



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON  
DIRECTOR

**IV-D MEMORANDUM 2017-002**

**TO:** All Friend of the Court (FOC) Staff  
All Prosecuting Attorney (PA) Staff  
All Office of Child Support (OCS) Staff

**FROM:** Erin P. Frisch, Director  
Office of Child Support

**DATE:** January 31, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Publication of Final Rule: Flexibility, Efficiency, and  
Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs

**UPDATE(S):**

Manual

Form(s)

**RESPONSE DUE:** None

**POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon receipt

**PURPOSE:**

The final rule: Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs was published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2016.<sup>1</sup> The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) announced the publication of the final rule in [Action Transmittal \(AT\)-16-06](#).

According to OCSE, the changes implemented in the final rule will strengthen the child support enforcement program and:

- Update current practices to increase regular, on-time payments to families;
- Increase the number of non-custodial parents supporting their children; and
- Improve program operations.

The final rule revisions went into effect on January 19, 2017. Compliance dates for individual requirements may vary.<sup>2</sup> OCS will provide further guidance in future IV-D Memorandums and *Michigan IV-D Child Support Manual* revisions; consequently, Michigan IV-D staff will not change case processing at this time.

<sup>1</sup> The final rule is on [page 93492, Volume 81, Number 244 of the Federal Register](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ref: [Compliance Dates for the Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs Final Rule](#).

## **DISCUSSION:**

OCSE developed revisions to the final rule in response to the needs and requests of IV-D offices nationwide. Michigan OCS staff and partners reviewed the final rule in its draft stage, and OCS provided comments to OCSE in June 2015. OCSE addressed many of OCS's comments. OCS is closely reviewing the revisions in the final rule to determine the impacts they will have on the Michigan IV-D program.

### **Final Rule Categories and Goals**

The final regulatory improvements are grouped into the following categories:

1. Procedures to promote program flexibility, efficiency, and modernization;
2. Updates resulting from advances in technology; and
3. Technical corrections.

The goals of the regulations are to:

- Increase state and employer flexibility to better serve families;
- Improve program effectiveness, efficiency, and innovation;
- Improve customer service; and
- Remove barriers identified by employers, states, and families that prevent efficient and timely child support payments.

### **OCS Analysis of the Final Rule Revisions**

Michigan IV-D staff may read the final rule to become familiar with its provisions; however, they are not expected to do so. OCS will determine the effect of the updated regulations on IV-D policies, procedures, and system functionality after a thorough analysis and discussions with child support partners, other subject matter experts, and system staff. Some of these updates may require changes to the Michigan IV-D State Plan.<sup>3</sup>

Some of the provisions of the new rule are optional (i.e., at the state's discretion) and are not required changes. As part of OCS's analysis and consideration of those options, OCS will ask Work Improvement Team (WIT) and workgroup members as well as other individuals to discuss the provisions. OCS will contact WITs and workgroups when that time comes.

At this time, the final rule revisions do not change case actions or processing and will not change the operation of Michigan's child support program. In the months to come, OCS will provide more information and guidance to IV-D staff following program-wide discussions.

---

<sup>3</sup> The requirement for submission of a state plan and plan amendments for the child support program is found in sections 452, 454, and 466 of the Social Security Act.

OCS looks forward to its review of the updated regulations to see how they will benefit Michigan families and the IV-D program.

**Additional Information**

For more information on the final rule, reference AT-16-06 and OCSE's [Final Rule Fact Sheets](#). The fact sheets provide an overview of the revised topics in the new regulation and explain how they will strengthen and update the child support program.

**NECESSARY ACTION:**

Retain this IV-D Memorandum until further notice.

**REVIEW PARTICIPANTS:**

Program Leadership Group

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Michael Adrian  
Program Development Division Director  
(517) 241-5749  
adrianm@michigan.gov

**CC:**

None

**SUPPORTING REFERENCES:**

Federal  
OCSE AT-16-06

State  
None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**EPF/MCA**