CROSSING STATE LINES TO PROVIDE CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

When parties live in separate states, the states often work together to successfully establish, enforce and/or modify child support orders. This process is known as Intergovernmental Action. The uniform act used to work these intergovernmental cases is referred to as UIFSA (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act). All States adopted uniform rules and created the same jurisdictional regulations.

I HAVE A CASE WITH MORE THAN ONE ORDER IN DIFFERENT STATES, WHAT DO I DO?

Contact your local CSEA. A legal analysis of all orders will be conducted and a Controlling Order will be determined. A Controlling Order is made based on details such as; identifying all States that issued orders and which of the parties (including the child) still live in these states. Determining a Controlling Order does not nullify any of the other valid existing orders, rather, all states are bound by the same rule for selecting which order prospectively sets the current support obligation and the non-modifiable terms that will control future litigation.

DO I HAVE TO USE THE SERVICES OF THE CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY THAT ISSUED MY ORDER?

The custodial parent may choose to work with his/her local CSEA or work directly with the State which issued the order. To avoid confusion, the custodial parent should choose one or the other and not both. Some Responding States will only communicate directly with the Initiating State if the custodial parent chooses to apply for child support services with their local CSEA.
I HAVE BEEN SERVED TO APPEAR AT A HEARING IN ANOTHER STATE – AM I REQUIRED TO TRAVEL AND APPEAR FOR THIS HEARING?

Some states allow the ability to participate in a hearing through telephone testimony. This is true for Administrative Hearings held at the CSEA as well. If you are scheduled to appear at an out-of-state hearing, please contact the CSEA for more details as to whether you are permitted to provide telephone testimony.

I DISAGREE WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE HEARING RESULTS RENDERED BY ANOTHER STATE – HOW DO I OBJECT?

If there is a dispute in the amount of support ordered or another issue, an appeal may be possible. You must communicate concerns immediately to the CSEA as there are time limits to filing an objection. In some instances, there may be no basis for an appeal. Always remember that a CSEA does not represent you personally and you may choose to obtain your own legal representation.