

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



July 14, 2006

CSS LETTER: 06-20

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: COMPROMISE OF ARREARS PROGRAM (COAP)

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is pleased to announce changes to the Compromise of Arrears Program (COAP). These changes affect both program policy and the COAP manual process (formerly known as I-COAP). Cases with either Temporarily Assigned Arrears (TAA) or a Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) action in place may be processed in the automated system but are limited to a lump-sum repayment. The COAP manual process has been modified to more closely approximate the automated system.

COAP applications involving cases with TAA may now be processed in the COAP automated system provided the non-custodial parent (NCP) makes a single, lump-sum payment. Prior policy, outlined in the COAP Desk Reference released August 29, 2005, required applications with TAA to be processed via the manual process. The lump-sum payment is required due to the fact that a custodial party (CP) receiving aid can go off aid at any time. This creates instability of the types of arrears owed and confusion regarding whether the arrears are owed to the government or the CP. The processing of cases with TAA in the COAP automated system takes effect immediately.

COAP applications in which the NCP's case is UIFSA case may also be processed through the COAP automated system provided the NCP makes a single, lump-sum payment. Prior policy, outlined in the COAP Desk Reference released August 29, 2005, required applications with UIFSA in place to be processed via the manual process. This lump sum payment is required in UIFSA cases to ensure payment of the arrears without involving other states that are enforcing the arrears or depending upon long-arm enforcement by the Local Child Support Agency (LCSA). The processing of UIFSA cases in the COAP automated system takes effect immediately.

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law or Regulation Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

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LCSA case workers reviewing COAP applications are referred to the COAP Desk Reference on the COAP Help webpage of the LCSA secure website for detailed information regarding these changes and other program policy.

The manual process (formerly known as I-COAP) worksheets and the manual process database have been updated to improve consistency between the COAP automated system and manual process. The manual process is utilized for COAP applications addressing multiple cases in one LCSA. The COAP automated system is utilized for all other COAP applications and will not be affected by these changes to the manual process. These updates are effective July 15, 2006. Manual process instructions and worksheets will be posted to the LCSA secure website COAP Help webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact the COAP public line at (916) 464-3160, or the COAP analyst assigned to your LCSA.

Sincerely,  
/os/

KAREN ECHEVERRIA  
Deputy Director