

**252C.2 Assignment — creation of support debt — subrogation.**

1. If public assistance is provided by the department to or on behalf of a dependent child or a dependent child's caretaker, there is an assignment by operation of law to the department of any and all right in, title to, and interest in any support obligation, payment, and arrearages owed to or for the child or caretaker up to the amount of public assistance paid for or on behalf of the child or caretaker. Unless otherwise specified in the order, an equal and proportionate share of any child support awarded is presumed to be payable on behalf of each child subject to the order or judgment for purposes of an assignment under [this section](#). For family investment program assistance, [section 239B.6](#) shall apply.

2. The payment of public assistance to or for the benefit of a dependent child or a dependent child's caretaker creates a support debt due and owing to the department by the responsible person in an amount equal to the public assistance payment, except that the support debt is limited to the amount of a support obligation established by court order or by the department. The department may establish a support debt as to amounts accrued and accruing pursuant to [section 598.21B](#). However, when establishing a support obligation against a responsible person, no debt shall be created for the period during which the responsible person is a recipient on the person's own behalf of public assistance for the benefit of the dependent child or the dependent child's caretaker, if any of the following conditions exist:

a. The parents have reconciled and are cohabiting, and the child for whom support would otherwise be sought is living in the same residence as the parents.

b. The child is living with the parent from whom support would otherwise be sought.

3. The provision of child support collection or paternity determination services under [chapter 252B](#) to an individual, even though the individual is ineligible for public assistance, creates a support debt due and owing to the individual or the individual's child or ward by the responsible person in the amount of a support obligation established by court order or by the department. The department may establish a support debt in favor of the individual or the individual's child or ward and against the responsible person, both as to amounts accrued and accruing, pursuant to [section 598.21B](#).

4. The payment of medical assistance pursuant to [chapter 249A](#) for the benefit of a dependent child or a dependent child's caretaker creates a support debt due and owing to the department. The department may establish an order for medical support.

5. The department is subrogated to the rights of a dependent child or a dependent child's caretaker to bring a court action or to execute an administrative remedy for the collection of support. The department may petition an appropriate court for modification of a court order on the same grounds as a party to the court order can petition the court for modification.

[84 Acts, ch 1278, §2; 89 Acts, ch 166, §4; 92 Acts, ch 1195, §401, 402; 94 Acts, ch 1171, §20; 97 Acts, ch 175, §50; 2005 Acts, ch 69, §12, 13; 2008 Acts, ch 1019, §4, 7; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §873](#)

Referred to in [§252C.3, 598.21B](#)  
Section amended