Child Support Program 8 OJD IV-D Plan

Oregon Judicial Department &
State Family Law Advisory Committee
Family Law Conference
June 2, 2023

Part 1

Oregon Judicial Department IV-D Child Support

Part 2

Oregon Child Support Program

The presenters:

Christine Hill, Child Support Analyst, OJD
Amber Freitas, RCSC Program Manager, OJD
Kate Cooper Richardson, Director, Oregon Child Support Program, DOJ
Dawn M. Marquardt, Deputy Director, Oregon Child Support Program, DOJ
Michael Ritchey, Senior AAG and General Counsel, DOJ

Go to menti.com and use the code 4869 6957

What is your current role?



DOJ, as Oregon's child support program, is the recipient of the federal funds, and serves as the "pass-through" entity of funds to other agencies performing IV-D approved work.

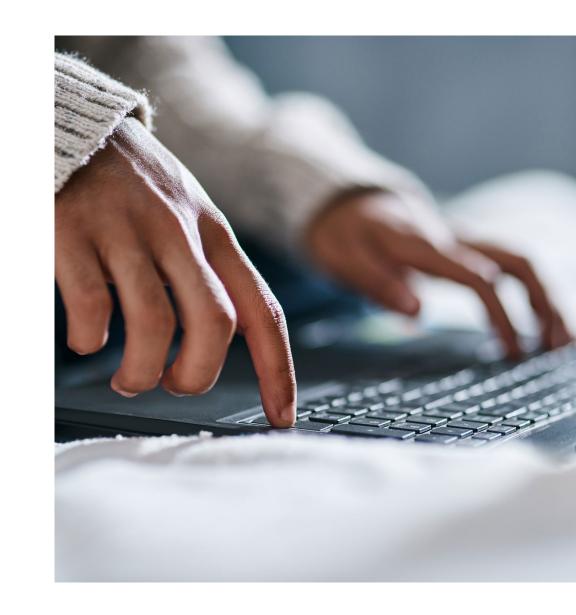
- OJD now has a completed cooperative agreement with DOJ.
- OJD receives a 66% reimbursement on all identifiable work on IV-D child support matters.



OJD's IV-D Project

Has 3 phases:

- 1. Data Entry
- 2. Child Support Referee Program
- 3. Facilitation and Education



1. Data Entry = What are the IV-D cases in the courts?

Filed by the DOJ or DA

- Docketing of agency orders
- Registering of foreign orders
- Motions for security intercept, judgment debtor exams, auxiliary venue, resolve governing order, etc.
- De Novo appeals of agency order
- Contempt complaints and probation hearings (Handled by RCSC if in participating county)

Filed by private attorney or SRL

- Some <u>dissolutions</u>/separations & <u>RDPs</u>
- Some 109.103 Unmarried Parent cases
- Some <u>support modifications</u> of disso/RDP/109.103
- Some <u>contempts seeking</u> remedial sanctions for nonpayment of support

ALL are IV-D Cases

Only if family is
(or will be) receiving
IV-D services & court
case involves child
support

Potential Pool

of IV-D Cases
Now being identified
through a case
matching process with
DOJ



3. Facilitation & Education

Statewide Facilitator

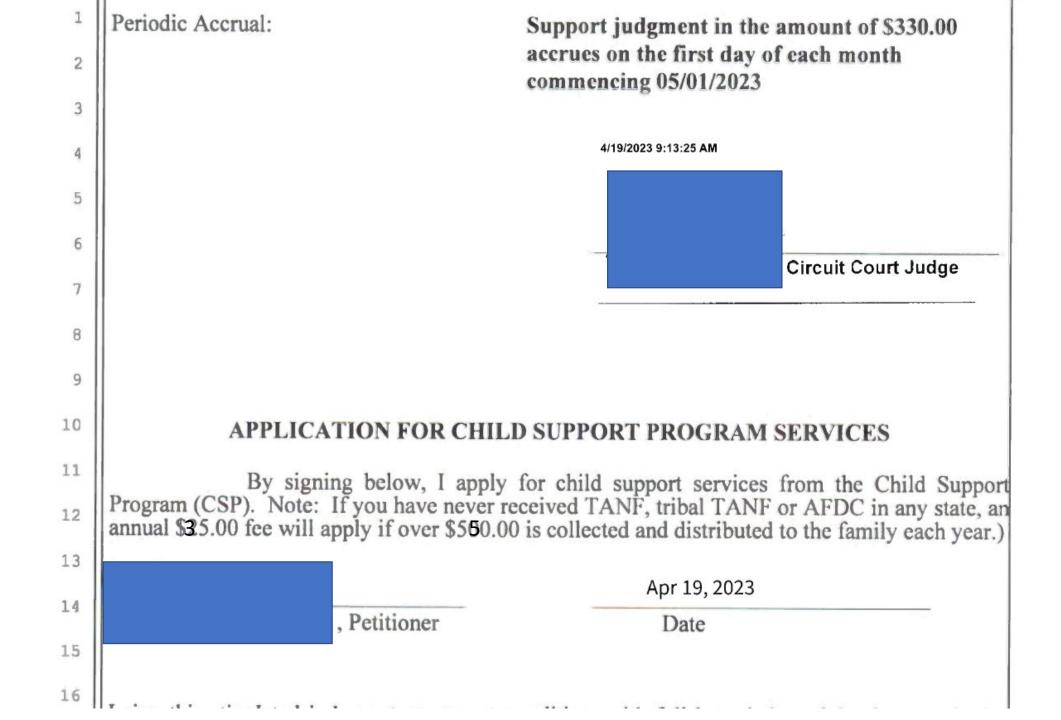
- Remotely available to facilitators & litigants for help running child support calculations for court facilitators who don't do worksheets and resource/back-up/facilitate with IV-D issues and child support court forms
- Time study of facilitator time assisting litigants with child support matters = more IV-D reimbursement = more facilitators

Education

- SFLAC Child Support Subcommittee reconvened with several goals including producing more educational materials for judges, court staff & stakeholders
 - *** Oregon Child Support Bench Book ***
- Materials & facilitation for litigants to help with the entire child support process: obtaining, budget, etc.

☐ The parents (or the State, if support rights are assigned) have agreed in writing to an alternative arrangement which is approved by the court; <i>or</i> ☐ Good cause not to require withholding is found because there is proof of timely payment of previously-ordered support and income withholding would not be in the best interests of the child
In all cases, select one of the following: All support payments must be made to the Department of Justice, Child Support Accounting Unit, P.O. Box 14506, Salem, Oregon, 97309
An exception to income withholding applies as noted above. All support payments must be deposited to the recipient's checking or savings account. The receiving parent is ordered to provide the paying parent with current deposit slips or bank name, account name, and account number. Or
Other (explain)

Optional: APPLICATION FOR FULL CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICES: Be signing below, I apply for child support services, including enforcement, from the Chil Support Program (CSP). If you never received TANF, tribal TANF or AFDC in any state, as annual \$35 fee will apply if over \$550 is collected and distributed to the family each year.						
□Petitioner, Signature	Date					
□Respondent, Signature	Date					
□Adult Child, Signature	Date					



Please feel free to contact me with any child support related questions:

christine.s.hill@ojd.state.or.us

Remote Child Support Court



WHAT IS THE REMOTE CHILD SUPPORT COURT (RCSC)?

- House Bill 4121
- •An integrated, multi-county service that enables parties to access their hearing remotely
- •Hearings are consolidated onto county specific dockets that will be handled by the RCSC staff located in Jackson County

WHAT CHILD SUPPORT HEARINGS QUALIFY FOR RCSC?

- Contempt/probation violations
- De Novo appeals
- Challenges to garnishment
- Objection to arrears
- Challenge to registration of another state's order
- Motions to establish or modify support

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF RCSC

Ensure an equitable process that will resolve disputes and result in decisions that benefits all involved parties by utilizing procedural justice-informed approaches, while also helping overburdened courts and improving access for Oregonians



WHY IS RCSC IMPORTANT?

- Creates opportunities for a more efficient administration of court matters
- Remote court hearings are a key to providing equal access to justice for all involved litigants

WHAT ARE POTENTIAL CHALLENGES?

- Regions with poor internet and/or fall behind in digital literacy
- Effective assistance of counsel
- Accessibility to non-English speakers or with disabilities
- Court's ability in exercising control over the proceedings

RCSC WEBSITE

- Contact information
- Participating local court website
- Resources
 - Remote hearing access
 - Free Wi-Fi locations
 - Court appointed attorney
 - Submitting exhibits
 - Oregon Department of Justice Division of Child Support
 - Participating District Attorney Offices
 - Facilitator information



HEARING NOTICE

REMOTE CHILD SUPPORT COURT APPEARANCES

You are scheduled to appear for a child support court hearing, you must appear by video or phone.

Join by video – MEETING NUMBER: 2482 728 4069

PASSWORD: GaW2wN633t*

Or scan QR code (point phone camera on the QR code and tap on link that appears)



Join by phone – DIAL: 1-408-418-9388

ACCESS CODE: 2482 728 4069##

If you have any questions, please contact the Remote Child Support Court Staff

Phone: 541-734-0951 (8:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

Email: remotechildsupportcourt@ojd.state.or.us

Website: <u>www.courts.oregon.gov/rcsc</u>

Scan QR code (point phone camera on the QR code and tap on link that appears)



Guidelines for Remote Child Support Court Appearances

- 1. Page one of this notice indicates that the hearing will be remote. You will not appear in person at court.
- You can join your meeting from your computer, mobile device, or traditional phone.
 - a. <u>Appearing by video</u>: you will need to download the free Cisco Webex Meetings app, then type in meeting number and password or scan QR code located on the first page. Hearing link is also available at <u>www.courts.oregon.gov/rcsc</u>

Note: Most iPhones, iPads, and some Android smart phones are compatible with Cisco Webex

- b. Appearing by phone: Dial the number that is on the first page and then enter the access code.
- Join the hearing 5 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. This allows time to resolve any technical issues.
- If your hearing does not begin right away, please be patient and wait. The court may be concluding another hearing.
- Place your phone/computer microphone on MUTE & when you are not speaking.
- 6. Wait to speak until the court calls on you. Please do not speak at the same time as someone else. The judge will give everyone an opportunity to speak.
- 7. Identify yourself when you begin speaking i.e. "This is_____", so that the record (recording) is clear about who is talking.
- Please talk slowly and directly into the phone/microphone.

Hearing by Video - Specific Instructions:

- Use headphones to improve the sound quality for all participants.
- If sound quality is an issue, you may mute your computer microphone and speakers, and then dial into the associated conference call number.

<u>Hearing by Phone – Specific Instructions:</u>

- Do not place the call on hold.
- Do not use a speaker phone as the sound quality is poor. Make sure you're in a place without distractions or background noises. This is important so the recording of the hearing is understandable.

RCSC PARTICIPATING COUNTIES

Launched in April 2023

- Jackson
- Douglas
- Josephine
- Jefferson

110 cases have been heard



COURTS PARTICIPATION IN RCSC

Courts can utilize the RCSC Case Coordinator to help identify the litigant's barriers to paying child support and provide resources

Parental Accountability Program

- Establish goals to address these barriers
- Assign priorities to these goals
- Design action plans to reach these goals

Voice

Respect

Understanding

Neutrality

Helpfulness







For additional information, please visit our website at:

WWW.COURTS.OREGON.GOV/RCSC



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Working with the Oregon Child Support Program

Presenters:

Kate Cooper Richardson, Director

Dawn Marquardt, Deputy Director

Michael Ritchey, Sr. AAG & General Counsel



Oregon Department of Justice

Oregon Child Support Program

Supporting Parents to Support Children

Overview

- > Who We Are, What We Can Do
- Paternity: How We Can Help
- Modifications
- Common Roadblocks
 - Safety Concerns
 - > Jurisdiction
 - Locate/Service
 - Multiple Orders and Multiple Venues
- Determining Income
- What's Next
- Questions?

