



# LAWS OF ALASKA

1977

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Chapter No.

126

## AN ACT

Relating to the support and care of children and changing Rule 26(b)(2)(iii), Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 67(b), Rules of Civil Procedure; and providing for an effective date.

### BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

\* Section 1. PURPOSE. Common law and statutory procedures governing the remedies for enforcement of support for financially dependent minor children by responsible parents have not proven sufficiently effective or efficient to cope with the increasing incidence of financial dependency. The increasing workload of courts, district attorneys, and the attorney general has made such remedies uncertain, slow and inadequate, thereby resulting in a growing burden on the financial resources of the state which is required to provide public assistance grants for basic maintenance requirements when parents fail to meet their primary obligations. The state, therefore, exercising its police and sovereign power, declares that the common law and Alaska statutes pertaining to the establishment and enforcement of child support obligations shall be augmented by additional remedies in order to meet the needs of minor children. It is declared to be the public policy of this state that this Act be construed and administered to the end that children shall be maintained from the resources of responsible parents, thereby relieving, at least in part, the burden presently born by the general citizenry through welfare and welfare-related programs.

\* Sec. 2. AS 09.55 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 09.55.238. ACTION FOR FAILURE TO PERMIT VISITATION WITH MINOR CHILD. (a) When a court order is specific as to when a custodian of a minor child must permit another person to have visitation with that child, and the custodian fails, wilfully and without just excuse, to permit visitation with the child in substantial conformance with the court order, the person entitled to visitation has a

separate cause of action against the custodian for damages.

(b) The amount of damages recoverable under this section is \$200 for each failure of the custodian, wilfully and without just excuse, to permit visitation with the child for substantially the length of time and substantially in the same manner as specified in the court order. This amount may not be increased or decreased once liability has been established. The custodian is not liable for more than one failure in respect to what is, under the court order, a single continuous period of violation. The prevailing party in an action commenced under this section is entitled to recover a reasonable attorney fee.

(c) As used in this section,

(1) "court order" means a decree, judgment, or order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(2) "custodian" means a natural person who has been awarded custody, either temporary or permanent, of a minor child;

(3) "just excuse" includes illness of the child which makes it dangerous to the health of the child for visitation to take place in conformance with the court order; "just excuse" does not include the wish of the child not to have visitation with the person entitled to it.

\* Sec. 3. AS 11 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

CHAPTER 36. FAILURE TO PERMIT VISITATION WITH MINOR CHILD.

Sec. 11.36.010. FAILURE TO PERMIT VISITATION WITH MINOR CHILD. (a) When a court order is specific as to when a custodian of a minor child must permit another person to have visitation with that child, it is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$200 for the custodian, wilfully and without just excuse, to fail to permit visitation with the child in substantial conformance with the court order.

(b) The custodian may not be charged under this section with more than one offense in respect to what is, under the court order, a single continuous period of visitation.

(c) As used in this section,

(1) "court order" means a decree, judgment, or order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(2) "custodian" means a natural person who has been awarded custody, either temporary or permanent, of a minor child;

(3) "just excuse" includes illness of the child which makes it dangerous to the health of the child for visitation to take place in conformance with the decree, judgment, or order; "just excuse" does not include the

wish of the child not to have visitation with the person entitled to it.

Sec. 11.36.020. SPOUSE AS WITNESS. In all prosecutions under this chapter, existing provisions of law prohibiting the disclosure of confidential communications between husband and wife do not apply if a court order has granted custody to one spouse and visitation to the other, and both husband and wife are competent to testify for or against each other as to all relevant matters.

\* Sec. 4. AS 25.25.010(6) is amended to read:

(6) "duty of support" includes a duty of support imposed or impossible by law, or by a court order, decree or judgment, whether interlocutory or final, whether incidental to a proceeding for divorce, legal separation, separate maintenance or otherwise, and includes the duty to pay arrearages of support past due and unpaid;

\* Sec. 5. AS 25.25.010 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(9) "foreign support order" means any support order defined in (10) of this section issued by a court of competent jurisdiction in another state;

(10) "support order" means any judgment, decree, or order of support in favor of an obligee, whether temporary or final or subject to modification, revocation, or remission, regardless of the kind of action or proceeding in which it is entered.

\* Sec. 6. AS 25.25.050 is amended to read:

Sec. 25.25.050. RELIEF FROM EXTRADITION. Any obligor contemplated by sec. 40 of this chapter, who submits to the jurisdiction of the court of this or another state and complies with the court's order of support, is relieved of extradition for desertion or nonsupport entered in the courts of this state during the period of such compliance.

