



ERICSA 63<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

MAY 3-7, 2026

# Milwaukee

WISCONSIN

# A Brief History of Interstate Cases

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Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council

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Florida Department of Revenue



# SESSION DESCRIPTION

This workshop will provide a brief history of legislation before UIFSA was passed and UIFSA's relationship to FFCCSOA. We will also explore possible changes in UIFSA practice moving forward.





UIFSA - Past, Present, & Future

## PRE-1950



**Corner grocery store – early 1900's**



# **BIGGEST EVENTS OF 1950**



**Start of Korean War**



## **BIGGEST EVENTS OF 1950**



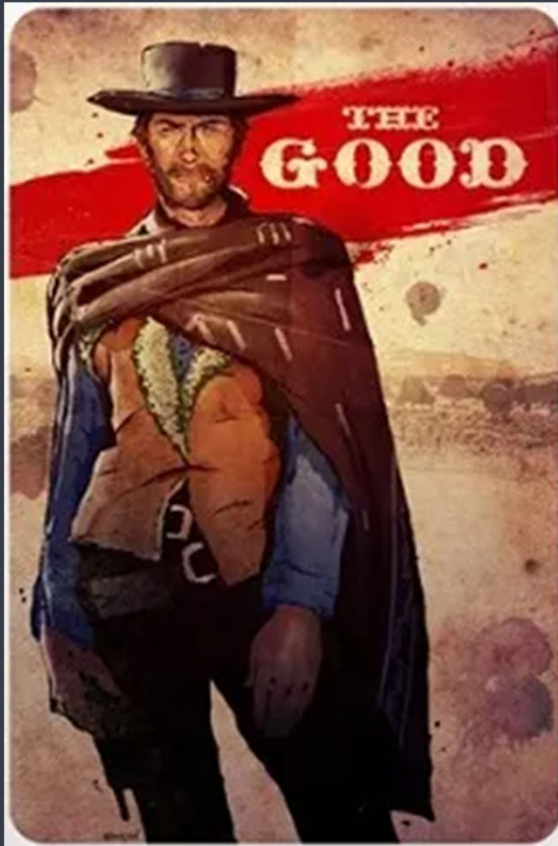
**First kidney transplant**



# BIGGEST EVENTS OF 1950



# URESA





- Allowed support establishment / enforcement actions across state lines
- Allowed party to pursue action without traveling to other state
- Provided for testimony by documentation
- Codified “Runaway Pappy” Acts





- Confusion between substantive and procedural law
- Incentivized forum shopping
- Limited basis for long-arm jurisdiction
- Pre-IV-D confusion as to which office was responsible for processing URESA requests





- Early versions lacked paternity provisions
- No right of party to appear remotely in responding court
- Defenses to URESA action were not clearly defined
- Required I/J's permission to send URESA to responding state



|                                                            |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| COURT/ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY IDENTIFICATION AND CASE NUMBER |                        |
| MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT                                |                        |
| 49C019505 RS1222                                           |                        |
| PETITIONER                                                 |                        |
| STACY [REDACTED]                                           |                        |
| RESPONDENT                                                 | XX IV-D NON IV-D       |
| RONALD [REDACTED]                                          | MAY 11 1995            |
|                                                            | OTHER REFERENCE NUMBER |
|                                                            | 221652*1 EB            |
|                                                            | CLERK OF THE COURT     |
|                                                            | MARION CIRCUIT COURT   |

**FILED**

CERTIFICATE AND ORDER

The undersigned, John Ryan, Judge of the above named Court, hereby certifies as follows:

1. On \_\_\_\_\_ a petition was filed by the petitioner in this Court in a proceeding against the respondent under the provisions of the reciprocal support statute seeking support of the dependents named in the attached petition.
2. The respondent is believed to reside in your jurisdiction at:  
4567 MANDEVILLE CT  
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
3. In the opinion of the Judge, the enclosed petition and testimony set forth facts from which it may be determined that the respondent owes a duty of support to the named dependents and that such petition should be dealt with according to law.
4. All payments should be made payable to and sent to:  
MARION COUNTY CLERK  
CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION  
W123 CITY-COUNTY BUILDING  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

WHEREFORE, it is ORDERED that three copies of this Certificate, with the petition, testimony, and the required copies of this state's reciprocal support statute, be transmitted to:

Bureau of Child Support ATTN:  
Central Registry  
Department of Human Services  
30 East Broad Street, 27th fl.  
Columbus, OH 43226

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| DATE        | SIGNATURE (JUDGE) |
| MAY 11 1995 | [Signature]       |

3 copies to responding jurisdiction  
1 file copy for initiating jurisdiction

page 1 of 1



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- Each state enacted different versions of URESA
- Non-standard forms used by many states and counties
- Some jurisdictions applied URESA county to county
- Effect of registration was unclear





- Collecting arrears w/o registration was iffy
- Collecting arrears for emancipated children was iffy
- No priority rule where multiple states all claim state's arrearages





- Multiple, inconsistent orders
- Each was independently modifiable
- Each subject to its own age of emancipation
- Each subject to its own statute of limitation





- No direct income withholding provision
- Conflict with FCCSOA
- Arrearage calculation chaos

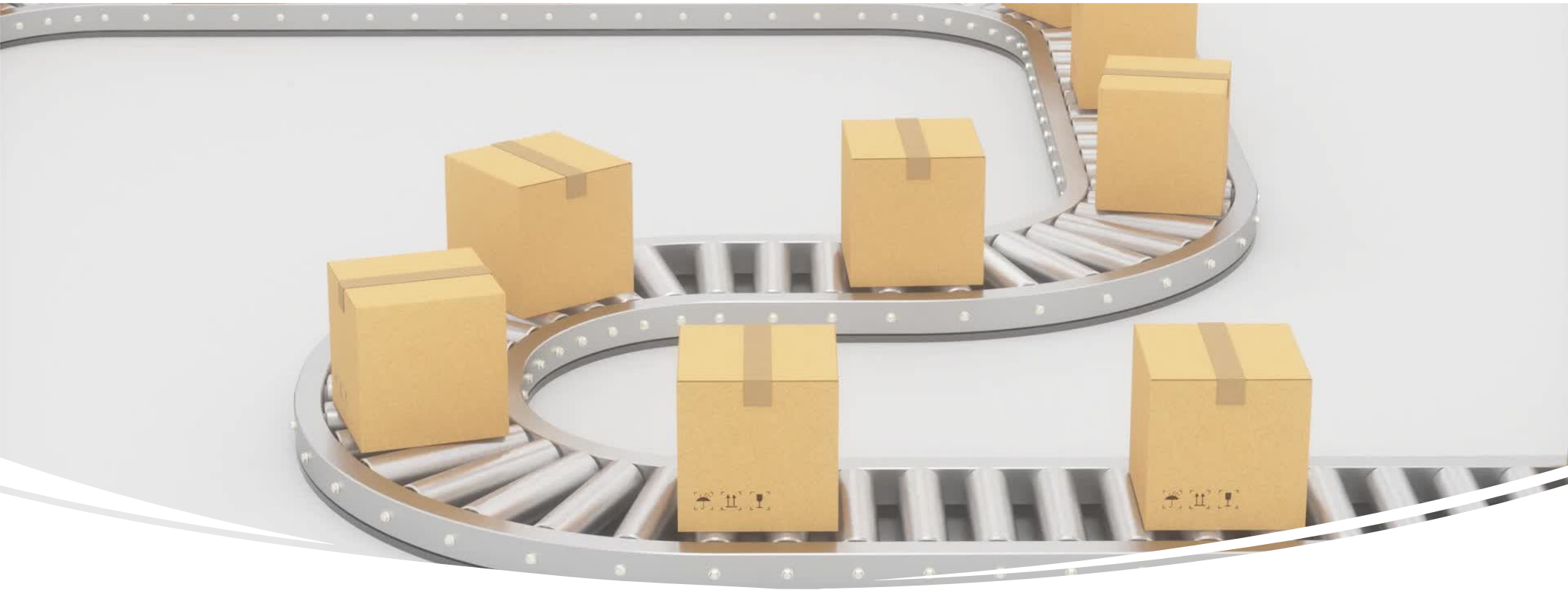


# FINDING GOLD AND MOVING ON



## UIFSA





**UIFSA: The Present**  
***Stability, Strain, and Strategic Adaption***

## WHAT UIFSA GOT RIGHT

- One-order system
- CEJ
- Clear modification rules
- Long-arm jurisdiction
- Hague integration





## Jurisdictional Framework

- Broad jurisdiction to establish
- Limited jurisdiction to modify
- Orders entitled to full faith and credit



