

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
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Augusta, Maine
2009

fidential and are not subject to compulsory legal process or otherwise discoverable or admissible in evidence in any civil action unless the confidentiality is waived by the affected person. Statistical data not identifying a person seeking the assistance of a critical incident stress management team must be made available for statistical evaluation and may not be made available for any other purpose.

2. Mandatory disclosure of information. Unless protected by a privilege of law recognized by this State, a member of a critical incident stress management team must disclose to appropriate federal, state or local government agencies or law enforcement agencies the following types of information:

A. An admission by a person seeking the assistance of the critical incident stress management team that the person has committed a crime;

B. A disclosure of information by a person seeking the assistance of a critical incident stress management team that must be reported pursuant to any applicable law; or

C. A disclosure of information by a person seeking the assistance of a critical incident stress management team that would lead one to reasonably think that the person seeking assistance is a danger to that person or to another person.

Information disclosed under this subsection is no longer confidential unless it is otherwise designated confidential by statute.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 290

S.P. 543 - L.D. 1459

An Act To Modify Child Support Enforcement Procedures and Requirements

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §1501, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §1501, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Medical support. "Medical support" means an amount ordered to be paid toward the cost of health insurance provided by a public entity or by another parent through employment or otherwise or for other medical costs not covered by insurance.

Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §1501, sub-§4-B is enacted to read:

4-B. Private health insurance. "Private health insurance" means fee-for-service, health maintenance organization, preferred provider organization and other types of coverage available to either parent under which medical services could be provided to a child. "Private health insurance" does not include insurance that provides coverage only for accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, disability income, long-term care or other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts.

Sec. 4. 19-A MRSA §1501, sub-§4-C is enacted to read:

4-C. Reasonable cost. "Reasonable cost" means the cost of private health insurance to the parent responsible for providing medical support that does not exceed amounts adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services in a rule implementing a cost-reasonableness standard. "Cost of private health insurance" means the cost of adding the child to existing coverage or the difference between self-only and family coverage, unless that cost is determined to be unjust by a court or the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sec. 5. 19-A MRSA §1604, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

§1604. Service

Service of a notice under section 1605 must be made by personal service in hand and may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner or by a person authorized as provided for personal service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4(d). Personal service within the State of a notice under section 1605 may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner. Personal service outside the State of a notice under section 1605 may be made in the manner provided for personal service of summons outside the State by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4(e).

Sec. 6. 19-A MRSA §1653, sub-§8, ¶C, as amended by PL 2005, c. 323, §12, is further amended to read:

C. The court may require the payment of part or all of the medical expenses, hospital expenses and other health care expenses of the child. The court order must include a provision requiring at least one parent to obtain and maintain private health insurance coverage for medical, hospitalization and dental expenses the child, if reasonable cost private health insurance for the child is available to that parent at reasonable cost. The court order must also require the parent providing insurance to furnish proof of coverage to the other parent within 15 days of receipt of a copy of the court order. If reasonable cost private health insurance for the child is not available at reasonable cost at

the time of the hearing, the court order must ~~establish the obligation to provide~~ include a provision requiring at least one parent to obtain and maintain private health insurance on the part of at least one parent, for the child that must be effective immediately upon reasonable cost private health insurance for the child being available at reasonable cost.

Sec. 7. 19-A MRSA §2001, sub-§5, ¶E, as amended by PL 2003, c. 123, §1, is further amended to read:

E. Gross income of an obligor does not include the amount of a preexisting spousal ~~maintenance support obligation~~ support obligation to a former spouse who is not the parent of the child for whom support is being determined ~~or~~, a preexisting child support obligation ~~actually paid~~ pursuant to court or administrative order, or an appropriate amount of preexisting child support being voluntarily paid by a party who has a legal obligation to support that child.

