NYC Child Support Program

Employer Conference



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December 8, 2021

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Michael J. Pocchia
Executive Director
Enforcement Operations, HRA/OCSS

NYC Child Support Program **Employer Conference**

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Support Services
Child Support Makes a Difference



New and Ongoing Challenges with Child Support Income Withholding Orders







Michael J. Pocchia

Executive Director, Enforcement Operations, HRA/OCSS

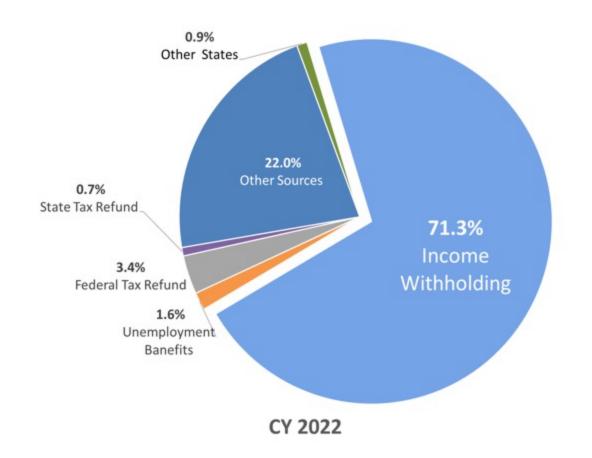
December 6, 2023





Where Child Support Collections Come from in NYC

Sources of Child Support Collections in, CY 2022



3





What We'll Be Talking about Today

The importance of income withholding orders (IWOs)

How to report new hires and what you need to report

Understanding the Wage and Health Benefits Report (WHBR)

Employers' responsibilities for IWOs

Recent changes to the IWO

How to deal with lump sum payments

Independent contractors





Third-party Agents: A General Proviso

Third-party agents handling any of the duties we describe here have the same responsibilities as the employers themselves

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Employers are responsible for ensuring that their agents meet these reporting responsibilities



New Hire Reporting: Employer Responsibilities

Employers <u>must</u> report all newly hired or rehired employees within 20 calendar days from the hire date.

- Reporting is important to your employees and their families
 - Speeds the process of collecting and distributing child support payments
 - Can help to fight fraud (including unemployment insurance and workers' compensation fraud) and improper payments
 - Can help families in other states
- Newly hired = never worked for you before
- Rehired = previously employed but separated for 60 or more consecutive days
- Employers with employees in more than one state can choose one state to report all new hires

Penalties for failing to report on time and with full, accurate information

- \$20 penalty for each employee not reported in a timely manner, and
- \$20 penalty for each employee for whom the employer does not provide the required information



New Hire Reporting: What You Need to Report

About the employee

- Name
- Address
- Social Security number (SSN)
- Hire date
 - Hire date = first day the employee performs any services for which they will be paid (or are eligible to be paid) wages, tips, commissions or any other type of compensation

About the employer

- Name
- Address
 - This address will be used to send child support notices, so the accuracy of it is very important
- Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)

About health insurance benefits

- Whether dependent health insurance benefits are available to this employee
- The date on which the employee qualifies for this benefit





New Hire Reporting: How to Report

Online

www.nynewhire.com

Electronic

• For current specifications, call the New York New Hire Employer Outreach Department at (518) 320-1079

Fax

• (518) 320-1080

Mail

 New York State Department of Taxation and Finance New Hire Notification PO Box 15119
 Albany, NY 12212-5119

Contact

- Email childsupport.fc-ny@xerox.com
- Call the Withholding Tax Information Center at (518) 485-6654





Wage and Health Benefits Report (WHBR)

NYS Child Support Processing Center PO Box 15368 Albany NY 12212-5368

Mail completed form to the address above Or fax return to: (518) 320-1081

- ---- (name of employer/benefit administrator)
- ---- (c/o line)
- ---- (street address)
- ---- (city) -- (state) ---- (zip code)

Wage and Health Benefits Report

New York Case Identifier:
JCA Worker Code:
Employer/Benefit Administrator Number:
Source Code:
Employer FEIN:

Date: County name:

Regarding: ---- (name of employee)
Date of birth:
Social Security number:

For additional information on the form and process visit our website at childsupport.ny.gov

Dear Employer/Benefit Administrator:

Please review your records and provide the information requested in this report for the above named individual. This employee/beneficiary is, or may be, legally responsible for a person receiving child support services or public assistance and care. Sections 111-h (9), 111-r and 143 of the New York State Social Services Law (SSL) require that employers furnish the information requested to the Support Collection Unit (SCU). SSL § 111-s authorizes the SCU access to information contained in government and private records, such as benefits information. You must complete and return this report no later than 10 business days from the above date. If the employee/beneficiary is no longer in your employ or under contract with you, or receiving benefits from you, all information must still be completed and submitted as indicated. No substitute for this report is acceptable.

