

INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD SUPPORT AND THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (“CARES”) ACT, ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS (updated April 14, 2020):

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act, which, among other things, authorizes economic impact payments (also referred to as “stimulus payments” or “recovery rebate payments”) to eligible individuals. For details on these economic impact payments, please visit www.irs.gov/coronavirus

On a monthly basis, the Bureau of Child Support Services (BCSS) reports child support arrears to the federal Treasury Offset Program. Pursuant to federal authority, the U.S. Treasury intercepts the support owed from federal income tax refunds, and sends it to BCSS. BCSS reached out to the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement and was informed that the Economic Impact Payment issued under the CARES Act is not exempt from child support, and therefore is being intercepted and sent to BCSS. Neither the CARES Act nor the federal government provide any options for states to treat the Economic Impact Payment differently.

Additional questions may be answered by visiting the IRS website at:

www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know

If you need to speak with someone in BCSS directly regarding the Child Support intercept of a federal Economic Impact Payment, please contact us at BCSS-CIU@dhhs.nh.gov or by phone at 603-271-4427 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4427. Please know we are experiencing a very high volume of calls at this time.

INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD SUPPORT AND UNEMPLOYMENT INTERCEPTS

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services’ Bureau of Child Support Services (BCSS) provides services to parents to collect and disburse support obligations, following state and federal laws and regulations. BCSS activities only apply to parents and caregivers who utilize its services.

When a parent who pays child support receives Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), BCSS collects support directly from that benefit. Twenty percent (20%) of the UCB (or what is legally ordered, whichever is less) is withheld by NH Employment Security and sent to BCSS to distribute in accordance with Administrative Rules. This practice has been in effect since 1987 and is an automated process between NH Employment Security and the Department of Health and Human Services.

If you need to speak with someone in BCSS directly regarding Unemployment Intercepts for Child Support, please contact us at BCSS-CIU@dhhs.nh.gov or by phone at 603-271-4427 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4427. Please know we are experiencing a very high volume of calls at this time.