OPLS submits the request to FPLS. The information is returned through the state agency to the authorized person.

Except in child support matters, the only information released about a person in response to a request is the most recent address and place of employment. In child support and paternity cases information on income, benefits, assets and debts is also provided.

The FPLS has privacy and security provisions which preclude disclosure in contravention of national policy or security interests, or confidentiality of census data. There are also protections where a state has placed a Family Violence Indicator on a person or persons in the case.

State Case Registry

The Ohio State Case Registry is an extract of some data contained in Ohio's automated child support system. This data will be sent electronically to the Federal Case Registry (FCR). Information about IV-D and Non IV-D orders must be entered, including divorce actions and other support orders. Each state must furnish information to the Federal Case Registry including updates as necessary and notices of expiration of support orders. One of the elements required by the Federal Case Registry is a Family Violence Indicator.

Family Violence Indicator

PRWORA provides for restrictions on the disclosure of a parent's address and/or place of employment when family violence is found. This law is not a prohibition against all disclosure. Rather, where the risk of domestic violence or child abuse has been found to exist, the law is intended to strike a balance between protection and the need for information. This ensures that the protected person does not have to give up child support and self-sufficiency to maintain their safety.

42 U.S.C. §653(b)(2) provides that no information will be disclosed to an authorized person if the state has notified the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that the state has reasonable evidence of domestic violence or child abuse and the disclosure of such information could be harmful to the parent or that parent's child.

If the State Case Registry has flagged a particular case with a Family Violence Indicator, the Federal Parent Locator Service will not provide any information on that case other than to a court or an agent of a court.

Requests for Court Override of Family Violence Indicator

Where a Family Violence Indicator has been placed by the state, the Federal Parent Locator Service will advise the authorized person making a locate request that there is reasonable evidence of domestic violence or child abuse. Information can only be disclosed to a court or an agent of a court which has jurisdiction to enter, enforce or modify a child support, child custody or visitation order.

The requestor may still be able to obtain the information by petitioning an appropriate court for assistance. If the petition is granted, the court will forward a request for disclosure of the information and necessary documentation to the Ohio Parent Locator Service for submission to the FPLS. The court reviews the information received and determines whether further disclosure could be harmful to the parent or child. Release is only upon court approval.

State Directory of New Hires

One of the most useful tools for obtaining locate information in child support matters is the New Hire Reporting Program. All employers must report information on newly hired employees in that state to a State Directory of New Hires (SDNH) housed in a designated state agency shortly after the date of hire.

States match new hire reports against their child support records to locate parents, to establish an order or to enforce an existing order. With new hire reporting, state child support enforcement agencies have the ability to issue or transfer an income withholding order/notice when there has been a change in employment.

National Directory of New Hires (NDNH)

