

**DCSS Policy & Procedure Unit
Policy Update
PPU-17-08-001**

Date: August 8, 2017

SUBJECT: Important Changes to Judicial Contempt

Please contact the Policy Unit if you have any questions regarding these or any other changes at (602) 771-8127.
DCSS staff and IV-D PARTNERS should send POLICY inquiries directly to DCSS-POLICYQUESTIONS@azdes.gov

New policy, procedures, and standard operating procedure (SOP) are in place for the Judicial Contempt process. These are new requirements that meet the due process safeguards required by the Final Rule, Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs.

The Final Rule requires that our attorneys provide the court with information regarding the NCP's ability to pay, ability to comply with the court order, and ability to pay a purge amount. In-depth research regarding the ability to pay is the most important component required to initiate a contempt action. The new process also provides clear notice to the NCP that the ability to pay is the critical question that will be addressed in the contempt action.

Before referring a case for contempt, follow the instructions at the following links:

- [Judicial Contempt Desk Aid](#)
- [Contempt Action Worksheet](#)
- [Contempt Policy](#)
- [Contempt Procedures](#)
- [Judicial Contempt Review SOP](#)

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