

CHAPTER 2017-117

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 590

An act relating to child support and parenting time plans; amending s. 409.2551, F.S.; providing legislative intent to encourage frequent contact between a child and each parent; amending s. 409.2554, F.S.; defining terms; amending s. 409.2557, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Revenue to establish parenting time plans agreed to by both parents in Title IV-D child support actions; amending s. 409.2563, F.S.; requiring the department to mail a Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan with proposed administrative support orders; providing requirements for including parenting time plans in certain administrative orders; creating s. 409.25633, F.S.; providing the purpose and requirements for a Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan; requiring the department to refer parents who do not agree on a parenting time plan to a circuit court; requiring the department to create and provide a form for a petition to establish a parenting time plan under certain circumstances; specifying that the parents are not required to pay a fee to file the petition; requiring the enforcement or modification of an established parenting time plan to be sought through a court of appropriate jurisdiction; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending s. 409.2564, F.S.; authorizing the department to incorporate either a signed, agreed-upon parenting time plan or a signed Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan in a child support order; amending ss. 409.256 and 409.2572, F.S.; conforming cross-references; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; specifying requirements for the report; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 409.2551, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.2551 Legislative intent.—Common-law and statutory procedures governing the remedies for enforcement of support for financially dependent children by persons responsible for their support have not proven sufficiently effective or efficient to cope with the increasing incidence of financial dependency. The increasing workload of courts, prosecuting attorneys, and the Attorney General has resulted in a growing burden on the financial resources of the state, which is constrained to provide public assistance for basic maintenance requirements when parents fail to meet their primary obligations. The state, therefore, exercising its police and sovereign powers, declares that the common-law and statutory remedies pertaining to family desertion and nonsupport of dependent children shall be augmented by additional remedies directed to the resources of the responsible parents. In order to render resources more immediately available to meet the needs of dependent children, it is the legislative intent that the remedies provided

herein are in addition to, and not in lieu of, existing remedies. It is declared to be the public policy of this state that this act be construed and administered to the end that children shall be maintained from the resources of their parents, thereby relieving, at least in part, the burden presently borne by the general citizenry through public assistance programs. It is also the public policy of this state to encourage frequent contact between a child and each parent to optimize the development of a close and continuing relationship between each parent and the child.

Section 2. Section 409.2554, Florida Statutes, is reordered and amended to read:

409.2554 Definitions; ss. 409.2551-409.2598.—As used in ss. 409.2551-409.2598, the term:

(5)(1) “Department” means the Department of Revenue.

(6)(2) “Dependent child” means any unemancipated person under the age of 18, any person under the age of 21 and still in school, or any person who is mentally or physically incapacitated when such incapacity began ~~before~~ ~~prior to~~ such person reaching the age of 18. This definition may ~~shall~~ not be construed to impose an obligation for child support beyond the child’s attainment of majority except as imposed in s. 409.2561.

(3) “Court” means the circuit court.

(4) “Court order” means any judgment or order of any court of appropriate jurisdiction of the state, or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction of another state, ordering payment of a set or determinable amount of support money.

(7)(5) “Health insurance” means coverage under a fee-for-service arrangement, health maintenance organization, or preferred provider organization, and other types of coverage available to either parent, under which medical services could be provided to a dependent child.

(8)(6) “Obligee” means the person to whom support payments are made pursuant to an alimony or child support order.

(9)(7) “Obligor” means a person who is responsible for making support payments pursuant to an alimony or child support order.

(12)(8) “Public assistance” means money assistance paid on the basis of Title IV-E and Title XIX of the Social Security Act, temporary cash assistance, or food assistance benefits received on behalf of a child under 18 years of age who has an absent parent.

(10)(9) “Program attorney” means an attorney employed by the department, under contract with the department, or employed by a contractor of the department, to provide legal representation for the department in a

proceeding related to the determination of paternity or the establishment, modification, or enforcement of support brought pursuant to law.

