



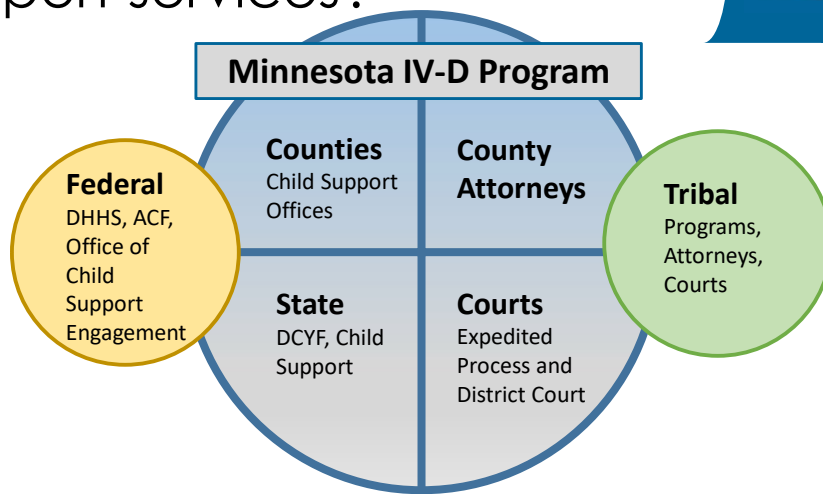
# Background



- Title IV-D of the Social Security Act of 1975 required all states to have a program to establish and collect child support to receive AFDC (now TANF) grants for public assistance programs
  - [42 U.S.C. §§ 451 & 651](#) and [45 C.F.R. §§ 301-310](#)
- Minnesota has a State Plan that is periodically reviewed to be sure it is in compliance with the Federal Laws
- Minnesota's IV-D System has evolved and continues to evolve



3

# Who provides IV-D child support services?



4

## How IV-D Child Support Cases Open and Close?

Nonpublic Assistance*	Public Assistance	Former Public Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opens with an application</li> <li>• Full services or Income withholding only services</li> </ul> <p>*Also referred to as never assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opens by a referral from the public assistance agency               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFIP, Medical Assistance, Child Care Assistance, IV-E Foster Care</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Full services or Medical only services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former Public Assistance Services               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After public assistance closes, an applicant may request their case to be closed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

9/26/2024 MFSRC Annual Conference 5

5

## Public Assistance: Assignment & Cooperation




- To receive public assistance, the party must assign the rights to child support to the state
- Unless good cause is granted, the public assistance recipient is required to cooperate with the county
- Cooperation is defined in Minn. Stat. § 518A.81, subd. 5:
  - Provide information
  - Attend meetings and hearings
  - Submitting to genetic testing
  - Report direct support
  - Cooperate with the establishment and enforcement of the child support order (or adjudication of parentage)

9/26/2024 MFSRC Annual Conference 6

6

## Public Assistance: Noncooperation



- Noncooperation, Minn. Stat. § 518A.81, subd. 7
  - If noncooperation is determined, the county child support office must notify the individual and the public assistance agencies that the individual is not cooperating with the requirements of the child support case
  - This notice may result in
    - Sanction of the public assistance
    - If a parent, may be found ineligible for medical assistance
    - If a nonparent, may be removed from the public assistance unit

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

7

7

## Public Assistance: Good Cause



- Good cause forms are sent out by the public assistance program as part of the application process
- Good cause is the **exception** to child support case cooperation requirement when public assistance is received
  - [Minn. Stat. § 518A.81, subs. 9-13](#)
- The individual fills out a form and provides proof of their claim that cooperation in the child support case
  - “[C]ould reasonably result” in physical or emotional harm to the individual and/or child;
  - The child was conceived by incest or rape;
  - Legal proceedings for adoption or decisions about whether adoption is an option are pending, good cause is granted
  - The individual participates in the Safe at Home Program

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

8

8

## Public Assistance: Good Cause



- Good cause can be claimed at any point in the child support case
- While the good cause claim is pending, all child support actions must stop, but the public assistance continues
- The applicant is sent a determination (grant or deny) letter
  - If the claim is granted:
    - The child support case closes and the family continues to receive public assistance
    - The cooperation with child support exception is valid for 1 year, and can be applied for again without submitting additional proof
  - If good cause is denied, the individual may file a state agency appeal within 30 days or request a conference with the committee

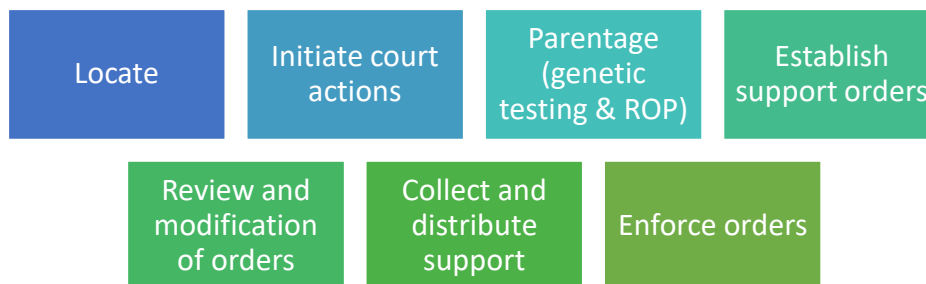
9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

