

**GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**



**Interstate**

**Cases**

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**

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**Interstate Case Glossary**

**Age of Emancipation**—The legal age for support to terminate.

**CP**— Custodial Parent. The parent that has custody of the minor child(ren)

**DP**—Dependent. Minor child(ren) for which Child Support is paid.

**Foreign Support Order**—A support order that was established by another state.

**Interstate Case**—Support case that is handled by two (2) states.

**NCP**—Non-Custodial Parent. The parent that is absent from the home.

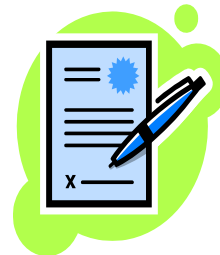
**Non-TANF**— Customer who is not receive assistance and/or Medicaid.

**Out-of-State Agency**—The IV-D Agency located in a different state.

**Registration**— When CSSD receives a UIFSA petition from another jurisdiction to register their case in our court for enforcement, modification, change of payee, re-direction of payment, etc.

**TANF**— Temporary Assistance For Needy Families.

**UIFSA Petition**—The packet includes documents that allows CSSD to establish paternity, support and/or medical for the child(ren) when the parents and child(ren) reside in a different state.



**FREQUENTLY ASKED  
QUESTIONS**



**WHAT IS INTERSTATE?**

- A case in which the dependent child(ren) and non-custodial parent live in different states, or a case in which two states are involved in case activity, such as enforcement of a child support order.

**HOW IS AN INTERSTATE CASE ESTABLISHED?**

- If CSSD identifies that the NCP resides in another state, a referral will be made to the CSSD Interstate Unit. Once the referral is received an appointment is made for the Non-TANF customer to provide all necessary documents (birth certificates, pay stubs, SSN cards, etc.)
- If it is a TANF customer, the case will be submitted directly to the out-of-state agency.
- On cases where an order already exist and it has been determined that the NCP resides out-of-state, a referral will be made to the Interstate Unit. This case will be sent to the out-of-state agency for registration of a foreign support order.

**WHAT IS A FOREIGN SUPPORT ORDER?**

- This is a child support order from another state.

**HOW DOES CSSD HANDLE A CUSTOMER CALLING FROM ANOTHER STATE?**

- CSSD will advise the customer to contact their local state Child Support Enforcement Office.

## Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

### WHAT IS UIFSA ?

- The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) is a law that allows courts in different states to cooperate with each other. Under this law, states cannot interfere with support orders made in the state where one parent and the child lives. Also, no matter where a support order is collected or enforced, it will be governed by the laws of the state in which it was issued.

### WHAT IS AN INITIATING CASE?

- An initiating case is when CSSD makes a request to another state to establish an order and/or enforce the order.
  - The CP and DP live in the District of Columbia, and the NCP lives in West Virginia



### WHAT IS A RESPONDING CASE?

- A responding case is when an out-of-state Child Support Agency requests CSSD to establish an order and/or enforce the order.
  - The CP and DP live in West Virginia, and the NCP lives in the District of Columbia.

## Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

### IF CP LIVES IN DC AND THE NCP LIVES IN ANOTHER STATE WHERE WILL THE GENETIC TESTING TAKE PLACE?

- The CP will be tested in the District of Columbia and the NCP will be tested in his/her residing state.

### MY CHILD'S PARENT LIVES IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. WHAT CAN I DO TO COLLECT?

- Because the United States has reciprocity with several countries; CSSD can work with those countries to collect child support. You will need to contact the CSSD Interstate Unit to find out which countries have reciprocity with the United States.

### WHEN THE NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT (NCP) MOVES TO A NEW STATE WHICH STATE ENFORCES THE ORDER?

- As long as the CP is still residing in the state where he or she established the order, that state has jurisdiction. However, if the NCP fails to make payments, CSSD will request the state where the NCP resides to register and enforce the order.

## Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

### HOW LONG CAN IT TAKE FOR AN INTERSTATE SUPPORT ORDER TO BE ESTABLISHED?

- Generally, from the date of application, one should expect at least three months or longer. If the case is sent to another state it can take anywhere from six months to one year to obtain an order.

### WHAT IS CENTRAL REGISTRY?

- It is a part of the CSSD Interstate Unit that receives, distributes, and responds to inquiries on incoming interstate IV-D cases.

### WHAT IS CONTROLLING EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION??

- It is when a court has required jurisdiction to determine child support. The court will retain authority to change orders until such time as another court or tribunal takes it away.

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