

# Marion County Child Support Glossary

- A -

## **Absent Parent**

Non-custodial parent adjudicated to be the parent, not living in the same household as the child(ren).

## **Adjustment (Tax Offset)**

Occurs when the IRS makes a payment to the tax payer to rectify an invalid offset or an injured spouse claim. This adjustment reduces the obligor's earlier offset collection previously disbursed to the state. An adjustment is indicated on the IRS collections report, and the amount forwarded to ODJFS is reduced by the amount of the adjustment.

## **Administrative Notice of Default**

Notification to an obligor that he/she is in default, and subject to one or more enforcement remedies to satisfy the support obligation.

## **Administrative Process**

The statutory system granting authority to a county child support enforcement agency to assist in establishing paternity and to establish, modify and enforce child support orders. The CSEA in each Ohio county is the local agency granted authority to conduct and perform the administrative process function.

## **Administrative Subpoenas**

Issued by a state or county agency, by statute, commanding an individual to appear at a certain time and place to give testimony regarding a certain matter; or to provide information.

## **Affidavit**

Sworn or attested, notarized documents executed in lieu of formal court room testimony, when applicable.

## **Age of Majority**

Attained upon one's 18th birthday or graduated, whichever occurs first; however, pertaining to a child support order, it will remain in effect beyond attainment of age 18 as long as the child continuously attends an accredited high school on a full-time basis. No current obligation remains in effect after the child attains the age of 19, unless a court orders otherwise.

## **aka (Also Known As)**

A participant within SETS may be known by additional names other than his or her primary name.

## **Alias**

Another name, or an assumed name. A parent may be known by more than one name in SETS. See AKA.

## **Alleged Father**

A person who has been named as the father of a child born out of wedlock, but for whom paternity has not been established.

## **Applicant**

A person applying for IV-D services (as contrasted with someone who is already receiving IV-D services.)

**Arrearage**

Delinquent and/or past due support and/or alimony monies.

- B -

**BOW**

Born out of wedlock

**Buccal Swab**

A recognized form of genetic testing used to determine paternity, which involves using a cotton swab for collecting saliva from the mouth (cheek) of individuals submitted to testing.

- C -

**Caretaker**

The person, relative, other than a biological parent, or agency responsible for a dependent child's health or welfare, who has temporary or legal custody of the child.

**Case Closure**

Federally mandated reasons for an agency to close a case. Classification of a case as closed does not terminate the court order or the legal obligation to pay any outstanding arrears.

**Case Member**

Participant in a child or spousal support case; a member can participate in more than one case.

**Case Number**

A unique 10-digit, system assigned number used to identify a SETS case. Originally the application number for IV-D services. Used to identify a group of participants within SETS.

**Case Participant**

Individuals and/or agencies involved in the case including payor, payee and children.

**CCPA (Consumer Credit Protection Act)**

Federal legislation limiting the amount of withholdings and garnishments against employees earnings. For support purposes, 50% may be withheld where obligors have no arrearages but have second families. An additional 5% can be withheld for arrearages in excess of 12 weeks value. 60% may be withheld where obligors have no arrearages and no second families. An additional 5% can also be withheld for arrearages.

**Child Support**

An amount of money under a court or administrative order that is due and owed by the non-custodial parent for the support of the parent's child(ren).

**Collection Date**

Date a payment is received by Ohio Child Support Payment Central, Columbus OH.

**Collection Year (Taxes)**

The year in which the taxes are filed (e.g., 2003 taxes are filed in 2004, making 2003 the collection year).

**Contempt of Court**

Any act in willful defiance of the court's authority or dignity, or, to impede the administration of justice. Contempt is punishable by fines and/or jail sentences.

**County of Jurisdiction**

The county the support order, administratively or judicially, was established or will be established.

**County of Residence**

The county in which the recipient of child support services is residing.

**Court Order Jurisdiction**

The court that established the order.

**CSEA (Child Support Enforcement Agency)**

The CSEA is the local arm of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS), Office of Child Support (OCS). Each of the state's 88 counties has a CSEA.

**Current Support Obligation**

The total of the monthly child support obligation plus the monthly spousal support obligation.

**Custodial Parent**

A person who has the responsibility or care of a child(ren) and with whom the child(ren) live.



**Default**

Default" means, pursuant to division (B) of section 3121.01 of the Revised Code, any failure to pay under a support order that is an amount greater than or equal to the amount of support payable under the support order for one month. An arrears-only case (a case with total arrears greater than zero that has at least one ordered payment on arrears obligation but that has no current charging support obligations) is in default when the obligor fails to make a payment for the current month. A case remains in default until its arrears, minus any applicable credits, are equal to zero.

**Delinquent**

Any case that has fallen behind in the payment schedule.

**Disbursement**

The function of tracking all monies (checks or EFTs) distributed through the child support system (SETS).

**DOB**

Date of Birth

**DOD**

Date of Death



**e-Disbursements**

Disbursement type made to child/spousal support recipients whereby payments are credited directly to a Ohio e-QuickPay debit card, which card holders can use for purchasing goods and services, thereby bypassing the need to hold a bank account in order to receive child/spousal support payments.