9

9

## What are IV-D Services?





9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference


10

10

# Systems



- PRISM
- SIR
- MNCIS
- MNDES



9/26/2024 MFSRC Annual Conference 11

11

# Types of Legal Actions





- Establishment of Support
- Establishment of Parentage
- Modification of Support
- Enforcement of Support



9/26/2024 MFSRC Annual Conference 12

12



# Types of Child Support

- Child Support consists of:

Type of Support	Statute	Purpose of the support
Basic Support	Minn. Stat. § 518A.26, subd. 4	Monetary support for the child’s housing, food, clothes, transportation, educational cost and other costs for the child’s care
Child Care Support	Minn. Stat. § 518A.40, subd. 1	Verified work-related or educational-related child care expenses
Medical Support	Minn. Stat. § 518A.41	Health care coverage; cost of health care coverage; proportionate share of uninsured and unreimbursed health care expenses; reimbursement of public coverage
Past Support	Minn. Stat. §§ 518A.82 and 257.66 subd. 4	Liability for up to 2 years prior to commencement of the action or to the date of the child’s birth

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
13

13

# Minnesota’s IV-D Expedited Child Support Process

### Purposes of the Expedited Child Support Process

- Streamlined
- Uniform across the state
- Easy for parties to access
- Results in timely and consistent issuance of orders



### Goals of the Expedited Child Support Process

- Be constitutional and Comply with federal state laws
- Maximize federal funding & be cost-effective
- User friendly for parties and counties
- Adequate funding and staffing
- Fair to parties
- Maintain simple administrative procedures
- Focus on problem cases
- Ensure consistent decisions statewide

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
14

14

## Court of Limited Jurisdiction






Mandated Proceedings	Permissive Proceedings	Prohibited Proceedings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Rule 353.01, Subd. 1</a></li> <li>All proceedings to establish, modify and enforce child support must be conducted in the Expedited Process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Rule 353.01, Subd. 2</a></li> <li>Parentage actions or civil contempt for child support may be conducted in the Expedited Process</li> <li>CSMs can only issue an order when there are agreements (except for child support)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Rule 353.01, Subd. 3</a></li> <li>Prohibited issues are listed in the Rule</li> <li>Parties cannot agree or consent to have prohibited issues included orders in the Expedited Process</li> </ul>

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
15

15

## Role of the County Attorney

- Be familiar with Minn. R. Gen. Prac. 369 and Minn. Stat. § 518A.46
  - Enacted because of the Holmberg decision. Describes the Role of the County Attorney is and what the County Attorney can delegate.
  - County attorney must review and approve as to form and content all legal forms used in Ex Pro or District Court.
  - The county agency must appear through counsel.

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
16

16



## Role of the County Attorney: Minn. R. Gen. Prac. 369



- County Attorney must approve legal documents (form and content)
- Counties must appear through legal counsel
- CSOs cannot advocate for a position or make recommendations unless asked as a witness
- "Under the direction of, and in consultation with, the county attorney... employees of the county agency may"
  - Meet with parties, explain things to parties, negotiate settlements, be a witness, present evidence, agreements, etc.
- CSOs may perform duties listed in Minn. Stat. § 518A.46, Subd. 2 without the direction of the county attorney, and CSOs may testify at hearings at the request of a party or the CSM.
- If all of this is followed, the CSO is not engaging in the unauthorized practice of law.

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

17

17

## Role of the County Attorney: Minn. Stat. § 518A.46



- Subd. 2(b) - CSOs can do certain things with the direction from and consultation with County Attorneys.
  - This includes meeting with parties, explaining process to parties, negotiating settlements, being a witness, and if asked by a CSM, presenting evidence, etc..
- Subd. 2(c) - CSOs can do certain things that without direction from and consultation with County Attorneys.
  - This includes gathering information, preparing worksheets, obtaining DEED information, serving and filing documents, meeting with parties, process to parties.
- If all of this is followed, the CSO is not engaging in the unauthorized practice of law.



9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

18

18

# Timeframes






Action	Description	Timeframe
Case Initiation	The process from application/referral to opening a case	20 days from the application or referral
Locate	Use all appropriate locate tools	Within 75 days of locate being needed, then quarterly
Paternity & Establishment	Order established or service has been completed to commence an action	Service within 90 days of locating the last parent; Order established within 6 months of service (75%) and within 12 months of service (90%)
Enforcement	Take appropriate enforcement actions	Within 30 days of non-compliance; 30 more days if service is required (e.g. contempt)
Intergovernmental	State Central Registry	More info on this later
Review & Adjust	Counties must review, and if appropriate proceed to modify child support	Every 36 months COLA counts as a review and adjust for feds.
Collection & Distribution	Collect support and disburse the collection to the parent or public assistance agency	Within 2 business days (exceptions)