(11)(10) “Prosecuting attorney” means any private attorney, county attorney, city attorney, state attorney, program attorney, or an attorney employed by an entity of a local political subdivision who engages in legal action related to the determination of paternity or the establishment, modification, or enforcement of support brought pursuant to this act.

(13) “State Case Registry” means the automated registry maintained by the Title IV-D agency, containing records of each Title IV-D case and of each support order established or modified in the state on or after October 1, 1998. Such records must consist of data elements as required by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(14) “State Disbursement Unit” means the unit established and operated by the Title IV-D agency to provide one central address for collection and disbursement of child support payments made in cases enforced by the department pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and in cases not being enforced by the department in which the support order was initially issued in this state on or after January 1, 1994, and in which the obligor’s child support obligation is being paid through income deduction order.

(16) “Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan” means a document that may be agreed to by the parents to govern the relationship between the parents and to provide the parent who owes support a reasonable minimum amount of time with his or her child. The plan set forth in s. 409.25633 includes timetables that specify the time, including overnights and holidays, that a child may spend with each parent.

(15)(11) “Support,” unless otherwise specified, means:

(a) Child support, and, when the child support obligation is being enforced by the Department of Revenue, spousal support or alimony for the spouse or former spouse of the obligor with whom the child is living.

(b) Child support only in cases not being enforced by the Department of Revenue.

(1)(12) “Administrative costs” means any costs, including attorney attorney’s fees, clerk’s filing fees, recording fees and other expenses incurred by the clerk of the circuit court, service of process fees, or mediation costs, incurred by the Title IV-D agency in its effort to administer the Title IV-D program. The administrative costs that which must be collected by the department shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis based upon a method for determining costs approved by the Federal Government. The administrative costs shall be assessed periodically by the department. The methodology for determining administrative costs shall be made available to the judge or any party who requests it. Only those amounts ordered

independent of current support, arrears, or past public assistance obligation shall be considered and applied toward administrative costs.

~~(2)~~⁽¹³⁾ “Child support services” includes any civil, criminal, or administrative action taken by the Title IV-D program to determine paternity, establish, modify, enforce, or collect support.

~~(17)~~⁽¹⁴⁾ “Undistributable collection” means a support payment received by the department which the department determines cannot be distributed to the final intended recipient.

~~(18)~~⁽¹⁵⁾ “Unidentifiable collection” means a payment received by the department for which a parent, depository or circuit civil numbers, or source of the payment cannot be identified.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 409.2557, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.2557 State agency for administering child support enforcement program.—

(2) The department in its capacity as the state Title IV-D agency has ~~shall have~~ the authority to take actions necessary to carry out the public policy of ensuring that children are maintained from the resources of their parents to the extent possible. The department’s authority includes ~~shall include~~, but is ~~is~~ not be limited to, the establishment of paternity or support obligations, the establishment of a Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan or any other parenting time plan agreed to and signed by the parents, and as well as the modification, enforcement, and collection of support obligations.

Section 4. Subsections (2), (4), (5), and (7) of section 409.2563, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.2563 Administrative establishment of child support obligations.—

(2) PURPOSE AND SCOPE.—

(a) It is not the Legislature’s intent to limit the jurisdiction of the circuit courts to hear and determine issues regarding child support or parenting time. This section is intended to provide the department with an alternative procedure for establishing child support obligations and establishing a parenting time plan only if the parents are in agreement, in Title IV-D cases in a fair and expeditious manner when there is no court order of support. The procedures in this section are effective throughout the state and shall be implemented statewide.

(b) If the parents do not have an existing time-sharing schedule or parenting time plan and do not agree to a parenting time plan, a plan may not be included in the initial administrative order and the order must include a statement explaining its absence.

(c) If the parents have a judicially established parenting time plan, the plan may not be included in the administrative or initial judicial order.

(d) Any notification provided by the department may not include a Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan if Florida is not the child's home state, when one parent does not reside in Florida, if either parent has requested nondisclosure for fear of harm from the other parent, or when the parent who owes support is incarcerated.

