



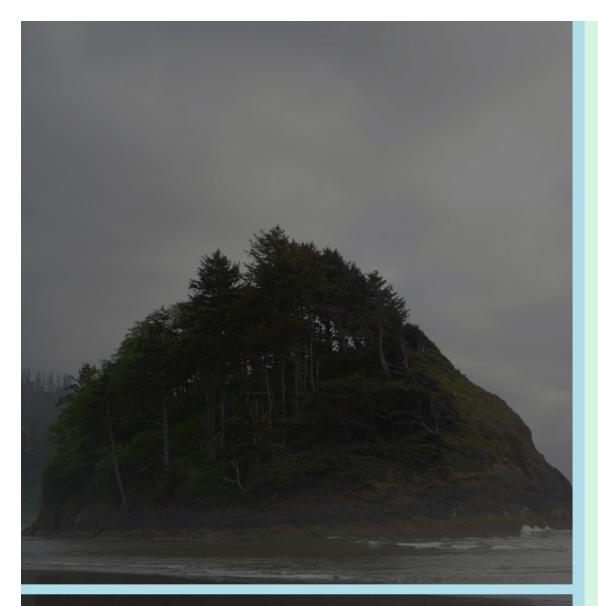
PRESENTED BY

# Oregon Child Support Program Oregon Department of Justice

Oregon Judicial Department | State Family Law Advisory Committee

**Family Law Conference** 

Salem, Oregon | May 10, 2019







### **Online Access**



Attorney

**Accounts** 



Customer

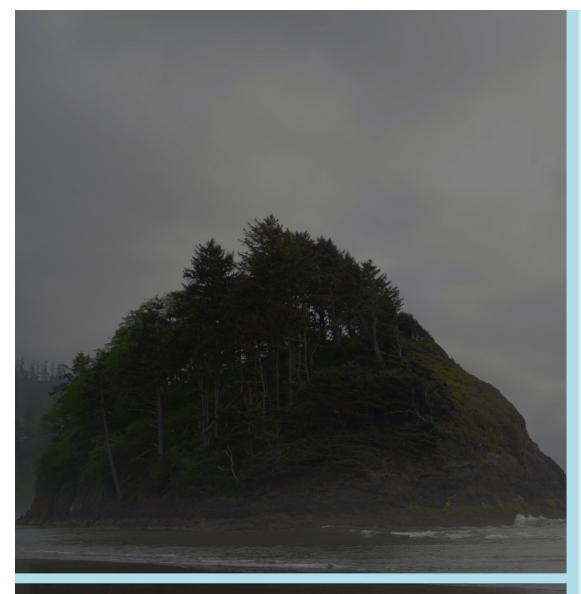
**Accounts** 



## **Online Application Process**



**Case Assignment** 



DISCUSSION TOPICS CONTINUED

- Cash Medical
- Minimum Wage
- Satisfactions/ Interest
- \$0 Orders
- Incarcerated Parents
- Rule Changes
- Legislation

# Origin: What's Next?

# CERTIFICATION

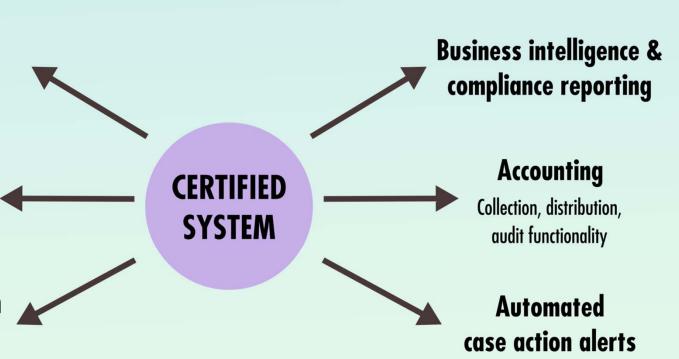
A certified child support system must provide a number of key components

# Case management workflows

Enforcement, establishment & modifications, locate, paternity

Document generation and management

Data exchange between government entities





DOJ Home / Child Support

#### **What You Can Do Online**

- Calculate support
- Obtain forms (including applying for services)
- Access guideline rules, the parenting time calculator, historical guidelines, and more
- Log into online accounts
- Make payments