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
19

19

# Performance Measures






Issue	Measure	Thresholds for Incentives
Paternity	Ratio of the number of children with a IV-D case born to unmarried parents with parentage established compared to the number of children with a IV-D case born to unmarried parents	80% - 50%
Establishment	Number of child support cases with a child support order established (can be a \$0.00 order) compared with the number of child support cases	80% - 50%
Current Support Collection	Current child collected compared to total current child support owed	80% - 40%
Arrears Collection	Number of cases paying towards arrears compared to total number of cases with arrears payment (\$1 or more)	80% - 40%
Cost Effectiveness	Total child support collected compared to every dollar spent on the IV-D program	\$5.00 - \$2.00

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
20


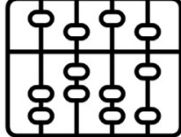
20

# Performance Measures

### Minnesota's federal performance measures

	FFY 2023	FFY 2022	FFY 2021	FFY 2020	FFY 2019
Paternities established	96.6%	97.8%	98.8%	100.1%	101.0%
Orders established	85.7%	85.8%	86.5%	87.5%	88.6%
Collections on current	73.4%	72.6%	75.7%	75.4%	75.4%
Collections on arrears	69.6%	70.4%	72.3%	79.6%	72.9%
Cost effectiveness	\$2.68	\$2.91	\$3.09	\$3.26	\$3.14

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
21

21




The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future.

~Theodore Roosevelt

**“History is not the past. It is the present. We carry our history with us. We are our history.”**

— James Baldwin

History is important because it teaches us about the past. And by learning about the past, you come to understand the present, so that you may make educated decisions about the future.

*Richelle Mead*

**“Study the past if you would define the future.”**

— Confucius

**“THOSE WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.”**

GEORGE SANTAYANA

History is WHO we are and WHY we are the way we are. History is not just the Past. History is the PRESENT.

History

Knowing the past helps you succeed in the present

Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it.

Winston Churchill 1874 - 1965



9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
22

22

## History – How Did Minnesota Get Here?



- 1975 – Social Security Act
- 1981 – 1988 – Federal Acts; Some Important Aspects
  - Equal services for both Public Assistance and Nonpublic Assistance cases
  - Mandatory practices like income withholding, credit bureau reporting and tax intercepts
  - Mandatory child support guidelines
  - Timeframes and performance measures
  - Statewide automated systems (PRISM in Minnesota – 1997)

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

23

23

## Administrative Process: Pilot then Statewide



- 1988 – Administrative Process Pilot in Dakota County
  - Judicially based process with some administrative features
- 1993 – 1995 – Expanded Administrative Process in 58 counties
  - Ad Pro 1
  - Focus on quick judicial and administrative methods to establish, modify and enforce child support orders
- 1995 – Administrative Process Pilot Statewide
  - Ad Pro 2 or Ad Pro Nouveau
  - Based on "success of Ad Pro" decision was to make the system more administrative with less legal and judicial intervention
  - Focus on administrative methods to establish, modify and enforce child support orders
  - Statute - County attorneys not involved in hearings unless invited

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

24

24

## Administrative Process: County Attorneys Not Active



518.5511 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS FOR CHILD AND MEDICAL SUPPORT ORDERS. (Effective May 10, 1994)

**Subd. 5. NONATTORNEY AUTHORITY.** Nonattorney employees of the public authority responsible for child support may prepare, sign, serve, and file complaints, motions, notices, summary orders, proposed orders, default orders, and consent orders for obtaining, modifying, or enforcing child and medical support orders, orders establishing paternity, and related documents, and orders to modify maintenance if combined with a child support order. The nonattorney may also conduct prehearing conferences, and participate in proceedings before an administrative law judge. This activity shall not be considered to be the unauthorized practice of law. Nonattorney employees may not represent the interests of any party other than the public authority, and may not give legal advice to any party.

**Subd. 7. PUBLIC AUTHORITY LEGAL ADVISOR.** At all stages of the administrative process prior to the contested hearing, the county attorney, or other attorney under contract, shall act as the legal advisor for the public authority, but shall not play an active role in the review of information and the preparation of default and consent orders.

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

25

25

## Administrative Process: County Attorneys Out



518.5511 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS FOR CHILD AND MEDICAL SUPPORT ORDERS. (Effective May 10, 1994; Amended August 1, 1995; Repealed July 1, 1997)

**Subd. 5. NONATTORNEY AUTHORITY.** Nonattorney employees of the public authority responsible for child support may prepare, sign, serve, and file complaints, motions, notices, summary ~~orders~~ notices, proposed orders, default orders, and consent orders for obtaining, modifying, or enforcing child and medical support orders, orders establishing paternity, and related documents, and orders to modify maintenance if combined with a child support order. The nonattorney may also conduct prehearing conferences, and participate in proceedings before an administrative law judge. This activity shall not be considered to be the unauthorized practice of law. Nonattorney employees may not represent the interests of any party other than the public authority, and may not give legal advice to any party.

