

INTERSTATE ISSUES

Child support issues can be complicated enough when both parents live in the same town, county, or state. When one parent lives in another state, or another country, it can make child support issues even more confusing. Merely because a parent lives out-of-state does not mean that he or she cannot receive or pay child support. Moving from one state to another does not stop a child support order; a child support order of one state--whether it is from a court or an administrative agency like DCSE--are valid and enforceable in all other states.

To assist in these situations, each state has enacted the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) which standardized many procedures for handling interstate child support cases. The cornerstone of UIFSA is the principle that there is only one child support order in effect at a time. That order remains in effect until it is changed by a court with proper jurisdiction. New courts can, after a registration process, modify or enforce another state's order. If a new court, after having properly assumed jurisdiction in a case, issues a new order, that order will become the effective order and the previous order is superseded and no longer valid.

If there is no child support order and the parents live in separate states, either parent can contact DCSE, or the child support agency of the state where the other parent resides, to create a new child support order. There is no requirement to travel to the other state; even genetic testing can be arranged in separate states.