

Article - Family Law

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§10–301.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “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.
- (c) “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.
- (d) “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.
- (e) “Home state” means the state 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 filing of a complaint or comparable pleading for support and, if a child is less than 6 months old, the state 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.
- (f) “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.
- (g) “Income withholding order” means an order or other legal process directed to an obligor’s employer under Subtitle 1 of this title to withhold support from the income of the obligor.
- (h) “Initiating state” means a state from which a proceeding is forwarded or in which a proceeding is filed for forwarding to a responding state under this subtitle or a law or procedure substantially similar to this subtitle.
- (i) “Initiating tribunal” means the authorized tribunal in an initiating state.
- (j) “Issuing state” means the state in which a tribunal issues a support order or renders a judgment determining parentage.
- (k) “Issuing tribunal” means the tribunal that issues a support order or renders a judgment determining parentage.
- (l) “Law” includes decisional and statutory law and rules and regulations having the force of law.
- (m) “Obligee” means:

(1) an individual to whom a duty of support is or is alleged to be owed or in whose favor a support order has been issued or a judgment determining parentage has been rendered;

(2) a state or political subdivision 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; or

(3) an individual seeking a judgment determining parentage of the individual's child.

(n) "Obligor" means an individual or the estate of a decedent:

(1) who owes or is alleged to owe a duty of support;

(2) who is alleged but has not been adjudicated to be a parent of a child; or

(3) who is liable under a support order.

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

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

(q) "Register" means to record a support order or judgment determining parentage in the registry of foreign support orders.

(r) "Registering tribunal" means a tribunal in which a support order is registered.

(s) "Responding state" means a state in which a proceeding is filed or to which a proceeding is forwarded for filing from an initiating state under this subtitle or a law or procedure substantially similar to this subtitle.

(t) "Responding tribunal" means the authorized tribunal in a responding state.

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

(v) (1) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(2) "State" includes:

(i) an Indian tribe; and

(ii) a foreign country or political subdivision that has:

1. been declared to be a foreign reciprocating country or political subdivision under federal law;

2. established a reciprocal arrangement for child support with this State as provided in § 10–320 of this subtitle; or

3. enacted a law or established procedures for issuance and enforcement of support orders which are substantially similar to the procedures under this subtitle.

(w) “Support enforcement agency” means a public official or agency authorized to seek:

(1) enforcement of support orders or laws relating to the duty of support;

(2) establishment or modification of child support;

(3) determination of parentage;

(4) the location of obligors or their assets; or

(5) determination of the controlling child support order.

(x) “Support order” means a judgment, decree, order, or directive whether temporary, final, or subject to modification, issued by a tribunal for the benefit of a child, a spouse, or a former spouse, that provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages, or reimbursement, and may include related costs and fees, interest, income withholding, attorney’s fees, and other relief.

(y) “Tribe” means a tribe, band, or village of Native Americans that is recognized by federal law or formally acknowledged by a state.

(z) “Tribunal” means a court, administrative agency, or quasi-judicial entity authorized to establish, enforce, or modify support orders or to determine parentage.

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