

441—100.17(252C) Establishment of an administrative order.

100.17(1) *When order may be established.* The department may establish a child or medical support obligation against a responsible person through the administrative process. This does not preclude child support services from pursuing the establishment of an ongoing support obligation through other available legal proceedings. When gathering information to establish a support order, child support services may obtain a form prescribed by the department or a similar document from the child's caretaker.

100.17(2) *Support debt.* When public assistance is paid to or Medicaid is received by a child of the responsible person, or the dependent child's caretaker, a support debt is created and assigned to the department. When no public assistance is paid or Medicaid is received, the debt is owed to the individual caretaker.

100.17(3) *Notice to responsible person.* When the department establishes a support debt against a responsible person, a notice of child support debt will be served in accordance with the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure or Iowa Code section 252B.26. The notice will include all of the rights and responsibilities shown in Iowa Code section 252C.3. The notice will also inform the responsible person that these rights may be waived pursuant to Iowa Code section 252C.12, and the procedures for and effect of waiving these rights. The notice will include a statement that failure to respond within the time limits given and to provide information and verification of financial circumstances will result in the entry of a default judgment for support.

100.17(4) *Negotiation conference.* The responsible person may, within ten calendar days after being served the notice of child support debt, request a negotiation conference with the office of child support services that sent the notice.

100.17(5) *Amount of support obligation.* Child support services will determine the amount of the child support obligation accrued and accruing using the child support guidelines established by the Iowa Supreme Court, and pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code section 252B.7A.

- a. Any deviation from the guidelines will require a written finding by the department.
- b. Reserved.

100.17(6) *Court hearing.* Either the responsible person or child support services may request a court hearing regarding the establishment of a support obligation through the administrative process.

a. The request for a hearing by the responsible person must be in writing and sent to the office of child support services that sent the original notice of the support debt by the latest of the following:

- (1) Thirty days from the date of service of the first notice of support debt.
- (2) Ten days from the date of the negotiation conference.
- (3) Thirty days from the date the second notice and finding of financial responsibility is issued.
- (4) Ten days from the date of issuance of the conference report if the department does not issue a second notice and finding of financial responsibility after a conference was requested.

b. When a request for a court hearing is received from the responsible person, within the time limits allowed, or is made by child support services, the department will schedule or request that the hearing be scheduled in the district court in the county:

- (1) Where the dependent child resides if the child resides in Iowa.
- (2) Where the responsible person resides if the child for whom support is sought resides in another state or the sole purpose of the administrative order is to secure a judgment for the time period that public assistance was expended by the state on behalf of the family or child.

100.17(7) *Exception to time limit.* The department may accept and respond to written requests for a court hearing beyond the time limits allowed in this rule.

100.17(8) *Entry of order.* If no request for a hearing is received from the responsible person at the local office of child support services, or made by child support services, the department may prepare an order for support and have it presented ex parte to the court for approval.

a. The attorney for child support services will present the order and other documents supporting the entry of the ex parte order to the court for review and approval. Pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 252C, the court will approve the order unless defects appear in the order or supporting documents.

- b. The department will file a copy of the approved order with the clerk of the district court.

c. The department will send a copy of the filed order by regular mail, to the caretaker's last-known address, to the responsible person's last-known address or the caretaker's or the responsible person's attorney pursuant to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 252C within 14 days after approval and issuance of the order by the court.

100.17(9) *Force and effect.* Once the order has been signed by the judge and filed, it will have all the force and effect of an order or decree entered by the court. Unless otherwise specified, the effective date of the support obligation will be the twentieth day following the date the order is prepared by child support services.

100.17(10) *Modification by department.* 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.

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