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Advanced UIFSA Scenarios

Meg Haynes

Rob Velcoff



Scenario #1

Barbie applies for child support services in Vermont and requests establishment of a child support order. She has one child and says Ken is the father. They are not married. He did not sign a Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity form nor is his name on the birth certificate. Ken resides in New Hampshire. Barbie says Ken visited the child a few times and purchased diapers and other items for the baby during those visits. She says the child was conceived in VT, but Ken moved before the child was born. What action does the VT worker take?



Scenario #2

George and Martha were divorced three years ago, and George is paying \$400/month in child support based on a Louisiana order. George now resides in Mississippi. Martha and the two children recently moved to Alabama. Martha now applies for child support services in AL. She says she recently gave birth to a third child who was conceived during a visit with George in MS, although George does not know about the child.

What action should the AL child support office take?



Scenario #3

Eric is paying Erica \$300/month in support of their one child based on a Massachusetts court order. Erica and the child move to Connecticut and apply for child support services there. Eric remains in MA.

What action should CT ask MA to take? Which intergovernmental form should CT use, and what action should it request? Is there more than one option?



Scenario #4

There is a Kentucky child support order for Phillip to pay Phyllis \$750/month (unallocated) for their 3 children, Alpha and Beta and Gamma. Phillip moves to Ohio and applies for child support services. He says he now has custody of Alpha. He wants support from Phyllis and cancellation of all arrears that accumulated from the time he took custody. He mentions that Phyllis' mother currently has custody of Beta, and they are residing in West Virginia. He also says the child Gamma is currently residing in a foster care facility in Tennessee.

What actions and documentation are needed, and where should everything take place?



Scenario #5

There is a Pennsylvania child support order for Juan to pay Juanita \$250/month for support of their one child. Juan moves to Delaware, so the PA order is registered there for enforcement. DE sends payments to PA, only to learn PA is splitting the payments between this child support case and another child support case that Juan has with Bonita. Bonita resides in a different county in PA from Juanita, and that court order was never registered in DE. The DE office shows Juan to be paid in full, but PA shows a large arrearage because half his payments are being applied to the other case.

Is PA correct in what they are doing?
How should this issue be resolved?



Scenario #6

Christian applies for services in North Carolina, where he resides. He has a child support order from South Carolina for his ex-wife Christina to pay him \$500/month for support of their child. He wants the order modified and enforced. Christina now resides in Germany. He says that Christina has always been uncooperative regarding child support, and she will not agree to transfer modification jurisdiction of the court order to NC.

As the NC worker, where do you send the request to modify and enforce the SC order? If this was a German support order, what would be different?



Scenario #7

There is a New Jersey child support order for Sam to pay Sami \$600/month for their one child. Sam moves to New York, and the NJ order is registered there for enforcement. NY is enforcing and shows a \$0 balance. NJ modifies its order, but the modification is never registered in NY, so NY is still enforcing the original order. NJ shows an arrearage because the modified order is higher.

Sam still has a bank account in NJ, which NY does not freeze and seize because they show a \$0 balance. Now NJ seizes the bank account to recover the arrears. NY has tried unsuccessfully for some time to get NJ to register the modified order. NY shows the case as being overpaid, so they stop enforcement. NJ wants current support payments.

What should happen with this case?



Scenario #8

Hans and Franz were married in Maine, and there is a divorce pending. The couple recently started adoption proceedings for a child, but Franz left Hans and the child in the middle of the adoption proceeding. Franz currently resides in Rhode Island. He says he should not have to pay support for a child that he never legally adopted. Hans applies for child support services in ME, requesting support order establishment. What action should be requested, and where?



Scenario #9

There is a Missouri child support order for Fred to pay Freda \$800/month for their three children. Fred moves to Arkansas and the order is registered there for enforcement. Fred begins collecting both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

AR wants to close their case under federal case closure criterion #9, which allows case closure when the NCP's sole income is SSI and SSDI. In fact, the caseworker has recently closed two in-state cases for this very reason. However, this is not one of the case closure criteria adopted by MO, so they want the case to remain open.

