

CHAPTER 162**(HB 415)**

AN ACT relating to child support.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 205.721 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All services available to individuals receiving public assistance under Title IV-A of the Federal Social Security Act benefits shall also be available to individuals not receiving public assistance benefits, upon application by the individual with the cabinet.
- (2) The cabinet shall continue to provide IV-D services when a family ceases to receive public assistance without requiring a formal application and without payment of the application fee specified in subsection (3) of this section. IV-D services shall be discontinued upon the request of the recipient.
- (3) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the cabinet may charge an application fee for the services based on a fee schedule, which shall take into account the applicant's net income. No application fee shall be required from individuals receiving public assistance.
- (4) The cabinet shall impose an annual fee of *thirty-five dollars (\$35)*~~twenty five dollars (\$25)~~ pursuant to *42 U.S.C. sec. 654*~~Public Law 109-171, Section 7310~~, which shall be satisfied by withholding the fee from a child support disbursement.

➔Section 2. KRS 403.212 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The following provisions and child support table shall be the child support guidelines established for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
- (2) For the purposes of the child support guidelines:
 - (a) "Income" means actual gross income of the parent if employed to full capacity or potential income if unemployed or underemployed.
 - (b) "Gross income" includes income from any source, except as excluded in this subsection, and includes but is not limited to income from salaries, wages, retirement and pension funds, commissions, bonuses, dividends, severance pay, pensions, interest, trust income, annuities, capital gains, Social Security benefits, workers' compensation benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, disability insurance benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), gifts, prizes, and alimony or maintenance received. Specifically excluded are benefits received from means-tested public assistance programs, including but not limited to public assistance as defined under Title IV-A of the Federal Social Security Act, and food stamps.
 - (c) For income from self-employment, rent, royalties, proprietorship of a business, or joint ownership of a partnership or closely held corporation, "gross income" means gross receipts minus ordinary and necessary expenses required for self-employment or business operation. Straight-line depreciation, using Internal Revenue Service (IRS) guidelines, shall be the only allowable method of calculating depreciation expense in determining gross income. Specifically excluded from ordinary and necessary expenses for purposes of this guideline shall be investment tax credits or any other business expenses inappropriate for determining gross income for purposes of calculating child support. Income and expenses from self-employment or operation of a business shall be carefully reviewed to determine an appropriate level of gross income available to the parent to satisfy a child support obligation. In most cases, this amount will differ from a determination of business income for tax purposes. Expense reimbursement or in-kind payments received by a parent in the course of employment, self-employment, or operation of a business or personal use of business property or payments of expenses by a business, shall be counted as income if they are significant and reduce personal living expenses such as a company or business car, free housing, reimbursed meals, or club dues.
 - (d) If a parent is voluntarily unemployed or underemployed, child support shall be calculated based on a determination of potential income, except that a determination of potential income shall not be made for a parent who is *incarcerated*, physically or mentally incapacitated, or is caring for a very young child, age three (3) or younger, for whom the parents owe a joint legal responsibility. Potential income shall

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be determined based upon employment potential and probable earnings level based on the obligor's or obligee's recent work history, occupational qualifications, and prevailing job opportunities and earnings levels in the community. A court may find a parent to be voluntarily unemployed or underemployed without finding that the parent intended to avoid or reduce the child support obligation.