(e)(b) The administrative procedure set forth in this section concerns only the establishment of child support obligations and, if agreed to and signed by both parents, a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan. This section does not grant jurisdiction to the department or the Division of Administrative Hearings to hear or determine issues of dissolution of marriage, separation, alimony or spousal support, termination of parental rights, dependency, disputed paternity, except for a determination of paternity as provided in s. 409.256, or award of or change of time-sharing. If both parents have agreed to and signed a parenting time plan before the establishment of the administrative support order, the department or the Division of Administrative Hearings shall incorporate the agreed-upon parenting time plan into the administrative support order. This paragraph notwithstanding, the department and the Division of Administrative Hearings may make findings of fact that are necessary for a proper determination of a parent's support obligation as authorized by this section.

(f)(e) If there is no support order for a child in a Title IV-D case whose paternity has been established or is presumed by law, or whose paternity is the subject of a proceeding under s. 409.256, the department may establish a parent's child support obligation pursuant to this section, s. 61.30, and other relevant provisions of state law. The administrative support order must include a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan as agreed to and signed by both parents. The parent's obligation determined by the department may include any obligation to pay retroactive support and any obligation to provide for health care for a child, whether through insurance coverage, reimbursement of expenses, or both. The department may proceed on behalf of:

1. An applicant or recipient of public assistance, as provided by ss. 409.2561 and 409.2567;
2. A former recipient of public assistance, as provided by s. 409.2569;
3. An individual who has applied for services as provided by s. 409.2567;
4. Itself or the child, as provided by s. 409.2561; or
5. A state or local government of another state, as provided by chapter 88.

(g)(d) Either parent, or a caregiver if applicable, may at any time file a civil action in a circuit court having jurisdiction and proper venue to

determine parental support obligations, if any. A support order issued by a circuit court prospectively supersedes an administrative support order rendered by the department.

~~(h)(e)~~ Pursuant to paragraph ~~(e)~~ ~~(b)~~, neither the department nor the Division of Administrative Hearings has jurisdiction to award or change child custody or rights of parental contact. The department or the Division of Administrative Hearings shall incorporate a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan as agreed to and signed by both parents into the administrative support order. Either parent may at any time file a civil action in a circuit having jurisdiction and proper venue for a determination of child custody and rights of parental contact.

~~(i)(f)~~ The department shall terminate the administrative proceeding and file an action in circuit court to determine support if within 20 days after receipt of the initial notice the parent from whom support is being sought requests in writing that the department proceed in circuit court or states in writing his or her intention to address issues concerning time-sharing or rights to parental contact in court and if within 10 days after receipt of the department's petition and waiver of service the parent from whom support is being sought signs and returns the waiver of service form to the department.

~~(j)(g)~~ The notices and orders issued by the department under this section shall be written clearly and plainly.

(4) NOTICE OF PROCEEDING TO ESTABLISH ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ORDER.—To commence a proceeding under this section, the department shall provide to the parent from whom support is not being sought and serve the parent from whom support is being sought with a notice of proceeding to establish administrative support order, a copy of the Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan, and a blank financial affidavit form. The notice must state:

(a) The names of both parents, the name of the caregiver, if any, and the name and date of birth of the child or children;

(b) That the department intends to establish an administrative support order as defined in this section;

~~(c)~~ That the department will incorporate a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan, as agreed to and signed by both parents, into the administrative support order;

~~(d)(e)~~ That both parents must submit a completed financial affidavit to the department within 20 days after receiving the notice, as provided by paragraph (13)(a);

~~(e)(d)~~ That both parents, or parent and caregiver if applicable, are required to furnish to the department information regarding their identities and locations, as provided by paragraph (13)(b);

(f)(e) That both parents, or parent and caregiver if applicable, are required to promptly notify the department of any change in their mailing addresses to ensure receipt of all subsequent pleadings, notices, and orders, as provided by paragraph (13)(c);

