

**CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: April 14, 2000 00-00012

To: Chief State School Officers, County and District Superintendents of Schools, Deans of Education and to California Private Schools

From: Sam Swofford, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

Subject: **Notice Of Credential Suspensions Pursuant To California Family Code Section 17520**

The purpose of this coded correspondence is to explain an addition to future All Points Bulletins (APB). The APB's are distributed by the Commission to alert employers to credential documents that have been publicly reprovved, suspended or revoked. As a result of the Commission's implementation of Section 17520 of the California Family Code, the APB will now include information regarding the suspension of documents held by individuals who fail to pay court-ordered child support.

**BACKGROUND:** The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing has participated in the "State Licensing Match System" (SLMS) program since October 1, 1993. This program prevents any absent parent who fails to pay court ordered child support from receiving either initial issuance or renewal of a business or professional license or credential for longer than 150 days without first paying, or making an agreement to pay, court ordered child support.

Currently, the California Department of Social Services sends a monthly tape to the Commission identifying individuals who are delinquent in their child support payments. All incoming applications are compared to this tape. If a match is made, a 150-day document is issued and a "Notice if Intent to Withhold Document" is sent to the applicant. The notice explains that the individual must contact the appropriate District Attorney to make payment, or an arrangement for payment, of child support. Once the individual is in compliance, the district attorney notifies the Commission.

**NEW PROCEDURES:** The Commission implemented two additional SLMS procedures beginning September 1, 1999. The first affects individuals who have been in compliance, but are currently more than four months behind in payments. The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) sends a list of

these individuals to the Commission. The commission is then required to check the individuals on this list against all of the files in its system, as well as against incoming applications. Pursuant to Family Code Section 17520, the Commission must notify these individuals that the specific document(s) they hold will be suspended in 150 calendar days unless the Commission receives a release directly from the appropriate District Attorney.

Secondly, the Commission receives a weekly tape that lists individuals who arranged to pay child support and then failed to make the payments. These individuals receive a letter stating that they have 30 calendar days to obtain a release from the appropriate District Attorney's office or their documents will be suspended until they are found to be in compliance.

**NOTICE OF SUSPENSION:** If the Commission is not notified directly by the appropriate District Attorney within the stated time limit, the individual will be sent a letter announcing that the document has been suspended. To have the document reinstated, the Commission must receive a release directly from the appropriate District Attorney and the applicant must submit a new application and current fee.