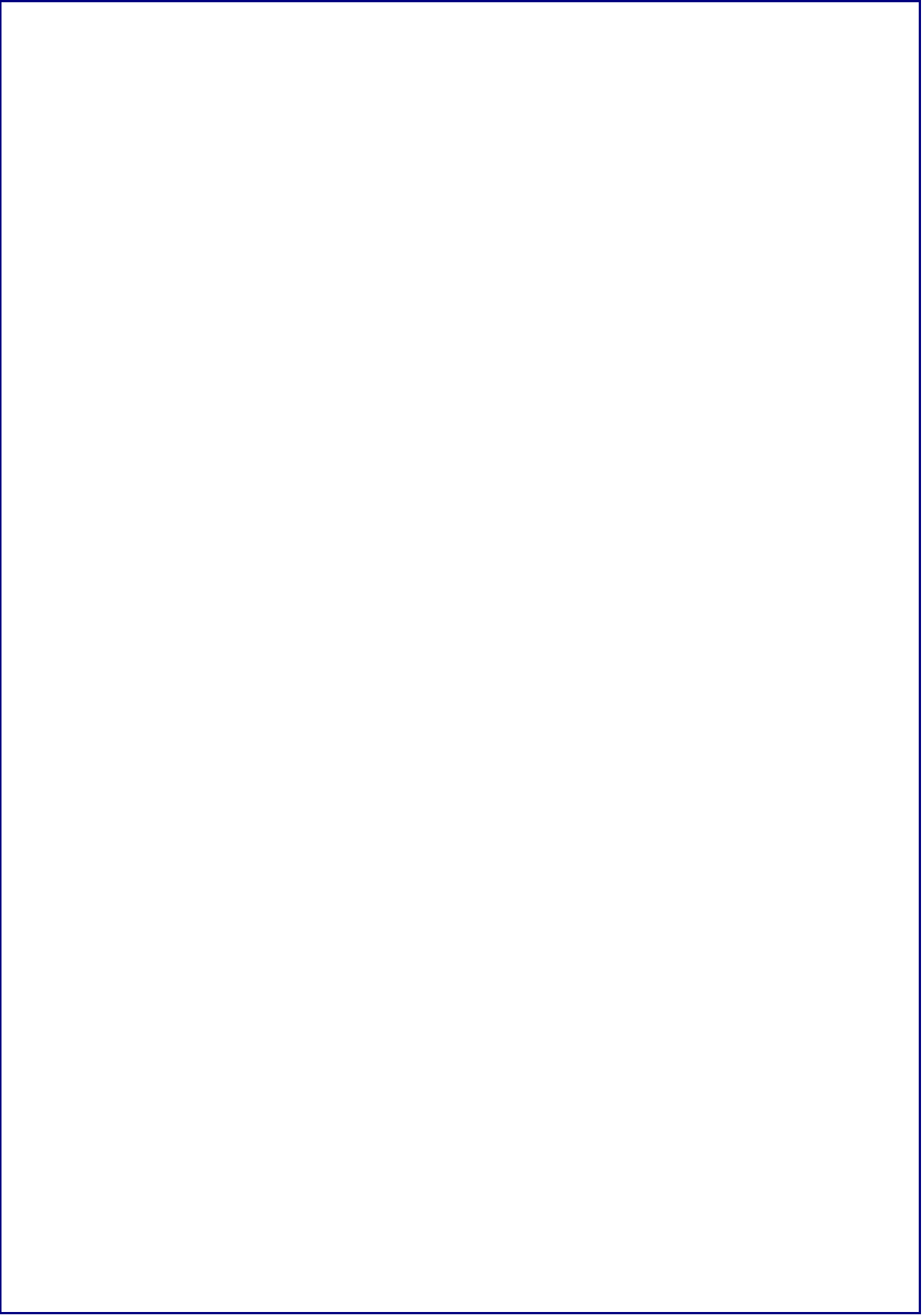
The National Directory of New Hires is a central repository of employment and wage data from the State Directories of New Hires and the State Employment Security Agencies (SESA). This service has been operational since October 1, 1997.

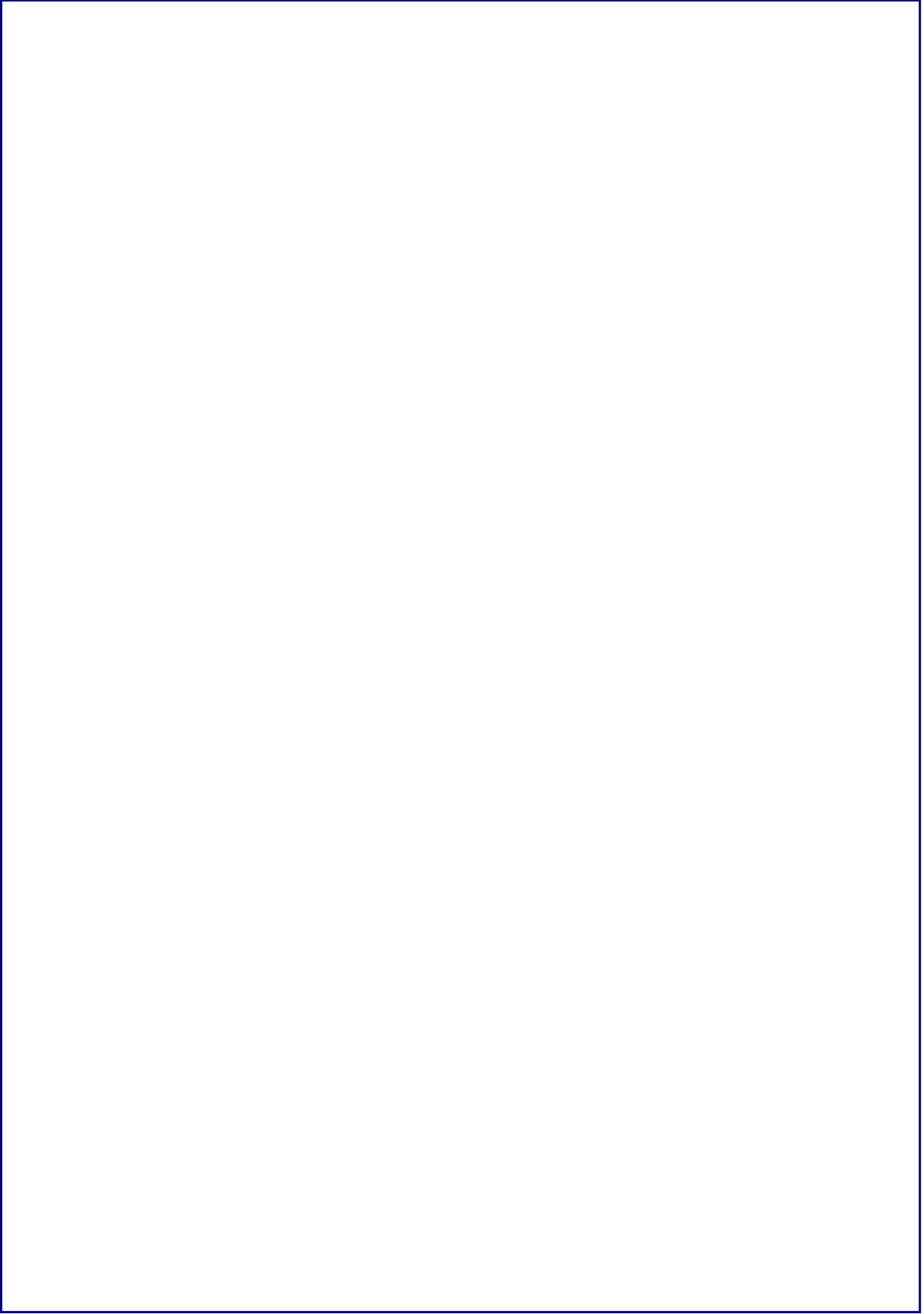
Each state has three business days after entering new information into the SDNH to submit its new hire reports to the NDNH. State Employment Security Agencies (SESA) similarly are required to report unemployment insurance and quarterly wage data. Federal agencies also report new hire data and quarterly wage data directly to the NDNH.