\* Sec. 7. AS 25.25.130 is repealed and re-enacted to read:

Sec. 25.25.130. COSTS AND FEES. The supreme court may provide by rule that a court of this state, when the state is acting as an initiating state, may not require payment of either a filing fee or other costs from the obligee but may request the court of the responding state to collect fees and costs from the obligor. The supreme court may also provide by rule that a court of this state, when the state is acting as a responding state, may not require payment of a filing fee or other costs from the obligee, but may direct that all fees and costs requested by the court in the initiating state and those incurred in this state when acting as a responding state (including fees for filing of pleadings, service of process, seizure of property, stenographic or duplication service, or other service supplied to the obligee) be paid in whole or in part by the obligor. These costs or fees do not have priority over amounts due to the obligee.

\* Sec. 8. AS 25.25.140 is amended to read:

Sec. 25.25.140. JURISDICTION BY ARREST. When the court of this state, acting either as an initiating or responding state, has reason to believe that the defendant may flee the jurisdiction, it may (1) as an initiating state, request in its certificate that the court of the responding state obtain the body of the defendant by appropriate process if that is permissible under the law of the responding state; or (2) as a responding state, obtain the body of the defendant by appropriate process. If the court of this state, acting as a responding state, obtains the body of the defendant, it may then release him upon his own recognizance or upon his giving a bond in an amount set by the court to assure his appearance at the hearing.

\* Sec. 9. AS 25.25.150 is amended to read:

Sec. 25.25.150. STATE INFORMATION AND LOCATOR AGENCY. The child support enforcement agency is designated as the state information and locator agency for all matters concerning the enforcement of support obligations under AS 47.23 and under this chapter, and it is its duty to:

(1) compile a list of the courts and their addresses in this state having jurisdiction under this chapter and the appropriate agency offices and their addresses and transmit it to the state information agency of every other state which has adopted this or a substantially similar statute;

(2) maintain a register of such lists received from other states;

(3) locate obligors by utilizing all sources of information and records available in the state, and in other states as appropriate; these sources include telephone directories, real property records, personal property records, vital statistics records, police records, records of appropriate federal agencies, records of employers who are willing to cooperate, and official records of the state including records of the state Departments of Public Safety, Health and Social Services, Revenue, and Labor; if state agencies or departments have information or records concerning the obligor which are made confidential by state statute, and they are not prohibited from doing so by federal statute or regulation, those agencies or departments shall cooperate with the child support enforcement agency at its request by supplying at least (A) the last known address of the obligor and (B) the name and address of the last known employer of the obligor, if that information is in their possession; this information shall be kept confidential by the child support enforcement agency and may be used by the agency only for purposes of child support enforcement.

\* Sec. 10. AS 25.25.160 is amended to read:

Sec. 25.25.160. AGENCY DUTY WHEN ALASKA RESPONDING STATE. When the child support enforcement agency of

this state, acting as a responding state, receives from the court or child support enforcement agency of an initiating state the copies mentioned in sec. 120 of this chapter, it shall (1) attempt to locate the obligor, (2) present the cause to the court to docket and to set a time and place for hearing, if the obligor does not agree to entry of a voluntary order, and (3) take such action as is necessary in accordance with the laws of this state to obtain jurisdiction.

- \* Sec. 11. AS 25.25.170 is repealed and re-enacted to read:

Sec. 25.25.170. FURTHER DUTY OF RESPONDING STATE. If the obligor or his property is not found in this state and the child support enforcement agency discovers that the obligor or his property may be found in another state, it shall forward the documents received from the initiating state to the state information agency in the state in which the obligor is believed to be located. The agency shall inform the initiating state of its action immediately.

- \* Sec. 12. AS 25.25.200 is amended to read:

Sec. 25.25.200. ADDITIONAL POWERS OF COURT. (a) The court of this state, when acting as the responding state, has the power to subject the defendant to such terms and conditions as the court may consider proper to assure compliance with its orders and in particular to

(1) require the defendant to furnish recognition in the form of a cash deposit or bond of the character and in the amount which the court may consider proper to assure payment of the amount required to be paid by the defendant;

(2) require the defendant to make payments at specified intervals to the child support enforcement agency and to report personally to the agency at such times as may be considered necessary;

(3) punish the defendant who violates an order of the court to the same extent as is provided by law for contempt of court in any other suit or proceeding cognizable by the court.

(b) Payment may be made by personal check if that method of payment had been previously made regularly to the clerk of the court or obligee, or if certified check or postal money orders are not readily available.

- \* Sec. 13. AS 25.25.210 is amended to read:

Sec. 25.25.210. ADDITIONAL AGENCY DUTIES WHEN ALASKA RESPONDING STATE. The child support enforcement agency of this state, when acting as a responding state, has the following duties:

(1) upon the receipt of a payment made by the defendant under an order of the court or otherwise, to transmit the payment immediately to the court or child support enforcement agency of the initiating state, and

(2) upon request, to furnish to the court or child support enforcement agency of the initiating state a certified statement of all payments made by the defendant.

