

State of Alaska

Department of Revenue
Administrative Services Division



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March 27, 2009

The Honorable Bert Stedman
Co-Chair Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stedman;

In consideration of a letter of intent for SB 96 Child Support / Cash Medical, I am offering the following language that would clarify the changes to AS 25 and conform to Uniform Code.

It is the intent of the legislature that in order to bring Alaska into conformity with the nationwide Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) as approved by the American Bar Association on February 9, 1993, and as in effect on August 22, 1996 including any amendments officially adopted as of such date by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, it is necessary to amend AS 25.25.101 to include "an Indian tribe" and "the United States Virgin Islands" in the definition of "state."

The proposed UIFSA amendments are conforming amendments which will result in procedural changes in Alaska for enforcement and modification of child support orders from other jurisdictions. UIFSA does not determine the authority of an Indian tribe to enter, modify or enforce a child support order. In Alaska, the scope of tribal authority to enter, modify or enforce child support orders is an unsettled legal question, due in part to the lack of Indian country in most of the state. In adopting UIFSA conforming amendments, the legislature does not intend either to grant or restrict tribal jurisdiction, if any, which may exist to enter, modify, or enforce child support orders, and the amendments are not intended either directly or impliedly to acknowledge, expand or restrict tribal jurisdiction.

Thank you for working with us on this issue.

Sincerely,

Ginger Blaisdell
Director