

## Garnishment Processing

Social Security Administration

## Policy – Section 459

Mandates that Title 2 benefits are subject to being garnished because of a legal action brought by an individual in a State court to provide child support and/or make alimony payments

## Court Order Garnishment System

- National system for Social Security, established in March 2006.
- Automates withholding from beneficiaries in compliance with State or court ordered garnishment requests.
- Adjusts Title 2 benefits
- Issues payments to appropriate payees as designated in the garnishment order.
- Sends notices to the garnished beneficiary and the court.

## COGS History

- 18 garnishment screens were developed to input transaction data and view queries.
- 180,000 garnishment orders were converted so future processing against those orders could be automated.

## August 2007 Payments

	Monthly	
Total EFT	68,892	9,942,979.23
Total Paper	165,678	24,853,486.81
Total Paid Out	234,570	34,796,466.04
	Daily	
Total EFT	290	475,749.13
Total Paper	812	1,026,087.84
Total Paid Out	1,102	1,501,836.97

\* Currently, there are a total of 279,899 active orders.

## Income Withholding Order

- Beneficiary's own Social Security Number.
- The name of the beneficiary to be garnished.
- The case number for the garnishment order.
- Weekly/monthly withholding amounts.
- Additional factors for calculations.
- Payment address.
- Notice address.

## Initially Establishing A Garnishment Order

- COGS will verify if there is a T2 record based on the SSN entered.
- If there is not an existing T2 record, COGS determines whether a claim was ever filed against that SSN.
- If the T2 beneficiary is receiving benefits, COGS will set up a record to withhold garnishment payments.
- If the T2 beneficiary is not currently receiving benefits, there is an indicator placed on the T2 record. In the event benefits do become payable, we will withhold for garnishment.
- The COGS system calculates the garnishment payment based on where the garnished beneficiary lives. The rules for determining how much to withhold from the garnished beneficiary are maintained on COGS.

## Monthly Payments

Current Operating Month	09/2007	10/2007	11/2007
First Day of Com	08/20/07	09/26/07	10/23/07
Last Day of Com	09/25/07	10/22/07	11/16/07
Payment Date	10/03/07	11/02/07	12/03/07

**OPERATING MONTH** – Is the month for which SSA is calculating the payment. If the operating month is SEPTEMBER, we are calculating the September 2007 Garnishment monthly payment that is payable on October 3, 2007.

When the last day of the operating month occurs—end of COM—the Garnishment Database is interrogated to determine all monthly payments that need to be made on active garnishment orders.

## Daily Payments

The daily payments are generated from the COGS system every day. These daily payments can consist of a repayment for a return check, withholding from past due monies for a T2 beneficiary, or unpaid monies on COGS that are now due.

The daily payments are made from the first day of COM till the last day of COM. Any daily payment generated after the last day of COM until the end of that calendar month are held to the first day of the next calendar month. For example:

08/20/07 -- 09/25/07 Daily payments made immediately.  
----- END OF COM (09/25/07)  
09/26/07 -- 09/30/07 Daily's cannot be paid before 10/1/07.

PAYMENTS ARE SENT TO TREASURY TO BE DISBURSED.

## State Disbursing Units Lookup Table

For example, if we type in WV for West Virginia, the following is returned:

COGS PAYMENT/NOTICE ADDRESS LOOKUP OGPB

STATE: WV CODE:

000001 WV BCSE 350 W CAPITAL ST RM147 CHARLESTON 25301  
000002 WV BCSE PO BOX 247 CHARLESTON 25321

## Payment Address Screen

COGS PAYMENT ADDRESS OGPB

BENEFICIARY BOAN: 123456789 CASE NO: TEST CASE  
NAME: FIRST M LAST JR

CAN: 123456789 BIC: A

PAYMENT ADDRESS STATE: IL CODE: 000001  
LEGEND 1: IL SDU LEGEND 2: RE: FIRST M LAST JR  
ADDRESS 1: TEST CASE ADDRESS 2:

ADDRESS 3: PO BOX 5400  
CITY: CAROL STREAM STATE: IL ZIPS: 60197 ZIP4: 5400  
COUNTRY: CON:

FOREIGN POSTAL ZONE:

ROUTING AND TRANSIT: 12345678 CHECK DIGIT CODE: 5  
DIRECT DEPOSIT CODE: C BANK ACCOUNT NO: 1234567890  
FIPS CODE:

NOTICE ADDRESS SAME AS PAYMENT ADDRESS (Y/N): Y

## EFT States

- California
- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Massachusetts
- Michigan (New claims since March 2006)
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- Pennsylvania
- South Dakota
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming