

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES -- CHILD SUPPORT

Termination of Child Support and Spousal Maintenance Services

Motion:

Move to authorize the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to terminate child support and spousal maintenance services to an individual if there is no longer a current child support or maintenance order and the arrearage is either less than \$500 or unenforceable. Provide that support or maintenance arrearage may be considered unenforceable if: (a) no support or maintenance payments have been collected for at least three years; and (b) all administrative and legal remedies for collection of arrearages have been attempted or are determined to be ineffective because the payer is unable to pay, the payer has no known income or assets, and there is no reasonable prospect that the payer will be able to pay in the foreseeable future.

Provide that DCF must notify the recipient of such services, or the initiating state in the case of an interstate case, of DCF's intent to terminate services in writing 60 calendar days prior to the termination of enforcement services. Require that services may not be terminated if the recipient of services, or the initiating state, supplies information in response to the notice which could lead to the enforcement of a support or maintenance order.

Provide that the former recipient of services may request at a later date that the services continue if there is a change in circumstances which could lead to the enforcement of an order by completing a new application for services and paying any applicable application fee.

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Note:

DCF indicates that out of a total of 363,000 child support cases, there are currently more than 20,000 cases in which no support or maintenance payments have been collected for at least three years and more than 8,000 cases in which arrears totaled less than \$500. The motion would allow DCF to close such cases and terminate services.

**Posted By:**  
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