

Office of Child Support **POLICY SHEET**

SUBJECT

Passport Denial

PS# 08-01

POLICY

The Vermont Office of Child Support (OCS) submits cases with qualifying arrears, as required to the Passport Denial Program which is a part of the Federal Collections and Enforcement Program, administered by the Federal Office of Child Support Services (OCSS). Once child support arrears exceed \$2,500.00, OCSS submits the parent's name to the Department of State (DOS). Cases remain certified with the Passport Denial Program through the State Department until the arrears are paid in full, or in accordance with the procedures that follow.

PROCEDURES

When OCS has an assignment of rights, or an application for services, and the past-due support meets the \$2,500.00 federal threshold for passport denial certification, OCSS informs DOS to add the parent to the denial list. Once on the denial list, if a parent applies for their passport, they will be denied, and they will receive a denial letter from DOS, informing them to contact the state child support agency that certified their name with the program.

Typically, a case will remain certified with the program until the pass-due support is paid in full. To contest certification, or to be withdrawn from the program before the debt is paid in full, documentation must be submitted for review by the Intercept Unit and in consultation with OCS Legal staff. OCS may consider removing parents from the denial program in instances such as: the child support arrears never exceeded \$2,500.00, travel is required for employment, serious medical emergencies, imminent death of an immediate family member, or upon agreement of the parties.

The Intercept Unit is responsible for submitting withdrawal requests to OCSS when the debt is not paid in full. When OCSS receives notification from OCS to remove a parent from the denial program, OCSS will work with DOS to have the name taken off the denial list. Once removed from the denial list, a parent may contact DOS for more information on how to obtain their passport.

RATIONALE

According to the Social Security Act §452 [42 U.S.C. 652] (k)(1)(2), “an individual owed arrearages of child support in an amount exceeding \$2,500, the Secretary shall transmit such certification to the Secretary of State for action (with respect to denial, revocation, or limitation of passports)” This is also supported by section 454(31) of the Act, which makes participation in the Passport Denial Program a IV-D state plan requirement, and 22 C.F.R. §51.70(a)(8), which states that passports cannot be issued when applicants owe past-due child support in an amount exceeding \$2,500.

Date	Action	Description
03/25/2008	Created	
10/24/2023	Revised	Clarified process overall and updated reference to OCSS; applied standardized formatting/template