\* Sec. 14. AS 25.25.220 is amended to read:

Sec. 25.25.220. ADDITIONAL AGENCY DUTY WHEN ALASKA INITIATING STATE. The child support enforcement agency of this state, when acting as an initiating state, has the duty to receive and disburse in accordance with law or regulation all payments made by the defendant or transmitted by the court or child support enforcement agency of the responding state.

\* Sec. 15. AS 25.25 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 25.25.252. PROCEEDINGS NOT TO BE STAYED. Except as provided in sec. 258(c) of this chapter, a court of this state, when the state is a responding state, may not stay the proceeding or refuse a hearing under this chapter because of any pending or prior action or proceeding for divorce, separation, annulment, dissolution, habeas corpus, adoption, or custody in this or any other state. The court shall hold a hearing and may issue a support order pendente lite. In the interest of a speedy resolution of the support issue, it may require the obligor to post a bond for the prompt prosecution of the pending proceeding. If the other action or proceeding is concluded before the hearing in the instant proceeding and the judgment in the other proceeding provides for the support demanded in the complaint being heard, the court must conform its support order to the amount allowed in the other action or proceeding. After the court has conformed its support order to the amount in the other action, it may not stay enforcement of its support order because of the retention of jurisdiction for enforcement purposes by the court in the other action or proceeding.

Sec. 25.25.254. REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN SUPPORT ORDERS. (a) If the duty of support is based on a support order of a court of competent jurisdiction in another state, the obligee may register that foreign support order in the superior court in the manner, with the effect, and for the purposes provided in secs. 254 - 258 of this chapter.

(b) The clerk of the court shall maintain a registry of foreign support orders in which he shall file the foreign support orders registered with the court.

(c) An obligee seeking to register a foreign support order in the superior court shall transmit to the clerk of the court (1) three certified copies of the order with all modifications of it, (2) one copy of the reciprocal enforcement of support Act of the state in which the order was made, and (3) a statement, verified and signed by the obligee, showing the last known mailing address of the obligor, the amount of support remaining unpaid, a description and the location of any property of the obligor available upon execution, and a list of the states in which the order is registered. Upon receipt of these

documents, the clerk of the court shall file them in the registry of foreign support orders. The filing constitutes registration under this section. If permitted by a rule of the supreme court under sec. 130 of the chapter, no filing fee or payment of other costs may be required of the obligee.

(d) Promptly upon registration, the clerk of the court shall send by certified or registered mail to the obligor at the address given a notice of the registration with a copy of the registered support order and the mailing address of the obligee. He shall also docket the case and notify the child support enforcement agency of his action. The agency shall proceed to enforce the order.

Sec. 25.25.256. AGENCY TO REPRESENT OBLIGEE. Upon request of the obligee, the child support enforcement agency shall represent the obligee in proceedings to register a foreign support order in this state.

Sec. 25.25.258. EFFECT OF REGISTRATION; ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES. (a) Upon registration, the foreign support order shall be treated in the same manner as a support order issued by the superior court. It has the same effect and is subject to the same procedures, defenses, and proceedings for re-opening, vacating, or staying as a support order of this state and may be enforced and satisfied in like manner.

(b) The obligor has 30 days after the mailing of notice of the registration in which to petition the court to vacate the registration or for other relief.

(c) At a hearing to enforce the registered support order, the obligor may present only matters that would be available to him as defenses in an action to enforce a foreign money judgment. If he shows to the court that an appeal from the order is pending or will be taken or that a stay of execution has been granted, the court shall stay enforcement of the order until the appeal is concluded, the time for appeal has expired, or the order is vacated or otherwise modified, upon satisfactory proof that the obligor has furnished security for payment of the support ordered as required by the state in which the support order was issued. If he shows to the court any relevant ground upon which enforcement of a support order of this state may be stayed, the court shall stay enforcement of the order for an appropriate period if the obligor furnishes the same security for payment of the support ordered that is required for a support order of this state.

\* Sec. 16. AS 47.23.010 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.23.010. CREATION OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. There is created in the Department of Revenue the child support enforcement agency.

\* Sec. 17. AS 47.23.020 is repealed and re-enacted to read:

Sec. 47.23.020. DUTIES OF THE AGENCY. The agency shall

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(1) obtain, enforce, and administer child support orders of the superior courts of the state;

(2) adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of this chapter including regulations which establish

(A) schedules for determining the amount an obligor is liable to contribute toward the support of an obligee under this chapter and under Title IV-D, Social Security Act; and

(B) procedures for hearings conducted under sec. 170 of this chapter;

(C) a uniform schedule of fees which may be charged the obligor if the child support payments are 10 or more days overdue or if payment is made by a check backed by insufficient funds.