Sec. 8. 19-A MRSA §2001, sub-§5-A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 448, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 19-A MRSA §2001, sub-§5-B, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 448, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 10. 19-A MRSA §2001, sub-§5-C, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 448, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 11. 19-A MRSA §2006, sub-§3, ¶C, as amended by PL 2003, c. 415, §7, is further amended to read:

C. If a party is paying health insurance ~~premiums~~ private health insurance for the child is available at reasonable cost, the ~~sums actually being expended for~~ cost of private health insurance premiums for the child or children for whom support is being ordered must be added to the basic support entitlement to determine the total basic support obligation. ~~The court shall determine the pro rata share of the health insurance premium actually expended that is attributable to each child.~~ For the purposes of this paragraph, "the cost of private health insurance" is the cost of adding the child to existing coverage or the difference between self-only and family coverage.

Sec. 12. 19-A MRSA §2006, sub-§5, ¶B, as amended by PL 2001, c. 264, §4, is further amended to read:

B. When the parties' combined annual gross income exceeds ~~\$240,000~~ \$400,000, the child support table is not applicable, except that the basic weekly child support entitlement of a child is presumed to be not less than that set forth in the table for a combined annual gross income of ~~\$240,000~~ \$400,000.

Sec. 13. 19-A MRSA §2006, sub-§5, ¶C, as amended by PL 2001, c. 554, §10, is further amended to read:

C. The subsistence needs of the nonprimary care provider must be taken into account when establishing the parental support obligation. If the annual gross income of the nonprimary care provider is less than the federal poverty guideline, the nonprimary care provider's weekly parental support obligation for each child for whom a support award is being established or modified may not exceed 10% of the nonprimary care provider's weekly gross income, regardless of the amount of the parties' combined annual gross income. The child support table includes a self-support reserve for obligors earning ~~less than \$12,600~~ \$22,800 or less per year. If, within an age category, the nonprimary care provider's annual gross income, without adjustments, is in the self-support reserve, for the total number of children for whom support is being determined, the amount listed in the table for the number of children is self-support reserve multiplied by the number of children in the age category is the nonprimary care provider's basic support obligation for the children in that age category, regardless of the parties' combined annual gross income. The nonprimary care provider's proportional share of childcare, health insurance premiums and extraordinary medical expenses are added to this basic support obligation. This paragraph does not apply if its application would result in a greater support obligation than a support obligation determined without application of this paragraph.

Sec. 14. 19-A MRSA §2006, sub-§8, ¶F, as amended by PL 2005, c. 352, §4, is further amended to read:

F. If the court or hearing officer ultimately determines that the order for current support is to be set under section 2007, the written findings of the court or hearing officer in support of the deviation; ~~and~~

Sec. 15. 19-A MRSA §2006, sub-§8, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 352, §5, is amended to read:

G. With regard to any initial or modified child support order that affects more than one child and that was entered before January 18, 2005, unless that order states the manner in which the order must be modified upon the events listed in subparagraphs (1) to (4), that the order be automatically modified pursuant to this paragraph to address any of the following events:

- (1) Any child reaches 18 years of age and has graduated from secondary school;
- (2) Any child reaches 19 years of age without having graduated from secondary school;

(3) Any child obtains an order of emancipation; or

(4) Any child dies.

As of the date of an event listed in subparagraphs (1) to (4), the total child support amount stated in the order must be decreased by the child support amount assigned to that child in the worksheets accompanying the child support order or as set forth in the order; and

Sec. 16. 19-A MRSA §2006, sub-§8, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. A requirement that private health insurance must be provided for the benefit of the child, if private health insurance for the child is available at reasonable cost. If private health insurance for the child is not available at reasonable cost at the time of the hearing, a requirement that private health insurance for the child must be provided effective immediately upon being available at reasonable cost.

Sec. 17. 19-A MRSA §2009, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Motion to modify by department. When a parent receives public assistance for the benefit of a dependent child, the department may file a motion to modify support regardless of whether the parent has been allocated the primary residential care of the dependent child pursuant to chapter 55.