*Designed to prevent multiple competing orders*

## Jurisdictional Limitations

- Long-arm jurisdiction (UIFSA §§ 201-201)
- Maximum constitutional reach for establishment
- Immediate limits on modification



*Kulko v. Superior Court, 436 U.S. 84 (1978)*



## CEJ in Practice

### Controlling Order

- One order → controls
- Multiple orders →
  - ✓ Child's home state
  - ✓ Otherwise, most recent

### Limited Exception

- Jurisdiction can shift by consent (on the record)
- Must have connection to new state

### Residence Matters

- UIFSA = residence, not domicile
- Check how your state defines it

### The “Away Game” Rule

- Modification → file in other party's state
- No home court advantage

### Bottom Line:

One order. One controlling state. One place to modify.

### The “Away Game”

State A (Original Order)

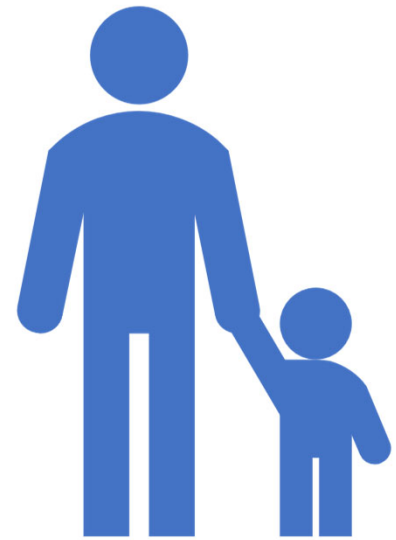
↓ CEJ

Modification sought, but:

CP → State B

NCP → State C

- State A loses CEJ – everyone left
- CP wants mod – file in State C
- NCP wants mod – file in State B





## DURATION OF SUPPORT



*What changes and what doesn't*



New state applies:  
Its own guidelines  
Its own procedure



BUT  
Duration stays with original order



## CHILD SUPPORT IN ALABAMA

Child support in Alabama ends when a child reaches 19, the legal age of majority. This law reflects the state's belief that children become financially independent adults at this age. Unlike [illegible] ends at 18, [illegible] limit at 19, [illegible] de in 1975.



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WHEN DOES  
CHILD SUPPORT  
END IN OHIO?

ON OF CHILD  
T PAYMENTS  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
GRADUATION  
→  
VER IS LATER





## CHILD SUPPORT

### Changes and challenges

#### Technology

Technology has changed dramatically over the past two decades—the ubiquity of mobile devices, advancements in computing and analytics technology, and instant sharing of information have shifted the default way of operating as well as citizen expectations.

#### • Electronic income withholding (e-IWO)

#### Society

Divorce, nonmarital fertility, and multiple-partner fertility have seemingly altered the social landscape, with negative consequences for child support enforcement.

#### • Remote hearings

#### Economy

Economic stagnation and global outsourcing make it harder than ever for those at the low end of the wage scale to secure employment. In this new employment era of the “gig economy,” the work that many parents are able to do is often temporary, seasonal, or temporary.

#### • Electronic document transmission

#### • Faster interstate coordination

#### Talent demographics

With Boomers retiring and younger employees entering the government workforce, there is a growing need to upgrade technology and processes to attract and retain the best talent.

### Agency responses

#### Modernize legacy systems

Investment in new data platforms, higher federal reimbursements, and improved customer service. Using predictive analytics, agencies maximize their resources and implement proactive “nudge” strategies to get payments the first place.

#### Better connections with

Agencies can work to change the way they do child support and drive new business orders, adopting customer-focused strategies, mapping their customers’ needs, and addressing unmet needs.

#### Child support beyond

Better customer services can lead to more enforcement. The goal of protecting children is furthered by helping parents by linking them with needed resources, partnerships with workforce development, and community-based supports.

#### Enhance the employee experience

Highly effective organizations recognize that employee engagement ultimately drive performance. Child support agencies should work on employee engagement to attract top talent, particularly technical talent.

