

Prior law (R.S. 9:397.1(B)) provided that if the state, a political subdivision of the state, or the petitioner pays the initial costs of blood or tissue tests to determine paternity, then they may recover costs from an individual only if he is found to be the father of the child in the action and the court determines the manner of reimbursement for costs.

New law retains prior law but requires the reimbursement for costs to be ordered through the income assignment order if an income assignment order is issued.

Prior law (R.S. 13:4291(A)) provided that a failure to pay court-ordered child support results in a judgment by operation of law which is executory in all respects except that the court shall determine the actual amount owed in a summary proceeding and provides that the judgment shall have the effect of a judicial mortgage when final and legally recorded, but prescription does not begin to run against any such judgment for child support arrearage until the child reaches the age of majority or the obligation to provide child support ceases.

New law retains prior law but further provides that prescription is interrupted by each payment of child support pursuant to a judgment ordering support, including payments made through income assignment orders, seizures, or tax intercepts.

Prior law (R.S. 46:236.3(B)(1)) required a court to order an immediate income assignment order upon entry of any court order for the establishment or modification of support, with such assignment to be immediately provided by written notice to the payor of income unless there is a written agreement between the parties or the court finds good cause not to require immediate income assignment. Requires the income assignment order to advise the payor to withhold an amount for current support, plus an additional amount toward any arrearage.

New law retains prior law but additionally requires the income assignment order to advise the payor to withhold an amount for any judgments entered for the costs of genetic testing.

Prior law provided that the notice to withhold operates as an assignment and is binding.

New law retains prior law and specifies that the notice becomes binding 14 days after it is mailed or other transmission or from DSS by administrative order of income assignment.

Prior law (R.S. 46:236.3(K)) required a court upon due notice and hearing when a payor willfully fails to withhold or pay over income pursuant to a valid income assignment order or willfully discharges or otherwise penalizes a person ordered to pay support to enter judgment against the payor and direct the issuance of an execution for the total amount the payor failed to withhold, and also authorizes the court to order reinstatement of or restitution to the person who was discharged or penalized by the payor.

New law retains prior law but additionally authorizes the court to impose a fine against the payor of up to \$25.00 per day for the failure to comply with the income assignment order, but the fine shall not exceed the support amount that should have been withheld.

Effective August 15, 2008.

(Amends R.S. 9:397.1(B), R.S. 13:4291(A), and R.S. 46:236.3(B)(1), (I), and (K))