



Request for Public Records

Oberst, Paulette E. <poberst@nd.gov>

Mon, Mar 6, 2017 at 6:16 PM

Dear Ms. D'Andre:

Your request for copies of public records has been referred to me for a response.

1. The number of open cases with the Child Support Program in the State. **Response:** As of December 31, 2016, North Dakota's child support program had 37,423 open cases.
2. The top 100 cases with the highest balances due in the State. For example, #1 - \$1+million, #2 - \$975k and so on. **Response:** This information has not been compiled and, accordingly, is not available. (North Dakota law does not require a public entity to create or compile a record that does not exist.)
3. Clarification on the amount due. Does it represent support due or support plus interest (if in judgment)? **Response:** The "amount due" depends on the context in which the term is being used. If you are asking for clarification of the amount due for purposes of current support, the definition of "monthly support obligation" in state law is applicable. "Monthly support obligation" means an amount of child support ordered by a court or administrative tribunal in a proceeding to establish or modify a child support obligation, including amounts that are deferred for payment at a later date. If you are asking for clarification of the amount due for purposes of arrears, the definition of "past-due support" in state law is applicable. "Past-due support" means child support that is not paid by the earlier of: a) the date a court order or an order of an administrative process established under state law requires payment to be made; or b) the last day of the month or other period the payment was intended to cover. Another state law provides that interest accrued on an unpaid child support obligation is child support. Thus, past-due support includes accrued interest.

I hope this information is helpful.

Since you asked that we mail physical copies to you, I will mail a hard copy of this email to you at the address you provided in your letter.

Paulette Oberst

Policy Administrator

Child Support Division, ND Dept. of Human Services