What should be done?



Scenario #10

Gisele has two children, Cain and Abel, ages 2 and 5 respectively. Her husband of 8 years, Tom, is recently deceased. Gisele is residing in Florida and applies for services in your office. She claims that another man, Patrick, is definitely the father of Cain and possibly the father of Abel. Patrick is currently enrolled in the military and stationed in Iraq, although he has a legal residence in Georgia. Is establishment of paternity and support an option? What course of action do you recommend, and where? Is the military service in Iraq a factor? If GA says they will not pursue the case, are there any other options?



Scenario #11

Otto and Octavia have a direct pay Supreme Court Divorce Decree from Texas for Otto to pay \$700/month for their two children. Ten years after the divorce, Octavia comes into the child support office in Iowa where she resides and applies for services, requesting enforcement of the arrears on this now arrears-only case. Otto is currently residing on the White Earth Nation tribal reservation in Minnesota.

Should IA open a case? Can the direct pay order be registered in the tribal court and/or IA? Does the Statute of Limitations on arrears come into play?



Scenario #12

Alexis and Cassie are married and have a child through artificial insemination from their friend Mario and surrogacy by Maria. A year after the baby is born, Alexis and Cassie divorce in Indiana and Alexis is ordered to pay child support directly to Cassie (direct pay, no IV-D involvement). Alexis' mother comes to your child support office in Michigan and says she now has custody of the child. Alexis currently resides in Illinois and Cassie resides in Wisconsin. As the MI child support worker, what paperwork do you file and where? Against whom?



Scenario #13

There is a 2015 Puerto Rico child support order for Jarella to pay Jerry \$200/month for their child Jared. Jarella moves to the Virgin Islands and stops paying. Puerto Rico registers its order there for enforcement. Now Jerry's mother Jade obtains legal custody of Jared, who still lives in PR. PR does an administrative change of payee to make the order payable to the grandmother. Payments are now being sent to the new custodial party. The VI finds out about this and says they can no longer enforce the PR order because it says that Jerry is the CP, not his mother, and they are unable to do an administrative change of beneficiary.

What action needs to take place on this case, and where?



Scenario #14

There is a 2018 Maryland child support order for Robert to pay Roberta \$900/month for their four children. Roberta moves to Virginia and applies for services, so support is being forwarded to the VA SDU. Robert moves to Washington, DC in 2020. Now Robert contacts the MD child support office because he is comfortable with their court system, and says he wants them to do a downward modification.

Can MD modify the MD order? What options does Robert have?



Scenario #15

There is a South Dakota child support order for Don to pay Donna \$350/month support for their one child. Don moves to North Dakota and stops paying. SD registers its order in ND for enforcement. No payments are forthcoming. The SD local office child support worker contacts the ND local child support office to obtain an enforcement status but is unable to get a response. After multiple unsuccessful attempts, what should the SD child support worker do next? What if continued efforts do not yield positive results either? What are the next steps?



Scenario #16

There is a 2017 Kansas child support order for Frank to pay Francine \$450/month in child support for their two daughters, Frankie & Morticia. In 2018 Frank moves to Nebraska, but KS continues to enforce the order via interstate IWO. In 2019 Francine and the girls move to Oklahoma and apply for child support services, so KS begins sending payments to the OK SDU. In 2020 Francine contacts your office and informs you that Morticia has passed away. What actions should have been taken on the case at that time? Now Francine's aunt comes into the OK IV-D office and says that Francine has passed away, and she has custody of Frankie and wants the child support. What actions should be taken on the case at this time? What about any existing arrears?



THANK YOU

Margaret Campbell Haynes, Esq.

Management Consultant

Public Knowledge®

mhaynes@pubknow.com

Rob Velcoff

Independent Consultant

Intergovernmental Support Services

robvelcoff@intergovernmentalsupportservices.com