**Subd. 7. PUBLIC AUTHORITY LEGAL ADVISOR.** At all stages of the administrative process prior to the contested hearing, the county attorney, or other attorney under contract, shall act as the legal advisor for the public authority, but shall not play an active role in the review of information and the preparation of default and consent orders, and the contested hearings unless the nonattorney employee of the public authority requests the appearance of the county attorney.

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

26

26

## Administrative Process: Court of Appeals



- 1997 – Administrative Process Update
  - Subdivisions 5 and 7 repealed, county attorneys became more involved
- 1998 – Holmberg Court of Appeals Case
  - Challenge in 3 counties (Dakota, Ramsey and Wright) about the Constitutionality of the Administrative Child Support Process
  - Prior to the Court of Appeals decision, State Court Administration convened a multidisciplinary Child Support workgroup in anticipation of rule changes coming
  - June 12, 1998 - Court of Appeals held that the Administrative Child Support Process was Unconstitutional (separation of powers)

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

27

27

## Administrative Process: 1998 Federal Act



- At the same time as Holmberg, the Federal Program was encouraging more administrative processes
- 1998 – Child Support Performance and Incentives Act and the Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act
  - Incentives were tied to performance
  - Felony prosecution for failure to pay child support

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

28

28

## Administrative Process: Supreme Court



- 1999 – Holmberg Supreme Court Case
  - January 28, 1999 – Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeals decision that the Administrative Process
    - Separation of Powers – The Administrative Process infringed upon the District Court's original jurisdiction in Family Law because appeals were direct to the Court of Appeals, amongst other reasons
    - Inadequate county attorney oversight
    - Concern about child support workers practicing law without a license
- MCAA succeeded in its efforts:
  - The decision was not retroactive because of inequitable results on cases;
  - The decision was stayed for 5 months; and
  - Child Support Workers were not found to have been practicing law without a license; concern expressed about lack of attorney oversight

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

29

29

## Expedited Process



- The Minnesota Supreme Court stayed the decision to July 1, 1999. The Legislature and the Rules Committee had less than 5 months develop, train and implement a Constitutional system (note, a group had been meeting since the first appeal)
- July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2000 – Interim Expedited Process Rules (which were extended through June 30, 2001)
- July 1, 2001 – Expedited Process Rules
- Expedited Process Rules reviewed and updated in 2003, 2008 and 2023

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

30

30

## Expedited Process



Comments to the Rules Committee by 2 legends who led us through the rocky shores of the Holmberg days

Mark Ponsolle – Director of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office Child Support Program (legal and program), retired

Sandra Torgerson – Head of the Dakota County Attorney's Office (legal), retired

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

31

31

## Expedited Process



- State Court Administration oversees the judicial officers in the Expedited Process
- After Holmberg:
  - Some Administrative Law Judges became Child Support Magistrates
  - Some new Child Support Magistrates were hired
  - Approximately 80% of the Child Support Magistrates were contractors
  - In 2015, most contract Child Support Magistrates became Judicial Branch Employees

9/26/2024



MFSRC Annual Conference

32

32



# REPEAT: Minnesota's IV-D Expedited Child Support Process

**Purposes of the Expedited Child Support Process**

- Streamlined
- Uniform across the state
- Easy for parties to access
- Results in timely and consistent issuance of orders

**Goals of the Expedited Child Support Process**

- Comply with federal & state rules
- Maximize federal funding & be cost-effective
- User friendly for parties and counties
- Adequate funding and staffing
- Fair to parties
- Maintain simple administrative procedures
- Focus on problem cases
- Ensure consistent decisions statewide

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference



33

33

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act

Highlight of a Major Federal Act






9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

34

34

# PRWORA – 1996 – new enforcement tools



- Credit bureau reporting
- License suspension
- Passport denial
- Liens
- FIDM (bank seizures)

Families in the IV-D program today experience a very different child support program than one or two generations ago!

And cannot discharge child support in bankruptcy

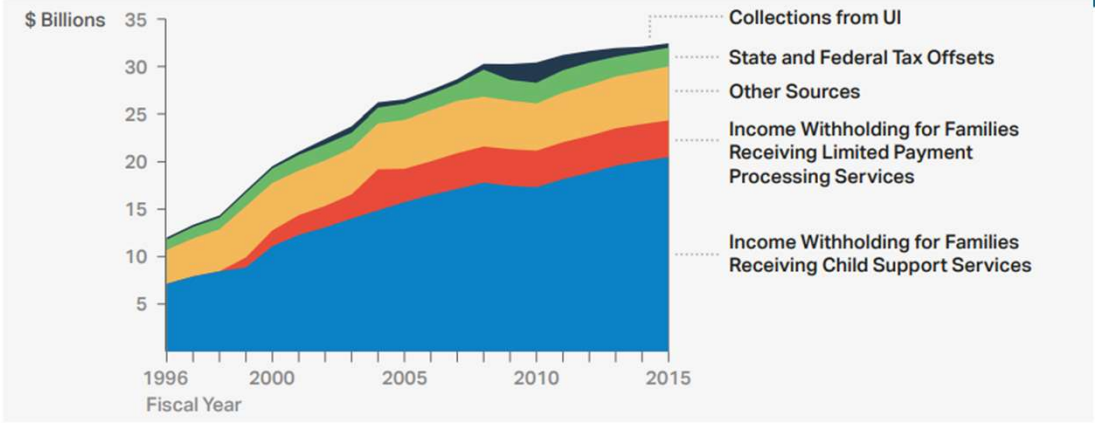
9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
35

