

(b) Any surcharge assessed against the person required to make support payments in order to defray the cost of collection may be retained by the local government.

(c) The [bureau] ADMINISTRATION shall pay to subdivisions exercising support enforcement responsibilities the maximum collection incentives to which the subdivision may be entitled pursuant to federal law.

(iv) Prior to January 1, 1979 the Department of Human Resources shall adopt rules and regulations for the collection of support payments and shall establish standards pertaining to the staffing, recordkeeping, reporting, intergovernmental cooperation procedures, and other management operations necessary to assure proper and efficient collection of support payments.

When the responsibility for collection and/or support enforcement is exercised by a local agency or circuit court, these rules, regulations, and standards shall not be applicable if that local agency or circuit court has promulgated rules, regulations, and standards which are in general conformity with those of the Department of Human Resources.

(c) (1) In any civil action for support brought under this section, the [bureau] ADMINISTRATION, or persons the [bureau] ADMINISTRATION approves for child support services, 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, § 66C; and Article 89C, §§ 14(b), 18(a), and 33A, the [bureau] ADMINISTRATION or a person whom the [bureau] ADMINISTRATION 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, the 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. The [bureau] ADMINISTRATION shall approve for child support services all persons entitled to child support who cannot afford private counsel and who are at or below 50 percent of the median family income for the State of Maryland as certified annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, provided that those persons make application and payment of fees for services as prescribed by the [bureau] ADMINISTRATION.