- (e) "Imputed child support obligation" means the amount of child support the parent would be required to pay from application of the child support guidelines.
- (f) Income statements of the parents shall be verified by documentation of both current and past income. Suitable documentation shall include, but shall not be limited to, income tax returns, paystubs, employer statements, or receipts and expenses if self-employed.
- (g) "Combined monthly adjusted parental gross income" means the combined monthly gross incomes of both parents, less any of the following payments made by the parent:
 - 1. The amount of pre-existing orders for current maintenance for prior spouses to the extent payment is actually made and the amount of current maintenance, if any, ordered paid in the proceeding before the court;
 - 2. The amount of pre-existing orders of current child support for prior-born children to the extent payment is actually made under those orders; and
 - 3. A deduction for the support to the extent payment is made, if a parent is legally responsible for and is actually providing support for other prior-born children who are not the subject of a particular proceeding. If the prior-born children reside with that parent, an "imputed child support obligation" shall be allowed in the amount which would result from application of the guidelines for the support of the prior-born children.
- (h) "Split custody arrangement" means a situation where each parent is the residential custodian for one (1) or more children for whom the parents share a joint legal responsibility.
- (3) The child support obligation set forth in the child support guidelines table shall be divided between the parents in proportion to their combined monthly adjusted parental gross income.
- (4) The child support obligation shall be the appropriate amount for the number of children in the table for whom the parents share a joint legal responsibility. The minimum amount of child support shall be sixty dollars (\$60) per month.
- (5) The court may use its judicial discretion in determining child support in circumstances where combined adjusted parental gross income exceeds the uppermost levels of the guideline table.
- (6) The child support obligation in a split custody arrangement shall be calculated in the following manner:
 - (a) Two (2) separate child support obligation worksheets shall be prepared, one (1) for each household, using the number of children born of the relationship in each separate household, rather than the total number of children born of the relationship.
 - (b) The nonresidential custodian with the greater monthly obligation amount shall pay the difference between the obligation amounts, as determined by the worksheets, to the other parent.
- (7) The child support guidelines table is as follows:

COMBINED
MONTHLY
ADJUSTED
PARENTAL

GROSS						SIX
INCOME	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	OR
	CHILD	CHILDREN				MORE
\$ 0	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ 60
100	60	60	60	60	60	60
200	70	70	70	70	70	70

300	80	80	80	80	80	80
400	90	90	90	90	90	90
500	100	105	110	115	120	125
600	120	125	130	135	140	145
700	140	156	161	166	171	176
800	160	203	208	213	218	223
900	180	261	266	271	276	281
1,000	195	303	325	330	335	340
1,100	212	324	384	389	394	399
1,200	229	346	433	446	451	456
1,300	246	367	460	504	510	515
1,400	262	392	491	554	576	582
1,500	277	417	522	588	642	650
1,600	293	437	548	618	674	717
1,700	308	458	574	647	706	755
1,800	322	478	599	675	736	788
1,900	336	495	620	699	763	816
2,000	350	512	642	723	789	844
2,100	364	529	663	747	815	872
2,200	376	546	684	771	841	900
2,300	389	563	706	795	868	928
2,400	401	580	727	819	894	956
2,500	413	597	749	843	920	984
2,600	424	614	770	867	946	1,012
2,700	435	630	790	889	970	1,038
2,800	445	646	809	911	994	1,064
2,900	455	662	829	934	1,019	1,090
3,000	465	677	849	956	1,043	1,116
3,100	475	693	868	978	1,067	1,142
3,200	485	709	888	1,001	1,092	1,168
3,300	495	725	908	1,023	1,116	1,194
3,400	506	741	928	1,045	1,140	1,220
3,500	516	757	947	1,067	1,164	1,246
3,600	526	773	967	1,090	1,189	1,272
3,700	536	790	988	1,113	1,215	1,299
3,800	548	808	1,011	1,139	1,243	1,329
3,900	559	826	1,033	1,164	1,270	1,359
4,000	571	844	1,056	1,190	1,298	1,388

