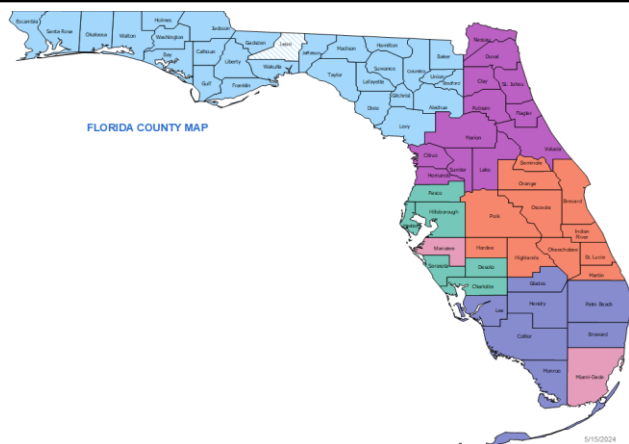




Number of counties:	67
Number of cases:	583,814
Intergovernmental cases:	108,084
Initiating cases:	63,759
Responding cases:	44,325

Structure of State IV-D Program

Florida Department of Revenue, Child Support Program is the Title IVD Program for Florida. The Program is state supervised and administered.

- 5 DOR/CSP Regions with 32 offices servicing 65 counties and includes the Interstate Central Registry
- Manatee County Clerk of Court services Manatee County
- Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office services Miami-Dade County

Need an order or payment history?

- Record keepers of orders
Judicial Orders: Clerk of Court where the order was entered.
Administrative Orders: Child Support Program
- Payment Records: The Clerk of Court is the official record-keeper of all child support payments made in the state, including payments made through the State Disbursement Unit.

Interstate Central Registry

- The Florida Central Registry receives all new intergovernmental requests (Transmittal 1s and 3s).
- Transmittal 1s are reviewed for completeness. If documents are missing these will be requested. The documents provided will be retained for 30 days until packet is complete or will be returned to the requester. Only completed packets are forwarded to the local offices.
- # Transmittal 1s per week: 150, # Transmittal 3s per week: 68

Judicial and Administrative Processes

Paternity and support are established both administratively and judicially.

Paternity & Support Establishment Requirements

Florida parents may establish paternity through voluntary acknowledgment at the hospital or later. In IVD cases Florida will establish paternity administratively or judicially. Once the IVD case is opened the preference is using genetic testing to establish paternity rather than voluntary acknowledgment.

Florida will obtain birth records, including signed acknowledgments, for children born in Florida. The Child Support Program provides positions at the Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, dedicated to IVD

related paternity records management. Other states do not need to provide a Florida birth record for Florida born children.

If you are requesting establishment of paternity and/or support for a child not born in Florida a copy of the birth certificate is needed to help document the paternity status of the child. Not providing this may delay initiating an action to establish paternity or support.

Florida will use the financial information provided by the initiating state on the General Testimony for the parent due support provided it is no older than 5 months. If the information is dated, a request for completion of an administrative or judicial financial affidavit will be sent to the parent due support **in care of** the initiating child support office.

The automated system assesses each case and identifies the preferred method for establishing paternity and support based on case characteristics and existing workload in the associated office. Reasons a order will not be pursued administratively include: family violence, previous judicial action related to the child, or self-employed parent who owes support.

Modification or Adjustment and Review

Requests for modification of an order received from another state will be managed based on the particulars of the request.

If the modification request is based on the addition or removal of a child, the modification request is referred to the legal service provider for judicial action. If the underlying order is a Florida administrative order and a child is being added or removed, a judicial superseding order will be sought.

If the modification request is based on a change in financial circumstances of one or both parties or the child, a review for modification will occur. As part of this process financial information will be requested from both parties. Florida will use the financial information provided by the initiating state on the General Testimony for the parent requesting the modification provided it is no older than 5 months. If the information is dated, a request for completion of an administrative or judicial financial affidavit will be sent to the parent due support **in care of** the initiating child support office.

Medical Support

Florida establishes obligations to provide health insurance when reasonably available. Per statute health insurance is presumed to be reasonable in cost if the incremental cost of adding health insurance for the child or children does not exceed 5 percent of gross income of the parent responsible for providing health insurance. (s. 61.13(b), F.S). Florida notices employers to enroll children in ordered health insurance plans.