**Emancipation**

Day, month and year a child reaches the age of majority. See Age of Majority.

**Enforcement**

Methods to ensure payment of the obligation by the obligor.

- F -

**FVI**

Family Violence Indicator

- G -

**Good Cause**

A custodial parent or caretaker has good cause for failure or refusal to cooperate if the CSEA determines that cooperation is not in the best interest of the child because of any of the following:

- Cooperation is reasonably anticipated to result in physical or emotional harm to the child;
- Cooperation is reasonably anticipated to result in physical or emotional harm to the caretaker which would reduce the caretaker's ability to care for the child adequately;
- The child was conceived as the result of incest or forcible rape.
- Legal proceedings for adoption are pending before a court.
- The caretaker is being assisted by a public or private social agency to decide whether to keep the child or relinquish him/her for adoption and the discussions have not gone on for more than three months.

**Guidelines Calculations**

A series of calculations to determine child support amounts in which SETS workers record the necessary information that determine the guidelines amount for child support orders.

- H -

**Hearing Officer**

An impartial ODJFS or CSEA employee with no personal stake or involvement in a case, who listens to both the applicant/recipient and department representatives in order to rule on a determination being appealed.

- I -

**Imputing Income**

The act of stating and using potential income to individuals not employed or voluntarily underemployed; the CSEA or court may project using the child support guidelines, an income base for purposes of establishing a

support obligation.

**Injured Spouse**

Joint filer for income tax refund monies. Such injured spouse can demand adjustment (e.g., payment for support arrearage monies withheld from his or her share of tax refunds). Even though the injured spouse claim has a six year statute of limitations, CSEA releases the monies to an obligee after a six month held period.

**Interstate Case**

A state requests or receives a request for assistance from another state for any of the following actions: locate an absent parent, establish paternity, establish a support order, collection actions, enforcement actions, or register a support order. See the [Interstate](#) section for additional information on this topic.

**IV-D (“four-e”)Application**

A written, signed document required to be completed for individuals desiring child support services that are currently not receiving public assistance benefits.

**IV-E (“four-e”)**

A title of the Social Security Act which relates to services for legal temporary custody of children through a Public Children's Services Agency on finding of probable or of actual finding of dependency, abuse, neglect and sometimes delinquency.

**IVR (Interactive Voice Response System)**

A system generated statewide network that will provide the recipient with current payment information concerning their child support case.

**IWO - Income Withholding Order**

A sub-order type that is generated automatically for the purpose of garnishing the obligor's wages when certain criteria have been met.

- J -

**Joint Return**

Refers to when the obligor's IRS tax return is filed jointly with his/her current spouse; if the case is a Non Public Assistance Case and the return was filed jointly, SETS will hold a payment for six months or until an adjustment is reported, whichever comes first.

**Judgment**

The official decision of a court of justice upon the respective rights and claims of the parties to an action or suit.

**Jurisdiction**

Rights or powers of court, agency (CSEA) or person to act.

- K -

- L -

**Locate**

Subsystem used to identify the physical whereabouts of an individual, the individual's employer, and/or other sources of income and assets associated with the individual. See the [Locate](#) section for complete information regarding this subject.

**Long-Arm Jurisdiction**

Statutory and regulatory procedures for obtaining service upon out-of-state parties and thereby allowing legal action to proceed against same. For example, where children are conceived anywhere within the State of Ohio, parentage actions may be filed in Ohio, regardless of defendants' domicile. They are either forced to return to Ohio to defend or to accept the consequences of default findings of paternity.

**Lump Sum**

A single payment which covers numerous obligations for a single obligor; lump sum payments are often bonuses or lottery winnings, and are allocated according to a special lump sum hierarchy.

**Lump Sum Intercept**

Federal and state legislation requiring employers to withhold certain monies due support obligors and to transmit these monies to CSEA for payment of support and/or support arrearages.

- M -

**Medical Support**

The CSEA secures and enforces the requirement for medical insurance for all IV-D cases when coverage is available and reasonable or expected to become available.

**Mistake of Fact Hearing**

A hearing to determine if there was an error in the amount of current or overdue support or in the identity of the alleged absent parent.

**Modification of Support**

Change of prior support orders based upon a substantial change in circumstances. For example, the income of one party substantially increases or a support order which deviates from amounts reflected by the Child Support Guidelines by more than 10% is deemed to be a substantial change warranting an increase in the support order.

**Modified Arrears**

Adjustment of the support arrearage obligation.

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**Non-Custodial Parent**

Person with whom the child does not live and/or is ordered to pay child support

**Non-Employer**

An entity making a payment for an obligor which does not employ that person, such as a financial institution, the Ohio Board of Employment Services, Worker's Compensation, or IRS tax offsets.

**OBES**

Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

**Obligee**

Any person, including a state or political subdivision, to whom a duty of support is owed or a person, including a state or political subdivision, that has commenced proceedings for enforcement of actual or alleged duty of support or registration of foreign support order. It is immaterial if the person to whom a duty of support is owed is a recipient of public assistance.