Failure to comply may result in a \$500 penalty for initial non-compliance and a \$700 penalty for later non-compliance (SSL § 111-r).

Is individual employed by you?		☐ Independent contractor ☐ Seasonal worker expected return date: Date of separation: Reason for separation:
YES, go to Section 1	□ NO	Separation: Voluntary Involuntary
		Is employee still receiving benefits? YES NO New employer name/address if known:

Provides information about an employee or contractor's earnings and health insurance benefits

- Equivalent to other states' Verification of Employment (VOE) forms
- No longer generated for all cases
- Has been shortened to two pages

To complete the form

- Provide wage and health insurance benefit information
- Complete entirely, without blank sections
- Provide it even if the person listed is no longer working for your (or under contract with you)
- Return within 10 business days of the date on the form



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Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

The Income Withholding Order (IWO)

The official title of the form is "Income Withholding for Support"

Considered an order if it comes from the Child Support program (IV-D)

Considered a <u>notice</u> if it comes from an attorney, tribal legal representative, private collection agency, or individual (non-IV-D)

 Notices must be accompanied by a copy of the child support order (and the order must authorize withholding)

All payments (IV-D and non-IV-D) must go through the Support Distribution Unit (SDU)

• In NYS the SDU is:

NYS Child Support Processing Center PO Box 15363, Albany, NY12212-5363

 Notices that do not direct payments through the SDU should be returned to the sender







The IWO: Critical Points to Remember

In NYS, employers cannot charge a fee for income withholding

Employers are required to comply with an income execution order and may not discriminate against employees in any way because of child support deductions.

- This means employers may not discharge, lay off, discipline, or refuse to hire or promote someone because of the existence of an IWO
- Remember that income execution is the default method for collecting child support and in no way suggests the employee is or was unwilling to support his or her children

Having an order that is paid by income execution can protect NCPs from certain child support administrative enforcement actions

• The timely, accurate withholding and remitting of support can help employees and their families in many different ways





Determining What Income Should Be Withheld

What counts as income for an IWO?

- According to New York State Civil Practice Law and Rules (CPLR) <u>§5241</u> (a)(6):
 - Income includes:
 - Earned, unearned, taxable or non-taxable income, benefits, or periodic or lump sum payment due to an individual, regardless of source
 - Wages, salaries, commissions, bonuses, workers' compensation, disability benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, payments from a public or private pension or retirement program, federal Social Security benefits, and interest
 - Income excludes:
 - Cash assistance
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)





IWOs: The Employer's Responsibilities

- What 1. Check the type and source of the IWO
- 2. Confirm the identifying information for both the employer and the employee
- What Happens If... 3. Notify us if the employee or contractor named on the IWO has never worked for you or is terminated

 - When 4. Check the date of the IWO at the top of the page to determine when you begin withholding

 - **How Much** 5. Review the Order Information and Amounts to Withhold sections to determine how much to withhold based on your existing pay cycle for that employee or contractor
 - **How Often**
- 6. Confirm that the amount to be withheld from the employee's disposable income will not exceed what the Consumer Credit Protection Act (CCPA) allows
- How to Pay 7. Remit payments—there are multiple ways to do it





Check the Type and Source of IWO

1. Check the type and source of the IWO

INCOME WITHHOLDING FOR SUPPORT A. Type of IWO Notice for I. Sender Information: (Completed by the Sender) Date: Support INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER/NOTICE FOR SUPPORT (IWO) AMENDED IWO Amended One-time ONE-TIME ORDER/NOTICE FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT □ TERMINATION OF IWO Terminated □ Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Agency □ Court □ Attorney □ Private Individual/Entity (Check One) B. Source of IWO **NOTE:** This IWO must be regular on its face. Under certain circumstances you must reject this IWO and return it to the sender in General (see IWO instructions www.acf.hhs.gov/css/resource/income-withholding-for-support-instructions). If you receive this document Child support from someone other than a state or tribal CSE agency or a court, a copy of the underlying support order must be attached. Court Remittance ID (include w/payment) State/Tribe/Territory Attorney Order ID _____ City/County/Dist./Tribe Private Individual/Entity Case ID Private party

Remember: the amount you are supposed to withhold can only be changed or discontinued by an Amended IWO or a Termination of IWO



