

Policy F.Y.I.

From the Policy Unit

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FYI-492

Please contact the Policy Unit if you have questions regarding this announcement at DCSSPOLICYQUESTIONS@azdes.gov.



SUBJECT: Policy FYI-492 | The Third Passport Revocation Update (FAQs)

This FYI is to update team members that the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) clarified whether the OCSE can resubmit a support payor (SP) to the State Department for future passport denial/revocation after the state has released the individual's passport hold, when the SP later fails to comply with the agreed-upon payment arrangement.

The OCSE does not receive information from the State Department to identify which SPs currently have active passports or whose passports were previously revoked. The OCSE met with the State Department and established a process that will allow OCSE to resubmit eligible cases for future passport enforcement when appropriate.

To clarify how this process will work, the OCSE developed the following Q&As:

Q1: What happens if an individual agrees to pay child support arrears or make restitution to have their passport hold released so they can obtain a new passport, but later fails to comply with the payment agreement and the state wants to pursue passport revocation again?

A1: When a state agrees to release a SP's passport hold, it excludes or removes the individual from all child support related passport enforcement actions. However, if the SP subsequently fails to comply with the agreed-upon payment arrangement, the state may remove the passport exclusion. If after the exclusion is removed, the individual owes more than \$2,500 in child support arrears, OCSE will again submit the case to the U.S. Department of State for passport enforcement.

If the SP's arrears meet or exceed the threshold established for a future passport revocation phase, OCSE will include the individual in the corresponding submission file sent to the Department of State. Although the SP may have been included in a prior OCSE submission and had their passport revoked as a result, the passport number associated with that revoked passport is no longer valid. Accordingly, the Department of State may take passport enforcement action based on the individual's current passport information, including revocation of a newly issued passport.

Q2: Using the same scenario as **Q1**, what will happen if the SP pays their arrears below \$2,500 but fails to comply with the payment arrangement with the state to pay to zero?

A2: If the SP subsequently fails to comply with the agreed-upon payment arrangement to pay to zero, the state may remove the passport exclusion. However, because the SP's arrears are below the statutory passport enforcement threshold of \$2,500, OCSE cannot resubmit the case to the Department of State for passport enforcement at that time. The SP would become eligible for passport enforcement only if their arrears later exceed \$2,500.

Q3: Using the same scenario as **Q1**, what happens if the SP pays part of their arrears balance but later fails to comply with the payment arrangement and still owes more than \$2,500?

A3: If the SP subsequently fails to comply with the agreed-upon payment arrangement, the state may remove the passport exclusion. Because the SP still owes more than \$2,500 in child support arrears, OCSE will again submit the case to the Department of State for passport enforcement.

If the SP's arrears meet or exceed the threshold established for a future passport revocation phase, OCSE will include the individual in the corresponding submission file sent to the Department of State. Although the SP may have been included in a

prior OCSE submission and had their passport revoked as a result, the passport number associated with that revoked passport is no longer valid. Accordingly, the Department of State may take passport enforcement action based on the individual's current passport information, including revocation of a newly issued passport.

The OCSE will continue to share information as it becomes available.

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