Oregon's Federal Title IV-D Program

Oregon Child Support Program

ORS Chapter 25 • Oregon Department of Justice

OfficeSalem

ServicesSalem

ServicesSalem

Offices

25% of the caseload in 19 counties

DOJ Division of Child Support Field Services

11 offices statewide caseloads in all 36 counties

Oregon Child Support Program locations

11 DOJ Division of Child Support branches

- Hillsboro, Gresham, Oregon City
- North Salem, South Salem, Albany, Eugene
- Roseburg, Medford
- Bend, Pendleton
- Plus 2 central services offices in Salem

19 county District Attorney Offices

- Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas
- Marion, Polk, Yamhill
- Columbia, Clatsop, Lincoln
- Lane, Jackson, Coos
- Crook, Harney, Morrow
- Wallowa, Union, Baker, Malheur

What We Do

- Establishment of parentage
- Establishment, modification, enforcement, and accounting for child, medical, and spousal* support
- Locating absent parents (Custodial Parent/Attorney or Court can request using Federal Parent Locator Service form)
- Enforcement of spousal support in limited circumstances
- Both state (DCS) and county (DA) offices provide the same services, with a few exceptions

*when combined with child support

Parentage: How We Can Help

What Paternity Services Can We Provide?

- Establishing biological fathers (genetic parentage)
 - ✓ Establishing paternity administratively
 - ✓ Filing voluntary acknowledgments
 - ✓ Filiation proceedings
 - ✓ Establishing paternity for a deceased father
- > Only when dependents are minors
 - ✓ Legal action must be initiated prior to the child turning 18
- However, once established, we can help parents pay or receive child support regardless of how parentage was established.



When a child only has one legal parent...

...the program will act on the request of:

- > a mother.
- > a self-alleged father.
- > a caretaker.

Navigating the marital presumption

- ➤ If the mother is married at the time the child is conceived or born, the spouse is automatically a legal parent.
- The Oregon Child Support Program does not generally do anything to disrupt that relationship, with two exceptions:
 - ✓ Mother names an alleged father
 - ✓ Self-alleged father who has custody requests paternity establishment (rare)

Voluntary Acknowledgments of Paternity

- Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit 45-21 (VAP)
 - ✓ Oregon.gov/oha/PH/
 BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/
 CHANGEVITALRECORDS/
 Pages/InstructionsPaternity.
 aspx
 - ✓ <u>OregonChildSupport.gov/</u> <u>paternity</u>
 - Video
- > \$35 filing fee



Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity Affidavit

THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT

Fees: \$35 Filing fee \$25 Birth certificate

This document establishes paternity under ORS 432.098. Signatures of the parents below establish paternity and create legally binding duties upon both parents for the child named in this Affidavit, including duty for both parents to financially support the child. Do not sign until you understand your legal rights and responsibilities as stated on the back of this form.

Complete in ink and do not alter.

SECTION 1 – CHILD (as named on birth certificate)					CSP USE ONLY	
Child's name:	First	Middle	Last	Suffix (Example: Jr. or Sr.)		
Date of birth: (mm/dd	/yyyy) Birthplace:	City Cou		s new last name as it should appear "N/A" if not changing):	r on birth certificate	
SECTION 2 - NAT	URAL MOTHER	OF CHILD				
Mother's name:	First	Middle	Last		Suffix (Example: Jr. or Sr.)	
Present address:	No. and street	City	State	ZIP	Social Security number:	
Date of birth: (mm/dd	/yyyy) Birthplace Si	tate: (If not United States, I	name country) Last name bef	fore any marriages: (Maiden name)	Daytime telephone number:	
SECTION 3 - NAT	URAL FATHER	OF CHILD	<u> </u>			
Father's name:	First	Middle	Last		Suffix (Example: Jr. or Sr.)	
Present address:	No. and street	City	State	ZIP	Social Security number:	
Date of birth: (mm/dd	/yyyy) Birthplace St	tate: (If not United States, i	name country)		Daytime telephone number:	

Establishing Paternity with an Administrative Order

- Testing (if requested or required)
- > No fees for genetic testing
- > Paternity only
- > Paternity and child support
- Default order



Reopening Paternity

If paternity was established by a Voluntary Acknowledgment or a default administrative order (where no genetic testing was completed), either party can ask for paternity to be reopened within a year of paternity having been established.