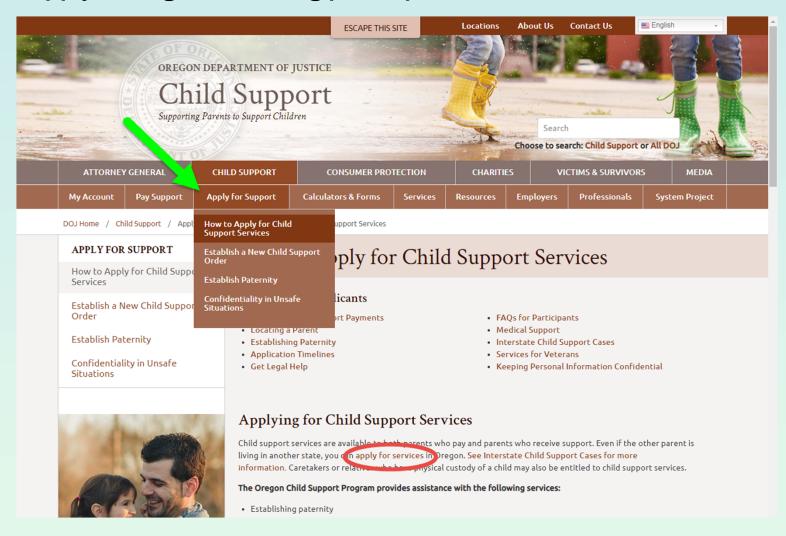
# **Ease of Access: Customer and Attorney Accounts**

Customers and attorneys can now access their accounts directly

- Apply for services
- Online billing statements
- Communicate directly with case manager
- Attorney access
  - Link to the Bench Book
  - Child support statutes and Program rules

# **Apply for Services Through an Online Account**

- Create a new account to apply
- Apply through an existing participant account

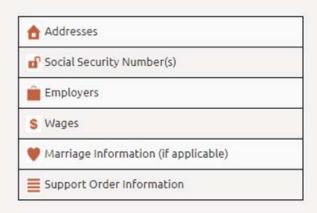


#### Get Started

You may need the following to complete your application:

Personal Information about you and the other party

Personal Information about the Child(ren)



Social Security Number(s)

Date(s) of Birth

Place(s) of Birth

Please Note - The application will ask for information in a step-by-step process. You will be able to save your progress and continue at a later time. Provide as much information as possible for timely processing of your application. Upon submission, your application will be sent to the Oregon Child Support Program.

#### ANNUAL FEE

Federal law requires the Child Support Program to charge a \$25 annual fee for each case that has never received Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. The fee is charged once per federal fiscal year (October 1 - September 30) and is automatically deducted from the next child support payment after \$500 has been collected and paid to the family.

START APPLICATION >>

### **Inside Your Online Account**



#### **Enter New Message** Select Case Case Number Parent Who Pays Support Parent Who Receive Support **Status** 0 41000 OPEN 41000 0 OPEN 41000 OPEN 41000 OPEN Message / Concern All fields marked with \* are required. Category\* ~ Enforcement Subcategory\* ~ License suspension Description \* Why was my client's license suspended? **Send Inquiries** 962 characters remaining

~

RESET

SUBMIT

Preferred Method of Message Response\*

Online Account

#### **Access the Bench Book**



# **Case Assignment**

#### **DOJ Division of Child Support**

- The DOJ Division of Child Support provides services for children and families with current or former public assistance from DHS and OHA, and in 14 counties where local district attorneys do not provide services
- Cases assigned to specific offices by the address of the paying parent

#### **District Attorney Offices**

- District Attorney offices provide services for children and families who have never received public assistance and have requested child support services.
- Cases assigned to specific offices by the address of the receiving parent or person

#### **Let's Talk Cash Medical**

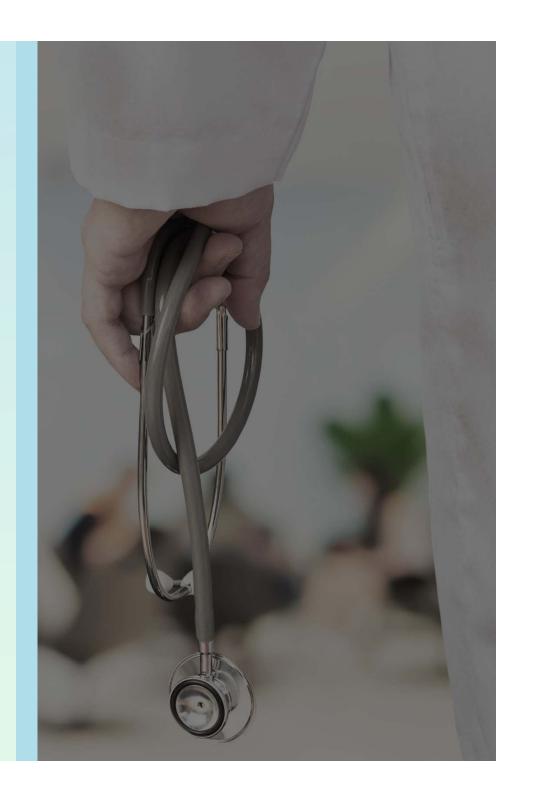
- Changing landscape at state & federal levels
  - The Affordable Care Act
  - System Incompatibility
  - Medicaid Recovery
- How we adapted
  - OHA temporarily stopped making Medicaid referrals
  - No cash medical assignment
  - Changes to cash medical support orders