(3) administer and enforce the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (AS 25.25);

(4) establish, enforce, and administer child support obligations administratively in accordance with this chapter; and

(5) administer the state plan required under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act as amended.

\* Sec. 18. AS 47.23.040 is repealed and re-enacted to read:

Sec. 47.23.040. DETERMINATION OF PATERNITY. (a) The agency shall appear on behalf of minor children or their mother or legal custodian or the state and initiate efforts to have the paternity of children born out of wedlock determined by the court on voluntary application by the mother or other legal custodian.

(b) The agency may not attempt to establish paternity in any case involving incest or forcible rape, when legal proceedings for adoption are pending, or when it would not be in the best interests of the children or the state.

\* Sec. 19. AS 47.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 47.23.045. DETERMINATION OF SUPPORT OBLIGATION. The agency may appear in an action seeking an award of support in behalf of a child owed a duty of support, and may also appear in an action seeking modification of a support order, decree or judgment already entered. Action under this section may be undertaken upon application of an obligee, or at the agency's own discretion if the obligor is liable to the state under sec. 120(a) or (b) of this chapter.

\* Sec. 20. AS 47.23.050 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.23.050. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. The agency shall contract with the Department of Law to provide needed legal services.



\* Sec. 21. AS 47.23.060(b) is repealed.

\* Sec. 22. AS 47.23.070(b) is amended to read:

(b) The order of assignment is binding upon an employer upon service of a copy of the order upon the employer and until further order of the court. The employer may, for each payment made under the order, deduct \$1 from other wages or salary owed to the employee.

\* Sec. 23. AS 47.23.080 is repealed and re-enacted to read:

Sec. 47.23.080. ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDERS. (a) A court order requiring payment of child support shall be modified to order payments be made to the agency upon application.

(b) The agency on behalf of the custodian or the state shall take all necessary action permitted by law to enforce child support orders so entered, including petitioning the court for orders to aid in the enforcement of child support.

(c) The determination or enforcement of a duty of support is unaffected by any interference by the custodian of the child with rights of custody or visitation granted by a court.

(d) No order of arrest may be issued in the enforcement of child support unless the court has reason to believe that the obligee may flee the jurisdiction or unless the obligee has been ordered to appear in the action and has failed to do so.

\* Sec. 24. AS 47.23.090 is repealed.

\* Sec. 25. AS 47.23 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 47.23.095. AGENCY EXEMPT FROM EXECUTION. No execution may issue against money held in the fund established under sec. 30 of this chapter.

\* Sec. 26. AS 47.23.100 is amended to read:

Sec. 47.23.100. ALL PERSONS MAY USE AGENCY. The agency shall provide aid to any person due child support under the laws of this state upon application. If the obligee is indigent or otherwise unable to pay for these services, the agency shall act without charge to the obligee. If the agency determines that the obligee is financially able to pay, costs shall be assessed according to regulations adopted by the department and be paid into the fund established in sec. 30 of this chapter.

\* Sec. 27. AS 47.23.110(2) is amended to read:

(2) "department" means the Department of Revenue.

\* Sec. 28. AS 47.23.110 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

(3) "duty of support" includes a duty of child support imposed or imposable by law, by a court order, decree or judgment, or by a finding or decision rendered under this chapter whether interlocutory or final, whether incidental to a proceeding for divorce, legal separation, separate maintenance, or otherwise, and includes the duty to pay arrearages of support past due and unpaid;

(4) "obligee" means a person to whom a duty of support is owed;

(5) "obligor" means a person owing a duty of support;

(6) "support order" means any judgment, decree, or order of child support in favor of an obligee whether temporary or final, or subject to modification, revocation, or remission, regardless of the kind of action or proceeding in which it is entered.

\* Sec. 29. AS 47.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 47.23.120. OBLIGOR LIABLE FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FURNISHED OBLIGEE. (a) An obligor is liable to the state in the amount of assistance granted under AS 47.25.310 - 47.25.420 to a child whom the obligor owes a duty of support except that if a support order has been entered, the liability of the obligor may not exceed the amount of support provided for in the support order.

(b) An obligor is liable to the state in the amount of the cost incurred if the state is maintaining a child whom the obligor owes a duty of support in a foster home or institution, except that if a support order has been entered, or an agreement for payment of that cost executed between the obligor and the state, the liability of the obligor may not exceed the amount provided in the support order or agreement.

