CHAPTER 769

UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT

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SUBCHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

769.101 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Child" means an individual, whether over or under the age of majority, who is or is alleged to be owed a duty of support by the individual's parent or who is or is alleged to be the beneficiary of a support order directed to the parent.

(2) "Child support order" means a support order for a child, including a child who has attained the age of majority under the law of the issuing state or foreign country.

(2c) "Convention" means the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance, concluded at The Hague on November 23, 2007.

(3) "Duty of support" means an obligation imposed or imposable by law to provide support for a child, spouse or former spouse, including an unsatisfied obligation to provide support.

(3c) "Foreign country" means a country, including a political subdivision of the country, other than the United States, that authorizes the issuance of support orders and to which any of the following applies:

(a) The country or political subdivision has been declared under the law of the United States to be a foreign reciprocating country.

(b) The country or political subdivision has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support with this state under s. 769.308 (2).

(c) The country or political subdivision has enacted a law or established procedures for the issuance and enforcement of support orders that are substantially similar to the procedures under this chapter.

(d) The country or political subdivision is one in which the convention is in force with respect to the United States.

(3g) "Foreign support order" means a support order of a foreign tribunal.

(3m) "Foreign tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi−judicial entity of a foreign country that is authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage of a child. "Foreign tribunal" includes a competent authority under the convention.

(4) "Home state" means the state or foreign country in which a child lived with a parent or a person acting as parent for at least 6 consecutive months immediately preceding the time of the filing of a petition or comparable pleading for support or, if a child is less than 6 months old, the state or foreign country in which the child lived from birth with any of them. A period of temporary absence of any of them is counted as part of the 6−month or other period.

(5) "Income" includes earnings or other periodic entitlements to money from any source and any other property subject to withholding for support under the law of this state.

(6) "Income−withholding order" means an order, notice, or other legal process directed to an obligor's employer or other debtor, as specified in s. 767.75 (1f), to withhold support from the income of, or other money owed to, the obligor.

(8) "Initiating tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign country from which a petition or comparable pleading is forwarded or in which a petition or comparable pleading is filed for forwarding to another state or foreign country.

(8m) "Issuing foreign country" means the foreign country in which a tribunal issues a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

(9) "Issuing state" means the state in which a tribunal issues a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

(10) "Issuing tribunal" means the tribunal of a state or foreign country that issues a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child.

(11) "Law" includes decisional and statutory law and rules and regulations having the force of law.

(12) "Obligee" means any of the following:

(a) An individual to whom a duty of support is or is alleged to be owed or in whose favor a support order or a judgment determining parentage of a child has been issued.

(b) A foreign country, state, or political subdivision of a state to which the rights under a duty of support or support order have been assigned or which has independent claims based on financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of child support.

(c) An individual seeking a judgment determining parentage of the individual's child.

(d) A person that is a creditor in a proceeding under subch. VII.

(13) "Obligor" means an individual, or the estate of a decedent, to whom any of the following applies:

(a) The individual or decedent owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support.

(b) The individual or decedent is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of a child.

(c) The individual or decedent is liable under a support order.

(d) The individual or decedent is a debtor in a proceeding under subch. VII.

(13m) "Outside this state" means a location in another state or a country other than the United States, whether or not the country is a foreign country.

(13p) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

(13r) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in a perceivable form.

(14) "Register" means to file in a tribunal of this state a support order or judgment determining parentage of a child issued in another state or a foreign country.

(15) "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in which a support order or judgment determining parentage of a child is registered.

(16) "Responding state" means a state in which a petition or comparable pleading for support or to determine parentage of a child is filed or to which a petition or comparable pleading is forwarded for filing from another state or a foreign country.

(17) "Responding tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in a responding state or foreign country.

(18) "Spousal−support order" means a support order for a spouse or former spouse of the obligor.

(19) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. "State" includes an Indian nation or tribe.

(20) "Support enforcement agency" means a public official, governmental entity, or private agency authorized to do any of the following:

(a) Seek enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of support.

(b) Seek establishment or modification of child support.

(c) Request determination of parentage of a child.

(d) Attempt to locate obligors or their assets.

(e) Request determination of the controlling child support order.

(21) "Support order" means a judgment, decree, order, decision, or directive, whether temporary, final, or subject to modification, issued in a state or foreign country for the benefit of a child, a spouse, or a former spouse, that provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages, retroactive support, or reimbursement for financial assistance provided to an individual obligee in place of child support. "Support order" may include related costs and fees, interest, income withholding, automatic adjustment, reasonable attorney fees, and other relief.

(22) "Tribunal" means a court, administrative agency, or quasi−judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage of a child.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 ss. 1, 2, 12.

769.102 State tribunal and support enforcement agency. (1) The courts and circuit and supplemental court commissioners are the tribunal of this state.

(2) The department of children and families and county child support agencies under s. 59.53 (5) are the support enforcement agencies of this state.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2001 a. 61; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.103 Remedies cumulative. (1) Remedies provided by this chapter are cumulative and do not affect the availability of remedies under other law or the recognition of a foreign support order on the basis of comity.

(2) This chapter does not do any of the following:

(a) Provide the exclusive method of establishing or enforcing a support order under the law of this state.

(b) Grant a tribunal of this state jurisdiction to render judgment or issue an order relating to legal custody or physical placement of a child in a proceeding under this chapter.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 ss. 3, 12.

769.105 Application of chapter to resident of foreign country and foreign support proceeding. (1) A tribunal of this state shall apply subchs. I to VI and, as applicable, subch. VII, to a support proceeding that involves any of the following:

(a) A foreign support order.

(b) A foreign tribunal.

(c) An obligee, obligor, or child residing in a foreign country.

(2) A tribunal of this state that is requested to recognize and enforce a support order on the basis of comity may apply the procedural and substantive provisions of subchs. I to VI.

(3) Subchapter VII applies only to a support proceeding under the convention. In such a proceeding, if a provision of subch. VII is inconsistent with subchs. I to VI, subch. VII controls.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER II

JURISDICTION

769.201 Bases for jurisdiction over nonresident. (1m) In a proceeding to establish or enforce a support order or to determine parentage of a child, a tribunal of this state may exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident individual, or the individual's guardian or conservator, if any of the following applies:

(a) The individual is personally served with a summons or other notice within this state.

(b) The individual submits to the jurisdiction of this state by consent, by entering a general appearance or by filing a responsive document having the effect of waiving any contest to personal jurisdiction.

(c) The individual resided with the child in this state.

(d) The individual resided in this state and provided prenatal expenses or support for the child.

(e) The child resides in this state as a result of the acts or directives of the individual.

(f) The individual engaged in sexual intercourse in this state and the child may have been conceived by that act of intercourse.

(g) The individual asserted parentage of a child in a declaration of paternal interest filed with the department of children and families under s. 48.025 or in a statement acknowledging paternity filed with the state registrar under s. 69.15 (3) (b) 1. or 3.

(h) There is any other basis consistent with the constitutions of this state and the United States for the exercise of personal jurisdiction.

