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DIRECTIVE #21-19

[Supersedes Directive #12-88]

[Questions or comments may be directed to
(609) 815-3810]

**TO: Assignment Judges
Trial Court Administrators**

FROM: Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D. 

DATE: November 21, 2019

**SUBJECT: Temporary Child Support Orders, Use of the Uniform Summary
Support Order (USSO)**

This Directive supersedes Directive #12-88, Temporary Child Support Orders (issued on November 10, 1988), and promulgates revised procedures for temporary child support orders and the use of the Uniform Summary Support Order (USSO). Similar to Directive #12-88, this Directive requires that Family Division judges enter a temporary child support order any time a complex case is referred for full review by a Child Support Hearing Officer (CSHO). This process is to ensure that families have support while their matters are awaiting the judicial hearing. Therefore, all Family Division judges must ratify, modify, or reject any temporary support order recommended by a CSHO. In the instance where a judge rejects a CSHO recommendation, a temporary support order still must be entered. Adhering to the above instruction will ensure compliance with the federal expedited process standards contained in 45 C.F.R. 303.101(b)(4).

Additionally, this Directive incorporates the requirement for entry of a Uniform Summary Support Order (USSO) in Family matters whenever a child support obligation is established, modified, or enforced. This is applicable to all support orders, including temporary orders, and to all case types, including dissolution (FM), domestic violence (DV), and non-dissolution (FD) matters.

In child support establishment, modification, or enforcement proceedings, the USSO is available electronically through New Jersey Kids Deserve Support (NJKiDS),

the child support automated computer system. When there is an order establishing support in a dissolution matter, the parties in that matter will be required to create a separate USSO along with the final judgment of dissolution when it is the first order establishing support in the matter that is payable through the court. NJKiDS does not currently support the creation of an electronic USSO before the case has been established in the system. However, an electronic fillable version is available to the public at njcourts.com and for staff on the InfoNet under the Forms tab in the Family Forms section.

Questions concerning this directive may be directed to Family Practice at 609-815-2900 ext. 55350 or Probation Services at 609-815-3810.

EDITOR'S NOTE

*2019 Update – This Superseding Directive updates the procedures set forth in Directive #12-88. This Directive focuses on the use of the Uniform Summary Support Order (USSO) for all case types and for all establishment, modification, and enforcement proceedings. It also clarifies that in instances where a judge rejects a child support hearing officer recommendation, a temporary order must still be entered.

cc: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Family Presiding Judges
Steven D. Bonville, Chief of Staff
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