Sec. 47.23.130. SUBROGATION OF STATE. If the obligor is liable to the state under sec. 120(a) or (b) of this chapter, the state is subrogated to the rights of the obligee to either bring an action seeking a support order or to proceed under secs. 160 - 270 of this chapter to establish and enforce a duty of support and further to enforce by execution, in accordance with secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter or otherwise, any support order already entered in favor of the obligee, up to the amount for which the obligor is liable to the state under sec. 120(a) and (b) of this chapter.

Sec. 47.23.140. POWER OF AGENCY TO ADMINISTRATIVELY ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE SUPPORT OBLIGATION; PROCEDURES TO BE UTILIZED. (a) If no support order has been entered, the agency may establish a duty of support utilizing the procedures prescribed in secs. 160 - 220 of this chapter, and may enforce a duty of support utilizing the procedure prescribed in secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter. Action under this subsection may be undertaken upon application of an obligee, or at the agency's own discretion if the obligor is liable to the state under sec. 120(a) or (b) of

this chapter.

(b) If a support order has been entered, the agency may enforce the support order utilizing the procedures prescribed in secs. 150 and 230 - 270 of this chapter.

Sec. 47.23.150. REQUIRED NOTICE IN ADMINISTRATIVE ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDERS. (a) Action to enforce a support order administratively under secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter is initiated by the agency serving a notice on the obligor of his liability under the support order. Notice under this subsection shall be served personally or by registered, certified, or insured mail, return receipt requested, for restricted delivery only to the person to whom the notice is directed or to the person authorized under federal regulation to receive that person's restricted delivery mail.

(b) Notice served under (a) of this section shall state the amount of the obligor's liability under the support order and that the property of the obligor is subject to execution in that amount in accordance with the procedures prescribed in secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter at the expiration of 30 days from the date of service of the notice.

Sec. 47.23.160. ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS; NOTICE AND FINDING OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. (a) An action to establish a duty of support authorized under sec. 140(a) of this chapter is initiated by the agency serving on the alleged obligor a notice and finding of financial responsibility. The notice and finding served under this subsection shall be served personally or by registered, certified, or insured mail, return receipt requested, for restricted delivery only to the person to whom the notice and finding is directed or to the person authorized under federal regulation to receive his restricted delivery mail.

(b) The notice and finding of financial responsibility served under (a) of this section shall state

(1) the sum or periodic payments for which the alleged obligor is found to be responsible, calculated by taking into consideration the need of the alleged obligee, the alleged obligor's liability to the state under sec. 130 of this chapter if any, and his duty of support under the law;

(2) the name of the alleged obligee and his custodian;

(3) that the alleged obligor may appear and show cause in a hearing held by the agency why the finding is incorrect, should not be finally ordered, and should be modified or rescinded, because (A) no duty of support is owed, or (B) the amount of support found to be owed is incorrect;

(4) that if the person served with the notice and finding of financial responsibility does not request a

hearing within 30 days, the property of the person will be subject to execution in accordance with secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter in the amounts stated in the finding without further notice or hearing.

Sec. 47.23.170. ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS; HEARING. (a) A person served with a notice and finding of financial responsibility is entitled to a hearing if a request in writing for a hearing is served on the agency by registered mail, return receipt requested, within 30 days of the date of service of the notice of financial responsibility.

(b) If a request under (a) is made, the execution under secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter shall be stayed pending the decision on the hearing, or the decision of a court, if appealed. If no request for a hearing is made, the finding of responsibility is final at the expiration of the 30-day period.

(c) If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within 30 days of the date of service of the request for hearing on the agency.

(d) The hearing officer shall determine the amount of periodic payments necessary to satisfy the past, present, and future liability of the alleged obligor under sec. 130 of this chapter, if any, and under any duty of support imposed under the law. The amount of periodic payments determined under this subsection is not limited by the amount of any public assistance payment made to or for the benefit of the child.

(e) The hearing officer shall consider the following in making his determination under (d) of this section:

(1) the needs of the alleged obligee, dis-regarding the income or assets of the custodian of the alleged obligee;

(2) the amount of the alleged obligor's liability to the state under sec. 125 of this chapter if any;

(3) the intent of the legislature that children be supported as much as possible by their natural parents;

(4) the ability of the alleged obligor to pay.

(f) If the alleged obligor requesting the hearing fails to appear at the hearing, the hearing officer shall enter a decision declaring the property of the alleged obligor subject to execution in accordance with secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter in the amounts stated in the notice and filing of financial responsibility.

Sec. 47.23.180. ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS; DECISION. (a) Within 20 days of the date of the hearing, the hearing officer shall promulgate findings and a decision determining whether a duty of support exists and, if a duty of support is found, the amount of periodic payments or sum for which the alleged obligor is found to be responsible.

(b) Liability to the state under sec. 130 of this chapter is limited to the amount for which the obligor is found to be responsible under (a) of this section.