(2m) The bases of personal jurisdiction set forth in sub. (1m) or in any other law of this state may not be used to acquire personal jurisdiction for a tribunal of this state to modify a child support order of another state unless the requirements of s. 769.611 are met or, in the case of a foreign support order, unless the requirements of s. 769.615 are met.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1995 a. 27 s. 9126 (19); 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

When conception allegedly occurred in Florida and the non−resident alleged father visited Wisconsin only once following the birth, for an unspecified purpose, the child's residence in the state was an insufficient contact to subject the alleged father to the court's jurisdiction. State ex rel. N.R.Z. v. G.L.C. 152 Wis. 2d 97, 447 N.W.2d 533 (1989).

The predecessor of sub. (1m) (f), 767.01 (2) (b), 1989 stats., did not violate the due process clause. Paternity of C.A.K. 159 Wis. 2d 224, 464 N.W.2d 59 (Ct. App. 1990).

769.202 Duration of personal jurisdiction. Personal jurisdiction acquired by a tribunal of this state in a proceeding under this chapter or other law of this state relating to a support order continues as long as a tribunal of this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its order or continuing jurisdiction to enforce its order as provided by ss. 769.205, 769.206, and 769.211.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.203 Initiating and responding tribunal of this state. Under this chapter, a tribunal of this state may serve as an initiating tribunal to forward proceedings to a tribunal of another state and as a responding tribunal for proceedings initiated in another state or a foreign country.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.204 Simultaneous proceedings. (1) A tribunal of this state may exercise jurisdiction to establish a support order if the petition or comparable pleading is filed after a petition or comparable pleading is filed in another state or a foreign country only if all of the following apply:

(a) The petition or comparable pleading in this state is filed before the expiration of the time allowed in the other state or the foreign country for filing a responsive pleading challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by the other state or the foreign country.

(b) The contesting party timely challenges the exercise of jurisdiction in the other state or the foreign country.

(c) If relevant, this state is the home state of the child.

(2) A tribunal of this state may not exercise jurisdiction to establish a support order if the petition or comparable pleading is filed before a petition or comparable pleading is filed in another state or a foreign country if all of the following apply:

(a) The petition or comparable pleading in the other state or foreign country is filed before the expiration of the time allowed in this state for filing a responsive pleading challenging the exercise of jurisdiction by this state.

(b) The contesting party timely challenges the exercise of jurisdiction in this state.

(c) If relevant, the other state or foreign country is the home state of the child.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.205 Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify child support order. (1) A tribunal of this state that has issued a child support order consistent with the law of this state has and shall exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify its child support order if the order is the controlling order and any of the following applies:

(a) At the time of the filing of a request for modification this state is the residence of the obligor, the individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit the support order is issued.

(b) Even if this state is not the residence of the obligor, the individual obligee, or the child for whose benefit the support order is issued, the parties consent in a record or in open court that the tribunal of this state may continue to exercise jurisdiction to modify its order.

(2) A tribunal of this state that has issued a child support order consistent with the law of this state may not exercise continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the order if any of the following applies:

(a) All of the parties who are individuals file consent in a record with the tribunal of this state that a tribunal of another state that has jurisdiction over at least one of the parties who is an individual or that is located in the state of residence of the child may modify the order and assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

(b) Its order is not the controlling order.

(3) If a tribunal of another state has issued a child support order pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act or a law substantially similar to that act that modifies a child support order of a tribunal of this state, tribunals of this state shall recognize the continuing, exclusive jurisdiction of the tribunal of the other state.

(4) A tribunal of this state that lacks continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify a child support order may serve as an initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to modify a support order issued in that state.

(5) A temporary support order issued ex parte or pending resolution of a jurisdictional conflict does not create continuing, exclusive jurisdiction in the issuing tribunal.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.206 Continuing jurisdiction to enforce child support order. (1) A tribunal of this state that has issued a child support order consistent with the law of this state may serve as an

initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to enforce any of the following:

(a) The order, if the order is the controlling order and has not been modified by a tribunal of another state that assumed jurisdiction pursuant to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.

(b) A money judgment for arrears of support and interest on the order that accrued before a determination that an order of a tribunal of another state is the controlling order.

(2) A tribunal of this state having continuing jurisdiction over a support order may act as a responding tribunal to enforce the order.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.207 Determination of controlling child support order. (1c) If a proceeding is brought under this chapter and only one tribunal has issued a child support order, the child support order of that tribunal is controlling and must be recognized.

(1m) If a proceeding is brought under this chapter, and 2 or more child support orders have been issued by tribunals of this state, another state, or a foreign country with regard to the same obligor and child, a tribunal of this state having personal jurisdiction over both the obligor and individual obligee shall apply the following rules and by order shall determine which child support order controls and must be recognized:

(a) If only one of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, the child support order of that tribunal controls.

(b) If more than one of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, a child support order issued by a tribunal in the current home state of the child controls, or, if a child support order has not been issued in the current home state of the child, the child support order most recently issued controls.

(c) If none of the tribunals would have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction under this chapter, the tribunal of this state shall issue a child support order, which controls.

(1r) If 2 or more child support orders have been issued for the same obligor and same child, upon the request of a party who is an individual or that is a support enforcement agency, a tribunal of this state having personal jurisdiction over both the obligor and the obligee who is an individual shall determine which child support order controls under sub. (1m). The request may be filed with a registration for enforcement or registration for modification under subch. VI, or may be filed as a separate proceeding.

(1t) A request to determine which is the controlling child support order must be accompanied by a copy of every child support order issued for the obligor and child that is in effect and the applicable record of payments. The requesting party shall give each party whose rights may be affected by a determination of which child support order controls notice of the request for that determination.

(2) The tribunal that issued the order that is controlling under sub. (1c), (1m), or (1r) has continuing jurisdiction to the extent provided in s. 769.205 or 769.206.

(3) A tribunal of this state that determines by order which child support order is controlling under sub. (1m) (a) or (b) or (1r), or that issues a new child support order that is controlling under sub. (1m) (c), shall state in that order all of the following:

(a) The basis upon which the tribunal made its determination.

(b) The amount of prospective support, if any.

(c) The total amount of consolidated arrears and accrued interest, if any, under all of the orders after all payments made are credited as provided by s. 769.209.

(4) Within 30 days after the issuance of an order determining which child support order is controlling, the party that obtained the order shall file a certified copy of the order with each tribunal that had issued or registered an earlier child support order. Failure of the party obtaining the order to file a certified copy of the order as required by this subsection subjects the party to appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of failure to file arises, but that failure has no effect on the validity or enforceability of the controlling child support order.

(5) An order that has been determined to be the controlling child support order, or a judgment for consolidated arrears of support and interest, if any, made under this section, must be recognized in proceedings under this chapter.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.208 Child support orders for 2 or more obligees. In responding to registrations or petitions for enforcement of 2 or more child support orders in effect at the same time with regard to the same obligor and different individual obligees, at least one of which was issued by a tribunal of another state or a foreign country, a tribunal of this state shall enforce those orders in the same manner as if the orders had been issued by a tribunal of this state.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.209 Credit for payments. A tribunal of this state shall credit amounts collected for a particular period pursuant to any child support order against the amounts owed for the same period under any other child support order for support of the same child issued by a tribunal of this state, another state, or a foreign country.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.210 Application of act to nonresident subject to personal jurisdiction. A tribunal of this state exercising personal jurisdiction over a nonresident in a proceeding under this chapter, under other law of this state relating to a support order, or recognizing a foreign support order may receive evidence from outside this state pursuant to s. 769.316, communicate with a tribunal outside this state pursuant to s. 769.317, and obtain discovery through a tribunal outside this state pursuant to s. 769.318. In all other respects, subchs. III to VI do not apply, and the tribunal shall apply the procedural and substantive law of this state.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.211 Continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify spousal support order. (1) A tribunal of this state issuing a spousal support order consistent with the law of this state has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify the spousal support order throughout the existence of the support obligation.