35

# Collection sources

**Figure 7. Total Child Support Collections by Source: FY 1996 to FY 2015**



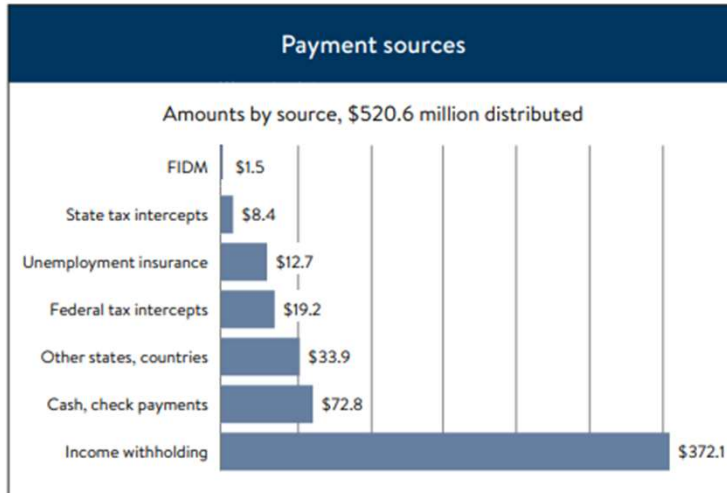
Fiscal Year	Income Withholding for Families Receiving Child Support Services	Income Withholding for Families Receiving Limited Payment Processing Services	Other Sources	State and Federal Tax Offsets	Collections from UI
1996	~7.5	~1.5	~1.5	~0.5	~0.5
2000	~12.5	~2.5	~2.5	~1.5	~1.5
2005	~17.5	~3.5	~3.5	~2.5	~2.5
2010	~18.5	~3.5	~3.5	~3.5	~3.5
2015	~20.5	~4.5	~4.5	~4.5	~4.5

Source: OCSE Annual and Preliminary Reports. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47630>

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
36

36

## MN FFY 2023 payment sources



Source: 2023 Child Support Performance Report, Minnesota Department of Human Services  
<https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2024/other/240564.pdf>

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

37

37

## Income withholding



### PRWORA

- Also required states to enact UIFSA which allows for Direct Income Withholding
- Created National Directory of New Hires – speeds up ability to do IW

### Practice Tips – program level

- Multiple cases need to be aligned on payment coding, especially with interstate cases
- States have 2 days to issue IW – automated IW can cause practical issues

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

38

38

## FIDM – seizing bank accounts



### **Minn. Ch. 522.06 (FIDM statute)**

- Arrears greater than 5x monthly obligation
- Not in compliance with a previously executed payment agreement
- Must be submitted for federal or state tax intercept
- Property exemptions in Minn. Stat. § 550.37 apply

### **Practice Issues**

- Arrears-only cases
- Some hesitancy to use
- Often not knowing balance in the account
- Safety issues

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

39

39

## PRWORA & payments



- States required to establish State Disbursement Units (SDUs) for collection and disbursement of support
- Our SDU = Child Support Payment Center
- “Family first” policy for payments
- States required to disburse collections to families within 2 business days after receipt

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

40

40

## CSPC legal questions

- Contempt orders and directing payments to one case, cannot do this for ongoing payments.
- When parties go to court and want the court to order payments released that are on hold
  - Tax intercept refund
  - SSA overpayments
- Death of a party and what to do with payments



9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

41

41

## PRWORA and paternity

Required:

- Genetic testing when paternity is disputed
- Paternity establishment to be permitted up to at least age 18
- Putative fathers must have standing to bring paternity actions
- Voluntary paternity acknowledgments for paternity (required in 1993) but now had to be conclusive; can't require a court to ratify
- In-hospital paternity acknowledgment process



9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

42

42

# = Increase in paternity!

- 60% increase nationally in paternity establishments from 1995 to 2002 (over half from voluntary acknowledgments)

How many parents sign ROP at hospital in MN?

- About 65%!

Do we see those cases in the IV-D program?

- Yes, approximately 1 in 5 cases with ROP have child support order in PRISM by the time the child is 4 years old.

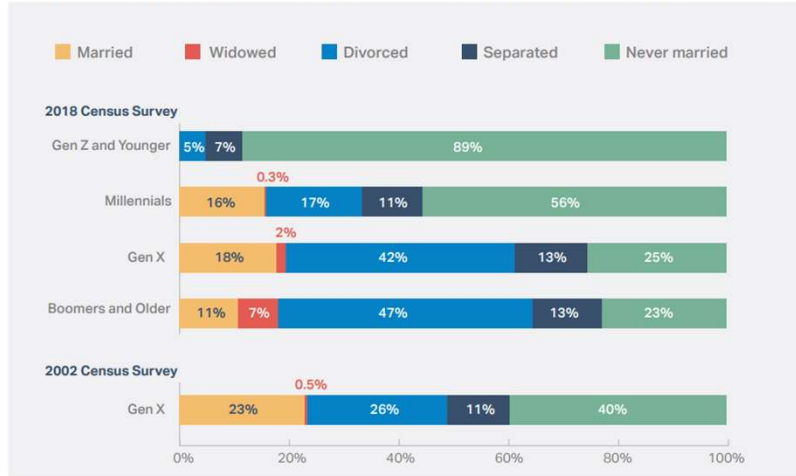


Source: [Emerging Issues in Paternity Establishment: Symposium Summary 1 ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#) and data from CSD analysis, 2018 birth data and PRISM data



43

Figure 3. Marital Status of Custodial Parents in the Child Support Program by Generation



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 and 2018 Current Population Survey Child Support Supplement  
 Note: Column percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



MN data confirms that a majority of families served today are never-married parents

Source: Millennials in the Child Support Program (hhs.gov)

44

## PRWORA + amendment created Family Violence Indicator (FVI)



- PRWORA made it much easier to locate people
- FVI prevents information from being disclosed through the federal case registry (to prevent tracking across state lines)
- Minnesota statutes give authority for the county to protect address/location protection in child support court cases
  - 2020 new confidential court order process started in MN
- MN current participant in 5-year federal grant (SAVES) to improve safety in cases of domestic abuse

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

45

45

## Today: Driver's license suspension reforms



### Old law

- Mandatory suspension language
- Payment agreements required
- Data showed disparate impact on BIPOC and low-income NCPs
- Harmful and counter-productive effects of suspension not considered

### New law

- Individual circumstances can be considered
- Administrative power to stop when in process or reinstate\*
- Can still use payment agreements
- Data from DLS pilot using individualized approach appears to be decreasing disparate impacts
- Harmful and counter-productive effects are now considered

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

46

46

## Additional resources



- Evaluation of a Pilot to Reform Driver's License Suspensions in Child Support

<https://mn.gov/mmb/impact-evaluation/projects/drivers-license-suspension/>

- The Child Support Enforcement Program: Summary of Laws Enacted Since 1950, Congressional Research Service, July 19, 2023,

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47630>

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

47

47

## Intergovernmental Cases



9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

48

48



# URESА



Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act

Originally passed in 1950 – support was determined by the laws of the state where the defendant was residing.

Several amendments followed, the last in 1968. This became RURESА – the Revised Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.

An unintended consequence of RURESА created multiple orders in multiple states for different amounts during the same time frames.

# UIFSA



Uniform Interstate Family Support Act

UIFSA was passed in 1992 by the National Conference of Commissioners.

UIFSA updated and replaced URESА.

All states were required to have UIFSA in place by January 1, 1998.

Minnesota adopted in 1994.

## Initiating vs. Responding



### Initiating

- The IV-D agency where the parent applied for services
- Gathers the information needed for the other state to successfully open a case
- Completes mandatory federal forms
- Maintains an open case

### Responding

- The IV-D agency providing services in response to a referral from an initiating agency
- Works the case by establishing, enforcing, or modifying child support as requested by the initiating agency

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

51

51

## What we can ask another state to do



### No order

- Establish paternity (can't address custody or parenting time)
- Set support based on that state's guidelines
- Set arrears

### Existing order

- Request the responding state enforce and/or modify their existing order and redirect payments to Minnesota