(c) A decision rendered under (a) of this section is modified to the extent that a subsequent order, judgment, or decree of a superior court is inconsistent with the decision rendered under (a) of this section.

Sec. 47.23.190. ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS; MODIFICATION OF A FINDING OR DECISION OF RESPONSIBILITY. (a) Unless a support order has been entered, the obligor, or the obligee or his custodian, may petition the agency or its designee for a modification of the finding or decision of responsibility previously entered with regard to future periodic support payments.

(b) The agency shall grant a hearing upon a petition made under (a) of this section if affidavits submitted with the petition make a showing of good cause and material change in circumstances sufficient to justify action under (e) of this section.

(c) If a hearing is granted, the agency shall serve a notice of hearing together with a copy of the petition and affidavits submitted on the obligee or his custodian and the obligor personally or by registered, certified, or insured mail, return receipt requested, for restricted delivery only to the person to whom the notice is directed or to the person authorized under federal regulation to receive his restricted delivery mail.

(d) A hearing shall be set not less than 15 nor more than 30 days from the date of mailing of notice of hearing, unless extended for good cause.

(e) Modification of future periodic support payments may be ordered upon a showing of good cause and material change in circumstances.

Sec. 47.23.200. ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS; USE OF STANDARDS IN DETERMINATION OF SUPPORT PAYMENTS. (a) In making its findings under sec. 160 of this chapter, and in establishing and modifying amounts of periodic support payments under secs. 180 and 190 of this chapter, the agency shall consider the standards adopted by regulation under sec. 20 of this chapter and any standards for determination of support payments used by the superior court of the district of residence of the obligor.

Sec. 47.23.210. ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS; JUDICIAL REVIEW. (a) Judicial review by the superior court of an agency decision establishing or modifying a duty of support or amounts of support due may be obtained by filing a notice of appeal in accordance with the applicable rules of court governing appeals in civil matters. A notice of appeal shall be filed within 30 days of the decision.

(b) The complete record of the proceedings, or the parts of it which the appellant designates, shall be

prepared by the agency. A copy shall be delivered to all parties participating in the appeal. The original shall be filed in the superior court within 30 days after the appellant pays the estimated cost of preparing the complete or designated record or files a corporate surety bond equal to the estimated cost.

(c) The complete record includes

- (1) the notice and finding of financial responsibility;
- (2) the request for a hearing;
- (3) the decision of the hearing officer;
- (4) the exhibits admitted or rejected;
- (5) the written evidence;
- (6) all other documents in the case.

(d) Upon order of the superior court, appeals may be taken on the original record or parts of it. The record may be typewritten or duplicated by any standard process. Analogous rules of court governing appeals in civil matters shall be followed when this chapter is silent, and when not in conflict with this chapter.

(e) The superior court may enjoin agency action in excess of constitutional or statutory authority at any stage of an agency proceeding. If agency action is unlawfully or unreasonably withheld, the superior court may compel the agency to initiate action.

Sec. 47.23.220. ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS; JUDICIAL REVIEW. (a) An appeal shall be heard by the superior court sitting without a jury.

(b) Inquiry in an appeal extends to the following questions: (1) whether the agency has proceeded without or in excess of jurisdiction; (2) whether there was a fair hearing; and (3) whether there was a prejudicial abuse of discretion. Abuse of discretion is established if the agency has not proceeded in the manner required by law, the order or decision is not supported by the findings, or the findings are not supported by the evidence.

(c) The court may exercise its independent judgment on the evidence. If it is claimed that the findings are not supported by the evidence, abuse of discretion is established if the court determines that the findings are not supported by (1) the weight of the evidence, or (2) substantial evidence in the light of the whole record.

(d) The court may augment the agency record in whole or in part, or hold a hearing de novo. If the court finds that there is relevant evidence which, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, could not have been produced or which was improperly excluded at the hearing, the court may

(1) enter judgment as provided in (e) of this section and remand the case to be reconsidered in the light of that evidence; or

(2) admit the evidence at the appellate hearing without remanding the case.

(e) The court shall enter judgment setting aside, modifying, remanding, or affirming the decision, without limiting or controlling in any way the discretion legally vested in the agency.

(f) The court in which proceedings under this section are started may stay the operation of the decision until

(1) the court enters judgment;

(2) a notice of further appeal from the judgment is filed; or

(3) the time for filing the notice of appeal expires.

(g) No stay may be imposed or continued if the court is satisfied that it is against the public interest.

(h) If further appeal is taken, the supreme court may, in its discretion, stay the superior court judgment or agency order.

