



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lt. Grady Jordan

Date: January 8, 2018

New Procedures Streamline Inmate Child Support Payments

(Recipients to receive payments 2 to 3 weeks sooner)

Effective January 1st, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Leon County Clerk of Court, began a new set of procedures in an effort to streamline the Inmate Child Support Payment process.

The original process used for Child Support Cases, much like most Sheriff Offices, is as follows:

An individual would have to post bond for the amount of back pay child support in order to be released from the Leon County Detention Facility. Once the money is received, it would be taken to the LCSO Fiscal Services Division to be deposited in our bank account. An in-house disbursement request would be submitted and a check would be issued to the appropriate County Clerk's Office. Once the Clerk's Office receives the check, they take the Docket Report and update their system to indicate the Child Support had been paid. They deposit the check into their account. The Clerk's Office would then submit an in-house disbursement request for a check to be issued to the State Disbursement Unit, which handles all the Child Support Disbursements to the appropriate recipient. This process usually takes approximately 4 weeks.

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The new procedures are as follows:

Once an individual posts bond, as it relates to back payment of Child Support, the money, along with the Docket Report, is taken from the Leon County Detention Facility to our Receivables Department.

- From there, we create a disbursement request for a check to be issued to the State Disbursement Unit.
- Once the check is cut, we make a copy of both the check and Docket Report.
- The check and the original Docket Report are mailed to the State Disbursement Unit while taking the photo copies of both and mailing them to the appropriate Clerk's Office.

The new procedures accomplish several things. First, it will reduce the number of agencies depositing and disbursing the same money for the same case. Again, under the old procedures LCSO received the money, deposited the money, and disbursed the money to the Clerk. They deposited the money, updated their system, and disbursed the money to the State. The State deposited the money and then disbursed to the appropriate recipient. These processes increase the risk of human error, is inefficient, and most importantly, time consuming due to the number of agencies involved, and their internal processes. By mailing the check directly to the State, we eliminate that money passing through the Clerk's Office, reducing the possibility of error, and more importantly, reducing the amount of time it takes for a recipient to receive his or her money. Under the old process it took an individual, on average, 4 weeks to receive payment. This process will reduce that time by approximately 2-3 weeks, meaning most recipients should receive payment within 1-2 weeks after back payment is received by the Leon County Detention Facility. The only information the Clerk of Courts needs is proof of payment and the related case information that payment is associated with, so they can update their system. We accomplish this by mailing a photo copy of the check and Docket Report to the Clerk's Office. Therefore, there is no need to send them money related to Child Support Cases, which only prolongs the main objective, which is to get the recipient of the child support his or her money.

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