Federal Case Registry (FCR)

The FCR is a national database that contains every state's IV-D cases. It also contains each state's non IV-D support orders that are established or modified after October 1, 1998. [42 U.S.C. §653(h)] The FCR consists of abstracts of data for persons, cases and orders transmitted electronically from the State Case Registries. It is designed to facilitate interstate location to an authorized person for an authorized purpose. [See chart on the proceeding page.] *The FCR is not a duplication of all data maintained by each state's automated child support enforcement system, but rather a database of the most basic case and participant information.*

The Federal Parent Locator Service (FPLS) receives new hire data from all states, along with other state and federal employment data, and matches it against the Federal Case Registry (FCR) and state locate requests. When there is a match, FPLS provides this information to the requesting state if release is not precluded by a Family Violence Indicator (FVI).







Age of Majority for Child Support Purposes

Duration of the Obligation*

* This table was compiled based upon research by the Center for the Support of Families, including the work of Laura W. Morgan, Esq., National Legal Research Group, Charlottesville, Virginia. See her publication *Child Support Guidelines: Interpretation and Application* (Aspen Law & Business, 1998.)

Age of Majority for Child Support Purposes

State:	Termination of Support	Provisions for College Expenses
Alabama	Graduation from high school	Post minority support, for a child's college education, can be granted, upon request, <i>Ex Parte Bayliss</i> , 550 So.2d 986 (Ala. 1989); Ala. Code §30-3-1 (1998).
Alaska	18, or 19 if child is enrolled in high school or equivalent and residing with custodial parent.	Courts may not require post-majority college support, <i>H.P.A. v. S.C.A.</i> , 704 P.2d 205 (Alaska 1985).
Arizona	18, or until child graduates high school	No statutory or case law duty for post-majority support; agreements will be enforced.
Arkansas	18, or when child graduates high school	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
California	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Colorado	19, or judicial termination	Colo. Rev. Stat. §14-10-115(1.5)(b) (1998) allows the court to enter an order for parental contribution to post-secondary education but then must terminate child support. For orders entered after 7/1/97, specific conditions must exist for such an order.
Connecticut	18	No statutory or case law duty, absent and agreement.
Delaware	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
District of Columbia	21, or emancipation	D.C. 16-916 (1998) provides that children are entitled to support, until they reach 21 years of age.
Florida	18, or 19 if the child will graduate from high school by that age.	No statutory or case law duty, absent and agreement. Courts can compel support if child is found "dependent" but attending college does not necessarily make the child dependent, <i>Slaton v. Slaton</i> , 428 So. 2d 347 (Fla. Dist Ct App, 1983)
Georgia	18, or to 20 if child is still in secondary school.	GA Code Ann. §19-6-15(e) provides that courts may continue support to age 20 if attending college.
Hawaii	18, but may be extended to 23 if child is enrolled in accredited higher education institution.	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 580-47 (1997)
Idaho	18, or to 19 if child is enrolled in formal education.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Illinois	18	Court may require post-majority payment of support and educational expenses as long as the adult children are full time students, including graduate school, professional education or other training after graduation from high school, 750 Ill. Con. Stat. Ann. §5/513.
Indiana	21, or emancipation	Ind. Code provides that support may include sums for college education.
Iowa	18, or as ordered by court	Iowa Code §598.1(8) (1998) and §598.21.5A permit child support to be entered until 21 if child is regularly attending an accredited school, is a full time college student or accepted for admission for the next term.
Kansas	18, but automatically extended to end of school year in which child turns 18; may be extended to 19 by agreement.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Kentucky	18, or 19 if child is enrolled in high school.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Louisiana	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Maine	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Maryland	18	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Massachusetts	18, or to 21 if child is domiciled with a parent, or age 23 if enrolled in an education program.	Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 208, §28 (1998) permits the court to order payment of educational expenses, until the child reaches age 23, excluding costs beyond an undergraduate degree.
Michigan	18, may be ordered to 19 1/2 for completion of high school or beyond by agreement.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Minnesota	18, or 20 where child is attending high school.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.