# Technology & Modern Practice



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION

BUT

- Must satisfy due process (Kulko)
- If no jurisdiction, U.S. court may establish new order

- Beyond U.S. borders
- UIFSA 2008 implements the Hague Convention
- Foreign orders treated similar to interstate orders

### INTERNATIONAL CASE PROCESSING UNDER UIFSA 2008



Module 4: Recognition and Enforcement of a Convention Order under UIFSA (2008) – Outgoing Application

Office of Child Support Enforcement  
Division of Policy and Training

## Child Support Enforcement and the Hague Convention on Recovery of International Child Support

(name redacted )  
Specialist in Social Policy

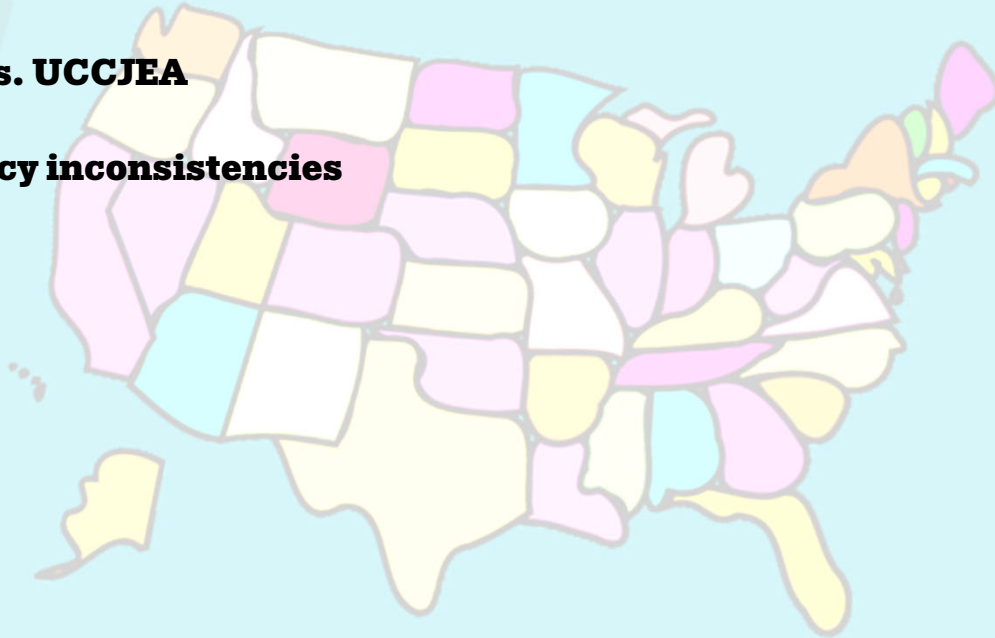
(name redacted)  
Legislative Attorney

September 22, 2016



## Persistent Challenges

- **CEJ misunderstandings**
- **Modification errors**
- **Registration confusion**
- **UIFSA vs. UCCJEA**
- **Residency inconsistencies**



# STRUCTURAL TENSION

UIFSA depends  
on:

- Uniform interpretation
- Reciprocity
- Cooperation

Pressure points:

- Increased mobility
- International cases
- Resource constraints



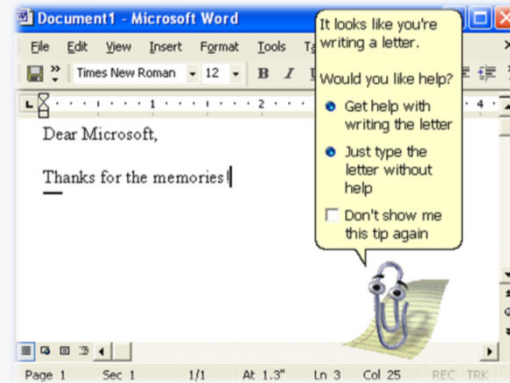
# The Future



Anyone know who these folks are?



# Artificial Intelligence



## Assistance to Parents

- Provide case updates
  - Case balance
  - Payment options
- General information about child support
  - “How can I modify my order?”
  - “How can I submit documents?”

## Assistance to Caseworkers

- Subject Matter Expert available on every desktop
  - Provide Decision making support
    - Setting up Payment Agreements
    - Recommendations on next enforcement actions
    - Referrals to other services
- Automated Case Triage and Prioritization
  - Identify cases with High balances
  - Identify cases that need follow up
  - Help provide proactive services
  - Court prep