(g)(f) That the department will calculate support obligations based on the child support guidelines schedule in s. 61.30 and using all available information, as provided by paragraph (5)(a), and will incorporate such obligations into a proposed administrative support order;

(h)(g) That the department will send by regular mail to both parents, or parent and caregiver if applicable, a copy of the proposed administrative support order, the department's child support worksheet, and any financial affidavits submitted by a parent or prepared by the department;

(i)(h) That the parent from whom support is being sought may file a request for a hearing in writing within 20 days after the date of mailing or other service of the proposed administrative support order or will be deemed to have waived the right to request a hearing;

(j)(i) That if the parent from whom support is being sought does not file a timely request for hearing after service of the proposed administrative support order, the department will issue an administrative support order that incorporates the findings of the proposed administrative support order, and any agreed-upon parenting time plan. The department will send by regular mail a copy of the administrative support order and any incorporated parenting time plan to both parents, or parent and caregiver if applicable;

(k)(j) That after an administrative support order is rendered incorporating any agreed-upon parenting time plan, the department will file a copy of the order with the clerk of the circuit court;

(l)(k) That after an administrative support order is rendered, the department may enforce the administrative support order by any lawful means. The department does not have jurisdiction to enforce any parenting time plan that is incorporated into an administrative support order;

(m)(l) That either parent, or caregiver if applicable, may file at any time a civil action in a circuit court having jurisdiction and proper venue to determine parental support obligations, if any, and that a support order issued by a circuit court supersedes an administrative support order rendered by the department;

(n)(m) That neither the department nor the Division of Administrative Hearings has jurisdiction to award or change child custody or rights of parental contact or time-sharing, and these issues may be addressed only in circuit court. The department or the Division of Administrative Hearings may incorporate, if agreed to and signed by both parents, a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan when the administrative support order is established.

1. The parent from whom support is being sought may request in writing that the department proceed in circuit court to determine his or her support obligations.

2. The parent from whom support is being sought may state in writing to the department his or her intention to address issues concerning custody or rights to parental contact in circuit court.

3. If the parent from whom support is being sought submits the request authorized in subparagraph 1., or the statement authorized in subparagraph 2. to the department within 20 days after the receipt of the initial notice, the department shall file a petition in circuit court for the determination of the parent's child support obligations, and shall send to the parent from whom support is being sought a copy of its petition, a notice of commencement of action, and a request for waiver of service of process as provided in the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

4. If, within 10 days after receipt of the department's petition and waiver of service, the parent from whom support is being sought signs and returns the waiver of service form to the department, the department shall terminate the administrative proceeding without prejudice and proceed in circuit court.

5. In any circuit court action filed by the department pursuant to this paragraph or filed by a parent from whom support is being sought or other person pursuant to paragraph (m) (4) or paragraph (o) (n), the department shall be a party only with respect to those issues of support allowed and reimbursable under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. It is the responsibility of the parent from whom support is being sought or other person to take the necessary steps to present other issues for the court to consider;

(o)(n) That if the parent from whom support is being sought files an action in circuit court and serves the department with a copy of the petition within 20 days after being served notice under this subsection, the administrative process ends without prejudice and the action must proceed in circuit court; and

(p)(e) Information provided by the Office of State Courts Administrator concerning the availability and location of self-help programs for those who wish to file an action in circuit court but who cannot afford an attorney.

The department may serve the notice of proceeding to establish an administrative support order and agreed-upon parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested. Alternatively, the department may serve the notice by any means permitted for service of process in a civil action. For purposes of this section, an authorized employee of the department may serve the notice and execute an affidavit of service. Service by certified mail is completed when the certified mail is received or refused by the addressee

or by an authorized agent as designated by the addressee in writing. If a person other than the addressee signs the return receipt, the department shall attempt to reach the addressee by telephone to confirm whether the notice was received, and the department shall document any telephonic communications. If someone other than the addressee signs the return receipt, the addressee does not respond to the notice, and the department is unable to confirm that the addressee has received the notice, service is not completed and the department shall attempt to have the addressee served personally. The department shall provide the parent from whom support is not being sought or the caregiver with a copy of the notice by regular mail to the last known address of the parent from whom support is not being sought or caregiver.