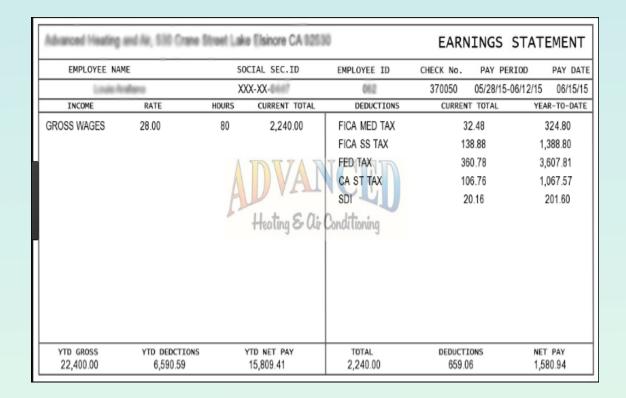


# How We Are Handling Cash Medical Today

- ORS 25.321(1) "Cash medical support" means an amount that a parent is ordered to pay to defray the cost of health care coverage provided for a child by the other parent or a public body, or to defray uninsured medical expenses of the child
- Suggested language "Obligor is not ordered to pay cash medical support because there is no evidence of recurring uninsured medical expenses and the state is not asserting an assignment of cash medical support"



#### **Actual vs. Potential Income**

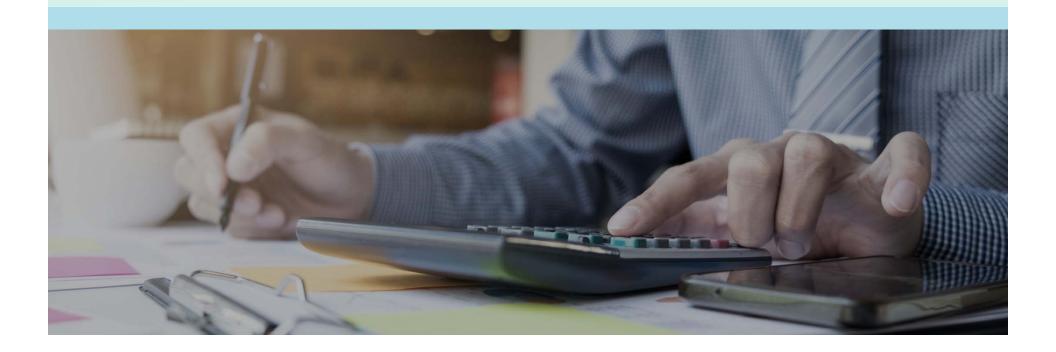


Annual Income:
Parent's gross
earnings and income
from any source

Potential Income:
Parent's ability to
earn based on
relevant work history

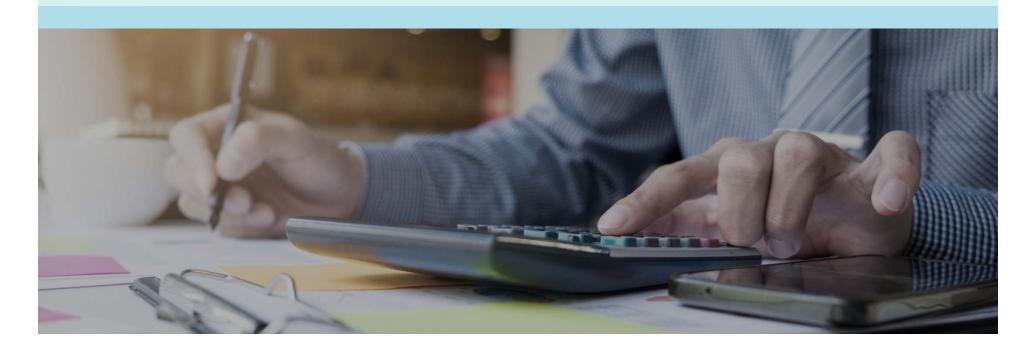
## When and How to Impute Income

- If parent's occupational history is known but income is not, the Oregon Labor Market Information System can help in assessing employment opportunities and potential earnings
- Attribute income based on historical earnings to a person who has left
  a lucrative professional career e.g., to work in a preferred field but at
  a lower rate of pay, or a spouse earns sufficient income



