



**KEN PAXTON**  
 ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS  
 CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

**ARREARS PAYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please type, print, or write clearly and answer the questions below to the best of your ability. If you have documents that support your answers, such as pay stubs or tax documents, you may attach those to this form:

Date:	OAG Case Number:
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**INFORMATION ABOUT YOU (Please Print All Information)**

Name (Last, First, Middle)		Social Security No.	Date of Birth	Relationship to Child(ren)
Address: Street Address	Apt. #	City	State	ZIP Code
Home Phone No.	Cell Phone No.		Work Phone No.	
<b>Would you like to receive notifications of credits applied to your case via email?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		E-mail Address		
Employer			Employer's Telephone No.	
Employer's Address: Street Address		City	State	ZIP Code

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

	CURRENT INFORMATION
<b>YOUR GROSS (before any deductions) MONTHLY INCOME FROM:</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Salary and Wages (including commissions, bonuses, and overtime)	
Self-Employment	
Pensions and Retirement	
Social Security Benefits	
Unemployment Benefits	
Disability and Workers' Compensation Benefits	
Other Income (please specify):	

	CURRENT INFORMATION
<b>YOUR ASSETS:</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Cash On Hand	
Money in Checking Accounts	
Money in Savings Accounts	
Money in Any Other Accounts	
Retirement or Pension Funds	
Real Estate	
Other Assets (please specify)	

	CURRENT INFORMATION
<b>CHILDREN:</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Children under the age of 18 who either live in your home or that you are legally obligated to support by court order ( <u>excluding step-children</u> ).	

How much income have you received in the last 12 months, from work or any other source? If you don't know the exact amount, please give your best guess or estimate: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, describe why you were unable to pay your child support in the past. (Include any important dates in your description.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

By my signature below, I certify that the information provided by me in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I am requesting the Office of the Attorney General to review the information provided to determine whether I qualify for the Arrears Payment Incentive Program. I understand that not all applicants will be eligible to participate in the program. I further understand that if I meet the eligibility requirements that I will receive an enrollment notice and that my participation in the program will not be effective until that date indicated in the enrollment notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

Please return this application within 15 days to:

Office of the Attorney General  
Arrears Payment Incentive Program

Tel.  
Fax

If you have questions, please contact us at (800) 252-8014.

## **ARREARS PAYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. Why would the Child Support Division offer a program to help me lower my child support arrears? What's the catch?**

Answer: There is no catch. In 2011, the Texas Legislature passed a law that provided authority for the Child Support Division to create and administer a Child Support Arrearages Payment Incentive Program. The purpose of this program is to promote payment by child support obligors who are delinquent in satisfying child support arrears assigned to the state.

### **2. How does this program work?**

Answer: A person participating in this program will receive a dollar-for-dollar credit for payments toward their child support arrears while enrolled in the program. These credits can only be used to reduce "state-owed" arrears, and cannot be used to reduce the portion of the arrears balance owed the custodial parent.

### **3. What are "state-owed" arrears?**

Answer: State-owed arrears are the portion of your total arrears balance that under state and federal law the State of Texas is entitled to retain once the amounts are paid.

### **4. At what point do my payments start applying toward my arrears?**

Answer: Under Texas law, payments do not apply toward your arrears until your current month's child support and medical support obligations have been satisfied.

### **5. Can you give me an example of how I could benefit from participation in the program?**

Answer: Suppose that you owe arrears of \$5,000.00 and your total current support obligation is \$400.00 per month (\$350.00 for child support and \$50.00 for medical support).

Next month you pay a total of \$600.00 on your case

Payment amount applied toward your current monthly obligations =	\$400.00
Payment amount applied toward your support arrears =	\$200.00
<u>Additional matching credit earned to reduce state-owed arrears =</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>

You will receive total payment credits of \$800.00 on your case for that month

### **6. What types of payments are eligible for matching credits?**

Answer: Under this program, participants are only entitled to receive matching credits for arrears amounts paid either voluntarily or through wage-withholding through the Texas Child Support Disbursement Unit. Participants are not entitled to receive matching credit for payments received through non-voluntary collections (tax refund intercepts, state debt set-offs, bond forfeitures, liens, levies) or payments made directly to the custodial parent.

**7. Will these credits reduce the amount that the custodial parent and my child receive?**

Answer: No. The matching credits that you earn if enrolled in the program can only be applied to reduce amounts owed to the State of Texas which the custodial parent would not otherwise be entitled to receive.

**8. If I am accepted in the program and make payments toward my arrears, when will the credits be added to my pay record?**

Answer: Immediately. If you make any payments towards your arrears during the month and earn matching payment credits, you will be sent a letter at the end of that month notifying you of the total amount of credit you received.

**9. If I am accepted into the program, can I receive matching credits on my other cases in which I owe state-owed arrears?**

Answer: A separate application must be completed for each case. Not all cases will meet the criteria for participation in the program.

**10. How long can I participate in the program?**

Answer: If you are enrolled and make arrears payments regularly, you may continue to receive matching credits. Once the state-owed portion of your arrears is paid off, you will be automatically removed from the program and will no longer be entitled to receive further matching credits on your case.

**11. What happens if I don't make payments toward my arrears?**

Answer: If you do not make any arrears payments which qualify for matching credits for a six month period, the Child Support Division may automatically remove you from the program and you would no longer be entitled to receive any additional matching credits.