State:	Termination of Support	Provisions for College Expenses
Mississippi	21	No statutory or case law authority to order a parent to pay college expenses, to continue in effect post-majority, except by agreement of the parties. <i>Mottley v. Mottley</i> , 729 So. 2d 1289 (Miss. 1999)
Missouri	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 21 or high school graduation, whichever comes first. Support may continue until 22 if enrolled in college or vocational	Mo. R Civ. Pro. 88.01; Mo. Rev. Stat. §452.340.5
Montana	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19.	No duty, absent an agreement or provision in divorce decree.
Nebraska	19	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Nevada	18, or 19 if child is still enrolled in high school.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
New Hampshire	18, or high school graduation, whichever is later.	The Superior Court can order the divorced parents of a child to provide a reasonable contribution toward the costs of post-secondary education if it is equitable in light of the circumstances of all of the parties. <i>LeClair v. LeClair</i> , 137 N.H. 213, 624 A.2d 1350 (N.H. 1993)
New Jersey	Termination made by court pursuant to a petition at or after age of majority.	Courts can order parents to pay the expenses of a college education, where the child shows scholastic aptitude and the parents are well able to afford it. <i>Khalaf v. Khalaf</i> , 58 N.J. 63, 275 A. 2d 132 (N.J. 1971); <i>Newburgh v. Arrigo</i> , 443 A.2d 1031 (N.J. 1982); N.J. Stat Ann. §2A:34-23a (West 1998)
New Mexico	18, or emancipation	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
New York	21, or emancipation as determined by court.	Court lacks statutory authority, absent an agreement, to order a parent to pay college expenses, after the child reaches 21 years of age. <i>Cohen v. Cohen</i> , No. 98-04573, 1999 N.Y. App. Div. Lexis 3842 (April 12,
North Carolina	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 20 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
North Dakota	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	N.D. Cent. Code §14-09-08 allows a court to order support for college expenses.
Ohio	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Oklahoma	18, or until child graduates high school.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Oregon	18, or 21 if child in school half-time or more.	Or. Rev. Stat. §107.275(1)(e); <i>In re Eusterman</i> , 598 P.2d 1274 (1979)
Pennsylvania	18, or until child graduates high school, whichever occurs later.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement. <i>Curtis v. Kline</i> , 666 A.2d 265 (1995)
Rhode Island	18	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
South Carolina	18, or until child graduates high school.	Court may order college support. <i>Risinger v. Risinger</i> , 273 S.C. 36, 253 S.E. 652 (1979); <i>West v. West</i> , 309 S.C. 28, 419 S.E. 2d 804 (Ct. App. 1992).
South Dakota	18, or 19 if child is enrolled in high school	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Tennessee	18, or until child graduates high school.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Texas	18, or until child graduates high school, whichever is later.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Utah	18, or until child graduates high school.	Utah Code Ann. §15-2-1 provides that, in divorce cases, courts may order support to age 21.
Vermont	18, or until child graduates high school	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Virginia	18, years, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Washington	18, court may order post-secondary support.	Wash. Rev. Code §26.19.090 grants court discretionary authority to award college support based on specified factors.
West Virginia	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 20 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	W. Va. Code 482-2-15d (1998), no award of post-majority college expenses.
Wisconsin	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 19 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.
Wyoming	18, or if child is enrolled in high school until 20 or high school graduation, whichever comes first.	No statutory or case law duty, absent an agreement.

The Ohio Office of Child Support will be able to help you with Ohio child support cases. The address and phone numbers of local child support offices are listed below. To assist you with questions regarding interstate child support cases, you may wish to contact the Ohio Interstate Central Registry (OCR) at (614) 752-6567. The fax number is (614) 466-6613. OCR may also be reached by e-mail at ohcenreg@odhs.state.oh.us. For additional information, please consult the Ohio Department of Human Services – Office of Child Support website at www.state.oh.us/odhs/ocs.