(2) A tribunal of this state may not modify a spousal support order issued by a tribunal of another state or a foreign country having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over that order under the law of that state or foreign country.

(3) A tribunal of this state that has continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over a spousal support order may serve as any of the following:

(a) An initiating tribunal to request a tribunal of another state to enforce the spousal support order issued in this state.

(b) A responding tribunal to enforce or modify its own spousal support order.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER III

CIVIL PROVISIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

769.301 Proceedings under this chapter. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, this subchapter applies to all proceedings under this chapter.

(3) An individual petitioner or a support enforcement agency may commence a proceeding authorized under this chapter by filing a petition in an initiating tribunal for forwarding to a responding tribunal or by filing a petition or a comparable pleading directly in a tribunal of another state or a foreign country that has or can obtain personal jurisdiction over the respondent.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.302 Action by minor parent. A minor parent, or a guardian or other legal representative of a minor parent, may maintain a proceeding on behalf of or for the benefit of the minor's child.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2001 a. 61; 2005 a. 443 s. 265; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.303 Application of law of this state. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, a responding tribunal of this state shall do all of the following:

(1) Apply the procedural and substantive law, including the rules on choice of law, generally applicable to similar proceedings originating in this state and may exercise all powers and provide all remedies available in those proceedings.

(2) Determine the duty of support and the amount payable in accordance with the law and support guidelines of this state.

History: 1993 a. 326.

769.304 Duties of initiating tribunal. (1) Upon the filing of a petition authorized by this chapter, an initiating tribunal of this state shall forward the petition and its accompanying documents to the responding tribunal or appropriate support enforcement agency in the responding state, or, if the identity of the responding tribunal is unknown, to the state information agency of the responding state with a request that they be forwarded to the appropriate tribunal and that receipt be acknowledged.

(2) If requested by the responding tribunal, a tribunal of this state shall issue a certificate or other documents and make findings required by the law of the responding state. If the responding tribunal is in a foreign country, upon request the tribunal of this state shall specify the amount of support sought, convert that amount into the equivalent amount in the foreign currency under the applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly reported, and provide any other documents necessary to satisfy the requirements of the responding foreign tribunal.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.305 Duties and powers of responding tribunal. (1) Whenever a responding tribunal of this state receives a petition or comparable pleading from an initiating tribunal or directly under s. 769.301 (3), it shall cause the petition or pleading to be filed and notify the petitioner where and when it was filed.

(2) A responding tribunal of this state, to the extent not prohibited by other law, may do any of the following:

(a) Establish or enforce a support order, modify a child support order, determine the controlling child support order, or determine parentage of a child.

(b) Order an obligor to comply with a support order, specifying the amount and the manner of compliance.

(c) Order income withholding.

(d) Determine the amount of any arrearages and specify a method of payment.

(e) Enforce orders by civil or criminal contempt or both.

(f) Set aside property for satisfaction of the support order.

(g) Place liens and order execution on the obligor's property.

(h) Order an obligor to keep the tribunal informed of the obligor's current residential address, electronic mail address, telephone number, employer, address of employment, and telephone number at the place of employment.

(i) Issue an order under s. 818.02 (6) for the arrest of an obligor who has failed after proper notice to appear at a hearing ordered by the tribunal and enter the order for arrest in any local and state computer systems for criminal warrants.

(j) Order the obligor to seek appropriate employment by specified methods.

(k) Award reasonable attorney fees and other fees and costs.

(L) Grant any other available remedy.

(3) A responding tribunal of this state shall include in a support order issued under this chapter, or in the documents accompanying the order, the calculations on which the support order is based.

(4) A responding tribunal of this state may not condition the payment of a support order issued under this chapter upon compliance by a party with provisions for visitation.

(5) If a responding tribunal of this state issues an order under this chapter, the tribunal shall send a copy of the order to the petitioner and the respondent and to the initiating tribunal, if any.

(6) If requested to enforce a support order, arrears, or judgment or modify a support order stated in a foreign currency, a responding tribunal of this state shall convert the amount stated in the foreign currency to the equivalent amount in dollars under the applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly reported.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1995 a. 225; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.306 Inappropriate tribunal. If a petition or comparable pleading is received by an inappropriate tribunal of this state, the tribunal shall forward the pleading and accompanying documents to an appropriate tribunal of this state or another state and notify the petitioner where and when the pleading was sent.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.307 Duties of support enforcement agency. (1) A support enforcement agency of this state, upon request, shall provide services to a petitioner in a proceeding under this chapter.

(2) A support enforcement agency of this state that is providing services to the petitioner shall do all of the following as applicable:

(a) Take all steps necessary to enable an appropriate tribunal of this state, another state, or a foreign country to obtain jurisdiction over the respondent.

(b) Request an appropriate tribunal to set a date, time and place for a hearing.

(c) Make a reasonable effort to obtain all relevant information, including information as to income and property of the parties.

(d) Within 2 days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, after receipt of notice in a record from an initiating, responding, or registering tribunal, send a copy of the notice to the petitioner.

(e) Within 2 days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, after receipt of communication in a record from the respondent or the respondent's attorney, send a copy of the communication to the petitioner.

(f) Notify the petitioner if jurisdiction over the respondent cannot be obtained.

(3m) A support enforcement agency of this state that requests registration of a child support order in this state for enforcement or for modification shall make reasonable efforts to do either of the following:

(a) Ensure that the order to be registered is the controlling order.

(b) If 2 or more child support orders exist and the identity of the controlling order has not been determined, ensure that a request for such a determination is made in a tribunal having jurisdiction to do so.

(4) A support enforcement agency of this state that requests registration and enforcement of a support order, arrears, or judgment stated in a foreign currency shall convert the amounts stated in the foreign currency into the equivalent amounts in dollars under the applicable official or market exchange rate as publicly reported.

(5) A support enforcement agency of this state shall issue or request a tribunal of this state to issue a child support order and an income−withholding order that redirect payment of current support, arrears, and interest if requested to do so by a support enforcement agency of another state under s. 769.319.

(6) This chapter does not create or negate a relationship of attorney and client or other fiduciary relationship between a support enforcement agency or the attorney for the agency and the individual being assisted by the agency.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 ss. 4, 12.

769.308 Duty of attorney general. (1) If the attorney general determines that the support enforcement agency is neglecting or refusing to provide services to an individual, the attorney general may order the agency to perform its duties under this chapter or may provide those services directly to the individual.

(2) The attorney general may determine that a foreign country has established a reciprocal arrangement for child support with this state and take appropriate action for notification of the determination.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.309 Private counsel. An individual may employ private counsel to represent the individual in proceedings authorized by this chapter.

History: 1993 a. 326.

769.31 Duties of state information agency. (1) The department of children and families is the state information agency under this chapter.