OR

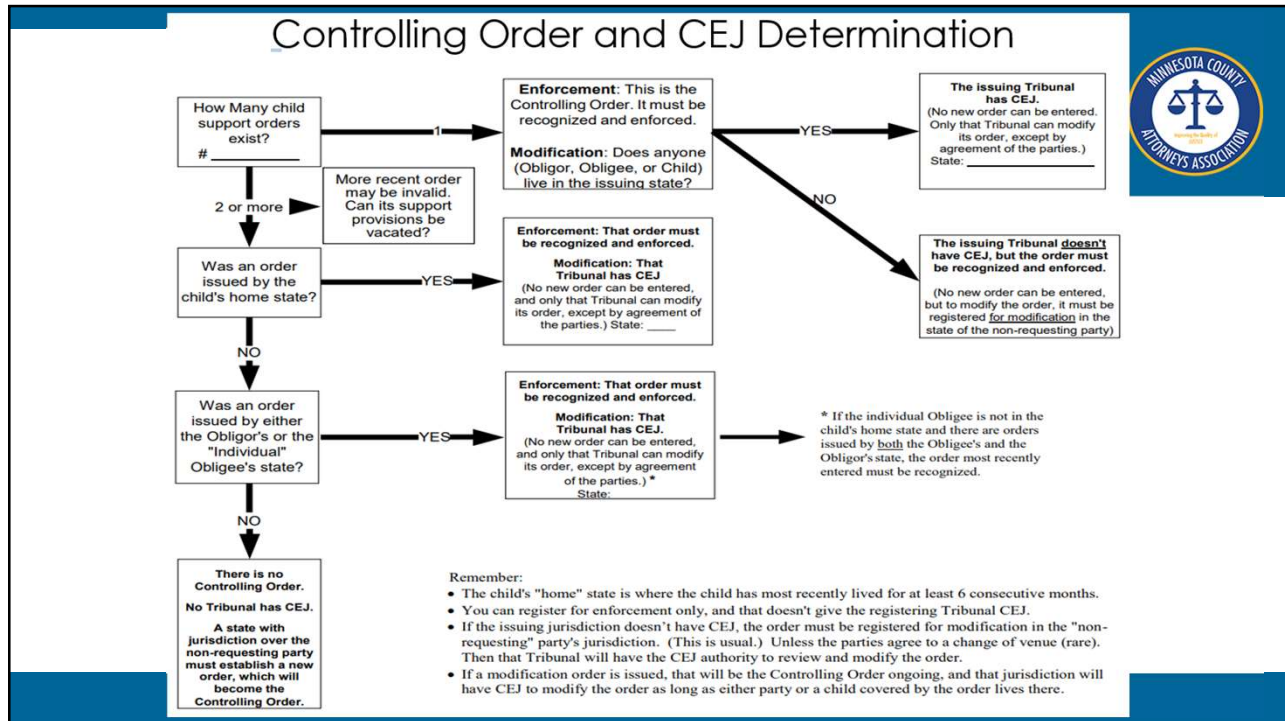
- Request responding state register the out-of-state order for enforcement and/or modification

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

52



52



53

## When Minnesota receives an incoming interstate action

- The Central Registry reviews the documents, sets up the case on PRISM, and transfers the case to the appropriate county
- The county reviews the petition and determines next steps
- If there is an existing out-of-state order and the child support agency can enforce administratively, we would not register the order
- If further enforcement is needed, the CSO would register the order to take the appropriate action

54

## Statistics on Minnesota Interstate (FFY 2023 Performance Report)

Approximately one in seven cases in MN is intergovernmental

35 of the 87 counties share a border with another jurisdiction

There were 16,307 initiating cases open

91.69% of initiating cases have an order and collected an average of \$2887.70 annually

There were 7,190 responding cases open

94.70% of responding cases have an order and MN collected \$3,406.09 on average

0-9%   10-19%   20-29%   30-39%   40%+   Merged

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
55

55

## International Cases

- In 2007 the Hague Child Support Convention set out an agreed process to establish and enforce child support across international borders.
- Countries must apply to join.
- There is a handbook to assist in completing the required forms and to follow the steps to either send or receive an international case.
- Support is converted based on foreign currency vs US dollars based on the exchange rate published in the Wall Street Journal.

9/26/2024
MFSRC Annual Conference
56

56

## Countries we can work with



- <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/partners/international>
- The US can process cases with certain countries under different types of reciprocity arrangements, including:
  - **Hague Convention countries** – countries that have joined the Hauge Child Support Convention, and
  - **Foreign reciprocating countries (FCRs)** – countries and Canadian provinces/territories that have bilateral arrangements with the US government but have not joined the Hague Convention.

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

57

57



58

# 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



## Future of the IV-D child support program

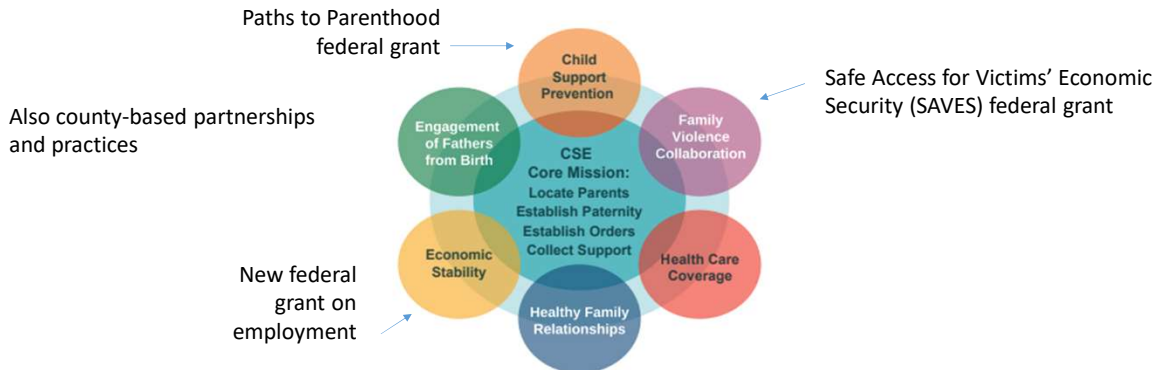
9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