Thanks...

Websites:
Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement
<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse>

Ohio Office of Child Support
www.state.oh.us/odhs/ocs

A bunch!



ADAMS COUNTY CSEA

482 Rice Drive
P.O. Box 386
West Union, OH 45693-0386
PHONE: (937) 544-2371
FAX: (937) 544-5406
(800) 840-5711

ALLEN COUNTY CSEA

608 W. High St.
P.O. Box 1589
Lima, OH 45802-1589
PHONE: (419) 224-7133
FAX: (419) 222-6135
(800) 224-7133

ASHLAND COUNTY CSEA

15 W. Fourth St.
P.O. Box 727
Ashland, OH 44805-2137
PHONE: (419) 289-8141
FAX: (419) 281-7528
(800) 589-8141

ASHTABULA COUNTY CSEA

2924 Donahoe Dr.
Ashtabula, OH 44004-4596
PHONE: (440) 998-1110
FAX: (440) 998-1538
(800) 935-0242

ATHENS COUNTY CSEA

St. Rt. 13; P.O. Box 37
The Plains, OH 45780-0037
PHONE: (740) 593-5046
FAX: (740) 797-2447
(800) 436-8933

AUGLAIZE COUNTY CSEA

12 N. Wood St.
P.O. Box 2003
Wapakoneta, OH 45895-0503
PHONE: (419) 738-2552
FAX: (419) 738-5544
(800) 508-8817

BELMONT COUNTY CSEA

310 Fox Shanon Place
P.O. Box 428
St. Clairsville, OH 43950-9765
PHONE: (740) 695-1074
FAX: (740) 695-9145
(800) 494-1616

BROWN COUNTY CSEA

740 Mt. Orab Pike
P.O. Box 289
Georgetown, OH 45121-0289
PHONE: (937) 378-6414
FAX: (937) 378-2552
(800) 244-9833

BUTLER COUNTY CSEA

210 S. Second St.
Hamilton, OH 45011-2812
PHONE: (513) 887-3362
FAX: (513) 887-3699
(800) 542-0806

CARROLL COUNTY CSEA

7 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 295
Carrollton, OH 44615-0295
PHONE: (330) 627-5357
FAX: (330) 627-3346
(800) 567-5357

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY CSEA

1512 S. U.S. Hwy. 68, Ste F100
P.O. Box 38194
Urbana, OH 43078-0459
PHONE: (937) 652-1606
FAX: (937) 653-6438
(800) 652-1606

CLARK COUNTY CSEA

1346 Lagonda Ave.
P.O. Box 967-A
Springfield, OH 45503-4401
PHONE: (937) 327-3662
FAX: (937) 327-3698
(800) 516-3463

CLERMONT COUNTY CSEA

2400 Clermont Center Dr., Ste. 107
Batavia, OH 45103-1957
PHONE: (513) 732-7248
FAX: (513) 732-7444
(800) 571-0943

CLINTON COUNTY CSEA

111 S. Nelson Ave.
P.O. Box 568
Wilmington, OH 45177-0568
PHONE: (937) 382-5726
FAX: (937) 383-2400
(800) 793-1290

COLUMBIANA COUNTY CSEA

126 E. Chestnut St.
Lisbon, OH 44432-0009
PHONE: (330) 424-7781
FAX: (330) 424-0931
(800) 353-0125

COSHOCTON COUNTY CSEA

725 Pine St.
P.O. Box 98
Coshocton, OH 43812-0098
PHONE: (740) 622-8631
FAX: (740) 622-5591
(800) 622-7722

CRAWFORD COUNTY CSEA

225 E. Mary St.
P.O. Box 431
Bucyrus, OH 44820-2302
PHONE: (419) 562-0773
FAX: (419) 562-2018
(800) 761-0773

CUYAHOGA COUNTY CSEA

1640 Superior Ave.
P.O. Box 93318
Cleveland, OH 44101-5218
PHONE: (216) 443-5100
FAX: (216) 443-5757
(800) 443-1431

DARKE COUNTY CSEA

802 E. Fourth St.
P.O. Box 869
Greenville, OH 45331-0869
PHONE: (937) 548-5623
FAX: (937) 548-8723
(800) 501-5635

DEFIANCE COUNTY CSEA

500 Court St.
P.O. Box 246
Defiance, OH 43512-0246
PHONE: (419) 784-2123
FAX: (419) 782-7680
(800) 569-8003

DELAWARE COUNTY CSEA

149 N Sandusky
P.O. Box 250
Delaware, OH 43015-0250
PHONE: (740) 368-1980
FAX: (740) 368-1976
(800) 490-9534

ERIE COUNTY CSEA

221 W. Parish St.
Sandusky, OH 44870-4886
PHONE: (419) 626-6781
FAX: (419) 626-6387
(800) 454-3747

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CSEA

124 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 486
Lancaster, OH 43130-0486
PHONE: (740) 687-7155
FAX: (740) 687-6787
(800) 409-2732