# Continued rethinking Enforcement Remedies



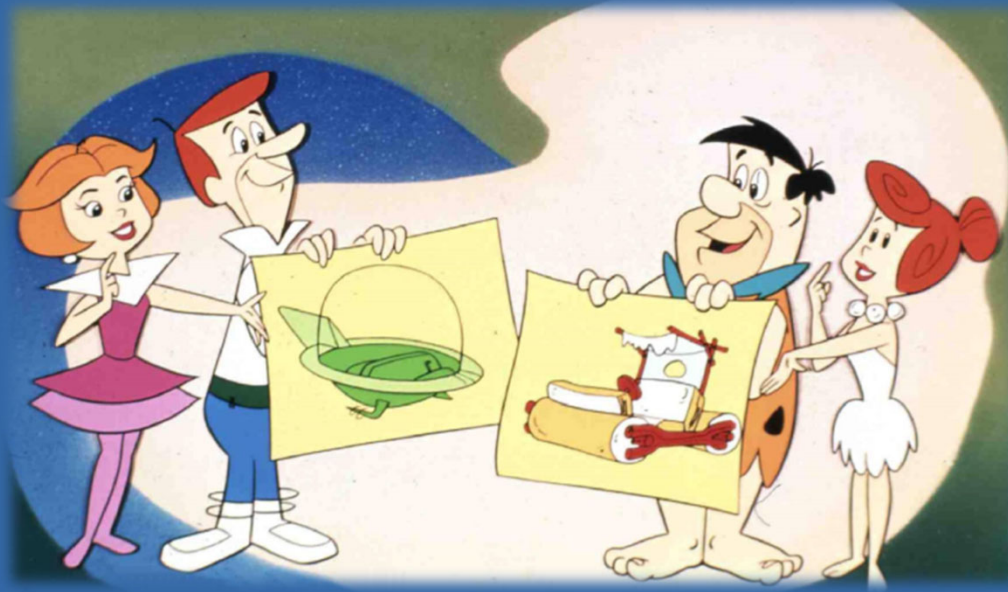
- Employment programs for obligors
  - Florida (Gulf Coast JFCS) - Offers resume writing, interview training, job search and referrals, career planning, vocational and educational assessments, help maintaining or advancing employment, assistance with work-related expenses, support for child support issues, and possible driver's license reinstatement.
  - Wisconsin (Children First Program) - Employment and training program for unemployed or underemployed noncustodial parents.
  - South Carolina (Jobs Not Jail Program) - Provides job support to low-income parents at risk of incarceration for nonpayment.
- Fatherhood Programs
  - All states required to have a program.
  - Early intervention before arrears grow.
  - Shifting toward behavioral and economic strategies rather than purely punitive measures.

# Other Emerging Innovations

- Using secure digital system (blockchain) to safely store and share confidential information
  - 2 factor authentication
  - 18-Character passwords
  - Cyber disaster plans
    - Hacking or data breaches
- Enhanced platforms for inter-agency communication
  - International- iSupport
  - Case Data Exchange



Using WHOVA App-Share your own vision:  
What Improvements or Changes  
would you want to see?



# Looking ahead: What I'd Like to See

- Faster, more efficient case processing
  - More real-time interstate data exchange.
  - More interstate collaboration and feedback loops
- Greater standardization in IV-D processing
  - A uniform law does not mean uniform application.
    - The great birth certificate debate
    - There are still areas where UIFSA and FFCCSOA do not perfectly align
  - Safeguards for victims of domestic violence.



# Looking ahead: What I'd Like to See

- Adapt to Modern Family & Workforce Structures
  - More non-traditional households
  - Remote work & Location Flexibility
    - Growth in cross-border families and international employment.
  - Gig Economy & Non-Traditional Income
- Improved engagement with families
  - Mobile-friendly portals to check case status
  - Text/email updates instead mail notices
  - K.I.S.S



# Open Discussion

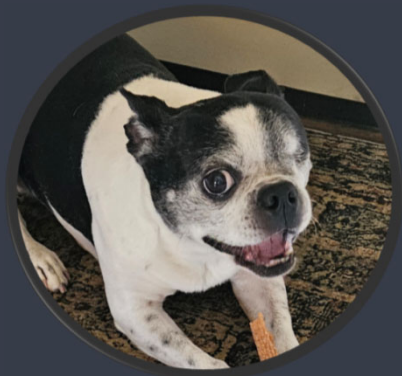
Please raise your hand or type a response in the Whova App

Which changes in intergovernmental child support do you feel have had the most positive impact?

What current tools or policies in intergovernmental child support do you find most effective, and where do you see room for improvement?

What technologies do you think will have the biggest impact in the next 10 years?





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