Local child support

district for the case

C. Source of IWO

Specifically



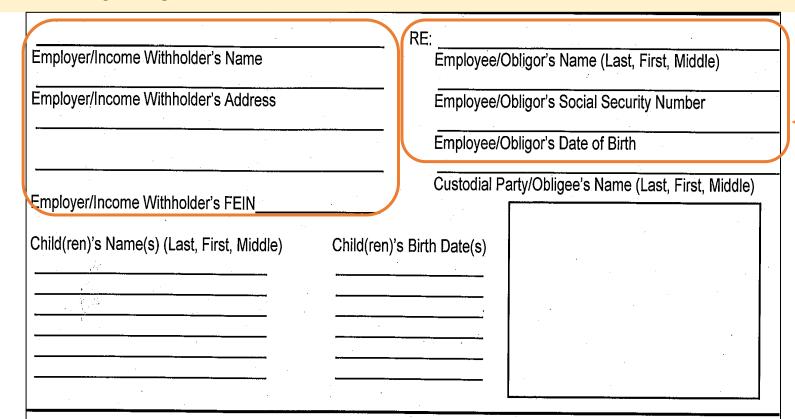
Confirm the Key Details of the IWO

2. Confirm the identifying information for both the employer and the employee

A. Employer's information

- Name
- Address
- FEIN





B

B. Employee or contractor's identifying information

- Name
- SSN
- DOB



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Terminations and Past Employees

3. Notify us if the employee or contractor named on the IWO has never worked for you or is terminated

To notify us, complete page 4 of the IWO and return it to the NYS Child Support Processing Center

If this employee/obligor never worked for you or you are no longer withholding income for this employee/obligor, you must promptly notify the CSE agency and/or the sender by returning this form to the address listed in the Contact Information below or using OCSE's Child Support Portal (oscp.acf.hhs.gov/csp/). Please report the new employer or income withholder, if known. This person has never worked for this employer nor received periodic income. This person no longer works for this employer nor receives periodic income. Please provide the following information for the employee/obligor: Termination date: Last known telephone number: Last known address: Final payment date to SDU/Tribal Payee: Final payment amount: New employer's or income withholder's name:

VII. Notification of Employment Termination or Income Status: (Completed by the Employer/Income Withholder)





New employer's or income withholder's address:

When to Start Withholding and Remitting

4. Check the date of the IWO at the top of the page to determine when you begin withholding

INCOME WITHHOLDING FOR SUPPORT					
I. Se	ender Information: (Completed by the Sender)	Date: _		→	Date of the IWO
	INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER/NOTICE FOR SUPPORT (IWO)		I AMENDED IWO		
	ONE-TIME ORDER/NOTICE FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT		TERMINATION OF IWO		

- Withhold no later than the first pay period that occurs 14 days after the date of service of the IWO
- Remit payment to the NYS Child Support Processing Center within 7 working days of the pay date
- Not withholding or remitting payments may result in the withholder having to pay the total
 amount that should have been withheld in addition to potential interest, attorney's fees, and civil
 penalties





When to Start Withholding: An Example

INCOME WITHHOLDING FOR SUPPORT

- ☐ INCOME WITHHOLDING ORDER/NOTICE FOR SUPPORT (IWO)
- ☐ AMENDED IWO
- ☐ ONE-TIME ORDER/NOTICE FOR LUMP SUM PAYMENT
- ☐ TERMINATION OF IWO

Date: October 31, 2018



If you can't make this date...

The first pay date in your pay cycle after the IWO

The next pay date in your pay cycle after the IWO



You must make this date

N	10/	/EN	IBE	ER 2	201	8
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri S 28 29 30 31 1 2	Sat 3
28 29 30 31 1 2	3
X X	
4 5 6 7 8 9	10
11 12 13 14 15 16	17
X X -	
18 19 20 21 22 23	24
	- 1

IWO)

Date of IWO

withholding

must begin

after date of

(14 days

Date by

which

Department of Social Services

Determining the Amount and Frequency

Review the Order Information and Amounts to Withhold sections to determine how much to withhold based on your existing pay cycle for that employee or contractor

A. The elements of this child support order, including

- Child support
- Medical support
- Spousal support

B. Total withholding

C. The total withholding adjusted to suit different pay cycles

- Weekly
- Semimonthly Monthly
- Biweekly

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III. Order Information: (Completed by the Sender)

This document is based on the support order from New York State. You are required by law to deduct these amounts from the employee/obligor's income until further notice.

