

## Introduction

This book is an effort to report the legal procedures for establishing and enforcing child support orders and establishing paternity in Wisconsin. The text notes applicable statutory and case law, and refers to the appropriate forms to be used, all of which are available through the Kids Information Data System (KIDS). This book is published with the understanding that the authors do not render any legal services. Because of the rapidly changing nature of the law, information contained in this publication may become outdated. As a result, anyone using this material must always research original sources of authority and update this information to ensure accuracy. In no event will the authors be liable for any direct, indirect, or consequential damages resulting from the use of this material.

Central to the material is the underlying concept that the State of Wisconsin (as represented by the county child support agency) is specified as a real party in interest under § 767.075, Wis. Stats., in an action affecting the family whenever any of the parties receiving IV-D services is a public assistance recipient or whenever either of the parties applies for child support services under § 49.22, Wis. Stats.

Chapter 1 of the book describes the child support system's historical development and the roles which are played by the government personnel within it. Chapter 2 explains how a child support obligation is established. Chapter 3 discusses paternity establishment, including paternity acknowledgments. Chapter 4 reviews procedures for review and modification. Chapter 5 explains and compares the tools, both civil and criminal, available to enforce a support order. Finally, Chapter 6 discusses interstate enforcement and the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.

All references are to Wisconsin statutes and case law unless otherwise noted.

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