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4,100	580	862	1,078	1,215	1,326	1,418
4,200	592	880	1,101	1,240	1,353	1,448
4,300	603	898	1,123	1,266	1,381	1,477
4,400	615	916	1,146	1,291	1,409	1,507
4,500	626	933	1,161	1,316	1,435	1,535
4,600	636	949	1,181	1,338	1,459	1,561
4,700	647	964	1,200	1,360	1,483	1,586
4,800	657	980	1,220	1,381	1,507	1,612
4,900	667	995	1,239	1,403	1,531	1,637
5,000	676	1,010	1,257	1,424	1,554	1,661
5,100	686	1,025	1,275	1,444	1,576	1,685
5,200	695	1,039	1,294	1,465	1,599	1,709
5,300	705	1,054	1,312	1,486	1,621	1,733
5,400	714	1,069	1,330	1,506	1,644	1,757
5,500	724	1,083	1,348	1,527	1,666	1,781
5,600	733	1,098	1,367	1,548	1,689	1,805
5,700	743	1,113	1,385	1,568	1,712	1,829
5,800	753	1,127	1,403	1,589	1,734	1,853
5,900	762	1,142	1,421	1,610	1,757	1,877
6,000	772	1,157	1,440	1,630	1,779	1,901
6,100	781	1,171	1,458	1,651	1,802	1,926
6,200	791	1,186	1,476	1,672	1,824	1,950
6,300	800	1,198	1,498	1,690	1,844	1,970
6,400	808	1,209	1,511	1,705	1,860	1,988
6,500	816	1,219	1,524	1,720	1,876	2,005
6,600	823	1,230	1,538	1,735	1,893	2,023
6,700	830	1,240	1,551	1,750	1,909	2,040
6,800	837	1,251	1,564	1,764	1,925	2,058
6,900	844	1,261	1,577	1,779	1,942	2,075
7,000	851	1,272	1,591	1,794	1,958	2,093
7,100	858	1,282	1,604	1,809	1,975	2,110
7,200	865	1,293	1,617	1,824	1,991	2,127
7,300	872	1,303	1,630	1,839	2,007	2,145
7,400	879	1,313	1,644	1,854	2,024	2,162
7,500	885	1,324	1,657	1,869	2,040	2,179
7,600	891	1,333	1,668	1,881	2,053	2,194
7,700	896	1,342	1,679	1,893	2,066	2,208
7,800	901	1,350	1,691	1,905	2,079	2,223
7,900	907	1,359	1,702	1,917	2,093	2,238

8,000	912	1,368	1,713	1,929	2,106	2,252
8,100	917	1,377	1,724	1,941	2,119	2,267
8,200	922	1,386	1,736	1,953	2,133	2,281
8,300	928	1,395	1,747	1,965	2,146	2,296
8,400	933	1,404	1,758	1,977	2,159	2,311
8,500	938	1,413	1,769	1,989	2,173	2,325
8,600	944	1,421	1,780	2,002	2,186	2,340
8,700	949	1,430	1,792	2,014	2,199	2,354
8,800	954	1,437	1,800	2,024	2,210	2,366
8,900	958	1,444	1,809	2,033	2,220	2,376
9,000	962	1,450	1,817	2,042	2,230	2,387
9,100	966	1,457	1,825	2,052	2,241	2,398
9,200	971	1,463	1,833	2,061	2,251	2,408
9,300	975	1,470	1,842	2,070	2,261	2,419
9,400	979	1,476	1,850	2,079	2,271	2,430
9,500	983	1,483	1,858	2,089	2,281	2,440
9,600	988	1,489	1,866	2,098	2,291	2,451
9,700	992	1,496	1,874	2,107	2,301	2,461
9,800	996	1,502	1,883	2,117	2,311	2,472
9,900	1,000	1,508	1,891	2,126	2,321	2,483
10,000	1,005	1,515	1,899	2,165	2,331	2,493
10,400	1,022	1,541	1,932	2,202	2,372	2,536
10,500	1,027	1,548	1,940	2,212	2,382	2,546
10,600	1,032	1,554	1,948	2,221	2,392	2,557
10,700	1,036	1,561	1,956	2,230	2,402	2,567
10,800	1,040	1,567	1,965	2,240	2,412	2,578
10,900	1,044	1,573	1,973	2,249	2,422	2,589
11,000	1,049	1,580	1,981	2,258	2,432	2,599
11,100	1,053	1,587	1,989	2,268	2,443	2,610
11,200	1,058	1,593	1,997	2,277	2,453	2,620
11,300	1,062	1,600	2,005	2,286	2,463	2,631
11,400	1,066	1,606	2,013	2,295	2,473	2,642
11,500	1,070	1,613	2,021	2,305	2,483	2,652
11,600	1,075	1,619	2,029	2,314	2,493	2,663
11,700	1,079	1,626	2,037	2,323	2,503	2,673
11,800	1,084	1,633	2,046	2,333	2,513	2,684
11,900	1,088	1,639	2,054	2,342	2,523	2,695
12,000	1,093	1,646	2,062	2,351	2,533	2,705