In all cases Florida establishes the requirement for the parties to share in the cost of noncovered medical, dental and prescription medication expenses based on the parties' share of the combined income of the parties.

Florida will enforce noncovered medical costs for a parent once the parent has attempted to collect the other parent's share.

Termination of support – Law and Process

Unless otherwise ordered by the court or agreed to by the parents support ends emancipation. Emancipation by age is 18, or graduation from high school if the child will graduate prior to turning 19.

Child support obligations terminate upon the child's emancipation by operation of law.

Child support orders entered in Florida where more than one child is involved are to include a schedule of when support terminates based on each child reaching emancipation age and to provide the amount of support to be paid for the remaining children. These are referred to as step-down orders.

Some orders still provide one total amount for multiple children. If a step-down schedule is not included, the ordered amount continues until all children emancipate or the order is modified.

Case Closure and Non IV-D Cases

Florida applies all federal case closure criteria.

Once a IVD case closes the Child Support Program does not maintain any ongoing information. Case information as of date of closure is maintained in accordance with state and federal retention schedules. The Clerk of Court is the official record keeper for payments made on Florida orders. If the order is not a Florida order, some clerks will close their case while others will keep their accounts open and process any payments received to the parent due support.

The Florida Child Support Program does not maintain non-IVD cases.

If all parties leave the state Florida will continue taking action on the case until the case meets criteria to close or the parent due support begins receiving services from another child support program.

Interest, Fees & Costs

Florida will collect interest, fees and costs owed to another state. The Florida Child Support Program will not calculate interest.

Enforcement

Enforcement of support for IVD cases is directed by Program procedure regardless which office is providing services. The system assesses cases and parent characteristics to identify cases requiring enforcement action. The system automatically identifies appropriate actions to take and initiates them.

Income withholding - majority of cases are subject to income withholding, either immediate withholding, or deferred, based on court requirements.

Unemployment compensation cannot be enforced by direct withholding from another state. (Florida refers to this as reemployment insurance).

Judicial enforcement includes motion to enforce, when there is insufficient evidence to support contempt, and contempt actions.

Florida does not have state income tax, so only federal taxes are intercepted.

Florida administratively pursues bank levies, liens on property, lottery winnings, driver and professional/business license suspension, personal injury and worker's compensation settlements, unemployment benefits and unclaimed property.

Florida negotiates terms for payment of past-due support to help parents avoid enforcement actions.

Incarcerated Parents

If the alleged father is incarcerated, Florida will pursue establishment of paternity only.

Child Support does not abate during periods of incarceration. An incarcerated obligor can file for a modification while incarcerated, but that action will be held in abeyance until the parent's release, at which time the modification will be addressed by the court back to the date of the filing.

Payment processing

- Payments are processed through the State Disbursement Unit and payment records are maintained by the clerk of court for the individual counties. The clerk of court is the official record keeper of IVD child support payments, including for cases with orders administratively established by the Florida Child Support Program.
- Payments are applied to the specific case for which the payment was made and are not split between cases when the parent due support has multiple cases.
- IVD current support is processed up to three months in advance.
- The Florida Child Support Program does not process non-IVD payments. Non-IVD payments are made directly to the clerk of court, direct to the party, or through the SDU who process the payment to the clerk of court.

Change of "Payee"

Florida will take action to redirect support to a new caregiver without the need for a custody order.

Parents receiving cash assistance (TANF), Medicaid or food assistance are required to cooperate with the IVD program.

Recent changes of note

NA

Computer System info and Status and Usage of Portal Communication Tools

- Florida's statewide computer system is called CAMS
- Florida uses CSENet extensively. Automated system updates are sent via CSENet. If a state is not receiving a particular core transaction, the system will generate a paper transmittal instead.
- Florida provides data in all four categories of QUICK for its cases.
- Florida does not utilize EDE or Communication Center and does not foresee adding these during the next few years due to other system priorities.
- Instate customer may access their case information through our web portal.
- Out of state customers must communicate through their state's IVD program.

Intergovernmental problem-solving

Pay histories must be provided by the clerk of court where the order was entered or registered. These can be requested through the Central Registry with a Transmittal 3 request.

If unable to obtain assistance from a local office we encourage the following:

- Interstate Workers Only line – 850-617-8877 (Please do not refer parents to this line. This is just for other state workers)
- Contact information in the Intergovernmental Reference Guide.
- CSEInterstateProcessing@floridarevenue.com for questions or assistance if the above are not successful