(2) The state information agency shall do all of the following:

(a) Compile and maintain a current list, including addresses, of the tribunals in this state that have jurisdiction under this chapter and any support enforcement agencies in this state and transmit a copy to the state information agency of every other state.

(b) Maintain a register of names and addresses of tribunals and support enforcement agencies received from other states.

(c) Forward to the appropriate tribunal in the county in this state in which the obligee who is an individual or the obligor resides, or in which the obligor's property is believed to be located, all documents concerning a proceeding under this chapter received from another state or a foreign country.

(d) Obtain information concerning the location of the obligor and the obligor's property within this state not exempt from execution by such means as postal verification and federal or state locator services, examination of telephone directories, requests for the obligor's address from employers and examination of governmental records, including, to the extent not prohibited by other law, those relating to real property, vital statistics, law enforcement, taxation, motor vehicles, driver's licenses and social security.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1995 a. 27 s. 9126 (19); 1995 a. 404; 1997 a. 3; 2007 a. 20; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.311 Pleadings and accompanying documents. (1) In a proceeding under this chapter, a petitioner seeking to establish a support order, to determine parentage of a child, or to register and modify a support order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign country must file a petition. Unless otherwise ordered under s. 769.312, the petition or accompanying documents must provide, so far as known, the names, residential addresses, and social security numbers of the obligor and the obligee or the parent and alleged parent, and the name, sex, residential address, social security number, and date of birth of each child for whose benefit support is sought or whose parentage is to be determined. Unless filed at the time of registration, the petition must be accompanied by a copy of any support order known to have been issued by another tribunal. The petition may include any other information that may assist in locating or identifying the respondent.

(2) The petition must specify the relief sought. The petition and accompanying documents must conform substantially with the requirements imposed by the forms mandated by federal law for use in cases filed by a support enforcement agency.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.312 Nondisclosure of information in exceptional circumstances. If a party alleges in an affidavit or a pleading under oath that the health, safety, or liberty of a party or child would be jeopardized by the disclosure of specific identifying information, that information must be sealed and may not be disclosed to the other party or the public. After a hearing in which a tribunal takes into consideration the health, safety, or liberty of the party or child, the tribunal may order disclosure of information that the tribunal determines to be in the interest of justice.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.313 Costs and fees. (1) The petitioner may not be required to pay a filing fee or other costs.

(2) If an obligee prevails, a responding tribunal of this state may assess against an obligor filing fees, reasonable attorney fees, other costs, and necessary travel and other reasonable expenses incurred by the obligee and the obligee's witnesses. The tribunal may not assess fees, costs, or expenses against the obligee or the support enforcement agency of either the initiating or responding state or foreign country, except as provided by other law. Attorney fees may be taxed as costs and may be ordered paid directly to the attorney, who may enforce the order in the attorney's own name. Payment of support owed to the obligee has priority over fees, costs, and expenses.

(3) The tribunal shall order the payment of costs and reasonable attorney fees if it determines that a hearing was requested primarily for delay. In a proceeding under subch. VI, a hearing is presumed to have been requested primarily for delay if a registered support order is confirmed or enforced without change.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.314 Limited immunity of petitioner. (1) Participation by a petitioner in a proceeding under this chapter before a responding tribunal, whether in person, by private attorney, or through services provided by the support enforcement agency, does not confer personal jurisdiction over the petitioner in another proceeding.

(2) A petitioner is not amenable to service of civil process while physically present in this state to participate in a proceeding under this chapter.

(3) The immunity granted by this section does not extend to civil litigation based on acts unrelated to a proceeding under this chapter committed by a party while physically present in this state to participate in the proceeding.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.315 Nonparentage as defense. A party whose parentage of a child has been previously determined by or under law may not plead nonparentage as a defense to a proceeding under this chapter.

History: 1993 a. 326.

769.316 Special rules of evidence and procedure. (1) The physical presence of a nonresident party who is an individual in a tribunal of this state is not required for the establishment, enforcement, or modification of a support order or the rendition of a judgment determining parentage of a child.

(2) An affidavit, a document substantially complying with federally mandated forms, or a document incorporated by reference in any of them, that would not be excluded under the hearsay rule if given in person, is admissible in evidence if given under penalty of perjury by a party or witness residing outside this state.

(3) A copy of the record of child support payments certified as a true copy of the original by the custodian of the record may be forwarded to a responding tribunal. The copy is evidence of facts asserted in it and is admissible to show whether payments were made.

(4) Copies of bills for testing for parentage of a child, or for prenatal and postnatal health care of the mother and child, or copies of reports of medical assistance payments under subch. IV of

ch. 49 for such testing or prenatal and postnatal health care, furnished to the adverse party at least 10 days before trial, are admissible in evidence to prove the amount of the charges billed or the amount of the medical assistance paid and that the charges or payments were reasonable, necessary, and customary.

(5) Documentary evidence transmitted from outside this state to a tribunal of this state by telephone, telecopier, or other electronic means that do not provide an original record may not be excluded from evidence on an objection based on the means of transmission.

(6) In a proceeding under this chapter, a tribunal of this state shall permit a party or witness residing outside this state to be deposed or to testify under penalty of perjury by telephone, audiovisual means, or other electronic means at a designated tribunal or other location. A tribunal of this state shall cooperate with other tribunals in designating an appropriate location for the deposition or testimony.

(7) If a party called to testify at a civil hearing refuses to answer on the ground that the testimony may be self−incriminating, the trier of fact may draw an adverse inference from the refusal.

(8) A privilege against disclosure of communications between spouses does not apply in a proceeding under this chapter.

(9) The defense of immunity based on the relationship of husband and wife or parent and child does not apply in a proceeding under this chapter.

(10) A voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, certified as a true copy, is admissible to establish parentage of the child.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1995 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.317 Communications between tribunals. A tribunal of this state may communicate with a tribunal outside this state in a record or by telephone, electronic mail, or other means, to obtain information concerning the laws, the legal effect of a judgment, decree, or order of that tribunal, and the status of a proceeding. A tribunal of this state may furnish similar information by similar means to a tribunal outside this state.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.318 Assistance with discovery. A tribunal of this state may do all of the following:

(1) Request a tribunal outside this state to assist in obtaining discovery.

(2) Upon request, compel a person over which it has jurisdiction to respond to a discovery order issued by a tribunal outside this state.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.319 Receipt and disbursement of payments. (1) A support enforcement agency, its designee, or a tribunal of this state shall disburse promptly any amounts received under a support order, as directed by the order. The agency, its designee, or the tribunal shall furnish to a requesting party or tribunal of another state or a foreign country a certified statement by the custodian of the record of the amounts and dates of all payments received.

(2) If neither the obligor, nor the obligee who is an individual, nor the child resides in this state, upon request from the support enforcement agency of this state or another state, the support enforcement agency of this state or a tribunal of this state shall do all of the following:

(a) Direct that the support payment be made to the support enforcement agency in the state in which the obligee is receiving services.

(b) Issue and send to the obligor's employer a conforming income−withholding order or an administrative notice of change of payee, reflecting the redirected payments.