(5) PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ORDER.—

(a) After serving notice upon a parent in accordance with subsection (4), the department shall calculate that parent's child support obligation under the child support guidelines schedule as provided by s. 61.30, based on any timely financial affidavits received and other information available to the department. If either parent fails to comply with the requirement to furnish a financial affidavit, the department may proceed on the basis of information available from any source, if such information is sufficiently reliable and detailed to allow calculation of guideline schedule amounts under s. 61.30. If a parent receives public assistance and fails to submit a financial affidavit, the department may submit a financial affidavit or written declaration for that parent pursuant to s. 61.30(15). If there is a lack of sufficient reliable information concerning a parent's actual earnings for a current or past period, it shall be presumed for the purpose of establishing a support obligation that the parent had an earning capacity equal to the federal minimum wage during the applicable period.

(b) The department shall send by regular mail to both parents, or to a parent and caregiver if applicable, copies of the proposed administrative support order, a copy of the Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan, its completed child support worksheet, and any financial affidavits submitted by a parent or prepared by the department. The proposed administrative support order must contain the same elements as required for an administrative support order under paragraph (7)(e).

(c) The department shall provide a notice of rights with the proposed administrative support order, which notice must inform the parent from whom support is being sought that:

1. The parent from whom support is being sought may, within 20 days after the date of mailing or other service of the proposed administrative support order, request a hearing by filing a written request for hearing in a form and manner specified by the department;

2. If the parent from whom support is being sought files a timely request for a hearing, the case shall be transferred to the Division of Administrative

Hearings, which shall conduct further proceedings and may enter an administrative support order;

3. A parent from whom support is being sought who fails to file a timely request for a hearing shall be deemed to have waived the right to a hearing, and the department may render an administrative support order pursuant to paragraph (7)(b);

4. The parent from whom support is being sought may consent in writing to entry of an administrative support order without a hearing;

5. The parent from whom support is being sought may, within 10 days after the date of mailing or other service of the proposed administrative support order, contact a department representative, at the address or telephone number specified in the notice, to informally discuss the proposed administrative support order and, if informal discussions are requested timely, the time for requesting a hearing will be extended until 10 days after the department notifies the parent that the informal discussions have been concluded; and

6. If an administrative support order that establishes a parent's support obligation and incorporates either a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan agreed to and signed by both parents is rendered, whether after a hearing or without a hearing, the department may enforce the administrative support order by any lawful means. The department does not have the jurisdiction or authority to enforce a parenting time plan.

(d) If, after serving the proposed administrative support order but before a final administrative support order is rendered, the department receives additional information that makes it necessary to amend the proposed administrative support order, it shall prepare an amended proposed administrative support order, with accompanying amended child support worksheets and other material necessary to explain the changes, and follow the same procedures set forth in paragraphs (b) and (c).

(7) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ORDER.—

(a) If a hearing is held, the administrative law judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings shall issue an administrative support order that will include a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan agreed to and signed by both parents, or a final order denying an administrative support order, which constitutes final agency action by the department. The Division of Administrative Hearings shall transmit any such order to the department for filing and rendering.

(b) If the parent from whom support is being sought does not file a timely request for a hearing, the parent will be deemed to have waived the right to request a hearing.

(c) If the parent from whom support is being sought waives the right to a hearing, or consents in writing to the entry of an order without a hearing, the department may render an administrative support order that will include a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan agreed to and signed by both parents.

(d) The department shall send by regular mail a copy of the administrative support order that will include a parenting time plan or Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan agreed to and signed by both parents, or the final order denying an administrative support order, to both parents, or a parent and caregiver if applicable. The parent from whom support is being sought shall be notified of the right to seek judicial review of the administrative support order in accordance with s. 120.68.