- If the father is included, paternity will be affirmed in an order signed by a judge
- If the father is excluded, the default order will be set aside (if any) and an order of non-paternity will be entered, also signed by a judge
- If testing cannot be completed, the program may set aside the order or affirm paternity —depending on who asked to reopen and who is not cooperating



Disestablishing the Marital Presumption

Three-Party Actions to Determine Parentage

- The mother and alleged father can voluntarily participate in testing prior to the state filing a petition
- The program will not automatically test a presumed parent who objects to being disestablished
- Upon objection, the program provides an Answer form for the parties to file prior to scheduling a hearing in court

STATE OF OREGON,	Court Case No.:
Petitioner.	CSP Case No.: 41000000000123458
v.	
Marge Simpson,	[1 MOTHER'S] [2 PRESUMED PARENT'S] [3 ALLEGED FATHER'S]
Respondent/Mother	ANSWER TO STATE'S PETITION REQUESTING THE COURT TO
and	DETERMINE PARENTAGE
Homer Simpson,	
Respondent/Presumed Parent,	
and	
Moe Szyslak,	
Respondent/Alleged Father.	
☐ I CONSENT to the disestablishment of	Homer Simpson's parentage for Margaret
Simpson.	
☐ I CONSENT to genetic testing for the al	leged father, Moe Szyslak, to determine
parentage of Margaret Simpson.	*******
☐ I OBJECT to the disestablishment Hom	er Simpson's parentage for Margaret
Simpson.	
□ I OBJECT to genetic testing for the alle	ged father, Moe Szylak, to determine
parentage of Margaret Simpson.	- 000000
☐ I OBJECT for the following reasons:	
LI TOBJECT for the following reasons.	

Modifications of Existing Obligations

When can the program modify support?

> Periodic Reviews OAR 137-055-3420

✓ If an order has been suspended under <u>OAR 137-055-3300</u> (because the paying parent qualifies as an incarcerated obligor) or <u>OAR 137-055-5400</u> (because the paying parent is receiving cash assistance), a periodic review modification will be postponed until the order is reinstated unless the case qualifies for a change in circumstances modification under <u>OAR 137-055-3430(6)</u>.

➤ Change in Circumstances OAR 137-055-3430

- ✓ If a change of circumstance review is requested, it must be shown that the existing support amount is not in compliance with the guidelines. An action will not be initiated if the proposed modification is based on a change of parenting time, income, or needs of the children, unless it changes the order by 15% or \$50, whichever is less.
- ✓ A change of circumstance modification will not be initiated if the existing order is less than 60 days old.

Terminating Support

- ➤ The program may terminate support in the following circumstances: OAR 137-055-3480
 - ✓ When the children covered by the order are being added to a different order
 - ✓ When a change in circumstances makes the support order unnecessary or legally inappropriate (such as when parental rights are relinquished or the parents reconcile)
- What happens when support is terminated?
 - ✓ Notify the program
 - ✓ IWOs and enforcement activities reviewed

Common Roadblocks



Safety Precautions

How the Oregon Child Support Program safely provides services when a parent is afraid

- Takes steps to protect the safety and personal information of participants with standard practices (OAR 137-055-1140)
- > Further protections:
 - ✓ Claim of Risk (OAR 137-055-1160)
 - ✓ Address Confidentiality Program (OAR 137-079-0110 through 137-079-0210)
 - ✓ Good Cause (OAR 137-055-1090)
- > FAPA and No Contact orders



Locate Resources, Service, and Jurisdiction



How We Affect One Another

- Petitions and Motions Filed in Court
 - When the State Appears
 - Resolving Multiple Orders

(ORS 25.091, 25.095 & 25.531)

Issues with Prior Orders: Health Care Coverage

2. Child and Medical Support and Life Insurance for Children

A. Child Support

Existing Child Support Obligation list court/agency, case number, and date of prior child support orders and judgments:
ist court/agency, case number, and date of prior child support orders and judyments.
☐ No action is taken by this judgment regarding any prior child support order or judgment
☐ This judgment does not replace any existing child support order or judgment. Payment
amount and schedule remain as ordered on (date of order or judgment):
any arrears accumulated under the continued order or judgment remain due
☐ This judgment replaces the existing child support obligation because the existing orders and judgments were issued by an Oregon court or agency, one of the parents or children receiving support still resides in Oregon, and circumstances have changed since the orders were entered. Support is due as detailed in the "Support Order" section below. ☐ any arrears accumulated under the continued order or judgment remain due
Other:
B. <u>Medical Support</u>
☐ Medical support has already been ordered in another case ☐ as listed in Section 2A
above or from county. The court case # is
and the Child Support Program (CSP) # is
The existing order is <u>not</u> changed
☐ The existing order is terminated. Medical support is ordered as follows
i. Health Insurance Coverage Petitioner Respondent is ordered to keep insurance throughout the period of the child support obligation

Issues with Prior Orders: Parentage

- When the mother discovers her dissolution did not disestablish her spouse
- Child support orders and parentage not established

Determining Income

Amount received: \$	to whom from whom
mployment, Income and C	
Are you employed?	
Norma address 6 mbs	one number of employer:
Name, address, & pno	one number of employer:
How many hours per v	week do you work?Do you consistently receive wages for overtime
What is your monthly pay stub.	income before deductions? \$ Attach a copy of your most recei
Do you pay mandator	y union dues? Yes No If yes, how much per month? \$
	se reimbursements or allowances for a car, cell phone, housing, subsidies, or a reduce your living expenses? No If yes, how much per month?
\$	Attach proof you receive expense reimbursements
allowances.	
Are you receiving worke	ers' compensation or unemployment benefits? Yes No
If yes, list the source a	and the amount of the monthly any although a fit
	and the amount of the monthly or weekly benefit:
	, ,
	Amount: \$ Monthly
Source:	Amount: \$ Monthly
SOURCE: age 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN 0100 web (Rev. 09/23/19)	Amount: \$ Monthly Weekly
SOURCE: age 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN 0100 web (Rev. 09/23/19)	Amount: \$ Monthly
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Source: age 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN 10100 web (Rev. 09/23/19) What type of work hav Why did your last job of	Amount: \$ Monthly _Weekly we you done in the last five years?
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Source: 198 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN 10100 web (Rev. 09/23/19) What type of work hav Why did your last job of Are you self-employed?	Amount: \$ Monthly _Weekly we you done in the last five years?
Source: 198 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN 10100 web (Rev. 09/23/19) What type of work hav Why did your last job of Are you self-employed? Name, address, & pho Attach a copy of you	Amount: \$ Monthly
Source: age 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN Unto web (Rev. 09/23/19) What type of work have Why did your last job of Are you self-employed? Name, address, & pho Attach a copy of you profit & loss statement Do you have other incor advances, bonuses, divide	Amount: \$
Source: spe 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN What type of work have Why did your last job of Are you self-employed? Name, address, & pho Attach a copy of you profit & loss statement Do you have other incor advances, bonuses, dividinsurance benefits, prizes Income does not include	Amount: \$
Source: age 3 of 6 UNIFORM INCOME AND EXPEN What type of work have Why did your last job of Are you self-employed? Name, address, & pho Attach a copy of you profit & loss statement Do you have other incor advances, bonuses, divide insurance benefits, prizes Income does not include disability, adoption assista	Amount: \$

Why Are Income Determinations So Important?

- As early as the year 2000, the federal government was warning states away from imputed income and minimum orders -- PIQ 00-03
- Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs (2016)
- > Child support arrears in U.S. exceed \$100 billion dollars
- Depending on the study, between 60–72% of the arrears are owed by people with actual income below \$10,000/year
- One study found that almost half the cases with imputed income did not receive a payment in the first 32 months and 36% of cases with minimum orders receive no payment at all



What Does the Federal Rule Say?



> 45 CFR 302.56(c)(1)(iii):

- The child support guidelines established under paragraph (a) of this section must at a minimum provide that the child support order is based on the noncustodial parent's earnings, income, and other evidence of ability to pay that, if imputation of income is authorized, takes into consideration the specific circumstances of the noncustodial parent (and at the State's discretion, the custodial parent) to the extent known, including such factors as the noncustodial parent's assets, residence, employment and earnings history, job skills, educational attainment, literacy, age, health, criminal record and other employment barriers, and record of seeking work, as well as the local job market, the availability of employers willing to hire the noncustodial parent, prevailing earnings level in the local community, and other relevant background factors in the case.
- "Imputation should not serve as a substitute for fact-gathering."
- > "The child support system is not meant to serve a punitive purpose."
- "Imputed income is fictional income..."
- > "... orders based on income imputation are disfavored..."