# **Imputing Income**

- Income may be imputed based off verifiable work history
- Income may be imputed, at the lowest potential minimum wage in the state where the parent resides, in the absence of verifiable work history
- Income may not be imputed for parents unable to earn at their previous potential



# **Minimum Wage and Child Support**

- Oregon has a three-tiered minimum wage structure
- The Oregon Child Support Program always imputes the lowest statewide minimum wage
- Ensures the goal of establishing right-sized orders

# **Satisfactions/Interest**

### ORS 18.228 — Satisfactions of Support Awards Payable to Department of Justice

 Satisfaction for support awards payable to the Oregon Department of Justice must be mailed to or delivered to the Department of Justice, not the court administrator

#### OAR 137-055-5080 — Adding Interest

 The Oregon Child Support Program will add interest to a case balance only if it has been established in a judgment or order entered by court

## \$0 Orders

 Establishing \$0 order against obligated parents who receive public assistance or who are incarcerated for 180 consecutive days or more

#### When is it appropriate to enter a \$0 order?

- When a parent ordered to pay support is
  - (1) receiving certain types of assistance under ORS 25.245, like TANF, or
  - (2) qualifies as an incarcerated obligor under ORS 25.247, there is a rebuttable presumption that the parent is unable to pay support

# When the Paying Parent is Incarcerated

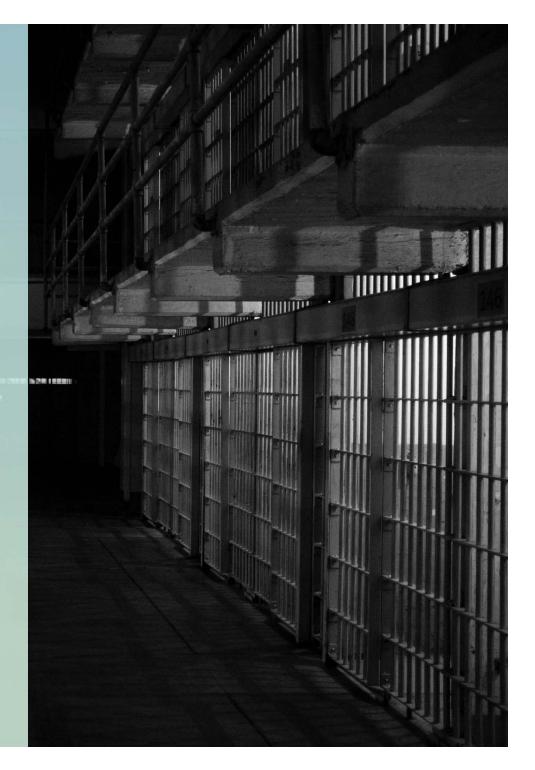
- If a paying parent is incarcerated for at least 180 consecutive days, they are presumed unable to pay support (ORS 25.247)
  - If there is no current order for support, an order requiring \$0 support may be entered for the duration of their incarceration
  - If there is already an order requiring the incarcerated parent to pay support, it may be suspended
  - Orders remain suspended for 120+ days after the incarcerated parent's release – reinstated at 50%

# **Incarcerated Obligors: Suspensions vs. Modifications**

- Prior to 01/01/2018, child support orders were modified to zero when a
  paying parent was incarcerated for at least 180 consecutive days from the
  date of a request for modification
  - The prior support amount was reinstated by operation of law 60 days after the incarcerated parent's release
- After 01/01/2018, child support orders may be suspended or credited when the paying parent is incarcerated for at least 180 consecutive days
  - This permits retroactive credit against support balances
  - Support is reinstated at 50% of the prior amount on the first of the month following the 120<sup>th</sup> day after release
  - The Program will automatically initiate a modification to determine an appropriate support amount after the support order is reinstated