(3) The support enforcement agency of this state receiving redirected payments from another state under a law similar to sub. (2) shall furnish to a requesting party or tribunal of the other state a certified statement by the custodian of the record of the amount and dates of all payments received.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER IV

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER OR DETERMINATION OF PARENTAGE

769.401 Petition to establish support order. (1) If a support order entitled to recognition under this chapter has not been issued, a responding tribunal of this state with personal jurisdiction over the parties may issue a support order if any of the following applies:

(a) The individual seeking the order resides outside this state.

(b) The support enforcement agency seeking the order is located outside this state.

(2) The tribunal may issue a temporary child support order if the tribunal determines that such an order is appropriate and if the individual ordered to pay is any of the following:

(a) A presumed father of the child.

(b) An individual who is petitioning to have his paternity adjudicated.

(c) An individual who has been identified as the father of the child through genetic testing.

(d) An alleged father of the child who has declined to submit to genetic testing.

(e) An individual who has been shown by clear and convincing evidence to be the father of the child.

(f) An individual who has acknowledged paternity of the child under s. 767.805.

(g) The mother of the child.

(h) An individual who has been ordered to pay child support in a previous proceeding and the order has not been reversed or vacated.

(3) Upon finding, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, that an obligor owes a duty of support, the tribunal shall issue a support order directed to the obligor and may issue other orders under s. 769.305.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.402 Proceeding to determine parentage. A tribunal of this state authorized to determine parentage of a child may serve as a responding tribunal in a proceeding to determine parentage of a child brought under this chapter or a law or procedure substantially similar to this chapter.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER V

ENFORCEMENT OF SUPPORT ORDER WITHOUT REGISTRATION

769.501 Employer's receipt of income−withholding order of another state. An income−withholding order issued in another state may be sent by or on behalf of the obligee, or by the support enforcement agency, to the obligor's employer or other debtor, as specified in s. 767.75 (1f), without first filing a petition or comparable pleading or registering the income−withholding order with a tribunal of this state.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 ss. 5, 12.

769.502 Employer's compliance with income−withholding order of another state. (1) Upon receipt of an income−withholding order under s. 769.501, the obligor's employer shall immediately provide a copy of the order to the obligor.

(2) The employer shall treat an income−withholding order issued in another state that appears to be regular on its face as if it had been issued by a tribunal of this state.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (4) and s. 769.503, the employer shall withhold and distribute the funds as directed in the income−withholding order by complying with the terms of the order, as applicable, that specify any of the following:

(a) The duration and amount of periodic payments of current child support, stated as a sum certain.

(b) The person designated to receive payments and the address to which the payments are to be forwarded.

(c) Medical support, whether in the form of periodic cash payments, stated as a sum certain, or the provision of health insurance coverage for the child under a policy available through the obligor's employment.

(d) The amounts of periodic payments of fees and costs for a support enforcement agency, the issuing tribunal or the obligee's attorney, stated as sums certain.

(e) The amount of periodic payments of arrears and interest on arrears, stated as a sum certain.

(4) The employer shall comply with the law of the state of the obligor's principal place of employment for withholding from income with respect to all of the following:

(a) The employer's fee for processing an income−withholding order.

(b) The maximum amount permitted to be withheld from the obligor's income.

(c) The time periods within which the employer must implement the income−withholding order and forward the child support payment.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2015 a. 82.

769.503 Compliance with multiple income−withholding orders. If an obligor's employer receives multiple orders to withhold support from the earnings of the same obligor, the employer shall be considered to have satisfied the terms of the multiple orders if the employer complies with the law of the state of the obligor's principal place of employment to establish the priorities for withholding and allocating income withheld for multiple child support obligees.

History: 1997 a. 27.

769.504 Immunity from civil liability. An employer that complies with an income−withholding order issued in another state in accordance with this subchapter is not subject to civil liability to any individual or agency with regard to the employer's withholding of child support from an obligor's income.

History: 1997 a. 27.

769.505 Penalties for noncompliance. An employer that willfully fails to comply with an income−withholding order issued in another state and received for enforcement is subject to the same penalties that may be imposed for noncompliance with an income−withholding order issued by a tribunal of this state.

History: 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.506 Contest by obligor. (1) An obligor may contest the validity or enforcement of an income−withholding order issued in another state and received directly by an employer in this state by registering the order in a tribunal of this state and filing a contest to that order as provided in subch. VI, or otherwise contesting the order in the same manner as if the order had been issued by a tribunal of this state. Section 769.604 applies to the contest.

(2) The obligor shall give notice of the contest to all of the following:

(a) A support enforcement agency providing services to the obligee.

(b) Each employer that has directly received an income−withholding order.

(c) Except as provided in par. (d), the person designated to receive payments in the income−withholding order.

(d) If no person is designated to receive payments in the income−withholding order, the obligee.

History: 1997 a. 27 ss. 5118 to 5120, 5125, 5126; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 ss. 7, 8, 12.

769.507 Administrative enforcement of orders. (1) A party or support enforcement agency seeking to enforce a support order or an income−withholding order, or both, issued in another state or a foreign support order may send the documents required for registering the order to a support enforcement agency of this state.

(2) Upon receipt of the documents, the support enforcement agency, without initially seeking to register the order, shall consider and, if appropriate, use any administrative procedure authorized by the law of this state to enforce a support order or an income−withholding order, or both. If the obligor does not contest administrative enforcement, the order need not be registered. If the obligor contests the validity or administrative enforcement of the order, the support enforcement agency shall register the order as provided in this chapter.

History: 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER VI

REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT ORDER

769.601 Registration of order for enforcement. A support order or an income−withholding order issued in another state or a foreign support order may be registered in this state for enforcement.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.602 Procedure to register order for enforcement. (1) Except as provided in s. 769.706, a support order or income−withholding order of another state or a foreign support order may be registered in this state by sending all of the following records to the appropriate tribunal in this state:

(a) A letter of transmittal to the tribunal requesting registration and enforcement.

(b) Two copies, including one certified copy, of all orders to be registered, including any modification of an order.

(c) A sworn statement by the person requesting registration or a certified statement by the custodian of the records showing the amount of any arrearage.

(d) The name of the obligor and any of the following that are known:

1. The obligor's address and social security number.

2. The name and address of the obligor's employer and any other source of income of the obligor.

3. A description and the location of property of the obligor in this state not exempt from execution.

(e) Except as provided in s. 769.312, the name and address of the obligee and, if applicable, the agency or person to whom support payments are to be remitted.

(2) On receipt of a request for registration, the registering tribunal shall cause the order to be filed as an order of another state or a foreign country, together with one copy of the documents and information, regardless of their form.

(3) A petition or comparable pleading seeking a remedy that must be affirmatively sought under other law of this state may be filed at the same time as the request for registration or later. The pleading must specify the grounds for the remedy sought.

(4) If 2 or more orders are in effect, the person requesting registration must do all of the following:

(a) Furnish to the tribunal a copy of every support order that is asserted to be in effect in addition to the documents specified in this section.

(b) Specify the order that is alleged to be the controlling order, if any.

(c) Specify the amount of the consolidated arrears, if any.

(5) A request for a determination of which is the controlling order may be filed separately or with a request for registration and enforcement or for registration and modification. The person requesting registration shall give notice of the request to each party whose rights may be affected by the determination.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.603 Effect of registration for enforcement. (1) A support order or income−withholding order issued in another state or a foreign support order is registered when the order is filed in the registering tribunal of this state.

