

## The Maryland Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)

# Obtaining and Enforcing Child Support Across State Lines

What if the other parent, who was paying child support, moves out of state and ceases making payments? What recourse do I have?

In 1997, the Maryland State Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) went into effect. Every state has adopted a similar law, which enables states to work together in resolving child support issues.

## What Can Be Done?

It is important to seek the assistance of the local child support office. The child support office can assist you in establishing support or paternity, or enforcing an existing order across state lines.

Commonly, wages are withheld from the delinquent parent's paycheck, or a Notice of Lien can be issued against property (a car, boat, jewelry, etc.) Federal and state tax refunds, lottery winnings and other windfalls may also be garnished to pay for child support arrears.

Please keep in mind that it may be a long process when you ask another state to enforce your child support order.



## Last Resort

As a last resort, cases can be referred for federal prosecution if the offender violates the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998. To be prosecuted under this Act, the payor must have refused to pay support to a child who resides in another state and the total amount owed must be over \$5,000, OR must have remained unpaid for over a year. Punishments include fines and/or jail time.

## What if the parent who is paying child support leaves the country?

Many state child support enforcement agencies have agreements with foreign nations to recognize child support judgments made in either country. If the delinquent parent works for an American company, wages can be withheld even if the country does not have an agreement with the U.S.

A publication of the Maryland Judiciary.  
Provided by support of the Child Support  
Incentive Funds Committee, the Conference of  
Circuit Court Clerks and the Court Information  
Office. For additional copies, contact the  
Department of Family Administration, Admin.  
Office of the Courts, 580 Taylor Avenue,  
Annapolis, MD 21401, 410-260-1580.