



# PASSPORT DENIAL PROGRAM

One of the administrative enforcement techniques that can be used to collect past due child support payments is the Passport Denial Program. The Passport Denial Program makes use of the same list sent to the IRS for Tax Offset. The Division of Child Support does not make a direct submission.

## Passport Denial Submission

An obligor is automatically submitted to the Passport Denial Program when the following criteria is met:

- The obligor must be in arrears of at least \$2,500.
- TANF & Non-TANF arrears are combined as are arrears across multiple cases to equal the \$2,500.

# Passport Denial Reinstatement

If an obligor applies for a passport and receives a letter from the Department of State advising the passport is denied for child support purposes, he/she must:

- Contact the County CSEA that administers the child support case to request his/her passport be reinstated. If more than one CSEA is involved, the obligor must secure the passport reinstatement from each CSEA.
- Work out an agreement with the CSEA(s) involved to secure the reinstatement of his/her passport.

NOTE: If the obligor needs the passport for business travel or for a life and death situation, and provides the proper documentation, the passport reinstatement can be expedited. These are the only reasons a passport reinstatement can be handled through the expedited process. All other passport reinstatements will be handled through the regular reinstatement process.

## The CSEA:

The CSEA has the right to receive full collection of all past due arrears prior to reinstating any obligor's passport.

The CSEA has the discretion to make any agreement with the obligor they deem necessary prior to reinstating the passport.

Normal processing time to reinstate a passport is six to eight weeks.

The non-custodial parent cannot obtain or renew a passport until the arrearage issue is settled.

# Q & A

Q) Why is a passport denied?

A) Issuance of a passport can be blocked if an obligor's arrearage is \$2,500 or more. A passport will not be granted until the arrearage is paid off.

Q) So an arrearage must be paid off before a passport will be issued?

A) Counties may submit emergency paperwork to the Department of State instructing them to issue a passport. This is forwarded to the Department of State via the Ohio State Office of Child Support.

Q) Is the removal of a block easily done?

A) The obligor should expect to make at least a sizeable payment on the arrearage and make provisions for continued payment. There are certain situations where the obligee will be contacted for their input.

Q) Can a county submit an obligor for a passport block?

A) No. The blocks are done automatically by the Federal Government via the IRS Intercept Database.