

OCSE ACTION TRANSMITTAL AT-16-06

DATE: December 20, 2016

TO: State Agencies Administering Child Support Enforcement Plans under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and other Interested Individuals

SUBJECT: Final Rule: Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs

ATTACHMENT: [Compliance Dates Listed by Federal Requirement](#)

SUMMARY: The Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs final rule was published on December 20, 2016, in the [Federal Register, on page 93492, Volume 81, Number 244](#)[visit disclaimer page.](#)

This final rule makes changes to strengthen the child support enforcement program and updates current practices to increase regular, on-time payments to families, to increase the number of noncustodial parents supporting their children, and to improve program operations.

The final regulatory improvements are grouped in the following categories: (1) procedures to promote program flexibility, efficiency, and modernization; (2) updates to account for advances in technology; and (3) technical corrections. The goals of the regulations are to:

- increase state and employer flexibility to better serve families;
- improve program effectiveness, efficiency, and innovation;
- improve customer service; and
- remove barriers identified by employers, states, and families that impede efficient and timely child support payments.

To assist the reader, the following table lists subject areas in the final rule with the corresponding page numbers where the provision is (are) discussed in the Federal Register. Please note that this table is a guide and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary.

SUBJECT AREAS	FR PREAMBLE PAGE NUMBERS ^[1]	REGULATORY TEXT PAGE NUMBERS
Access to justice	494-497; 500; 515-530; 532-537	562-564; 567
Case closure	497-499; 540-547	564-566
Child support guidelines	494-496; 515-530	562-563
Due process protections in civil contempt proceedings	496-497; 532-537	564
Exemptions	496; 530	563

SUBJECT AREAS	FR PREAMBLE PAGE NUMBERS ^[1]	REGULATORY TEXT PAGE NUMBERS
Federal financial participation activities allowed	499-500; 551-552	567
Federal financial participation activities prohibited	500; 552	567
Foster Care	494; 509	561
Incarceration of noncustodial parents	495; 497; 526-528; 537-540	562; 564
Job services	496; 531	—
Limited services for applicants	494; 509-513	561
Medicaid referrals/ Indian health services	498-499; 545-547	560; 565
Medical support	499; 547-549	566
OMB-approved income withholding form	499; 549-550	566
Parenting time	495; 551-552	—
Payment processing	493-494; 506-509; 513-515	561-562
Review and adjustment of orders	497; 537-540	564
SSI/ Title II benefits	498; 500; 543; 552-554	565; 568
Subsistence needs	494-498; 518-520; 523-524; 534-535	562; 565
Tribal case transfer	498; 544-545	565

REFERENCES: 45 CFR 301, 302, 303, 304, 307, 308, and 309.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 19, 2017 - This is the date when the final rule revisions go into effect. Compliance with individual requirements may vary. See the attached table for a list of the compliance dates.

INQUIRIES: Please contact your OCSE Regional Program Specialist or the Division of Policy and Training at OCSE.DPT@acf.hhs.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Vicki Turetsky
Commissioner
Office of Child Support Enforcement
cc: ACF/OCSE Regional Program Managers, Tribal IV-D Directors

[1] The Final Rule is on pages 93492-93569 of the Federal Register. For spacing purposes, we have truncated the page numbers to the last three digits.

Last Reviewed: December 20, 2016