

Milwaukee County Wisconsin

Prison Project

Since 2005 Milwaukee County Child Support Services uses a proactive process to minimize accrual of arrears for incarcerated obligors. Debt accumulating to incarcerated payers is prohibitive to successful re-entry, encourages the payer to hide and interferes with family relationships. Collection can then become unmanageable.

The agency uses a variety of methods including self-reporting and electronic data match with DOC to identify obligors who are incarcerated. Both the NCP (non-custodial parent) and the CP (custodial parent) receive a cover letter and form to request suspension of the order during incarceration. A postage paid envelope is included with all mailed forms requesting a response. Upon receipt of the Agreement to Modify Support Order from the CP, the document is submitted to the Family Court Commissioner for signature. A court hearing is scheduled before the Family Court Commissioner to decide if the support order should be temporarily suspended if the CP objects. The form signed and submitted by the NCP substitutes for his testimony so that he does not have to appear in court; however he may request to appear by phone. Upon release from prison, the financial obligation remains held open for 60 days allowing the payer to obtain successful employment and re-entry.

The agency will not facilitate a modification of the support order if the NCP is incarcerated for any of the following crimes:

- Non-payment of child support on any case
- Committing a crime against any child
- Committing a crime against the party receiving child support