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12,100	1,097	1,653	2,070	2,361	2,544	2,716
12,200	1,102	1,659	2,078	2,370	2,554	2,726
12,300	1,106	1,666	2,086	2,379	2,564	2,737
12,400	1,110	1,672	2,094	2,388	2,574	2,748
12,500	1,114	1,679	2,102	2,398	2,584	2,758
12,600	1,119	1,685	2,110	2,407	2,594	2,769
12,700	1,123	1,692	2,118	2,416	2,604	2,779
12,800	1,128	1,699	2,127	2,426	2,614	2,790
12,900	1,132	1,705	2,135	2,435	2,624	2,801
13,000	1,137	1,712	2,143	2,444	2,634	2,811
13,100	1,141	1,719	2,151	2,454	2,645	2,822
13,200	1,146	1,725	2,159	2,463	2,665	2,832
13,300	1,150	1,732	2,167	2,472	2,665	2,843
13,400	1,154	1,738	2,175	2,481	2,675	2,854
13,500	1,158	1,745	2,183	2,491	2,685	2,864
13,600	1,163	1,751	2,191	2,500	2,695	2,875
13,700	1,167	1,758	2,199	2,509	2,705	2,885
13,800	1,172	1,765	2,208	2,519	2,715	2,896
13,900	1,176	1,771	2,216	2,528	2,725	2,907
14,000	1,181	1,778	2,224	2,537	2,735	2,917
14,100	1,185	1,785	2,232	2,547	2,746	2,928
14,200	1,190	1,791	2,240	2,556	2,756	2,938
14,300	1,194	1,798	2,248	2,565	2,766	2,949
14,400	1,198	1,804	2,256	2,574	2,776	2,960
14,500	1,202	1,811	2,264	2,584	2,786	2,970
14,600	1,207	1,817	2,272	2,593	2,796	2,981
14,700	1,211	1,824	2,280	2,602	2,806	2,991
14,800	1,216	1,831	2,289	2,612	2,816	3,002
14,900	1,220	1,837	2,297	2,621	2,826	3,013
15,000	1,225	1,844	2,305	2,630	2,836	3,023

➔Section 3. KRS 403.215 is amended to read as follows:

After July 15, 1990, any new or modified order or decree which contains provisions for the support of a minor child or minor children, shall provide for a wage assignment which shall begin immediately except for good cause shown, and which shall be paid based upon the payment schedule of wages of the employer to whom the wage assignment is directed, and at a minimum, on a monthly basis. If good cause is shown, the wage assignment shall take effect when an arrearage accrues that is equal to the amount of support payable for one (1) month, pursuant to KRS 405.465. ***Notice of all orders providing for wage assignment issued in Kentucky on or after January 1, 1994, shall be sent to the employer using the federally approved Income Withholding for Support (IWO) form that contains the accompanying OMB number.***

➔Section 4. KRS 405.467 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) All support orders issued by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, including those issued pursuant to Part D, Title IV of the Federal Social Security Act, shall provide for immediate withholding of earnings of the

parent or parents obligated to pay child support and medical support as is necessary to pay the child support obligation, except where one (1) of the parties demonstrates, and the court or administrative order finds that there is good cause not to require immediate income withholding, or a written agreement is reached by both parties which provides for an alternative arrangement.

