

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT**

CX-89-1863, C6-84-2134

**PROMULGATION OF AMENDMENTS
TO THE MINNESOTA GENERAL RULES OF PRACTICE
FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS, TITLE IV, RULES OF
FAMILY COURT, FORM 3--APPENDIX A**

ORDER

Pursuant to Minnesota Session Laws 2001, chapter 158, section 4, the legislature created a provision that provides notice of criminal penalties for nonsupport of a spouse or child that require modification to the advisory codified in the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts, Title IV, Rules of Family Court, Form 3--Appendix A.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the attached amendments to the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts, Title IV, Rules of Family Court, Form 3--Appendix A, are prescribed and promulgated to be effective immediately.

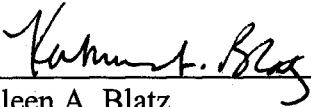
DATED: August 8, 2001

BY THE COURT:

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

AUG 8 2001

FILED



Kathleen A. Blatz
Chief Justice

FORM 3. APPENDIX A

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PARTIES:

I. PAYMENTS TO PUBLIC AGENCY. According to Minnesota Statutes, section 518.551, subdivision 1, payments ordered for maintenance and support must be paid to the Minnesota child support payment center as long as the person entitled to receive the payments is receiving or has applied for public assistance or has applied for support and maintenance collection services. Parents mail payments to: P.O. Box 64326, St. Paul, MN 55164-0326. Employers mail payments to: P.O. Box 64306, St. Paul, MN 55164.

II. DEPRIVING ANOTHER OF CUSTODIAL OR PARENTAL RIGHTS – A FELONY. A person may be charged with a felony who conceals a minor child or takes, obtains, retains, or fails to return a minor child from or to the child's parent (or person with custodial or parenting time rights), according to Minnesota Statutes, section 609.26. A copy of that section is available from any court administrator.

III. NONSUPPORT OF A SPOUSE OR CHILD – CRIMINAL PENALTIES. A person who fails to pay court-ordered child support or maintenance may be charged with a crime, which may include misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, or felony charges, according to Minnesota Statutes, section 609.375. A copy of that section is available from any district court clerk.

IV. RULES OF SUPPORT, MAINTENANCE, PARENTING TIME.

- A. Payment of support or spousal maintenance is to be as ordered, and the giving of gifts or making purchases of food, clothing, and the like will not fulfill the obligation.
- B. Payment of support must be made as it becomes due, and failure to secure or denial of parenting time is NOT an excuse for nonpayment, but the aggrieved party must seek relief through a proper motion filed with the court.
- C. Nonpayment of support is not grounds to deny parenting time. The party entitled to receive support may apply for support and collection services, file a contempt motion, or obtain a judgment as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091.
- D. The payment of support or spousal maintenance takes priority over payment of debts and other obligations.
- E. A party who accepts additional obligations of support does so with the full knowledge of the party's prior obligation under this proceeding.
- F. Child support or maintenance is based on annual income, and it is the responsibility of a person with seasonal employment to budget income so that payments are made throughout the year as ordered.
- G. If the obligor is laid off from employment or receives a pay reduction, support may be reduced, but only if a motion to reduce the support is served and filed with the court. Any reduction will take effect only if ordered by the court and may only relate back to the time that the motion is filed. If a motion is not filed, the support obligation will continue at the current level. The court is not permitted to reduce support retroactively, except as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 518.64, subdivision 2, paragraph (d).
- H. *A Parental Guide to Making Child-Focused Visitation Decisions* is available from any court administrator.
- I. The nonpayment of support may be enforced through the denial of student grants; interception of state and federal tax refunds; suspension of driver's, recreational, and occupational licenses; referral to the department of revenue or private collection agencies; seizure of assets, including bank accounts and other assets held by financial institutions; reporting to credit bureaus; interest charging, income withholding, and contempt proceedings; and other enforcement methods allowed by law.

IV. PARENTAL RIGHTS FROM MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 518.17, SUBDIVISION 3. UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY THE COURT:

- A. Each party has the right of access to, and to receive copies of, school, medical, dental, religious training, and other important records and information about the minor children. Each party has the right of access to information regarding health or dental insurance available to the minor children. Presentation of a copy of this order to the custodian of a record or other information about the minor children constitutes sufficient authorization for the release of the record or information to the requesting party.

- B. Each party shall keep the other informed as to the name and address of the school of attendance of the minor children. Each party has the right to be informed by school officials about the children's welfare, educational progress and status, and to attend school and parent teacher conferences. The school is not required to hold a separate conference for each party.
- C. In case of an accident or serious illness of a minor child, each party shall notify the other party of the accident or illness, and the name of the health care provider and the place of treatment.
- D. Each party has the right of reasonable access and telephone contact with the minor children.

VI. WAGE AND INCOME DEDUCTION OF SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE. Child support and / or spousal maintenance may be withheld from income, with or without notice to the person obligated to pay, when the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518.6111, have been met. A copy of that section is available from any court administrator.

VII. CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR RESIDENCE. Unless otherwise ordered, each party shall notify the other party, the court, and the public authority responsible for collection, if applicable, of the following information within ten days of any change: residential and mailing address, telephone number, driver's license number, social security number, and name, address, and telephone number of the employer.

VIII. COST OF LIVING INCREASE OF SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE. Child support and / or spousal maintenance may be adjusted every two years based upon a change in the cost of living (using the u.s. department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, consumer price index Mpls. St. Paul, for all urban consumers (CPI-U), unless otherwise specified in this order) when the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518.641, are met. Cost of living increases are compounded. A copy of Minnesota Statutes, section 518.641, and forms necessary to request or contest a cost of living increase are available from any court administrator.

IX. JUDGMENTS FOR UNPAID SUPPORT; INTEREST. ACCORDING TO MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 548.091:

- A. If a person fails to make a child support payment, the payment owed becomes a judgment against the person responsible to make the payment by operation of law on or after the date the payment is due, and the person entitled to receive the payment or the public agency may obtain entry and docketing of the judgement without notice to the person responsible to make the payment.
- B. Interest begins accruing on a payment or installment of child support whenever the unpaid amount due is greater than the current support due.

X. JUDGMENTS FOR UNPAID MAINTENANCE. A judgment for unpaid spousal maintenance may be entered and docketed when the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 548.091, are met. A copy of that section is available from any court administrator.

XI. ATTORNEY FEES AND COLLECTION COSTS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT. A judgment for attorney fees and other collection costs incurred in enforcing a child support order will be entered against the person responsible to pay support when the conditions of Minnesota Statutes, section 518.14, subdivision 2, are met. A copy of that section and forms necessary to request or contest these attorney fees and collection costs are available from any court administrator.

XII. PARENTING TIME EXPEDITOR PROCESS. On request of either party or on its own motion, the court may appoint a parenting time expeditor to resolve parenting time disputes under Minnesota Statutes, section 518.1751. A copy of that section and a description of the expeditor process is available from any court administrator.

XIII. PARENTING TIME REMEDIES AND PENALTIES. Remedies and penalties for wrongful denial of parenting time are available under Minnesota Statutes, section 518.175, subdivision 6. These include compensatory parenting time; civil penalties; bond requirements; contempt; and reversal of custody. A copy of that subdivision and forms for requesting relief are available from any court administrator.

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