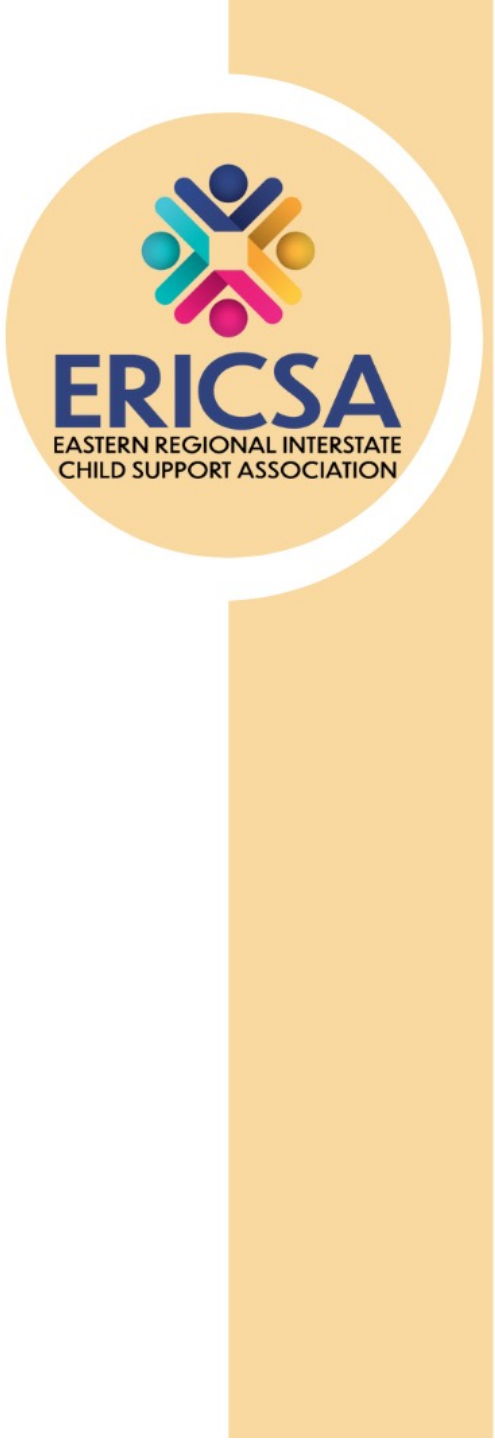


Reaching Across Borders

Understanding Long Arm Jurisdiction in Child Support Cases

August 20, 2025





FAST

ENTERPRISES

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WEBINAR 2025

A vibrant sunset scene over the Milwaukee skyline. The sky is a mix of deep blues and oranges, with clouds catching the low sun. Several skyscrapers are visible, their windows glowing with interior lights. The city's reflection is clearly visible in the water in the foreground.

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 3-7, 2026

Milwaukee

WISCONSIN

- Stephanie Struthers
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Census

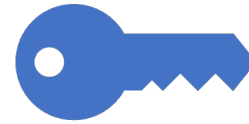




What you will learn



The legal foundation and purpose of long-arm jurisdiction in child support cases



Key provisions of UIFSA and how they enable cross-state enforcement and establishment of orders



Practical strategies for initiating or responding to actions involving out-of-state parties



Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction-

- The legal authority that a court or administrative agency has over particular persons, over certain types of cases, and usually in a defined location.
- Also indicates a geographic location such as a state or tribe with a that exercises such authority

Subject Matter Jurisdiction

- Types of cases

Personal

- Individual



Long Arm Jurisdiction

- A type of personal jurisdiction
- Legal provision that permits one state or tribe to claim personal jurisdiction over someone who lives in another state or tribe
- There must be some **meaningful** connection between the person and the state, territory, or tribe, or district that is asserting jurisdiction in order for a court or agency to reach beyond its normal jurisdictional border



Uniform Interstate Family Support Act ([UIFSA](#))



Federal Act that sets rules for how interstate cases are worked. Provides eight criteria for determining when a state has long arm jurisdiction over a non-resident



A state MAY exercise long arm jurisdiction



A state is not required to attempt obtaining an order via long arm jurisdiction before sending an outgoing UIFSA petition for another state to establish paternity and/or child support



Legal Bases for Long Arm of Non-Resident under UIFSA

- 1) Person is personally served within the state with the legal action
- 2) Person submits to the jurisdiction of the state by consent in a record, by entering a general appearance, or by filing a responsive document having the effect of waiving any contest to personal jurisdiction
- 3) Person resided with the child in the state
- 4) Person resided in the state and provided prenatal expenses or support for the child
- 5) Child resides in the state as a result of the acts or directives of the person



Legal Bases for Long Arm of Non-Resident under UIFSA (continued)

- 6) Person engaged in sexual intercourse in the state and the child may have been conceived by that act of intercourse
- 7) Person asserted parentage of the child in the putative father registry maintained in the state by the appropriate registry ([Putative Father Registries State by State - Adoption Council](#))
- 8) There is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of the state and the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction



Long Arm vs. Interstate Petition

Benefits



Your state's order, your state's laws



1 state involved, less confusion



Your state has CEJ and ability to modify as long as one party remains in your state



Can be more efficient

Challenges

Serving the person in another state

Completing genetic testing

Limited enforcement options of final order

May need to send a UIFSA action to enforce if payments are not made



I get by with a little help from my friends....

