

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



September 10, 2003

CSS LETTER: 03-17

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
 ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: TRACKING OF ASSIGNED ARREARS

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law or Regulation Change
 Federal Law or Regulation Change
 Court Order or Settlement Change
 Clarification requested by One or More Counties
 Initiated by DCSS

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification on the tracking of assigned arrears when a child moves between aided households. To ensure uniformity throughout California's child support program, local child support agencies shall comply with these instructions effective October 1, 2003.

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 11477, as a condition of eligibility for assistance, each applicant or recipient shall assign to the county/State any rights to support from any other person the applicant or recipient may have on his or her own behalf, or on behalf of any other family member for whom the applicant or recipient is applying for or receiving aid.

An assignment of rights made by an aided household shall only pertain to the support that accrued during the time period the child lived in that household. If the child moves to another aided household, a new assignment occurs with the new household and any support that accrues under the new assignment shall remain with the new household. When support payments are received, the payment shall be applied in accordance with Child Support Collections and Distribution Regulations, Manual of Policies and Procedures, Chapter 12-400, et seq.

Example: Child lives in non-aided household 1 with CP 1, and a balance of \$5,000 in never assigned arrearages exists. Child moves to aided household 2 with CP 2. The arrearages that accrued in household 1 while the child lived with CP 1 would stay with household 1, and any collections on those arrearages would be paid to CP 1. Support that accrues during the time period the child lives in household 2 with CP 2 is assigned to the State. Any assigned support collected will be retained to reimburse the unreimbursed assistance pool for household 2 during the time period the child lived with CP 2.



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CSS Letter: 03-17
September 10, 2003
Page 2

The tracking of unassigned arrears in non-aided households remains the same, i.e., unassigned arrears are paid to the custodial party to whom the arrears accrued.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Tonya Crawford-Comage, Manager, Financial Management Policy Unit, at (916) 464-5224.

Sincerely,

DONNA S. HERSHKOWITZ
Deputy Director
Child Support Service Division