

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Notice of Intent to Amend Regulations

In accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 4-168 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of Social Services, under the authority of section 17b-3 of the Connecticut General Statutes, proposes to amend sections 17b-179b-1 and 17b-179-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, to add section 17-179b-3a, and to repeal section 17-179b-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Statement of Purpose: (A) The problems, issues or circumstances that the regulation proposes to address: The proposed regulation offers an incentive in the form of state arrearage adjustment, which is contingent on the non-custodial parent (obligor) paying current support to the custodial parent. Through this incentive, DSS anticipates an increase in obligors paying current support, potentially reducing the number of families on state funded programs.

(B) The main provision of the regulation amends sections 17b-179b-1 and 17b-179-2 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, adds section 17-179b-3a and repeals section 17-179b-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(C) The legal effects of the regulation, including all the ways the regulation would change existing regulation or other laws: Under current regulations, a non-custodial parent must meet several restrictive requirements in order to be granted a 15% reduction in his/her arrearage amount. The absentee parent must be 100% compliant in the current child support order for 10 of 12 months in order to receive a 15% adjustment after a year. For each year of compliance, the arrearage is again reduced by 10%.

Under these proposed regulations: 1) a non-custodial parent would be eligible regardless of payment history; 2) he/she must pay 50% or more of current child support order to receive a monthly adjustment; and 3) he/she must maintain payment of 50% in current support payments in order to continue the monthly adjustment. By doing this, an arrearage adjustment of 50% of current support payments would apply.

A copy of the complete text of this regulation is available, at no cost, upon request from the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations and Administrative Hearings, Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106; email: daniel.butler@ct.gov.

All written comments, questions, and concerns regarding this regulation may be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the Secretary of State's website to the Department of Social Services, Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations & Administrative Hearings, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106. Attention: Brenda Parrella, Director. A hearing will be scheduled on the proposed regulation if requested by fifteen persons, by a governmental subdivision of an agency or

by an association having not less than fifteen members, if notice of the request is received by the Department within fourteen days after the date of publication of this notice.

When submitting correspondence, please refer to Regulation Control Number 13-05/DB.