**Obligor**

Any person owing a duty of support or against whom proceedings for enforcement of a duty of support or a registration of support orders is commenced.

**OBMV**

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

**ODJFS (Ohio Department of Job and Family Services)**

The state agency with responsibility for program development and administrative support for the Child Support Enforcement Program under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. Ohio's operating child support structure is one in which IV-D services are state supervised, but county administered. The primary role of ODJFS is to act as an advisor to all 88 counties on policy and technical issues.

**ODT**

Ohio Department of Taxation.

**Ohio CSPC (Ohio Child Support Payment Central)**

The official name of Ohio's State Disbursement Unit (SDU). Ohio CSPC is the umbrella that represents several activities mandated for implementation under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

**Ohio e-QuickPay**

The name of the e-Disbursements program available for eligible child and spousal support recipients.

**Ohio Revised Code (ORC)**

Statutory and regulatory law of Ohio as opposed to court mandated common law. ORC also codifies common law.

**Ohio Works First (OWF)**

A benefit program of Ohio to divert IV-A clients into jobs which will promote skills as well as bring monetary benefits to the client.

**Order**

The legal document specifying any support obligations.

**Overpayment**

Where obligors payment exceed the amount of support and/or support arrearages due; where obligee accepts and retains (without reporting same) direct payments of support and/or support arrearages. IV-A overpayments are eligible for grant reduction. IV-D overpayments are not.

**PA**

Public Assistance

**Passport Denial Program**

Created by PRWORA of 1996 to deny passports to obligors with child support arrearages of at least \$2500 that are submitted for Federal Tax Offset.

**Paternity Affidavit**

Attested, notarized documents executed in lieu of formal courtroom testimony for acknowledgment of paternity.

**Payee**

An individual to whom child support payments are to be made on behalf of the child.

**Payor**

An individual who has been ordered to make child support payments.

**Postal Verification**

Confirmation by the post office in determining the current address of an obligor.

**Poster Program**

A program which publishes and displays a series of posters with photographs of child support obligors who are delinquent in their support payments and cannot be located.

**Processing Fees**

Statutory service fee assessed against support obligations to cover the cost of posting receipts and disbursing payments.

**Putative Father**

Alleged Father. Man alleged or reputed to be biological parent of children born out of wedlock.

- Q -

- R -

**Residential**

The address for the physical location of an individual's residence.

**Responding State (URESAs)**

Any state in which a proceeding pursuant to the URESA proceeding in the initiating state is or may be commenced. It is the state which responds to another state's request for assistance.

**Review and Adjustment**

The act of reexamining a support order for possible changes to that order.

- S -

**Service of Process**

Delivery of subpoenas and summons which command that certain acts be done, such as provision of records and appearance for court hearings. Service is accomplished through four devices: 1. Personal, 2. Publication, 3. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and 4. Ordinary Mail as evidenced by a Certificate of Mailing. The Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure prescribe the type of service to use.

**Spousal Support (Collections)**

Collections for alimony to a former spouse.

**State Hearing**

When an action is taken by an agency and the applicant/recipient disagrees with that action, he/she may request a state hearing. The hearing officer decide whether the action is appropriate and what the outcome will be.

**SSN**

Social Security Number

**Support (Duty of)**

Any duty of support imposed by law (ORC 2919.21 and 3103.03) decree or judgment of Court, whether interlocutory or final, and whether incidental to proceedings in divorce, legal separation, sustenance alimony (ORC 3109.05), paternity (ORC 3111.13) or otherwise and includes the duty to pay arrearages arising from delinquent support payments.

**Support Arrears**

The arrearage that accrues when a portion of or all of the current support ordered to be paid under a court or administrative support order is past-due.

**Support Order**

Any judgment, decree or order of support in favor of an obligee, whether temporary or final, or subject to modification, revocation or remission, regardless of the kind of action or proceeding through which such judgment, decree or order is entered.

- T -

**Tax Offset**

A process used to withhold and offset the tax refunds of non-custodial parents to collect support arrearages. Performed either by the Federal Internal Revenue Service or the State of Ohio, or both,

**Termination of Order**

The point where the entire child support obligation has been fulfilled and an action has been ordered either administratively or by the court to end any further payments by the obligor.

**Third Party**

Entities with whom the CSEA has dealings, such as employers, insurance companies, testing laboratories, courts, agencies, etc.

**Total Arrearage**

The total arrearage owed by an obligor.

- U -

**UIFSA**

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act

- V -

**Verification**

Address, employment, and asset information can be received from many different sources and the worker must verify this information to make sure it is current and accurate.

- W -

**Wage Withholding (also "Income Withholding Order - IWO")**

Federal and state legislation requiring employers to deduct court ordered sums from employees wages to transmit such monies to CSEA for support and/or support arrearage payments. Orders for wage withholding take precedence over all other forms of garnishment. The Consumer Credit Protection Act (CCPA) limits the amounts that can be wage withheld to a maximum of 65 % where arrearages exist. Two or more orders for withholding must be prorated.