(2) A registered support order issued in another state or a foreign country is enforceable in the same manner and is subject to the same procedures as an order issued by a tribunal of this state.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce, but may not modify, a registered support order if the issuing tribunal had jurisdiction.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.604 Choice of law. (1) Except as otherwise provided in sub. (4), the law of the issuing state or foreign country governs all of the following:

(a) The nature, extent, amount, and duration of current payments under a registered support order.

(b) The computation and payment of arrearages and accrual of interest on the arrearages under the support order.

(c) The existence and satisfaction of other obligations under the support order.

(2) In a proceeding for arrearages under a registered support order, the statute of limitations under the laws of this state or of the issuing state or foreign country, whichever is longer, applies.

(3) A responding tribunal of this state shall apply the procedures and remedies of this state to enforce current support and collect arrearages and interest due on a support order of another state or a foreign country that is registered in this state.

(4) After a tribunal of this state or another state determines which is the controlling order and issues an order consolidating arrearages, if any, a tribunal of this state shall prospectively apply the law of the state or foreign country issuing the controlling order, including its law on interest on arrearages, on current and future support, and on consolidated arrearages.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.605 Notice of registration of order. (1) Whenever a support order or income−withholding order issued in another state or a foreign support order is registered, the registering tribunal of this state shall notify the nonregistering party. The notice must be accompanied by a copy of the registered order and the documents and relevant information accompanying the order.

(2) The notice must inform the nonregistering party of all of the following:

(a) That a registered support order is enforceable as of the date of registration in the same manner as an order issued by a tribunal of this state.

(b) That a hearing to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered order must be requested within 20 days after the date of mailing or personal service of the notice unless the registered order is under s. 769.707.

(c) That failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered order in a timely manner will result in confirmation of the order and enforcement of the order and the alleged arrearages.

(d) The amount of any alleged arrearages.

(2m) If the registering party asserts that 2 or more orders are in effect, the notice must also do all of the following:

(a) Identify the 2 or more orders and the order alleged by the registering party to be the controlling order and the consolidated arrearages, if any.

(b) Notify the nonregistering party of the right to a determination of which is the controlling order.

(c) State that the procedures provided in sub. (2) apply to the determination of which is the controlling order.

(d) State that failure to contest the validity or enforcement of the order alleged to be the controlling order in a timely manner may result in confirmation that the order is the controlling order.

(3) Upon registration of an income−withholding order for enforcement, the support enforcement agency or the registering tribunal shall notify the obligor's employer under s. 767.75 (2r).

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2005 a. 443 s. 265; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.606 Procedure to contest validity or enforcement of registered support order. (1) A nonregistering party seeking to contest the validity or enforcement of a registered support order in this state shall request a hearing within the time required by s. 769.605. The nonregistering party may seek to vacate the registration, to assert any defense to an allegation of noncompliance with the registered order, or to contest the remedies being sought or the amount of any alleged arrearages as provided in s. 769.607.

(2) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered support order in a timely manner, the order is confirmed by operation of law.

(3) If a nonregistering party requests a hearing to contest the validity or enforcement of the registered support order, the registering tribunal shall schedule the matter for hearing and give notice to the parties of the date, time, and place of the hearing.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.607 Contest of registration or enforcement. (1) A party contesting the validity or enforcement of a registered support order or seeking to vacate the registration has the burden of proving one or more of the following defenses:

(a) That the issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction over the contesting party.

(b) That the order was obtained by fraud.

(c) That the order has been vacated, suspended or modified by a later order.

(d) That the issuing tribunal has stayed the order pending appeal.

(e) That there is a defense under the law of this state to the remedy sought.

(f) That full or partial payment has been made.

(g) That the statute of limitations under s. 769.604 (2) precludes enforcement of some or all of the arrearages.

(h) That the alleged controlling order is not the controlling order.

(2) If a party presents evidence establishing a full or partial defense under sub. (1), a tribunal may stay enforcement of a registered support order, continue the proceeding to permit production of additional relevant evidence, or issue other appropriate orders. An uncontested portion of the registered support order may be enforced by all remedies available under the law of this state.

(3) If the contesting party does not establish a defense under sub. (1) to the validity or enforcement of a registered support order, the registering tribunal shall issue an order confirming the order.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

Section 804.12, which allows the court to dismiss an action as a sanction for discovery violations, applies to actions involving a contest of registration or enforcement of child support orders under this section. Granting a motion for dismissal, however, without addressing whether the violations were egregious constituted an

erroneous exercise of discretion. Halko v. Halko, 2005 WI App 99, 281 Wis. 2d 825, 698 N.W.2d 832, 04−1228.

769.608 Confirmed order. Confirmation of a registered support order, whether by operation of law or after notice and hearing, precludes further contest of the order with respect to any matter that could have been asserted at the time of registration.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.609 Procedure to register child support order of another state for modification. A party or support enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to modify and enforce, a child support order issued in another state shall register that order in this state in the same manner as provided in ss. 769.601 to 769.608 if the order has not been registered. A petition for modification may be filed at the same time as a request for registration, or later. The pleading must specify the grounds for modification.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.61 Effect of registration for modification. A tribunal of this state may enforce a child support order of another state registered for purposes of modification, in the same manner as if the order had been issued by a tribunal of this state, but the registered support order may be modified only if the requirements of s. 769.611 or 769.613 have been met.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.611 Modification of child support order of another state. (1) After a child support order issued in another state has been registered in this state, unless s. 769.613 applies a tribunal of this state may, upon petition, modify that child support order if, after notice and hearing, it finds one of the following:

(a) That all of the following requirements are met:

1. Neither the child, nor the obligee who is an individual, nor the obligor resides in the issuing state.

2. A petitioner who is a nonresident of this state seeks modification.

3. The respondent is subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal of this state.

(b) That this state is the residence of the child, or a party who is an individual is subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal of this state, and that all of the parties who are individuals have filed consents in a record in the issuing tribunal providing that a tribunal of this state may modify the child support order and assume continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

(2) Modification of a registered child support order is subject to the same requirements, procedures and defenses as apply to the modification of an order issued by a tribunal of this state, and the order may be enforced and satisfied in the same manner.

(3) A tribunal of this state may not modify any aspect of a child support order that may not be modified under the law of the issuing state, including the duration of the obligation of support. If 2 or more tribunals have issued child support orders for the same obligor and same child, the child support order that is controlling and must be recognized under s. 769.207 establishes the nonmodifiable aspects of the support order.

(3m) In a proceeding to modify a child support order, the law of the state that is determined to have issued the initial controlling order governs the duration of the obligation of support. The obligor's fulfillment of the duty of support established by that order precludes the imposition of a further obligation of support by a tribunal of this state.

(4) Upon issuance of an order modifying a child support order issued in another state, a tribunal of this state becomes the tribunal of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

(5) Notwithstanding subs. (1) to (4) and s. 769.201 (2m), a tribunal of this state retains jurisdiction to modify an order issued by a tribunal of this state if one party resides in another state and the other party resides outside the United States.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 ss. 9, 12.

Unless the specific conditions listed in this section are satisfied, the court may not modify a child support order even though the court has subject matter jurisdiction. Cepukenas v. Cepukenas, 221 Wis. 2d 166, 584 N.W.2d 227 (Ct. App. 1998), 97−1815.

