

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



December 23, 2015

CSSIN LETTER: 15-01

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
 ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: CHILD SUPPORT LEGISLATION 2015

<u>Reason for this Transmittal</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Court Order or Settlement Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Clarification requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated by DCSS

The Governor signed legislation for the 2015 session related to child support services. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a brief summary of these bills. Any required regulation or policy instructions will be provided in a separate letter.

**AB 610 (Jones-Sawyer) Chapter 629 Effective October 8, 2015**

Authorizes the suspension of all child support orders due for incarcerated or involuntarily institutionalized obligors, as specified. This bill would authorize local child support agencies (LCSAs) to administratively adjust child support arrears owed to zero provided no objection is received from either parent. In the case of an objection, the arrears issue is to be heard before a court. The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) and the Judicial Council (JC) are required to submit a report on the effectiveness of the administrative process. The statute will sunset January 1, 2020 unless a new statute is enacted to extend that date.

**AB 1519 (Committee on Judiciary) Chapter 416 Effective January 1, 2016**

This omnibus bill makes four clarifying changes to family law. First, this bill would clarify that in a legal separation proceeding, preliminary disclosure declarations must be served on the other party within the timeframe required by dissolution proceedings. Second, this bill provides that the DCSS has no liability with respect to a recipient's selection of a financial institution that does not meet certain requirements. The bill also permits LCSAs to electronically store documents signed under penalty of perjury that are electronically filed with the court, effective July 1, 2016. Finally, the bill authorizes the JC to convert ten subordinate judicial positions to judgeships in 2015-16.

**SB 79 (Budget Committee) Chapter 20 Effective January 1, 2016**

This budget trailer bill contains several provisions related to different state programs. Among other things, it eliminates California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) provisions for a child eligible for the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding

Option Program. The bill restores CalWORKs eligibility to persons with a drug felony conviction. Adults who have been sanctioned for at least 12 months for failing to comply with program requirements will no longer be required to assign to the county their rights to child support and to cooperate with the Child Support Program. Incentive payments from the DCSS to LCSAs will be suspended through the 2016-17 fiscal year.

**SB 646 (Jackson) Chapter 493 Effective January 1, 2016**

Adopts the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) 2008 as mandated by federal law. The bill incorporates the provisions of the 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance (Hague Convention) providing uniform procedures for the processing of international child support cases. These provisions impact existing state laws for the registration, recognition, enforcement, and modification of foreign support orders from other countries that are parties to the Hague Convention.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [Anne.Drumm@dcss.ca.gov](mailto:Anne.Drumm@dcss.ca.gov) or (916) 464-5481.

Sincerely,

o/s

ANNE DRUMM  
Assistant Director  
Legislative and External Affairs