Sec. 18. 19-A MRSA §2009, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 19. 19-A MRSA §2009, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Service. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, service of a motion to modify support must be made in the manner provided for service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4. For the purpose of this subsection, this service must be deemed to be an action pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. When the department is providing child support services, personal service within the State of a motion to modify support may be made by authorized representatives of the commissioner. Service of the motion must be accompanied by:

A. A notice that the court may enter an order without hearing if the party does not request a hearing;

B. A notice of the right to request a hearing;

C. A notice of the requirement of mediation prior to a hearing;

D. The income affidavit of the moving party or the party receiving the assistance of the depart-

ment, as well as the responding party's affidavit, if available;

E. A proposed order, incorporating the child support worksheet; and

F. Any stipulation entered into by the parties.

Sec. 20. 19-A MRSA §2106, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2001, c. 554, §12, is further amended to read:

1. Enrollment of dependent children in employer health plans. If a parent is required by a support order to provide ~~health care coverage~~ private health insurance for a child and the parent is eligible for ~~family health care coverage~~ health insurance through an employer doing business in the State then, upon application by either parent ~~or notice from the court or the department~~, the employer or plan administrator shall enroll the child, if otherwise eligible, in the employer health plan without regard to any enrollment season restrictions, except as provided by subsection 2. If the employer offers more than one plan, the employer or plan administrator shall enroll the child in the plan in which the employee is enrolled or, if the employee is not enrolled, in the least costly plan otherwise available, if the plan's services are available where the child resides. If the services of the employee's plan or the least costly plan are not available where the child resides, the employer or plan administrator shall enroll the child in the least costly plan that is available where the child resides. If the plan requires that the participant be enrolled in order for the child to be enrolled, and the participant is not currently enrolled, the employer or the plan administrator must enroll both the participant and the child. The enrollments must be without regard to open season restrictions. The court or the department ~~shall order health care coverage using the~~ may issue to a parent's employer or other payor of income a medical support notice to enforce a parent's obligation to obtain or maintain health insurance coverage or other health care services for each dependent child of the parent. The format of the medical support notice must be the federal National Medical Support Notice as required by the Child Support Performance and Incentives Act of 1998, Public Law 105-200, 42 United States Code, Section 666(a)(19)(A) and the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 United States Code, Section 1169(a)(5)(C). The employer or other payor of income shall complete Part A of the National Medical Support Notice and the plan administrator shall complete Part B.

Sec. 21. 19-A MRSA §2106, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2001, c. 554, §13, is further amended to read:

4. Answer. The employer shall respond within 20 days to a parent who requests enrollment or, if a

medical support notice has been issued, to the court or the department within 20 days and confirm:

- A. That the child has been enrolled in the employer's health plan;
- B. The date when the child will be enrolled, if enrollment is pending; or
- C. That coverage can not be provided, stating the reasons why coverage can not be provided.

Sec. 22. 19-A MRSA §2201, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 352, §8, is further amended to read:

1. Notice. The department may serve notice upon a support obligor who is not in compliance with an order of support that informs the obligor of the department's intention to submit the obligor's name to the appropriate board as a licensee who is not in compliance with an order of support. The notice must inform the obligor that:

- A. The obligor may request an administrative hearing to contest the issue of compliance;
- B. A request for hearing must be made in writing and must be received by the department within 20 days of service;
- C. If the obligor requests a hearing within 20 days of service, the department shall stay the action to certify the obligor to a board for noncompliance with an order of support pending a decision after hearing;
- D. If the obligor does not request a hearing within 20 days of service and is not in compliance with an order of support, the department shall certify the obligor to the appropriate board for noncompliance with an order of support;
- E. If the department certifies the obligor to a board for noncompliance with an order of support, the board must revoke the obligor's license and refuse to issue or reissue a license until the obligor provides the board with a written confirmation of compliance from the department that states the obligor is in compliance with the obligor's order of support. A revocation by an agency or a refusal by an agency to reissue, renew or otherwise extend the license or certificate of authority is deemed a final determination within the meaning of Title 5, section 10002;
- F. If the obligor files a motion to modify support with the court or requests the department to amend a support obligation established by an administrative decision, the department shall stay action to certify the obligor to a board for noncompliance with an order of support; and
- G. The obligor can comply with an order of support by:

- (1) Paying current support;
- (2) Paying all past-due support or, if unable to pay all past-due support and a periodic payment for past-due support has not been ordered by the court, by making periodic payments in accordance with a written payment agreement with the department; and
- (3) Meeting the obligor's health insurance obligation.