59

59

## Moving to a family-centered child support program



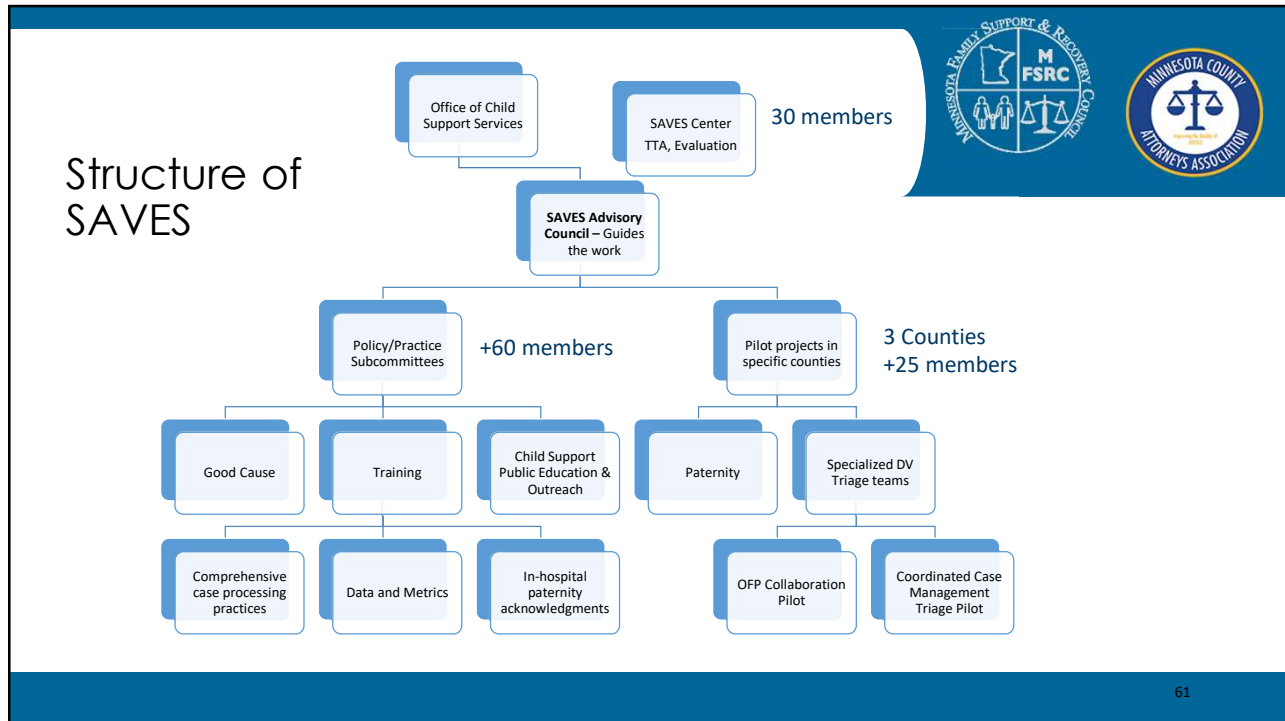
[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocse/family\\_centered\\_innovations.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocse/family_centered_innovations.pdf)

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

60

60



61

# Improved engagement with parents, and realistic orders

- Educate parents about the child support program
- Improve ways to communicate with parents
- Focus on safety (SAVES)
  - Educate about safety options and do safety assessment screenings
- Encourage parents to participate in establishing orders
- Establish realistic child support orders
- Modify obligations to ensure that they stay consistent with a parent's ability to pay

62

# Moving towards engagement focused collection strategies



- Reduce child support debt owed to the government
- Adopt options to pay more support to families, instead of keeping it to repay cash assistance
- Use automated systems to detect non-compliance as early as possible
- Notify noncustodial parents of missed payments before enforcement actions are taken
- Increased payment options

63

# More individualized & evidence-based approaches



- Intervene sooner
- Match tool to NCP
- Employment programs
- Evidence-based practices – including approaches like procedural justice, behavioral economics



64



## What you can do as an ACA



- Educate yourself and your child support agency
- Parent education
- Encourage parents to participate
- Realistic orders
- Appear at hearings and actively participate
- Keep safety in mind
- Utilize resources, such as the MCAA forum to ask questions
- Build relationships with other county attorneys
- Participate in the MCAA lunch sessions
  - First Tuesday of odd months by Zoom (noon-1:00)
  - Sign up for the child support forum on the MCAA website

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

65

65

## Resources



- Child Support Learning Agenda: A Brief Synthesis of Select Child Support Literature, September 2023 OPRE Report #2023-213,  
<https://www.mathematica.org/publications/child-support-learning-agenda-a-brief-synthesis-of-select-child-support-literature>
- An Examination of the Use and Effectiveness of Child Support Enforcement Tools in Six States, 2019, Mathematica,  
<https://www.mathematica.org/publications/an-examination-of-the-use-and-effectiveness-of-child-support-enforcement-tools-in-six-states>

9/26/2024

MFSRC Annual Conference

66

66



## Additional Resources

Case Closure Criteria List

Enforcement Remedies Chart

Helpful Resources List

Interstate Flowcharts

Intergovernmental Caseload

Outline and History Timeline

What to Include in Child support Orders Chart