FAYETTE COUNTY CSEA

319 S. Fayette
P.O. Box 38
Washington Courthouse, OH 43160-0038
PHONE: (740) 335-0745
FAX: (740) 333-3572
(800) 922-0745

FRANKLIN COUNTY CSEA

373 S. High St., 13th FL
Columbus, OH 43215-6306
PHONE: (614) 462-3275
FAX: (614) 224-5042
(800) 827-3740

FULTON COUNTY CSEA

604 S. Shoop Ave., Suite 200
Wauseon, OH 43567-1390
PHONE: (419) 337-0010
FAX: (419) 335-0337
(800) 344-3575

GALLIA COUNTY CSEA

19 1/2 Locust St.
P.O. Box 449
Gallipolis, OH 45631-0449
PHONE: (740) 446-6177
FAX: (740) 446-0715
(800) 806-0634

GEAUGA COUNTY CSEA

12480 Ravenwood Dr.
P.O. Box 309
Chardon, OH 44024-9009
PHONE: (440) 285-9141
FAX: (440) 286-6654
(800) 209-7590

GREENE COUNTY CSEA

541 Ledbetter Rd.
P.O. Box 9
Xenia, OH 45385-3699
PHONE: (937) 376-5234
FAX: (937) 376-5244
(800) 337-1740

GUERNSEY COUNTY CSEA

324 Highland Ave.
P.O. Box 253
Cambridge, OH 43725-0253
PHONE: (740) 432-2381
FAX: (740) 432-1952
(800) 307-8422

HAMILTON COUNTY CSEA

222 E. Central Pkwy.
Cincinnati, OH 45202-1225
PHONE: (513) 852-8800
FAX: (513) 852-4890
(800) 315-7119

HANCOCK COUNTY CSEA

7814 CR 140
P.O. Box 1465
Findlay, OH 45839-1465
PHONE: (419) 424-1365
FAX: (419) 424-7288
(800) 228-2732

HARDIN COUNTY CSEA
175 W. Franklin St., Ste. 220
P.O. Box 428
Kenton, OH 43326-0428
PHONE: (419) 674-2269
FAX: (419) 673-1417
(800) 320-2148

HARRISON COUNTY CSEA
102 Court St.
Cadiz, OH 43907-1116
PHONE: (740) 942-2900
FAX: (740) 942-8135
(800) 455-5355

HENRY COUNTY CSEA
1255 N. Scott St., Ste. 360
P.O. Box 190
Napoleon, OH 43545-0070
PHONE: (419) 592-4633
FAX: (419) 592-7433
(800) 592-4633

HIGHLAND COUNTY CSEA
1575 N. High St., Ste. 100
Hillsboro, OH 45133-9442
PHONE: (937) 393-4278
FAX: (937) 393-4461
(800) 391-9631

HOCKING COUNTY CSEA
350 SR 664 North
P.O. Box 548
Logan, OH 43138-0548
PHONE: (740) 385-8905
FAX: (740) 385-1911
(800) 555-2480

HOLMES COUNTY CSEA
85 N. Grant St.
P.O. Box 72
Millersburg, OH 44654-0072
PHONE: (330) 674-1111
FAX: (330) 674-0770
(800) 971-7979

HURON COUNTY CSEA
185 Shady Lane
Norwalk, OH 44857-2388
PHONE: (419) 668-9152
FAX: (419) 668-4738
(800) 668-9152

JACKSON COUNTY CSEA
135 Huron St.
P.O. Box 232
Jackson, OH 45640-0232
PHONE: (740) 286-4181
FAX: (740) 286-4775
(800) 588-7161

JEFFERSON COUNTY CSEA
125 S. Fifth St.
Steubenville, OH 43952-2885
PHONE: (740) 283-3300
FAX: (740) 283-3400
(800) 353-2716

KNOX COUNTY CSEA
117 E. High St., 4th FL
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050-3400
PHONE: (740) 397-7177
FAX: (740) 392-8882
(800) 298-2223

LAKE COUNTY CSEA
177 Main St.
Painesville, OH 44077-9967
PHONE: (440) 350-4000
FAX: (440) 350-4399
(800) 442-1955

LAWRENCE COUNTY CSEA
214 S. 4th St.
P.O. Box 106
Ironton, OH 45638-0106
PHONE: (740) 533-4338
FAX: (740) 534-9081
(800) 510-4443