(e) An administrative support order must comply with ss. 61.13(1) and 61.30. The department shall develop a standard form or forms for administrative support orders. An administrative support order must provide and state findings, if applicable, concerning:

1. The full name and date of birth of the child or children;
2. The name of the parent from whom support is being sought and the other parent or caregiver;
3. The parent's duty and ability to provide support;
4. The amount of the parent's monthly support obligation;
5. Any obligation to pay retroactive support;
6. The parent's obligation to provide for the health care needs of each child, whether through health insurance, contribution toward the cost of health insurance, payment or reimbursement of health care expenses for the child, or any combination thereof;
7. The beginning date of any required monthly payments and health insurance;
8. That all support payments ordered must be paid to the Florida State Disbursement Unit as provided by s. 61.1824;
9. That the parents, or caregiver if applicable, must file with the department when the administrative support order is rendered, if they have not already done so, and update as appropriate the information required pursuant to paragraph (13)(b);
10. That both parents, or parent and caregiver if applicable, are required to promptly notify the department of any change in their mailing addresses pursuant to paragraph (13)(c); and

11. That if the parent ordered to pay support receives reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation benefits, the payor shall withhold, and transmit to the department, 40 percent of the benefits for payment of support, not to exceed the amount owed.

An income deduction order as provided by s. 61.1301 must be incorporated into the administrative support order or, if not incorporated into the administrative support order, the department or the Division of Administrative Hearings shall render a separate income deduction order.

Section 5. Section 409.25633, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.25633 Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plans.—The best interest of the child is the primary consideration of the parenting plan and special consideration should be given to the age and needs of each child. There is no presumption for or against the father or mother of the child or for or against any specific time-sharing schedule when a parenting time plan is created.

(1) A Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan shall be presented to the parents in any administrative action taken by the Title IV-D program to establish or modify child support or to determine paternity. If the parents agree to the Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan or to another parenting time plan, the plan must be signed by the parents and incorporated into the administrative order. If the parents do not agree to a Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan or if an agreed-upon parenting time plan is not included, the Department of Revenue must enter an administrative support order and refer the parents to the court of appropriate jurisdiction to establish a parenting time plan. The department must note on the referral that an administrative support order has been entered. If a parenting time plan is not included in the administrative support order entered pursuant to s. 409.2563, the department must provide information to the parents on the process to establish such a plan.

(2) After the incorporation of an agreed-upon parenting time plan into an administrative order, a modification or enforcement of the parenting time plan may be sought through a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

(3) The parent who owes support is entitled to parenting time with the child. If the parents do not have a signed, agreed-upon parenting time plan, the following Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan must be incorporated into an administrative support order if agreed to and signed by the parents:

(a) Every other weekend.—The second and fourth full weekend of the month from 6 p.m. on Friday through 6 p.m. on Sunday. The weekends may begin upon the child's release from school on Friday and end on Sunday at 6 p.m. or when the child returns to school on Monday morning. The weekend time may be extended by holidays that fall on Friday or Monday;

(b) One evening per week.—One weekday beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 8 p.m. or, if both parents agree, from when the child is released from school until 8 p.m.;

(c) Thanksgiving break.—In even-numbered years, the Thanksgiving break from 6 p.m. on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving until 6 p.m. on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. If both parents agree, the Thanksgiving break parenting time may begin upon the child's release from school and end upon the child's return to school the following Monday;

(d) Winter break.—In odd-numbered years, the first half of winter break, from the child's release from school, beginning at 6 p.m. or, if both parents agree, upon the child's release from school, until noon on December 26. In even-numbered years, the second half of winter break from noon on December 26 until 6 p.m. on the day before school resumes or, if both parents agree, upon the child's return to school;

(e) Spring break.—In even-numbered years, the week of spring break from 6 p.m. the day the child is released from school until 6 p.m. the night before school resumes. If both parents agree, the spring break parenting time may begin upon the child's release from school and end upon the child's return to school the following Monday; and

(f) Summer break.—For 2 weeks in the summer beginning at 6 p.m. the first Sunday following the last day of school.

