

## **Effective Date of Support Order**

Directive #12-89  
Issued by:

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Administrative Director

Some court support orders (particularly dissolution matters) do not include a specific date when the support order becomes effective. In the absence of a specific date, Family Division child support staff, attorneys and interested parties disagree occasionally as to what date should be used when entering the effective date of the order on the Automated Child Support Enforcement System. Several interpretations exist as to when a court order for support takes effect: the date of the hearing, the date the order was signed by the judge, or the date of the filing of the order with the clerk's office. Since a uniform interpretation of the effective date is preferred, especially when establishing or modifying an obligation for support, this issue was referred to the Conference of Family Division Presiding Judges for their review and comment.

The Conference of Family Division Presiding Judges recommended that support orders specify the date on which they are to take effect. The Conference's recommendation provides for a consistent use of the effective date and eliminates multiple interpretations. Effective immediately, all court support orders are to include a specific date indicating when the support order takes effect.

### **EDITOR-S NOTE**

No change has been made to the original text except to remove the name of a contact person at the Administrative Office of the Courts.