The notice must include the address and telephone number of the department's support enforcement office that issues the notice and a statement of the need to obtain a written confirmation of compliance from that office as provided in subsection 8. The department shall attach a copy of the obligor's order of support to the notice. Service of the notice must be made ~~by certified mail, return receipt requested, by service in hand, or as specified in the manner provided for service of summons by~~ the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4. For purposes of this ~~section~~ subsection, this must be deemed to be an action pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. Personal service within the State of the notice described in this subsection may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner may serve the notice.

Sec. 23. 19-A MRSA §2202, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

2. Notice. The commissioner may serve notice upon a support obligor who is not in compliance with an order of support that informs the obligor of the commissioner's intention to certify the obligor to the Secretary of State as an individual who is not in compliance with an order of support. The notice must inform the obligor that:

- A. The obligor may contest the issue of compliance at an administrative hearing;
- B. A request for hearing must be made in writing and must be received by the department within 20 days of service;
- C. If the obligor requests a hearing within 20 days of service, the department shall stay the action to certify the obligor to the Secretary of State for noncompliance with an order of support pending a decision after hearing;
- D. If the obligor does not timely request a hearing to contest the issue of compliance and does not obtain a written confirmation of compliance from the department, the commissioner shall certify the obligor to the Secretary of State for noncompliance with an order of support;
- E. If the commissioner certifies the obligor to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State must

suspend any motor vehicle operator's licenses that the obligor holds and the obligor's right to apply for or obtain a motor vehicle operator's license;

F. If the obligor requests a hearing, the obligor shall direct the request to the department's support enforcement office that is responsible for handling the obligor's case;

G. If the obligor files a motion to modify support with the court or requests the department to amend a support obligation established by an administrative decision, the department shall stay action to certify the obligor to the Secretary of State for noncompliance with an order of support; and

H. The obligor can comply with an order of support by:

- (1) Paying current support;
- (2) Paying all past-due support or, if unable to pay all past-due support and a periodic payment for past-due support has not been ordered by the court, by making periodic payments in accordance with a written payment agreement with the department; and
- (3) Meeting the obligor's health insurance obligation.

The notice must include the address and telephone number of the department's support enforcement office that issues the notice and a statement of the need for the obligor to obtain a written confirmation of compliance from that office as provided in subsection 8. The department shall attach a copy of the obligor's order of support to the notice. The notice must be ~~certified mail, return receipt requested, by service in hand, or as specified made in the manner provided for service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4.~~ For purposes of this section subsection, this notice must be deemed to be an action pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. Personal service within the State of the notice described in this subsection may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner may serve the notice.

Sec. 24. 19-A MRSA §2203, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

5. Sheriff or levying officer. An order to seize and sell may be sent by the department to a county sheriff or levying officer. ~~When the order is issued, the department shall serve a copy of the order on all persons other than the obligor who the department knows have an ownership interest in the property identified in the order. If personal service is unsuccessful, the department shall mail the order to the person's last known address by regular mail.~~ Upon receipt of the order, the sheriff or levying officer shall proceed to

execute the order in the same manner as prescribed for execution of a judgment. A sheriff or levying officer shall return the order, along with any funds collected, to the department within 90 days of the receipt of the order. Funds resulting from execution of the order must first be applied to the sheriff's or levying officer's costs, then to any superior liens and then to the support lien or other money obligation and any inferior liens of which the department has notice. Any amounts in excess of this distribution must be paid to the obligor. If the order is returned not fully satisfied, the department has the same remedies to collect the deficiency as are available for any civil judgment.