(4) In the event the parents have not agreed on a parenting schedule at the time of the child support hearing, the department shall enter an administrative support order and refer the parents to a court of appropriate jurisdiction for the establishment of a parenting time plan.

(5) The Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan is not intended for the use by, and may not be provided to, parents and families with domestic or family violence concerns.

(6) If, after the incorporation of an agreed-upon parenting time plan into an administrative support order, a parent becomes concerned about the safety of the child during the child's time with the other parent, a modification of the parenting time plan may be sought through a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

(7) The department shall create and provide a form for a petition to establish a parenting time plan for parents who have not agreed on a parenting schedule at the time of the child support hearing. The department shall provide the form to the parents, but may not file the petition or represent either parent at the hearing.

(8) The parents may not be required to pay a fee to file the petition to establish a parenting plan.

(9) The department may adopt rules to implement and administer this section.

Section 6. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 409.2564, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.2564 Actions for support.—

(1) In each case in which regular support payments are not being made as provided herein, the department shall institute, within 30 days after determination of the obligor's reasonable ability to pay, action as is necessary to secure the obligor's payment of current support, ~~and any arrearage that which~~ may have accrued under an existing order of support, and, if a parenting time plan was not incorporated into the existing order of support, include either a signed, agreed-upon parenting time plan or a signed Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan, if appropriate. The department shall notify the program attorney in the judicial circuit in which the recipient resides setting forth the facts in the case, including the obligor's address, if known, and the public assistance case number. Whenever applicable, the procedures established under ~~the provisions of~~ chapter 88, Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, chapter 61, Dissolution of Marriage; Support; Time-sharing, chapter 39, Proceedings Relating to Children, chapter 984, Children and Families in Need of Services, and chapter 985, Delinquency; Interstate Compact on Juveniles, may govern actions instituted under ~~the provisions of~~ this act, except that actions for support under chapter 39, chapter 984, or chapter 985 brought pursuant to this act shall not require any additional investigation or supervision by the department.

(2) The order for support entered pursuant to an action instituted by the department under ~~the provisions of~~ subsection (1) shall require that the support payments be made periodically to the department through the depository. An order for support entered under subsection (1) must include either a signed, agreed-upon parenting time plan or a signed Title IV-D Standard Parenting Time Plan, if appropriate. Upon receipt of a payment made by the obligor pursuant to any order of the court, the depository shall transmit the payment to the department within 2 working days, except those payments made by personal check which shall be disbursed in accordance with s. 61.181. Upon request, the depository shall furnish to the department a certified statement of all payments made by the obligor. Such statement shall be provided by the depository at no cost to the department.

Section 7. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 409.256, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.256 Administrative proceeding to establish paternity or paternity and child support; order to appear for genetic testing.—

(2) JURISDICTION; LOCATION OF HEARINGS; RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE COURTS.—

(g) Section ~~409.2563(2)(h), (i), and (j)~~ 409.2563(2)(e), (f), and (g) apply to a proceeding under this section.

(4) NOTICE OF PROCEEDING TO ESTABLISH PATERNITY OR PATERNITY AND CHILD SUPPORT; ORDER TO APPEAR FOR GENETIC TESTING; MANNER OF SERVICE; CONTENTS.—The Department of Revenue shall commence a proceeding to determine paternity, or a proceeding to determine both paternity and child support, by serving the respondent with a notice as provided in this section. An order to appear for genetic testing may be served at the same time as a notice of the proceeding or may be served separately. A copy of the affidavit or written declaration upon which the proceeding is based shall be provided to the respondent when notice is served. A notice or order to appear for genetic testing shall be served by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested, or in accordance with the requirements for service of process in a civil action. Service by certified mail is completed when the certified mail is received or refused by the addressee or by an authorized agent as designated by the addressee in writing. If a person other than the addressee signs the return receipt, the department shall attempt to reach the addressee by telephone to confirm whether the notice was received, and the department shall document any telephonic communications. If someone other than the addressee signs the return receipt, the addressee does not respond to the notice, and the department is unable to confirm that the addressee has received the notice, service is not completed and the department shall attempt to have the addressee served personally. For purposes of this section, an employee or an authorized agent of the department may serve the notice or order to appear for genetic testing and execute an affidavit of service. The department may serve an order to appear for genetic testing on a caregiver. The department shall provide a copy of the notice or order to appear by regular mail to the mother and caregiver, if they are not respondents.