- Accruals suspended
- Presumed unable to pay



#### **Where Courts Should Send Orders**

- ChildSupportCaseIntake@doj.state.or.us
- OJD-DOJ interface coming soon one of these days

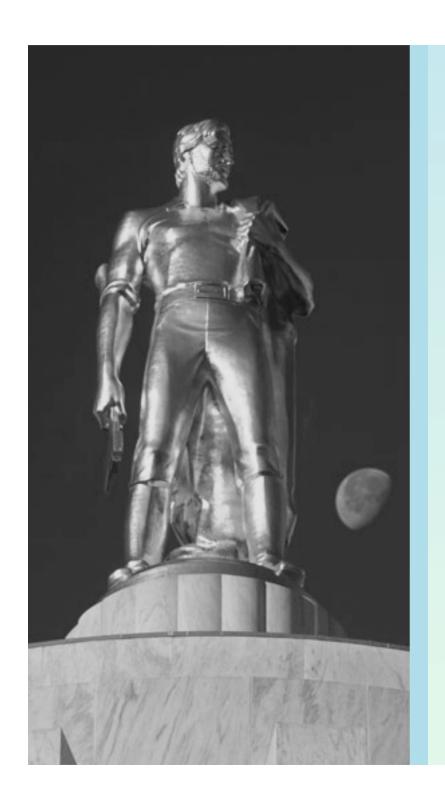


# **Recent Policy and Rule Updates**

- Modification of a Support Order to Zero or Termination of a Support Order
  - OAR 137-055-3480
- Establishment or Modification for a Child Who is Approaching or Has Reached 18 Years of Age
  - OAR 137-055-3485
- Child Care Costs
  - OAR 137-050-0735
- Guidelines Review
  - New review coming soon

# **Senate Bill 363 (2019)**

- Creates a new provision in ORS Chapter 25 broadening circumstances for suspension of enforcement or holding support to prevent overpayments
- Amends ORS 25.125(2) to clarify circumstances that create an overpayment
- Amends ORS 25.125 to remove limitations on overpayments resulting from misapplied payments and account adjustments
  - (2) An overpayment in favor of the state is created when the Department of Justice, under ORS 25.020, has transmitted moneys [received from, or on behalf of,] to any person or entity, including but not limited to an obligor, an obligee or a collection agency, a child support agency of another state or an agency of this state, and:
  - [(a) The amount transmitted is more than the support obligation requires and the Department of Justice has returned the excess to the obligor under subsection (1) of this section;]
    - [(b) The Department of Justice has misapplied moneys received; or]
  - [(c)] (a) The amount transmitted is attributable in whole or in part to a tax refund offset collection all or part of which has been taken back by the Internal Revenue Service or the Department of Revenue[.]; or
  - (b) The Department of Justice performed an accounting adjustment that resulted in the refund, reallocation or redistribution of the amount transmitted to the state or any other person or entity.



# **Senate Bill 364 (2019)**

• ORS 25.010

• ORS 25.260

• ORS 25.020

ORS 25.287

• ORS 25.084

• ORS 25.640

• ORS 25.125

• ORS 25.790

• ORS 25.166

• ORS 107.108

• ORS 25.220

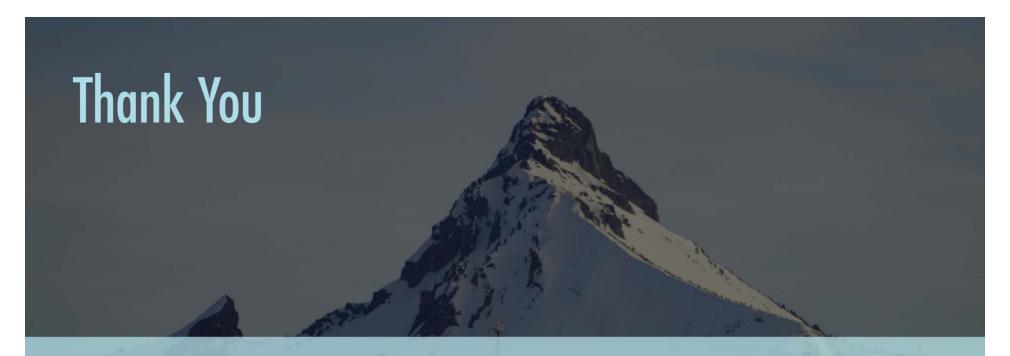
ORS 107.135

• ORS 25.247

• ORS 416.429

"Housekeeping" legislation for minor fixes and adjustments





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