Sec. 25. 19-A MRSA §2203, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

6. Right to hearing. ~~Before~~ At least 20 calendar days before the sale, the department shall serve a copy of the order on the obligor and all other persons that the department knows have an ownership interest in the property identified in the order. Service of an order under this subsection must be made in the manner provided for service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4. For purposes of this subsection, this service must be deemed to be an action pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. Personal service within the State of a copy of the order may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner. The obligor and any other persons who claim an ownership interest in the property seized under an order to seize and sell have a right to an administrative hearing to contest the seizure and sale of the property and to establish the value of their relative interest in the property. A request for a hearing must be in writing and must be received by the department within 10 calendar days of ~~the seizure~~ service of a copy of the order. Upon receiving a request for a hearing, the department shall notify all persons who the department has reason to believe have an ownership interest in the property of the time, place and nature of the hearing.

A. Anyone requesting a hearing has the right to a preliminary hearing within 5 business days of the hearing request. At the preliminary hearing, if the hearing officer determines that there is reasonable ground to believe the seizure was lawful and that the obligor owes a support debt that could be satisfied in whole or in part by nonexempt property that has been seized, the hearing officer shall require the seizure to remain in force and schedule a final hearing, allowing all parties reasonable time to collect evidence and prepare for the final hearing. If the hearing officer determines that the seizure was not lawful or that the obligor does not owe a support debt that could be satisfied in whole or in part by nonexempt property that has been seized, the hearing officer shall declare the order to seize and sell void.

B. The department shall notify any person who the department has reason to believe has an ownership interest in the seized property of the time and place of the final hearing. At the final hearing, the hearing officer shall determine:

- (1) Whether the obligor owes a support debt;
- (2) Whether the support debt could be satisfied in whole or in part by the property seized;
- (3) The percentage share of ownership of all persons claiming an ownership interest in the property;
- (4) The amount of the debtor's interest in the property that is exempt; and
- (5) The value of the interest in the property owned by nonobligor parties with an interest superior to that of the department.

Sec. 26. 19-A MRSA §2253, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 27. 19-A MRSA §2254, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

§2254. Service

Service of a notice, order or lien described in this article ~~may must~~ be ~~by certified mail, return receipt requested, by service in hand as specified in civil actions or by publication as specified in civil actions made in the manner provided for service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4. For the purposes of this article only, section, this service must be deemed to be an action pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. Personal service within the State of a notice, order or lien described in this article may be made by an authorized representatives representative of the commissioner may serve a notice or lien described in this article.~~

~~**1. Date of service.** Service is completed when the certified mail is received or refused, or when specified in civil actions for service in hand or by publication.~~

~~**2. Branch banks.** Service on a bank or other financial institution maintaining branch offices is only effective as to the accounts, credits or other personal property of the responsible parent in the particular branch on which service is made.~~

Sec. 28. 19-A MRSA §2308, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2001, c. 554, §14, is further amended to read:

1. Issuance of notice. The department, on its own behalf, on behalf of a custodial parent who applies for the department's support enforcement services or on behalf of another state's Title IV-D agency, po-

litical subdivision or agent, may issue to a ~~responsible~~ parent's employer or other payor of income a medical support notice to enforce a ~~responsible~~ parent's obligation to obtain or maintain health insurance coverage or other health care services for each dependent child of the ~~responsible~~ parent. The medical support notice must be in the format of the federal National Medical Support Notice as required by the Child Support Performance and Incentives Act of 1998, Public Law 105-200, 42 United States Code, Section 666(a)(19)(A) and the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 United States Code, Section 1169(a)(5)(C). The employer or other payor of income shall complete Part A of the National Medical Support Notice and the plan administrator shall complete Part B.

Sec. 29. 19-A MRSA §2308, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2001, c. 554, §14, is further amended to read:

6. Mistake of fact; affirmative defenses. A ~~responsible~~ parent may claim a mistake of fact or assert affirmative defenses to contest the issuance of a medical support notice. The department shall establish by rule an administrative process for reviewing claims of mistake and investigating affirmative defenses.

