

Words Commonly Used in Domestic Relations (SUPPORT) CASES

PLAINTIFF- (primary) custodial parent, person receiving support

DEFENDANT- non-custodial parent, person paying support

CONFERENCE- initial proceeding where monthly support amount is determined

MODIFICATION PETITION- a petition filed by either party or counsel to change the terms of the current Court Order. Either party may file a modification petition if there is a change in his/her income, disability, medical insurance expenses, or child care expenses. Local rules apply.

ACCRUAL- a monthly charge. On the first weekday of every month the case will add the monthly ordered amount as the accrual.

ARREARAGE (ARREARS)- past due child support which shall be paid by Court-Ordered monthly arrears payment

GARNISHMENT/WAGE ATTACHMENT- action resulting in money being withheld from defendant's paycheck for child support. The money is submitted to PA SCUDU [Harrisburg] then disbursed to plaintiff

ENFORCEMENT- action taken against either party who is not complying with the terms of the Court Order

NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE- A letter received by defendant from the Domestic Relations Section when he/she is not complying with the terms of the Court Order

CONTEMPT PROCEEDING- a proceeding which takes place when either party is not complying with the terms of the Court Order. The proceeding is held in front of a conference officer or support hearing officer. Defendant's failure to appear at this proceeding will result in the issuance of a Bench Warrant for his/her arrest.