

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 of the State, in his official capacity, except [child support payments owed under Article 88A, § 48] AS PROVIDED IN ~~SECTION-(E-1)-(4)~~ PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION. IN CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, THE UNIT IN ITS NAME MAY BRING ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE ACTION AVAILABLE UNDER STATE LAW. The Secretary may adopt rules and regulations concerning the operation of the unit and the collection of delinquent accounts and debts INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR THE REFERRAL TO THE UNIT OF ACCOUNTS, DEBTS, AND CLAIMS AND SUPPORTING RECORDS AND DATA. The collection unit may compromise, adjust and settle such accounts or debts without suit, if, in its judgment it is feasible and desirable to do so. NO OTHER STATE AGENCY OR OFFICIAL SHALL COMPROMISE, ADJUST, OR SETTLE ANY DELINQUENT DEBT OR ACCOUNT NOT EXCEPTED BY PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION OR BY ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW.

(2) Disposition of Net Proceeds Collected. All net proceeds collected by the central collection unit shall be accounted for and paid into the State treasury, except that the net proceeds collected on accounts or debts due to an agency whose funds are not by law part of the treasury of the State shall be delivered to the custody of the Treasurer for the account of such agency.

[(3) Transfer of Employees. The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of Personnel, shall determine which employees are primarily engaged in the collection of delinquent accounts and debts for the State and its various agencies and officials, and shall transfer all such employees to the central collection unit created pursuant to this section. All employees so transferred shall be transferred without loss or diminution or remuneration of benefits.]

[(4)] (3) Assistant Attorneys General; Other Attorneys. The Attorney General, with the advice of the Secretary, shall assign one or more assistant attorneys general to the central collection unit. Such assistant or assistants shall devote full time to their duties with the central collection unit and shall have no other duties or assignments. If a general counsel is appointed for the Department pursuant to Article 41, § 71(d), the assistant attorney general assigned to the central collection unit shall be under the control and supervision of the general counsel. The Secretary may enter into arrangements with one or more other attorneys to handle collections on an agreed case by case basis where it is not feasible for the assistant attorneys general assigned to the central collection unit to handle the particular case or cases.

[(5) Transfer of Property, Data, Appropriations, etc. Every State agency and official shall promptly refer to the central collection unit all delinquent debts and