441—98.122(252B) Enforcement services by private attorney entitled to state compensation. An attorney licensed to practice law in Iowa may utilize judicial proceedings to collect support, at least a portion of which is assigned support, and be entitled to compensation by the state as provided in Iowa Code chapter 252B.

98.122(1) *Eligible cases.* To be eligible for attorney services with compensation under this rule, a case must meet all of the following:

a. The child support recovery unit is providing services under Iowa Code chapter 252B.

b. The current support obligation is terminated and only arrearages are due under the administrative or court order.

c. There has been no payment under any order in the case for at least a 12-month period prior to the provision of the notice from the attorney to the unit under paragraph 98.122(1)*"f."*

d. At least a portion of the arrearages due under any order in the case is assigned to the state because cash assistance was paid under Iowa Code chapter 252B.

e. The case does not have any of the following characteristics:

(1) There has been a finding of good cause or other exception pursuant to Iowa Code section 252B.3.

(2) A portion of the arrears is assigned to another state because of public assistance provided by that state.

(3) Another attorney has already notified the unit of the intent to initiate a judicial proceeding to collect support due under any order in the same case under this rule, and either the time to receive the collection has not expired or the unit has not received a notice from the other attorney that the judicial proceeding has concluded prior to the expiration of the time period.

(4) If the notice from the attorney under paragraph 98.122(1)*"f"* specifies contempt of court as the judicial proceeding, and the unit has generated a seek employment order to the obligor under Iowa Code section 252B.21 less than nine months prior to the date on the notice from the attorney.

(5) The case or arrearages have been referred by the child support recovery unit to a collection entity under Iowa Code section 252B.5(3) less than nine months prior to the date on the notice from the attorney.

(6) The obligor has filed for bankruptcy and collection activities are stayed.

(7) The notice from the attorney under paragraph 98.122(1)*"f"* lists a specific judicial proceeding and the unit has already initiated the same type of proceeding in court.

(8) The case has been referred to the U.S. Attorney's office and is still pending at that office.

f. The attorney has provided written notice to the central office of the child support recovery unit in Des Moines, as specified in subrule 98.122(2), and to the last-known address of the obligee of the intent to initiate a specified judicial proceeding to collect support on any identified court or administrative order involving the obligor and obligee in the case.

g. The attorney has provided documentation of insurance to the unit as required by Iowa Code chapter 252B.

h. The collection must be received by the collection services center within 90 days of the notice from the attorney in paragraph 98.122(1)*"f,"* or within a subsequent 90-day extension period.

98.122(2) *Procedure.*

a. To begin the process under this rule, the attorney shall submit the following to the External Services Process Specialist, Bureau of Collections, Iowa Department of Human Services, Hoover Building, Fifth Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114 at least 30 days prior to initiating the specified judicial proceeding:

(1) A dated, written statement which lists the specific judicial proceeding which the attorney intends to initiate, any court or administrative order under which the arrearages accrued identified by the order number, and the names of the obligor and obligee.

(2) Documentation that the attorney is insured as required by the statute. Documentation shall be either a copy of the attorney's policy from the insurer, or a letter from the insurer verifying insurance coverage as required by the statute.

(3) Documentation that the attorney is licensed to practice law in Iowa.

b. The unit shall mail a response to the attorney within ten days of receipt of the notice from the attorney. All of the following shall apply to the unit's response:

(1) If the case meets the requirements of this rule, the notice shall list the case number, any order numbers, the judicial proceeding specified by the attorney, the balance due the state of Iowa, the balance due an obligee, and the date that is 90 days from the date of the notice from the attorney. The notice shall also contain a statement that any compensation due the attorney as a result of application of this rule will be calculated on the amount of support credited to arrearages due the state at the time the support paid as a result of the judicial proceeding is received by the collection services center. The notice shall also contain a statement that any support collected shall be disbursed in accordance with federal requirements, and any support due the obligee shall be disbursed to the obligee prior to disbursement to the attorney as compensation.

(2) If the case does not meet the requirements of this rule, the notice shall list the case number, any order number, and the reason the case does not meet the requirements.

c. If the case is eligible under this rule, the attorney may initiate judicial proceedings after 30 days after providing the notice to the child support recovery unit in paragraph 98.122(2)*"a."* Iowa Code chapter 252B defines "judicial proceedings."

d. The attorney may extend the time to complete the judicial proceeding or to allow for receipt of the collection by the collection services center by submitting a notice requesting a 90-day extension to the address in paragraph *"a."* This or any subsequent notice must be received by the unit before expiration of the current 90-day time frame. The child support recovery unit shall acknowledge receipt of the subsequent notice and list on the acknowledgment the date that is 90 days from the date of the attorney's subsequent notice.

98.122(3) *Collection and payment to attorney.*

a. Upon compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 252B and this rule, the attorney shall be entitled to compensation from the state as provided for in this rule.

b. Upon receipt of a file-stamped copy of a court order which identifies the amount of support collected as a result of the judicial proceeding and which does not order the payment of attorney fees by the obligor, and the receipt of the collection by the collection services center, all the following apply:

(1) Iowa Code chapter 252B specifies the formula to calculate the compensation due the attorney from the state. The child support recovery unit shall calculate the compensation due the attorney based upon the amount of support which is credited to arrearages due the state at the time the collection is received by the collection services center. After calculating the amount due the attorney, the unit shall reduce the amount due the attorney by the amount of any penalty or sanction imposed upon the state as a result of any other judicial proceeding initiated by that attorney under Iowa Code chapter 252B. The child support recovery unit shall send the attorney a notice of the amount of the compensation due from the state.

(2) The collection services center shall disburse any support due an obligee prior to payment of compensation to the attorney.

(3) The child support recovery unit shall not authorize disbursement of compensation to the attorney until the later of 30 days after receipt of the collection and the file-stamped copy of the order, or resolution of any timely appeal by the obligor or obligee.

(4) The amount of compensation due the attorney is subject to judicial review upon application to the court by the attorney.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 252B.

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