(a) A notice of proceeding to establish paternity must state:

1. That the department has commenced an administrative proceeding to establish whether the putative father is the biological father of the child named in the notice.
2. The name and date of birth of the child and the name of the child's mother.
3. That the putative father has been named in an affidavit or written declaration that states the putative father is or may be the child's biological father.
4. That the respondent is required to submit to genetic testing.
5. That genetic testing will establish either a high degree of probability that the putative father is the biological father of the child or that the putative father cannot be the biological father of the child.

6. That if the results of the genetic test do not indicate a statistical probability of paternity that equals or exceeds 99 percent, the paternity proceeding in connection with that child shall cease unless a second or subsequent test is required.

7. That if the results of the genetic test indicate a statistical probability of paternity that equals or exceeds 99 percent, the department may:

a. Issue a proposed order of paternity that the respondent may consent to or contest at an administrative hearing; or

b. Commence a proceeding, as provided in s. 409.2563, to establish an administrative support order for the child. Notice of the proceeding shall be provided to the respondent by regular mail.

8. That, if the genetic test results indicate a statistical probability of paternity that equals or exceeds 99 percent and a proceeding to establish an administrative support order is commenced, the department shall issue a proposed order that addresses paternity and child support. The respondent may consent to or contest the proposed order at an administrative hearing.

9. That if a proposed order of paternity or proposed order of both paternity and child support is not contested, the department shall adopt the proposed order and render a final order that establishes paternity and, if appropriate, an administrative support order for the child.

10. That, until the proceeding is ended, the respondent shall notify the department in writing of any change in the respondent's mailing address and that the respondent shall be deemed to have received any subsequent order, notice, or other paper mailed to the most recent address provided or, if a more recent address is not provided, to the address at which the respondent was served, and that this requirement continues if the department renders a final order that establishes paternity and a support order for the child.

11. That the respondent may file an action in circuit court for a determination of paternity, child support obligations, or both.

12. That if the respondent files an action in circuit court and serves the department with a copy of the petition or complaint within 20 days after being served notice under this subsection, the administrative process ends without prejudice and the action must proceed in circuit court.

13. That, if paternity is established, the putative father may file a petition in circuit court for a determination of matters relating to custody and rights of parental contact.

A notice under this paragraph must also notify the respondent of the provisions in s. 409.2563(4)(n) and (p) ~~s. 409.2563(4)(m) and (o)~~.

Section 8. Subsection (5) of section 409.2572, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.2572 Cooperation.—

(5) As used in this section only, the term “applicant for or recipient of public assistance for a dependent child” refers to such applicants and recipients of public assistance as defined in s. 409.2554(12) ~~s. 409.2554(8)~~, with the exception of applicants for or recipients of Medicaid solely for the benefit of a dependent child.

Section 9. The Department of Revenue shall report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2018, on the status of the implementation of this act, including the number of parenting plans entered with administrative support orders and the number of parents referred to the circuit court to determine a parenting plan. The report must include recommendations to facilitate further implementation of this act.

Section 10. For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the sums of \$350,476 in recurring funds and \$690,650 in nonrecurring funds are appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Revenue for the purpose of implementing this act.

Section 11. This act shall take effect January 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor June 15, 2017.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 15, 2017.