Sec. 30. 19-A MRSA §2308, sub-§14, as amended by PL 2001, c. 554, §14, is further amended to read:

14. Employee protected. An employer who discharges, refuses to employ or takes disciplinary action against a ~~responsible~~ parent, or who otherwise discriminates against ~~that a~~ parent because of the existence of the medical support notice or the obligation the medical support notice imposes upon the employer, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 payable to the State, to be recovered in a civil action. The employer is also subject to an action by the ~~responsible~~ parent for compensatory and punitive damages, plus attorney's fees and court costs.

Sec. 31. 19-A MRSA §2308, sub-§15, as amended by PL 2001, c. 554, §14, is further amended to read:

15. Service. A medical support notice must be served on the ~~responsible~~ parent's employer or other payor of earnings. Service ~~may be by certified mail, return receipt requested, by an authorized representative of the commissioner, by personal service as permitted must be made in the manner provided for service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4 or as otherwise permitted by sections 2253 and 2254. For purposes of this subsection, this service must be deemed to be an action pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. Personal service within the State of a copy of the notice may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner.~~ The department

shall send a copy of the medical support notice to the ~~responsible~~ parent at the ~~responsible~~ parent's most recent address of record.

Sec. 32. 19-A MRSA §2361, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1997, c. 466, §23 and affected by §28, is further amended to read:

1. Order. The commissioner may commence an action under Title 14, chapter 502 by directing a responsible parent to appear before the department to disclose under oath information that relates to the responsible parent's ability to pay child support. The commissioner may require a responsible parent who is directed to appear to provide documents, papers and other evidence about the responsible parent's income and assets for the purpose of enforcing a support order. ~~An~~ Notwithstanding section 2254, an order to appear and disclose must be served on the responsible parent by personal service as provided for personal service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4(d). Personal service within the State of an order to appear and disclose may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner. Personal service outside the State of an order to appear and disclose may be made in the manner provided for personal service of summons outside the State by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4(e).

Sec. 33. 19-A MRSA §2658, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

§2658. Service of process

Service under this subchapter ~~may~~ must be ~~by certified mail or in accordance with the requirements of made in the manner provided for service of summons by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 4. The department may serve an income withholding order as provided in section 2254. For purposes of this section, this service must be deemed to be an action pursuant to Chapter XIII of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. When the department is providing child support services, personal service within the State of an income withholding order may be made by an authorized representative of the commissioner.~~

Sec. 34. 19-A MRSA §2670, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 537, §51 and affected by §62, is amended to read:

1. Use of this State's income withholding law. When a payor receives an income withholding order issued by another state for an obligor whose principal place of employment is in this State, the payor shall apply the ~~income withholding law of the state of the obligor's principal place of employment~~ provisions of this subchapter when determining:

- A. The payor's fee for processing an income withholding order;
- B. The maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the obligor's income;
- C. The time in which the payor must implement the income withholding order and forward the child support payment;
- D. The priorities for withholding and allocating income withheld for multiple child support obligees; and
- E. Any withholding terms or conditions not specified in the order.

Sec. 35. 19-A MRSA §2674 is enacted to read:

§2674. Maximum amount permitted to be withheld

The maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the obligor's income must be determined in accordance with section 2356.

Sec. 36. 19-A MRSA §2675 is enacted to read:

§2675. Allocating income withheld for multiple child support obligees

A payor of earnings that receives 2 or more withholding orders for the purpose of enforcing or paying a child support obligation with respect to the earnings of the same obligor shall withhold the full amount of all current support obligations before withholding the obligor's support arrears. If the payor is prohibited by section 2356 from withholding the full amount of current support obligations, the payor satisfies the terms of the orders if the payor withholds a pro rata amount of current support pursuant to each order. If the payor is prohibited by this section or section 2356 from withholding the full amount of support arrears, the payor satisfies the terms of the orders if the payor withholds a pro rata amount of support arrears pursuant to each order.

Sec. 37. Rules. The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules regarding reasonable cost as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 1501, subsection 4-C. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.