

MASSACHUSETTS LABORERS' LEGAL SERVICES FUND

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INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD SUPPORT AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

If you have been ordered to pay child support in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Court will order that payments be made via the Massachusetts Department of Revenue ("DOR"). Unless both parties agree to direct payments without DOR involvement, a wage assignment will be put into place. If a wage assignment is ordered, DOR notifies your employer to withhold the appropriate amount from your paycheck. This payment is then forwarded to DOR, recorded by DOR, and then forwarded to the custodial parent. Wage assignments can take several weeks to implement. You are responsible for mailing the payments to DOR until you see the money being deducted from your paycheck. This method of mailing payments to DOR is also used in the event a wage assignment is not possible, i.e. multiple employers or inconsistent employment.

Payment Methods and Record Keeping

If the court orders child support to be paid via DOR, do not send payments to the custodial parent. DOR will have no records of these payments and will take enforcement actions to collect the arrears.

You must maintain careful records. Retain all cancelled checks, copies of money orders, pay stubs, etc. Most importantly, **never pay child support to the custodial parent in cash.** You will not be given credit for any cash payments. Due to the volume of cases handled by DOR, errors occur often. Remember, the burden is always on you to prove payments if DOR or the custodial parent allege that payments have not been made.

REMINDER

You must have 300 hours reported in an eligibility period to be eligible for services. Each member is entitled to three (3) cases per calendar year and unlimited advice and consultation per year. Please contact our office as soon as possible when you are in need of an Attorney but certainly before you decide to retain a lawyer. ***Our office cannot represent you in a case in which you have previously retained an outside attorney.*** Please call us at 781-273-3939.