- (2) In any case in which a support order was issued in the state and in which a parent is required to pay court-ordered or administratively determined child support, medical support, maintenance, and medical support insurance, and wage withholding is not in effect, and an arrearage accrues that is equal to the amount of support payment for one (1) month, upon request of the absent parent, request of the custodial parent, or upon administrative determination, the secretary shall issue an order for withholding of earnings of the parent as is necessary to comply with the order plus interest at the legal rate on the arrearage, if any, without the need for a judicial or administrative hearing.
- (3) ***If a court-ordered arrearage repayment amount does not exist and an arrearage accrues that is equal to the amount of support payable for one (1) month, an arrearage repayment amount may be determined administratively. The cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations establishing the guidelines for arrearage payments.***
- (4) In any case in which a parent is required either by court order or administrative order to provide medical insurance coverage for the child and the parent has failed to make application to obtain coverage for the child, the secretary shall issue an order for withholding of the employee's share, if any, of premiums for health coverage and to pay the share of premiums to the insurer, without the need for a judicial or administrative hearing.
- ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ The cabinet shall advise the obligated parent that a wage withholding has commenced by sending a copy of the order to withhold at the same time that the order is sent to the employer. The only basis for contesting the withholding shall be a mistake of fact or law. If the parent contests the withholding, the cabinet shall give the obligor an opportunity to present his or her case at an administrative hearing conducted in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B and decide if the withholding will continue.
- ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ The cabinet shall combine any administrative or judicial wage withholding order, or multiple administrative or judicial orders for child support and medical support into a single wage withholding order when payable through the cabinet to a single family or to multiple family units.
- ~~(7)~~~~(6)~~ The cabinet shall serve the order to withhold earnings or notice of multiple wage withholding orders specifying wage withholding requirements on the employer of an obligor by certified mail, return receipt requested. The order shall state the amount to be withheld, or the requirement to enroll the child under the health insurance coverage, including amounts to be applied to arrearages, plus interest at the legal rate on the arrearage, if any, and the date the withholding is to begin. The total amount to be withheld, including current support and payment on arrearages plus interest, and medical insurance coverage may not exceed the limit permitted under the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act at 15 U.S.C. sec. 1673(b).
- ~~(8)~~~~(7)~~ If there is more than one (1) notice for child support withholding against a single absent parent, the cabinet shall allocate amounts available for withholding, giving priority to current child support, up to the limits imposed under Section 303(b) of the Consumer Credit Protection Act at 15 U.S.C. sec. 1673(b). The allocation by the cabinet shall not result in a withholding for one (1) of the support obligations not being implemented. Amounts resulting from wage withholding shall be allocated on a proportionate basis between multiple family units. Any custodial parent adversely affected by the provisions of this subsection shall have standing to challenge any proportionate allocations and, for good cause shown, a District Court, Circuit Court, or family court of competent jurisdiction may set aside the cabinet's proportional allocations as to the custodial parent.
- ~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ If the amounts to be withheld preclude collection of the total amount of combined child support and medical support due to the limits of the federal Consumer Credit Protection Act at 15 U.S.C. sec. 1673(b), the actual amount received shall be applied first to the current monthly child support obligation amount. Any payment exceeding the current monthly child support obligation shall then be applied by the cabinet to the administratively ordered or judicially ordered medical support obligation.
- ~~(10)~~~~(9)~~ The employer shall forward to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services that portion of salary or wages of the parent due and to be due in the future as will be sufficient to pay the child support amount ordered.

- (11)~~(10)~~ The employer shall be held liable to the cabinet for any amount which the employer fails to withhold from earnings due an obligor following receipt of an order to withhold earnings.
- (12)~~(11)~~ Any order to withhold earnings under this section shall have priority as against any attachment, execution, or other assignment, notwithstanding any state statute or administrative regulation to the contrary.
- (13)~~(12)~~ No withholding under this section shall be grounds for discharging from employment, refusing to employ, or taking disciplinary action against any obligor subject to withholding required by this section.
- (14)~~(13)~~ The remedies provided for in this section shall also be available for applicable support orders issued in other states.
- (15)~~(14)~~ Interstate requests for withholding of earnings shall be processed by the cabinet.

Signed by Governor March 26, 2019.