- Limited interstate actions for completing long arm
 - Transmittal 3
 - Service
 - Genetic Testing
 - Locate
 - Documents
- Full petition to other state to establish paternity and/or child support



Poll

- Have you sent a Transmittal #3 to another state for information or limited services?
 - What did you request?
 - What were the results of your request?
- Please no names or states
 - What has been your best experience?
 - What was your worst experience?



Practical Considerations

- Establishing:
 - Likelihood of person's cooperation with your office
 - Cost of serving person out of state
 - Do you have a budget?
 - Will your court make the out of state party come to court?
- Enforcing:
 - Person's address history
 - Person's employment history



Legal Considerations

- Number of alleged/putative fathers or competing presumptions of paternity
- Hybrid cases
 - Start locally, end with an outgoing UIFSA after presumed fathers have been rebutted or alleged fathers have been dismissed
- Do we want to open the door to custody and parenting time?
 - Section 104 “Remedies Cumulative” (b)(2) UIFSA does not allow for orders relating to child custody or visitation
- Calculating child support
 - Long Arm cases—if you must impute minimum wage, it’s the wage of the state where the alleged father resides, not your state’s
- Consult the IRG on the OCSS Child Support Portal



Poll

Are you from a state or county with a policy of not proceeding with long arm, even if you can? (Automatic UIFSA outgoing referral)

If you answered “yes” what state or county are you with that has that policy?



Case Examples: 3 M's Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan

- Minnesota: Case previously closed, but re-opened. Mother and child live in MN, presumed Father lives in FL. Failed service, no cooperation with voluntary genetic testing.
- Missouri: Mother and Husband/Presumed Father married and resided in MO; M and Boyfriend conceive child in NE; B still lives in NE, never lived in MO; NE won't accept an UIFSA referral to proceed against B because of marital presumption.
- Michigan: Mother lived in Michigan but currently does not. Child conceived in Michigan. Father in Indiana.



Enforcing orders across state lines

Direct Income withholding to an employer in another state

Federal tax intercept

Passport Holds

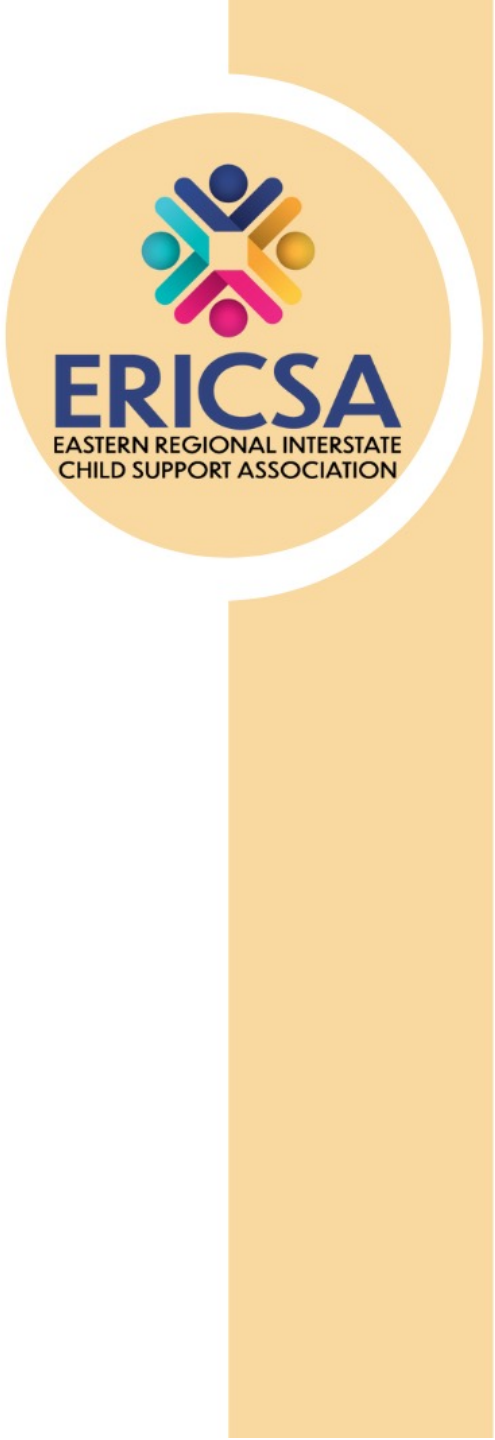
Felony Non-Support

Bank Liens



Practical Strategies for Initiating or Responding States

- Initiating:
 - Review the IRG
 - How to send packets
 - Paternity, more than one child
 - Call ahead to the Central Registry with your question
 - Do you work cases where we want only a medical support order established?
 - CS professional should fill out the OCSS [forms](#)
- Responding:
 - Asking for updates to the General Testimony/Discovery
 - Does the custodial parent in the initiating state want to call in for the hearing?
- Use your IJ Fair contact list if you need help making contact



Questions ??



Discussion

Thank you!



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