

Colorado Revised Statutes

Title 26 Human Services Code

Article 13 Child Support Enforcement Act

§ 26-13-126. Authority to deny, suspend, or revoke professional, occupational, and recreational licenses--definitions

(1) The state board of human services is authorized, in coordination with any state agency, board, or commission that is authorized by law to issue, revoke, deny, terminate, or suspend a professional, occupational, or recreational license, to promulgate rules for the suspension, revocation, or denial of professional, occupational, and recreational licenses of individuals who owe more than six months' gross dollar amount of child support and who are paying less than fifty percent of their current monthly child support obligation each month, or those individuals who fail, after receiving proper notice, to comply with subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings.

(2)(a) To effectuate the purposes of this section, the executive director of the state department may request the denial, suspension, or revocation of any professional, occupational, or recreational license issued by a state agency, board, or commission, referred to in this section as the "licensing agency". Upon such request, the state child support enforcement agency shall send a notice to the obligor by first class mail stating that the obligor has thirty days after the date of the notice within which to pay the past-due obligation, to negotiate a payment plan with the state child support enforcement agency, to request an administrative hearing with the delegate child support enforcement unit, or to comply with the warrant or subpoena. If the obligor fails to pay the past-due obligation, negotiate a payment plan, request an administrative hearing, or comply with the warrant or subpoena within thirty days after the date of the notice, the state child support enforcement agency shall send a notice to the licensing agency to deny, revoke, or suspend the professional, occupational, or recreational license of the individual identified as not in compliance with the court or administrative order for current child support, child support debt, retroactive child support, child support arrearages, or child support when combined with maintenance or of the individual who failed, after receiving appropriate notice, to comply with subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings.

(b) The rules promulgated to implement this section shall provide that, if it is the first time the procedures authorized by this section have been employed to enforce support against the obligor, the state child support enforcement agency may only issue a notice to the licensing agency to suspend or to deny such obligor's license. However, the rules shall also provide that, in second and subsequent circumstances in which the provisions of this section are utilized to enforce support against the obligor, the state child support enforcement agency shall be authorized to issue a notice to the licensing agency to revoke an obligor's license, subject to full reapplication procedures upon compliance as specified by the licensing agency.

(c) No later than thirty days after the date of the notice to the obligor, the obligor may request in

writing that the delegate child support enforcement unit conduct an administrative review pursuant to the rules and regulations developed by the state board to implement the provisions of this article.

(d) No later than thirty days after the date of the delegate child support enforcement unit's decision, the obligor may request in writing an administrative review from the state child support enforcement agency.

(e) The sole issues to be determined at the administrative review by both the delegate child support enforcement unit and the state child support enforcement agency shall be whether there is: A mistake in the identity of the obligor; a disagreement concerning the amount of the child support debt, an arrearage balance, retroactive support due, or the amount of the past-due child support when combined with maintenance; a showing that all child support payments were made when due; a showing that the individual has complied with the subpoena or warrant; a showing that the individual was not properly served with the subpoena or warrant; or a showing that there was a technical defect with respect to the subpoena or warrant.

(f) The decision of the state child support enforcement agency shall be final agency action and may be reviewed pursuant to [section 24-4-106, C.R.S.](#)

(g) A notice to the licensing agency pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) shall not be sent to the licensing agency unless the obligor has failed to request a review within the time specified or until a hearing has been concluded and all rights of review have been exhausted.

(h) Each licensing agency affected may promulgate rules, as necessary, and procedures to implement the requirements of this section. Such licensing agencies shall enter into memoranda of understanding, as necessary, with the state child support enforcement agency with respect to the implementation of this section. All due process hearings shall be conducted by the state department rather than the licensing agency.

(i) Nothing in this section shall limit the ability of each licensing agency to deny, suspend, or revoke a license on any other grounds provided by law.

(j) A licensing agency, or any person acting on its behalf, shall not be liable for any actions taken to deny, suspend, or revoke the obligor's license pursuant to this section.

(3) It is the intent of the general assembly that the same or similar conditions placed upon the issuance and renewal of a state license to practice a profession or occupation, as set forth in this section, should also be placed upon persons applying to or licensed to practice law. The general assembly, however, recognizes the practice of the Colorado Supreme Court in the licensure, registration, and discipline of persons practicing law in this state. Specifically, the general assembly acknowledges that in order to obtain a license to practice law in Colorado, a person must verify that he or she is not delinquent with respect to a court-ordered obligation to pay child support. In addition, the general assembly recognizes that pursuant to the "Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct" a lawyer may be disciplined, including by disbarment, for failing to pay child support.

(4) Subject to [section 24-33-110\(1\), C.R.S.](#), for purposes of this section, "license" means any recognition, authority, or permission that the state or any principal department of the state or an agent of such department is authorized by law to issue for an individual to practice a profession or

occupation or for an individual to participate in any recreational activity. "License" may include, but is not necessarily limited to, any license, certificate, certification, letter of authorization, or registration issued for an individual to practice a profession or occupation or for an individual to participate in any recreational activity.

Added by Laws 1997, H.B.97-1205, § 43, eff. July 1, 1997. Amended eff. May 21, 2004.