769.612 Recognition of order modified in another state. If a child support order issued by a tribunal of this state is modified by a tribunal of another state that assumed jurisdiction under the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, all of the following apply to a tribunal of this state:

(1) The tribunal may enforce its order that was modified only as to arrearages and interest accruing before the modification.

(3) The tribunal may provide appropriate relief for violations of its order that occurred before the effective date of the modification.

(4) The tribunal shall recognize the modifying order of the other state, upon registration, for the purpose of enforcement.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.613 Jurisdiction to modify child support order of another state when individual parties reside in this state. (1) If all of the parties who are individuals reside in this state and the child does not reside in the issuing state, a tribunal of this state has jurisdiction to enforce and to modify the issuing state's child support order in a proceeding to register that order.

(2) A tribunal of this state exercising jurisdiction as provided in sub. (1) shall apply the provisions of this subchapter and subchs. I and II and the procedural and substantive law of this state to the enforcement or modification proceeding. Subchapters III to V, VII, and VIII do not apply.

History: 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.614 Notice to issuing tribunal of modification. Within 30 days after issuance of a modified child support order, the party obtaining the modification shall file a certified copy of the modified child support order with the issuing tribunal that had continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over the earlier child support order, and in each tribunal in which the party knows that the earlier child support order has been registered. Failure of the party obtaining the modified child support order to file a certified copy as required by this section subjects the party to appropriate sanctions by a tribunal in which the issue of failure to file arises, but that failure has no effect on the validity or enforceability of the modified child support order of the new tribunal of continuing, exclusive jurisdiction.

History: 1997 a. 27 s. 5133; Stats. 1997 s. 769.614.

769.615 Jurisdiction to modify child support order of foreign country. (1) Except as provided in s. 769.711, if a foreign country lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify its child support order under its laws, a tribunal of this state may assume jurisdiction to modify the child support order and bind all individuals who are subject to the personal jurisdiction of the tribunal whether the consent to modification of a child support order otherwise required of the individual under s. 769.611 has been given or whether the individual seeking modification is a resident of this state or of the foreign country.

(2) An order issued by a tribunal of this state modifying a foreign child support order under this section is the controlling order.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.616 Procedure to register child support order of foreign country for modification. A party or support enforcement agency seeking to modify, or to modify and enforce, a foreign child support order not under the convention may register that order in this state under ss. 769.601 to 769.608 if the order has not been registered. A petition for modification may be filed

at the same time as a request for registration, or at another time. The petition must specify the grounds for modification.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER VII

SUPPORT PROCEEDING UNDER CONVENTION

769.701 Definitions. In this subchapter:

(1) "Application" means a request under the convention by an obligee or obligor, or on behalf of a child, made through a central authority for assistance from another central authority.

(2) "Central authority" means the entity designated by the United States or a foreign country described in s. 769.101 (3c) (d) to perform the functions specified in the convention.

(3) "Convention support order" means a support order of a tribunal of a foreign country described in s. 769.101 (3c) (d).

(3m) "Department" means the department of children and families.

(4) "Direct request" means a petition filed by an individual in a tribunal of this state in a proceeding involving an obligee, obligor, or child residing outside the United States.

(5) "Foreign central authority" means the entity designated by a foreign country described in s. 769.101 (3c) (d) to perform the functions specified in the convention.

(6) (a) "Foreign support agreement" means an agreement for support in a record to which all of the following apply:

1. It is enforceable as a support order in the country of origin.

2. It has been either of the following:

a. Formally drawn up or registered as an authentic instrument by a foreign tribunal.

b. Authenticated by, or concluded, registered, or filed with a foreign tribunal.

3. It may be reviewed and modified by a foreign tribunal.

(b) "Foreign support agreement" includes a maintenance arrangement or authentic instrument under the convention.

(7) "United States central authority" means the secretary of the federal department of health and human services.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.702 Applicability. This subchapter applies only to a support proceeding under the convention. In such a proceeding, if a provision of this subchapter is inconsistent with subchs. I to VI, this subchapter controls.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.703 Relationship of governmental entity to United States central authority. The department is recognized as the agency designated by the United States central authority to perform specific functions under the convention.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.704 Initiation by department of support proceeding under convention. (1) In a support proceeding under this subchapter, the department shall do all of the following:

(a) Transmit and receive applications.

(b) Initiate or facilitate the institution of a proceeding regarding an application in a tribunal of this state.

(2) All of the following support proceedings are available to an obligee under the convention:

(a) Recognition or recognition and enforcement of a foreign support order.

(b) Enforcement of a support order issued or recognized in this state.

(c) Establishment of a support order if there is no existing order, including, if necessary, determination of parentage of a child.

(d) Establishment of a support order if recognition of a foreign support order is refused under s. 769.708 (2) (b), (d), or (i).

(e) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of this state.

(f) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign country.

(3) All of the following support proceedings are available under the convention to an obligor against which there is an existing support order:

(a) Recognition of an order suspending or limiting enforcement of an existing support order of a tribunal of this state.

(b) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of this state.

(c) Modification of a support order of a tribunal of another state or a foreign country.

(4) A tribunal of this state may not require security, bond, or deposit, however described, to guarantee the payment of costs and expenses in proceedings under the convention.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.705 Direct request. (1) A petitioner may file a direct request seeking establishment or modification of a support order or determination of parentage of a child. In the proceeding, the law of this state applies.

(2) A petitioner may file a direct request seeking recognition and enforcement of a support order or support agreement. In the proceeding, ss. 769.706 to 769.713 apply.

(3) In a direct request for recognition and enforcement of a convention support order or foreign support agreement all of the following apply:

(a) A security, bond, or deposit is not required to guarantee the payment of costs and expenses.

(b) An obligee or obligor that in the issuing country has benefited from free legal assistance is entitled to benefit, at least to the same extent, from any free legal assistance provided for by the law of this state under the same circumstances.

(4) A petitioner filing a direct request is not entitled to assistance from the department.

(5) This subchapter does not prevent the application of laws of this state that provide simplified, more expeditious rules regarding a direct request for recognition and enforcement of a foreign support order or foreign support agreement.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.706 Registration of convention support order. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, a party who is an individual or a support enforcement agency seeking recognition of a convention support order shall register the order in this state as provided in subch. VI.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 769.311 and 769.602 (1), a request for registration of a convention support order must be accompanied by all of the following:

(a) A complete text of the support order or an abstract or extract of the support order drawn up by the issuing foreign tribunal, which may be in the form recommended by the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

(b) A record stating that the support order is enforceable in the issuing country.

(c) If the respondent did not appear and was not represented in the proceedings in the issuing country, a record attesting, as appropriate, either that the respondent had proper notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard or that the respondent had proper notice of the support order and an opportunity to be heard in a challenge or appeal on fact or law before a tribunal.

(d) A record showing the amount of arrears, if any, and the date the amount was calculated.

(e) A record showing a requirement for automatic adjustment of the amount of support, if any, and the information necessary to make the appropriate calculations.

(f) If necessary, a record showing the extent to which the applicant received free legal assistance in the issuing country.

(3) A request for registration of a convention support order may seek recognition and partial enforcement of the order.

(4) A tribunal of this state may vacate the registration of a convention support order without the filing of a contest under s. 769.707 only if, acting on its own motion, the tribunal finds that recognition and enforcement of the order would be manifestly incompatible with public policy.

