

HTM


## For Oar Childen'i Futwr

## Overview

All children deserve the chance to achieve their full potential. Parents who provide emotional an financial support to their children go a long way toward furthering this potential. But when noncustodial parents fail to provide economically for
their children, federal mandates empower states to enforce the collection of child support.
Cases of past due child support have increased from 2 million in 1976 to 20 million in 1997. Today the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), working with state and local child support programs, is launching a nationwide child support enforcement strategy that employs a powerful new tool. The inancial Institution Data Match (FIDM) will expedite collection of some of the $\$ 56$ billion in owed support -and change millions of children's lives.

## What is FIDM?

Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), also known as the Welfare Reform Act, was signed into law on August 22, 1996.

FIDM is an innovative provision of PRWORA requiring all states to enter agreements with financial institutions doing business within their
state to conduct a quarterly data match. The data match identifies accounts belonging to parents delinquent in their child support obligation. When a match is made with the account of a delinquent obligor, state child support agencies may issue liens or levies to collect past-due child support. Our state is part of the FIDM Alliance, consortium of states that has contracted with Informatix to conduct data matches with financial institutions using its innovative Match-Lock Solutions.

## Financial Institution Limited Liability

Under state and federal law, financial institutions cannot be held liable for release of a financial record to state child support enforcement agencies.
Additional information regarding these statutes can
be found at the FIDM Alliance website.

## Who Must Participate

- Banks and Savings and Loans
- Federal and State Credit Unions
- Benefit associations
- Insurance companies
- Safety Deposit companies
- Any entity that offers to the public accounts subject to the FIDM statute


## Frequency of Match

The data matching process must be conducted quarterly but may be staggered throughout the quarter

Types of Accounts Subject to Match Accounts include but are not limited to:

- Demand deposit accounts
- Checking accounts or negotiable withdrawal order account
Savings accounts
- Money-market mutual fund accounts


## Montana Contact

In Montana, the Child Support Enforcement Division (CSED) of the Department of Public Health and Human Services is the agency responsible for working with financial institutions to implement the data match. The CSED can be contacted at the following address.

Child Support Enforcement Division
FIDM Project
P.O. Box 202943

Helena, MT 59620-2943

## Montana Law

Under Montana law, an individual who owes a child support debt will not be submitted for the financial institution data match unless the debt exceeds $\$ 500$ or a total of 3 months child support, whichever is less.

FIDM law is found in the Montana Cod Annotated at Section 40-5-924

