San Francisco Child Support Services

The Department and the CARES Act
CARES Stimulus Intercept Distribution

The Coronavirus, Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) provides economic stimulus payments to American families who meet certain financial thresholds.

The CARES stimulus payments are subject to interception for past-due child support. The CARES legislation specifically left in place the same language that applies to IRS offset payments that child support programs are required to intercept and apply to government owed and family owed past due child support payments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 Quick Q&amp;A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Question</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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Interception of State and Federal tax refunds is one of the ways that the child support program’s automated statewide system collects on past-due support payments.

CARES Act Stimulus Funds are a new, refundable tax credit for the year 2020, making them subject to automatic intercept by the child support program.

**Current California Law:** Tax refund intercepts can only be applied to past-due balances and cannot be applied to the monthly ongoing support obligation (current support). For families who previously received public assistance benefits, the tax refund intercept must be applied to past-due balances owed to the State.

**Executive Order:** Tax refund intercepts will be applied to current support and past-due balances that are owed to the family as priority over past-due balances that are owed to the State.

Emergency changes that are needed to implement the Executive Order into the child support program’s automated statewide system are in progress and planned for release on April 26, 2020.

The Executive Order remains in place until the Governor terminates the State of Emergency related to COVID-19. The California Department of Child Support Services plans to pursue a permanent statutory change to amend State law prioritizing payments to families.
How to Contact Us

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