

The Department of Revenue and Your Child Support Case

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DOR Child Support Services Overview

- Establish parentage, locate parents
- Establish CS orders
- Wage assignment of child support
- Case management
- **Enforcement**
 - Interest
 - Garnishment
 - Tax interception
 - Bank levies
 - Property liens
 - Credit reporting
 - License suspension
 - Capias warrant
 - Jail time

Keep in mind...

- This just applies to child support, not alimony or other money orders or judgments associated with a parenting case.
- Considerations when applying for child support, especially when there is DV or parents are unmarried and there is no history of court involvement

DOR and Domestic Violence:

- Can work with DOR to keep address confidential, and other safety measures.
- If custodial parent is on TAFDC can waive cooperation with DOR for good cause - including domestic violence (106 CMR 703.110) (**TAFDC:** Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children, often called welfare or cash assistance. A state program that provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women with little or no income.)

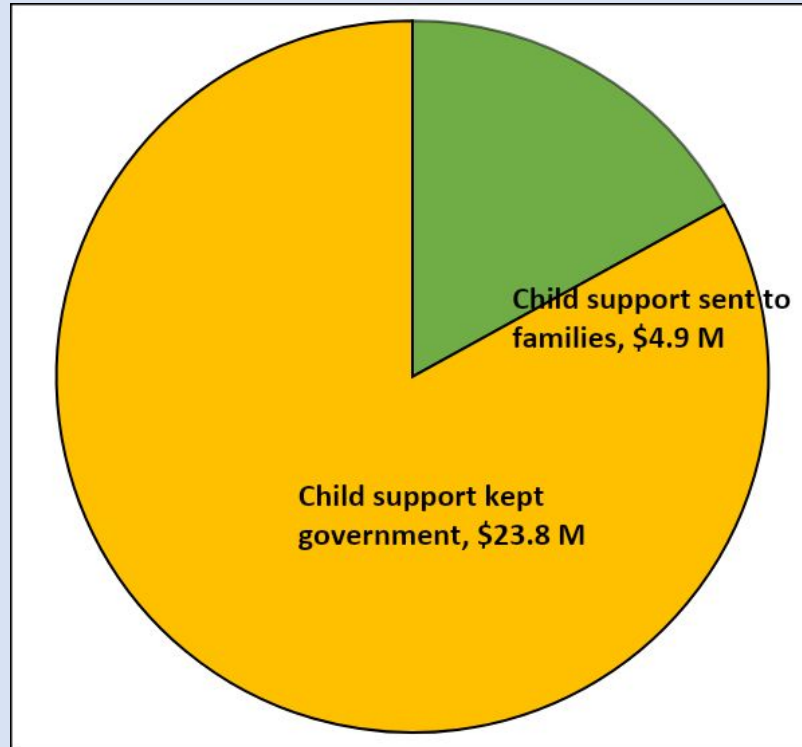
Child Support for individuals on TAFDC

- TAFDC recipients are required to assign child support (and spousal support) rights to the state. The first \$50.00 in child support paid each month is “passed through” to the recipient. DOR collects the rest up to the grant amount.
- If the child support DOR collected for a month plus other countable income is *more* than the grant plus \$50.00, DTA should pay the recipient the difference. If this happens for two months in a row, DTA should close the TAFDC case.

Child Support for individuals on TAFDC Cont.

- The assignment does not cover back support for the period before the recipient was on TAFDC.
- You might ask, why do recipients just get \$50.00? The support collected by DOR is paid to the state and federal government. However, under federal law, the state has the option of sending the money to families instead. Other states do – including Colorado, Illinois, Washington and California.

What does this mean for low-income families?



Source: MA Dep't of Revenue, OCSE Form 34 for 4 quarters in CY 2023

Change is possible...

- State can use federal options to send all arrears to former recipients and first \$100/200 (based on # of children) passed through instead of \$50.00.
- DOR is supportive of these changes and is working with DTA on implementation.
- Other states have done more, and there is pending legislation in Massachusetts to do more: “An Act to Bring Child Support Home” (SB 110, HB 201).

Other States:

- Many other states have already implemented legislation to pass through all, or more, child support to present and/or past cash assistance families. Including: Colorado, Illinois, Washington state, Michigan, California (enacted but delayed), Maryland, California, Illinois, Wisconsin and Wyoming. (This is a non-exhaustive list as it is growing)
- When Colorado began paying all child support collected to current cash assistance families, in the first year after implementation, collections for cash assistance families increased 76 percent. Cite: Michael Martinez-Schiferi, Tom Zolot, and Larry Desbien, “Poster Paper: Effects of Child Support Pass through on Colorado Families in Need,” Colorado Department of Human Services, November 7, 2019, <https://appam.confex.com/appam/2019/webprogram/Paper30963.html>.

DOR Resources:

- Child support virtual counter:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/child-support-virtual-counter>
- DOR child support call center:
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/child-support-services-division>
- Child support case manager:
https://ecse.cse.state.ma.us/uwps/wps/portal/Home/cwp/customerwebsitehome/#wlp_applyForBenefits_1_4
- Mass Legal Help:
<https://www.masslegalhelp.org/children-families-divorce/child-support/overview-child-support-massachusetts>

An Act to Bring Child Support Home:

House Bill 201:

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD617>

Senate Bill 110:

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD290>

Thank you

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