(5) The tribunal shall promptly notify the parties of the registration or the order vacating the registration of a convention support order.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.707 Contest of registered convention support order. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, ss. 769.605 to 769.608 apply to a contest of a registered convention support order.

(2) A party contesting a registered convention support order shall file a contest not later than 30 days after notice of the registration, but if the contesting party does not reside in the United States, the contest must be filed not later than 60 days after notice of the registration.

(3) If the nonregistering party fails to contest the registered convention support order by the time specified in sub. (2), the order is enforceable.

(4) A contest of a registered convention support order may be based only on grounds set forth in s. 769.708. The contesting party bears the burden of proof.

(5) In a contest of a registered convention support order, all of the following apply to a tribunal of this state:

(a) The tribunal is bound by the findings of fact on which the foreign tribunal based its jurisdiction.

(b) The tribunal may not review the merits of the order.

(6) A tribunal of this state deciding a contest of a registered convention support order shall promptly notify the parties of its decision.

(7) A challenge or appeal, if any, does not stay the enforcement of a convention support order unless there are exceptional circumstances.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2011 a. 257 s. 55; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.708 Recognition and enforcement of registered convention support order. (1) Except as otherwise provided in sub. (2), a tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce a registered convention support order.

(2) The following grounds are the only grounds on which a tribunal of this state may refuse recognition and enforcement of a registered convention support order:

(a) Recognition and enforcement of the order is manifestly incompatible with public policy, including the failure of the issuing tribunal to observe minimum standards of due process, which include notice and an opportunity to be heard.

(b) The issuing tribunal lacked personal jurisdiction consistent with s. 769.201.

(c) The order in not enforceable in the issuing country.

(d) The order was obtained by fraud in connection with a matter of procedure.

(e) A record transmitted in accordance with s. 769.706 lacks authenticity or integrity.

(f) A proceeding between the same parties and having the same purpose is pending before a tribunal of this state and that proceeding was the first to be filed.

(g) The order is incompatible with a more recent support order involving the same parties and having the same purpose, if the more recent support order is entitled to recognition and enforcement under this chapter in this state.

(h) Payment, to the extent alleged arrears have been paid in whole or in part.

(i) In a case in which the respondent neither appeared nor was represented in the proceeding in the issuing foreign country, if either of the following applies:

1. If the law of that country provides for prior notice of proceedings, the respondent did not have proper notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

2. If the law of that country does not provide for prior notice of the proceedings, the respondent did not have proper notice of the order and an opportunity to be heard in a challenge or appeal on fact or law before a tribunal.

(j) The order was made in violation of s. 769.711.

(3) If a tribunal of this state does not recognize a convention support order under sub. (2) (b), (d), or (i), both of the following apply:

(a) The tribunal may not dismiss the proceeding without allowing a reasonable time for a party to request the establishment of a new convention support order.

(b) The department shall take all appropriate measures to request a child support order for the obligee if the application for recognition and enforcement was received under s. 769.704.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 ss. 10, 12.

769.709 Partial enforcement. If a tribunal of this state does not recognize and enforce a convention support order in its entirety, it shall enforce any severable part of the order. An application or direct request may seek recognition and partial enforcement of a convention support order.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.710 Foreign support agreement. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subs. (3) and (4), a tribunal of this state shall recognize and enforce a foreign support agreement registered in this state.

(2) An application or direct request for recognition and enforcement of a foreign support agreement must be accompanied by all of the following:

(a) A complete text of the foreign support agreement.

(b) A record stating that the foreign support agreement is enforceable as a decision in the issuing country.

(3) A tribunal of this state may vacate the registration of the foreign support agreement only if, acting on its own motion, the tribunal finds that recognition and enforcement would be manifestly incompatible with public policy.

(4) In a contest of a foreign support agreement, a tribunal of this state may refuse recognition and enforcement of the agreement if it finds any of the following:

(a) Recognition and enforcement of the agreement is manifestly incompatible with public policy.

(b) The agreement was obtained by fraud or falsification.

(c) The agreement is incompatible with a support order involving the same parties and having the same purpose in this state, another state, or a foreign country, if the support order is entitled to recognition and enforcement under this chapter in this state.

(d) The record submitted under sub. (2) lacks authenticity or integrity.

(5) A proceeding for recognition and enforcement of a foreign support agreement shall be suspended during the pendency of a challenge to or appeal of the agreement before a tribunal of another state or a foreign country.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.711 Modification of convention child support order. (1) A tribunal of this state may not modify a convention child support order if the obligee remains a resident of the foreign country where the support order was issued, unless any of the following applies:

(a) The obligee submits to the jurisdiction of a tribunal of this state, either expressly or by defending on the merits of the case

without objecting to the jurisdiction at the first available opportunity.

(b) The foreign tribunal lacks or refuses to exercise jurisdiction to modify its support order or issue a new support order.

(2) If a tribunal of this state does not modify a convention child support order because the order is not recognized in this state, s. 769.708 (3) applies:

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.712 Personal information; limit on use. Personal information gathered or transmitted under this subchapter may be used only for the purposes for which it was gathered or transmitted.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.713 Record in original language; English translation. A record filed with a tribunal of this state under this subchapter must be in the original language and, if not in English, must be accompanied by an English translation.

History: 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER VIII

INTERSTATE RENDITION

769.801 Grounds for rendition. (1) For purposes of this subchapter, "governor" includes an individual performing the functions of governor or the executive authority of a state covered by this chapter.

(2) The governor of this state may do any of the following:

(a) Demand that the governor of another state surrender an individual found in the other state who is charged criminally in this state with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee.

(b) On the demand by the governor of another state, surrender an individual found in this state who is charged criminally in the other state with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee.

(3) A provision for extradition of individuals not inconsistent with this chapter applies to the demand even if the individual whose surrender is demanded was not in the demanding state when the crime was allegedly committed and has not fled from that state.

History: 1993 a. 326.

769.802 Conditions of rendition. (1) Before making demand that the governor of another state surrender an individual charged criminally in this state with having failed to provide for the support of an obligee, the governor of this state may require a prosecutor of this state to demonstrate that at least 60 days previously the obligee had initiated proceedings for support under this chapter or that the proceeding would be of no avail.

(2) If, under this chapter or a law substantially similar to this chapter, the governor of another state makes a demand that the governor of this state surrender an individual charged criminally in that state with having failed to provide for the support of a child or other individual to whom a duty of support is owed, the governor may require a prosecutor to investigate the demand and report whether a proceeding for support has been initiated or would be effective. If it appears that a proceeding would be effective but has not been initiated, the governor may delay honoring the demand for a reasonable time to permit the initiation of a proceeding.

(3) If a proceeding for support has been initiated and the individual whose rendition is demanded prevails, the governor may decline to honor the demand. If the petitioner prevails and the individual whose rendition is demanded is subject to a support order, the governor may decline to honor the demand if the individual is complying with the support order.

History: 1993 a. 326; 1997 a. 27; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

SUBCHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

769.901 Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing this chapter, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to the subject of this chapter among states enacting it.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.

769.903 Severability. If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this chapter that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

History: 1993 a. 326; 2009 a. 321; 2015 a. 82 s. 12.