LICKING COUNTY CSEA
65 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 338
Newark, OH 43058-0338
PHONE: (740) 349-6575
FAX: (740) 349-6582
(800) 513-1128

LOGAN COUNTY CSEA
120 E. Sandusky Ave.
P.O. Box 517
Bellefontaine, OH 43311-0517
PHONE: (937) 599-7232
FAX: (937) 599-3176
(800) 599-7232

LORAIN COUNTY CSEA
42485 N. Ridge Rd.
P.O. Box 4004
Elyria, OH 44035-2004
PHONE: (440) 284-4500
FAX: (440) 323-6229
(800) 808-2991

LUCAS COUNTY CSEA
701 Adams St.
Toledo, OH 43624-2400
PHONE: (419) 213-3000
FAX: (419) 259-3033
(800) 466-6396

MADISON COUNTY CSEA
200 Midway St.
London, OH 43140
PHONE: (740) 852-4770
FAX: (740) 852-4756
(800) 852-0243

MAHONING COUNTY CSEA
112 W. Commerce St.
P.O. Box 119
Youngstown, OH 44501-0119
PHONE: (330) 740-2073
FAX: (330) 740-2017
(800) 528-9511

MARION COUNTY CSEA
363 W. Fairground St.
P.O. Box 1803
Marion, OH 44301-1803
PHONE: (740) 387-6688
FAX: (740) 387-2175
(800) 960-5437

MEDINA COUNTY CSEA
142 Highland Dr.
P.O. Box 1389
Medina, OH 44258-1389
PHONE: (330) 722-9398
FAX: (330) 722-9238
(800) 706-2732

MEIGS COUNTY CSEA
175 Race St.
P.O. Box 191
Middleport, OH 45760-0191
PHONE: (740) 922-2117
FAX: (740) 992-5688
(800) 922-2608

MERCER COUNTY CSEA
220 W. Livingston St., Ste 4
P.O. Box 649
Celina, OH 45822-0649
PHONE: (419) 586-7961
FAX: (419) 586-2151
(800) 207-3597

MIAMI COUNTY CSEA
2040 North County Rd., 25-A
Troy, OH 45373-1310
PHONE: (937) 339-2919
FAX: (937) 335-2225
(800) 308-0264

MONROE COUNTY CSEA
100 Home Ave.
P.O. Box 638
Woodsfield, OH 43793-0638
PHONE: (740) 472-1602
FAX: (740) 472-5666
(800) 472-1602

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CSEA
14 W. Fourth St., Ste 200
P.O. Box 972
Dayton, OH 45422-3600
PHONE: (937) 232-5561
FAX: (937) 225-5087
(800) 555-0430

MORGAN COUNTY CSEA
141 S. Kennebec
P.O. Box 276
McConnelsville, OH 43756-0276
PHONE: (740) 962-3000
FAX: (740) 962-3833
(800) 564-9234

MORROW COUNTY CSEA
80 N. Walnut St., Lower Level
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338-1311
PHONE: (419) 947-8075
FAX: (419) 947-8095
(800) 533-0353

MUSKINGUM COUNTY CSEA
840 Orchard St.
P.O. Box 9
Zanesville, OH 43702-0009
PHONE: (740) 455-7146
FAX: (740) 453-5660
(800) 450-7146

NOBLE COUNTY CSEA
38 Olive St.
P.O. Box 250
Caldwell, OH 43724-0250
PHONE: (740) 732-2392
FAX: (740) 732-4108
(800) 905-2732

OTTAWA COUNTY CSEA
8444 W. SR 163
Oak Harbor, OH 43449-9769
PHONE: (419) 898-3688
FAX: (419) 898-2436
(800) 665-1677

PAULDING COUNTY CSEA
201 E. Caroline St.
P.O. Box 210
Paulding, OH 45879-0210
PHONE: (419) 399-8464
FAX: (419) 399-8465
(800) 399-2911

PERRY COUNTY CSEA
126 1/2 S. Main St.
P.O. Box 308
New Lexington, OH 43764-9988
PHONE: (740) 342-2278
FAX: (740) 342-5509
(800) 549-1890

PICKAWAY COUNTY CSEA
130 S. Court St.
P.O. Box 191
Circleville, OH 43113-0191
PHONE: (740) 474-5437
FAX: (740) 477-1023
(800) 822-5437

PIKE COUNTY CSEA
110 N. Market St.
P.O. Box 347
Waverly, OH 45690-0347
PHONE: (740) 947-2512
FAX: (740) 947-8955
(800) 646-2165

PORTAGE COUNTY CSEA
449 S. Meridian St.
Ravenna, OH 44266-1208
PHONE: (330) 297-3459
FAX: (330) 297-4559
(800) 876-9544