Sec. 47.23.230. ASSERTION OF LIEN. (a) At the expiration of 30 days from either (1) the date of service of notice under sec. 150 of this chapter, or (2) the date of service of a notice and finding of financial responsibility under sec. 160 of this chapter, the agency may assert a lien upon the real or personal property of the obligor, in the amount of the obligor's liability.

(b) No lien filed under this section has any effect against earnings, or bank deposits or balances, unless it states the amount of the obligor's liability under this chapter and unless the lien is served in accordance with sec. 240 of this chapter.

(c) The lien shall attach to all real and personal property of the obligor and be effective on the date of filing of the lien with the recorder of the recording district in which the property attached is located. A lien against earnings shall attach and be effective upon filing with the recorder of the recording district in which the employer does business or maintains an office or agent for the purpose of doing business.

(d) Whenever a lien has been filed under this section and there is in the possession of any person, political subdivision, or department of the state having actual notice of the lien any property which may be subject to the lien, that property may not be paid over, released, sold, transferred, encumbered or conveyed unless

(1) a written release or waiver signed by a

representative of the agency has been delivered to the person, political subdivision, or department of the state; or

(2) a decision has been made in a hearing held under sec. 170 of this chapter or by a superior court ordering release of the lien on the grounds that no debt exists or that the debt has been satisfied.

Sec. 47.23.240. SERVICE OF LIEN. (a) The agency may at any time after filing of a lien filed under sec. 230 of this chapter serve a copy of the lien upon any person, political subdivision, or department of the state possessing earnings, or deposits or balances held in any bank account of any nature which are due, owing, or belonging to the obligor.

(b) A lien filed under sec. 230 of this chapter shall be served upon a person, political subdivision, or department of the state personally or by registered, certified, or insured mail, return receipt requested.

Sec. 47.23.250. ORDER TO WITHHOLD AND DELIVER. (a) At the expiration of 30 days from the date of service of notice under sec. 150 of this chapter, or from the date of service of a notice and finding of financial responsibility under sec. 160 of this chapter, the agency may issue to any person, political subdivision, or department of the state an order to withhold and deliver property.

(b) All real or personal property belonging to the obligor is subject to an order to withhold and deliver, including, but not limited to, earnings which are due, owing, or belonging to the debtor.

(c) The agency may issue an order to withhold and deliver when it has reason to believe that there is in the possession of a person, political subdivision, or department of the state property which is due, owing, or belonging to the obligor.

(d) The order to withhold and deliver shall be served upon the person, political subdivision, or department of the state possessing the property in the manner provided for service of liens under sec. 240 of this chapter. The order shall state the amount of the obligor's liability and shall state in summary the terms of secs. 260 and 270 of this chapter.

(e) Any person, political subdivision, or department of the state served with an order to withhold and deliver is required to make true answers to inquiries contained in the order under oath and in writing within 30 days of service of the order and is further required to answer all inquiries subsequently put.

(f) If any person, political subdivision, or department of the state upon whom service of an order to withhold and deliver has been made possesses property due, owing, or belonging to the obligor, that person, subdivision, or department shall withhold the property immediately upon receipt of the order and shall deliver the



property to the agency upon demand after the expiration of the 30-day period from the date of service of the order. The agency shall hold property delivered under this subsection in trust for application against the liability of the obligor under sec. 130 of this chapter or for return, without interest, depending on final determination of liability or nonliability under this chapter. The agency may accept a good and sufficient bond conditioned upon final determination of liability in lieu of requiring delivering of property under this subsection.

(g) Delivery to the agency of the money or other property due, owing, or belonging to the obligor shall satisfy the requirement of the order to withhold and deliver. Delivery of money due and owing to the obligor under any contract of employment, express or implied, or held by any person, political subdivision, or department of the state, and subject to withdrawal by the obligor, shall be delivered by remittance payable to the order of the agency.

(h) The agency shall defend and hold harmless for such actions people withholding or delivering money or property to the agency in accordance with this section.

(i) The exemptions from execution by judgment debtors under AS 09.35.080(a) and the restrictions from execution by judgment debtors under AS 09.35.080(b)(1) do not apply to proceedings to enforce the payment of child support under secs. 230 - 270 of this chapter.

Sec. 47.23.260. CIVIL LIABILITY UPON FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AN ORDER OR LIEN. If any person, political subdivision, or department of the state (1) fails to make answer to an order to withhold and deliver within the time prescribed in sec. 250 of this chapter; (2) fails or refuses to deliver property in accordance with an order issued under sec. 250 of this chapter; (3) pays over, releases, sells, transfers, or conveys real property subject to a lien filed under sec. 230 of this chapter to or for the benefit of the obligor or any other person; (4) fails or refuses to surrender upon demand property attached; (5) fails or refuses to honor an assignment of wages presented by the agency, the person, political subdivision, or department of the state is liable to the agency in an amount equal to 100 per cent of the amount constituting the basis of the lien, order to withhold and deliver, attachment, or assignment of wages, together with costs, interest, and reasonable attorney fees.

