

PROVIDING AND CONTINUING REPRESENTATION AND FOP REIMBURSEMENT. ]]

(C) (1) IN ANY CIVIL ACTION FOR CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS BROUGHT UNDER THIS SECTION, THE DIVISION SHALL BE REPRESENTED (A) BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR BY ANY LEGAL OFFICER OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION WHO IS A QUALIFIED ATTORNEY AND WHO IS APPOINTED BY AND SUBJECT TO SUPERVISION AND REMOVAL BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR (B) AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; ARTICLE 16, SECTION 66C; AND ARTICLE 89C, SECTIONS 14(B), 18(A), AND 34, THE DIVISION OR A PERSON WHOM THE DIVISION APPROVES FOR CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES SHALL BE REPRESENTED DURING ANY FISCAL YEAR BY THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR THE LOCAL SUBDIVISION IN WHICH THE BILL OR THE PETITION IS FILED IF, BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THAT STATE'S ATTORNEY ELECTS IN WRITING TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPRESENTATION. THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY AND THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR REPRESENTATION TO BE PROVIDED AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE REPRESENTATION. THE AGREEMENT SHALL ESTABLISH REASONABLE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR PROVIDING AND CONTINUING REPRESENTATION AND FOR REIMBURSEMENT.

(D) IF IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN RESOURCES A LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT ANY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DIVISION, AND A DELEGATION OF SUCH RESPONSIBILITY IS CONSISTENT WITH DEPARTMENTAL GUIDELINES, THE SECRETARY SHALL, IF REQUESTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DELEGATE IT TO THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT FOR SO LONG AS SUCH CONDITIONS ARE MET.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 71(c-1)(1) of Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

71.

(c-1) (1) Establishment; Responsibility; Rules and Regulations. The Secretary shall establish within the Department a central collection unit, which shall be responsible for the collection of all delinquent accounts and debts owed to the State or to any agency or official [thereof] OF THE STATE, in his official capacity, EXCEPT CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS OWED UNDER ARTICLE 88A, §[[59]] 48. The Secretary may adopt rules and regulations