PREBLE COUNTY CSEA
1234 Eaton-Gettysburg Rd.
P.O. Box 206
Eaton, OH 45320-0206
PHONE: (937) 456-1499
FAX: (937) 456-5591
(800) 413-5899

PUTNAM COUNTY CSEA
1331 E. Fourth St.
P.O. Box 30
Ottawa, OH 45875-0030
PHONE: (419) 523-5586
FAX: (419) 523-9412
(800) 523-5799

RICHLAND COUNTY CSEA
161 Park Ave., East
P.O. Box 547
Mansfield, OH 44901-9957
PHONE: (419) 774-5700
FAX: (419) 524-1507
(800) 774-2552

ROSS COUNTY CSEA
150 E. Second St.
Chillicothe, OH 45601-2500
PHONE: (740) 773-2651
FAX: (740) 775-3659
(800) 413-3140

SANDUSKY COUNTY CSEA
2511 Countryside Dr.
P.O. Box 1228
Fremont, OH 43420-8228
PHONE: (419) 334-2909
FAX: (419) 355-5344
(800) 883-8283

SCIOTO COUNTY CSEA
710 Court St.
P.O. Box 1347
Portsmouth, OH 45662-1347
PHONE: (740) 354-6661
FAX: (740) 353-2576
(800) 354-6377

SENECA COUNTY CSEA
3362 S. Eden Township Rd.
151
P.O. Box 377
Tiffin, OH 44883-9499
PHONE: (419) 447-1632
FAX: (419) 448-5272
(800) 666-1632

SHELBY COUNTY CSEA
Courthouse
P.O. Box 4218
Sidney, OH 45365-4218
PHONE: (937) 498-7305
FAX: (937) 498-7307
(800) 561-5548

STARK COUNTY CSEA
116 Cleveland Ave., N.W.
P.O. Box 21337
Canton, OH 44701-1337
PHONE: (330) 438-8930
FAX: (330) 438-8924
(800) 339-0349

SUMMIT COUNTY CSEA
175 S. Main St., 5th FL
P.O. Box 80598
Akron, OH 44308-0598
PHONE: (330) 643-2765
FAX: (330) 643-2745
(800) 726-2765

TRUMBULL COUNTY CSEA
106 High St., NW
P.O. Box 1350
Warren, OH 44482-1350
PHONE: (330) 675-2732
FAX: (330) 675-2746
(800) 720-2732

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY CSEA
154 Second St., NE
P.O. Box 1016
New Philadelphia, OH 44663-1016
PHONE: (330) 343-0099
FAX: (330) 364-4854
(800) 685-2732

UNION COUNTY CSEA
169 Grove St.
P.O. Box 389
Marysville, OH 43040-0389
PHONE: (937) 644-1010
FAX: (937) 644-8700
(800) 248-2347

VAN WERT COUNTY CSEA
114 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 386
Van Wert, OH 45891-0386
PHONE: (419) 238-9566
FAX: (419) 238-6045
(800) 830-0954

VINTON COUNTY CSEA
123 E. Main St.
McArthur, OH 45651-1295
PHONE: (740) 596-5209
FAX: (740) 596-8315
(800) 679-8707

WARREN COUNTY CSEA
500 Justice Dr.
P.O. Box 440
Lebanon, OH 45036-0440
PHONE: (513) 933-1580
FAX: (513) 933-2969
(800) 644-2732

WASHINGTON COUNTY CSEA
Courthouse
205 Putnam
Marietta, OH 45750-3015
PHONE: (740) 373-9324
FAX: (740) 373-9447
(800) 888-2732

WAYNE COUNTY CSEA
356 West North St.
P.O. Box 217
Wooster, OH 44691-0057
PHONE: (330) 287-5600
FAX: (330) 287-5623
(800) 216-6636

WILLIAMS COUNTY CSEA
117 W. Butler St.
Bryan, OH 43506-1650
PHONE: (419) 636-6725
FAX: (419) 636-8843
(800) 937-2732

WOOD COUNTY CSEA
1960 E. Gypsy Lane Rd.
P.O. Box 1028
Bowling Green, OH 43402-1028
PHONE: (419) 354-9270
FAX: (419) 354-9371
(800) 966-3543

WYANDOT COUNTY CSEA
124 S. Sandusky Ave.
P.O. Box 510
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351-0510
PHONE: (419) 294-5122
FAX: (419) 294-6419
(800) 320-5211

Where can I go for help?

**The Ohio Department of Human Services
Office of Child Support
30 East Broad Street, 31st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0423**

**(614) 752-6561
Fax (614) 752-9760
TTY/TDD: (614) 752-3951**