Sec. 47.23.270. JUDICIAL RELIEF FROM ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTION. Any person against whose property a lien has been filed under sec. 230 of this chapter or an order to withhold and deliver served in accordance with sec. 250 of this chapter may apply for relief to the superior court.

Sec. 47.23.280. SEVERABILITY: ALTERNATIVE WHEN METHOD OF NOTIFICATION HELD INVALID. If any provision of this chapter or the application of it to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or

application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable. If any method of notification provided for in this chapter is held invalid, service as provided for by the laws of the state for service of process in a civil action shall be substituted for the method held invalid.

\* Sec. 30. AS 12.62.020(b) is repealed and re-enacted to read:

(b) No information collected under the provisions of any of the following titles of the Alaska Statutes, except for information related to criminal offenses under those titles, may be collected or stored in criminal justice information systems:

- (1) AS 02, except chs. 20,30, and 35;
- (2) AS 03 - AS 04;
- (3) AS 05, except chs. 20,25,30, and 35;
- (4) AS 06 - AS 10;
- (5) AS 13 - AS 15;
- (6) AS 17;
- (7) AS 18, except AS 18.60.120 - 18.60.175 and  
ch. 65;
- (8) AS 19 - AS 24;
- (9) AS 25, except ch. 25;
- (10) AS 26 - AS 27;
- (11) AS 29 - AS 32;
- (12) AS 34 - AS 46; and
- (13) AS 47, except chs. 10 and 23.

\* Sec. 31. AS 12.62.070(6) is amended to read:

(6) "law enforcement agency" means a public agency which performs as one of its principal functions activities pertaining to law enforcement and includes the child support enforcement agency created by AS 47.23.

\* Sec. 32. AS 43.05.230(a) is amended to read:

(a) Except in connection with official investigations or proceedings of the department, whether judicial or administrative, involving taxes due under this title, except in connection with official investigations or proceedings of the child support enforcement agency, whether judicial or administrative, involving child support obligations imposed or imposable under AS 25 or AS 47, and except as otherwise provided in this section, it is unlawful for an officer, employee or agent of the state to divulge the amount of income or the particulars set out or disclosed in a report or return made under this title.

\* Sec. 33. Alaska State Supreme Court Rule of Criminal Procedure 26(b)(2)(iii) is amended to read:

(iii) These privileges do not apply to a criminal action or proceeding for a crime committed against the person or property of the other spouse or a child of either, including an action for failure to permit visitation with a minor child.

\* Sec. 34. Section 23 of this Act has the effect of changing Rule 67(b) of the Rules of Civil Procedure of the Alaska Supreme Court. It removes the requirement that the court accept reasonable agreements as to method of payment of child support. It requires that the court order payments to be made to the child support enforcement agency only upon application, and not in every child support matter coming before the court.

\* Sec. 35. INTENT. It is the intent of secs. 36 and 37 of this Act to provide for placement of children in surroundings which are socially and culturally desirable and with persons who are able to meet their special needs. Placement of children with blood relatives will work to prevent loss of identity and self-esteem, and provide for increased family and cultural stability, security and solidarity.

\* Sec. 36. AS 47.10.230(a) is amended to read:

(a) Subject to (e) and (f) of this section, the Department of Health and Social Services shall arrange for the care of every child committed to its custody by placing him in a foster home or in the care of an agency or institution providing care for children inside or outside the state. The department may place a child in a suitable family home, with or without compensation, and may place a child released to it, in writing verified by the parent, or guardian or other person having legal custody, for adoptive purposes, in a home for adoption in accordance with existing law.

\* Sec. 37. AS 47.10.230 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(e) A child may not be placed in a foster home or in the care of an agency or institution providing care for children if a blood relative exists who requests custody of the child. However, the department may retain custody of the child and provide for its placement in the same manner as for other children if it makes a determination, supported by clear and convincing evidence, that the custody of the child by the blood relative will result in physical or emotional damage. In making that determination, poverty, including inadequate or crowded housing, on the part of the blood relative, is not considered prima facie evidence that physical or emotional damage to the child will occur. This determination may be appealed to the superior court to hear the matter de novo.

(f) If a blood relative of the child specified under (e) of this section exists and agrees that the child should be placed elsewhere, before placement elsewhere the department shall fully communicate the nature of the placement proceedings to the relative. Communication under this

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section shall be made in the relative's native language, if necessary. Nothing in this section or in (e) of this section applies to child placement for adoptive purposes.

\* Sec. 38. Sections 1 - 34 of this Act take effect July 1, 1977.