Oregon Guideline Rule on Income

- Actual Income no evidentiary gap
 - ✓ Current, verifiable earnings of a parent
- Potential Income no evidentiary gap
 - ✓ The income a parent could earn based on relevant facts
- "Potential Minimum Wage" when there's an evidentiary gap
 - ✓ Under the current guidelines, imputing the lowest minimum wage pursuant to OAR 137-050-0715(7) should be rare—used in the absence of sufficient information to determine a parent's actual or potential income

Could the Court's Pro Se Forms Include Space for Findings?

Motion:

1	on Petitioner Respondent Adult Child Attending School (name): on the first day of each month oeginning the month following entry of this judgment or the date of service of this Motion
	The total monthly amount should be \$, which is (check one):
[the amount presumed correct under the Oregon child support guidelines, worksheets are included with this <i>Motion</i> (or)
	different from the amount presumed correct by the child support guidelines
ì	pecause the guideline amount would be unjust or inappropriate (explain)
_	

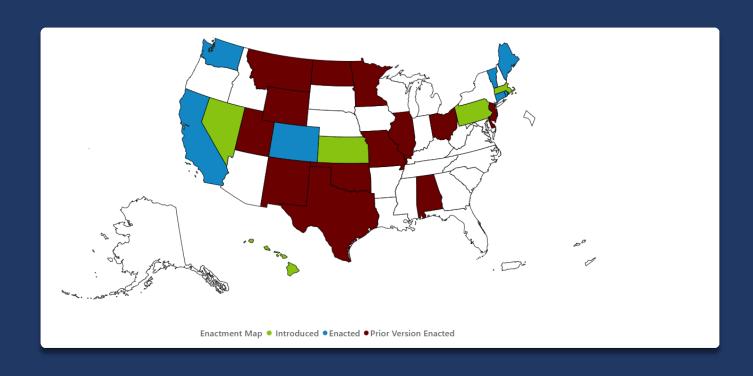
Order:

Child Support and Medical Costs	
a)	Petitioner's Respondent's child support obligation to children (names) is terminated based on the change of custody or (explain other reason for termination)
b)	\square Child support is changed as follows based on the requested change of custody or substantially changed circumstances
	Support must be paid: by □ Petitioner □ Respondent to □ Petitioner □ Respondent □ Adult Child Attending School on the first day of each month beginning □ the month following entry of this judgment or □ the date of service of this motion (date:)
	The monthly amount due is: \$(Child Support Worksheets are attached and incorporated, labeled Exhibit) This amount is: □ the amount presumed to be appropriate under the support guidelines □ different from the presumed appropriate amount because:

What's Next: Guidelines Review



- Update economic scale
- > Revisit minimum orders
- Increase self-support reserve
- Minimum wage for parents on TANF
- > Public vs. private health care coverage
- Ideas?



What's Next: UPA (2017)

Parentage Act - Uniform Law Commission (uniformlaws.org)

Questions?

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- Dawn Marquardt
 <u>Dawn.Marquardt@doj.state.or.us</u>
- Mike Ritchey
 Michael.L.Ritchey@doj.state.or.us

Citations/References

- > Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs, Federal Register, Page 93492, Volume 81, Number 244 (December 20, 2016)
- Passarella, Letitia Logan, and Catherine E. Born, Imputed Income Among Noncustodial Parents: Characteristics and Payment Outcomes, University of Maryland School of Social Work, (2014)
- Mark Takayesu, How Do Child Support Order Amounts Affect Payments and Compliance?, Orange County, CA Department of Child Support Services, (2011)
- PIQ 00-03, <u>State IV-D Program Flexibility with Respect to Low Income Obligors</u>
 <u>| The Administration for Children and Families (hhs.gov</u> 2000)