\$ '	150.00	Per bi-weekly	current child support
\$	75.00	Per bi-weekly	past-due child support - Arrears greater than 12 weeks? ☐ Yes ☐ No
\$		Per	current cash medical support
\$		Per	past-due cash medical support
\$	40.00	Per bi-weekly	current spousal support
\$		Per	past-due spousal support
\$	15.00	Per monthly	other (nayments to a third or fourth party)

IV. Amounts to Withhold: (Completed by the Sender)

You do not have to vary your pay cycle to be in compliance with the Order Information. If your pay cycle does not match the ordered payment cycle, withhold one of the following amounts:

\$	134.38	per weekly pay period	\$	291.15	per semimonthly pay period (twice a month)
\$	271.92	per biweekly pay period (every two weeks)	\$	582.29	per monthly pay period
\$_		Lump Sum Payment: Do not stop any existing IWO unless you receive a termination order.			



for a Total Amount to Withhold of \$ 271.92

The Add Amount

This part of the IWO is also called the Add Amount

- Added to the IWO when more than 12 weeks' worth of child support is past-due
- Normally calculated as 50% of the obligation amount
- When only paying off debt, the add amount is 150% of the most recent current support amount

III. Order Information: (Completed by the Sender)				
This document is based on the support order from New York State. You are required by law to deduct these amounts from the employee/obligor's income until further notice.				
\$ 150.00 Per bi-weekly	current child support			
\$ 75.00 Per bi-weekly	past-due child support - Arrears greater than 12 weeks? ☐ Yes ☐No			
ў Реі	current casir medical support			
\$ Per	past-due cash medical support			
\$ 40.00 Per bi-weekly	current spousal support			
\$ Per	past-due spousal support			
\$ 15.00 Per monthly	other (payments to a third or fourth party)			
for a Total Amount to Withhold of \$ 271.92 per bi-weekly				

What You Can Say to an Employee or Contractor Who Feels the Add Amount Is Unmanageable

- Noncustodial parents should not have an add amount when:
 - Their income <u>already</u> falls below the New York State self-support reserve (\$17,388 for 2021), or
 - Their income falls below the self-support reserve <u>because</u> of the add amount

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- If this is true of a noncustodial parent who works for your organization, you can suggest that they seek an Add Amount Review (also called a Hardship Review)
 - They can do that by
 - E-mailing OCSS at dcse.cseweb@dfa.state.ny.us (include name, child support case #, description of issue, phone number)
 - Visiting the OCSS Customer Service Walk-in Center at 151 West Broadway in Manhattan
 - Mailing a request to OCSS, PO Box 830, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013





Checking CCPA Limitations

- 6. Confirm that the amount to be withheld from the employee's disposable income will not exceed what the Consumer Credit Protection Act (CCPA) allows
- For CCPA purposes, disposable income is the amount left after deductions for federal, state, and local taxes, as well as Social Security and Medicare
- CCPA limitations do apply to compensation for personal services, such as
 - Salaries or hourly pay
 - Commissions
 - Back pay

- Severance pay
- Lump sum payments
- CCPA limitations do not apply if the employee is not being compensated for personal services, such as
 - Dividends
 - Interest payments

Benefits





New CCPA Limitations for Child Support in NYS

Effective August 2018, Changes at the Federal Level Have Led to Changes for States

- For NYS IWOs dated <u>August 29, 2018, or later</u>, the question is whether the noncustodial parent has qualifying arrears
- For NYS IWOs dated <u>before August 29, 2018</u>, you need to know about qualifying arrears **and** whether the employee or contractor supports another child besides those listed on the IWO
- This is how New York State is handling the change. Other states are taking other approaches

III. Order Information: (Completed by the Sender)

This document is based on the support order from New York State. You are required by law to deduct these amounts from the employee/obligor's income until further notice.

\$	150.00	Per bi-weekly	current child support
\$		Per bi-weekly	past-due child support - Arrears greater than 12 weeks? ☐ Yes ☐ No
\$		Per	current cash medical support
\$		Per	past-due cash medical support
\$	40.00	Per bi-weekly	current spousal support
\$		Per	past-due spousal support
\$	15.00	Per monthly	other (payments to a third or fourth party)
for	a Total Amount	to Withhold of \$_	271.92 per bi-weekly

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This is now the most important part of the IWO to check when looking at CCPA limitations for child support





Making a Smooth Transition to the New IWO

The old CCPA limitations still apply to IWOs dated before August 29, 2018

If an employee has two cases (and thus two IWOs), the most recent IWO governs both

- For example:
 - An employee has an IWO dated September 2018 and one dated May 2018
 - You should follow the CCPA limitations of the one dated September 2018





From Four Levels of CCPA Limitations to Two

CCPA Guidelines for Older IWOs

For NYS income-withholding orders dated before August 29, 2018

Maximum Percentage of Disposable Income That Can Be Taken	When the Employee Meets These Criteria
50%	 Supports a second family No arrears or less than 12 weeks in arrears
55%	Supports a second familyMore than 12 weeks in arrears
60%	 Supports only a single family No arrears or less than 12 weeks in arrears
65%	Supports only a single familyMore than 12 weeks in arrears

CCPA Guidelines for Recent IWOs

For NYS income-withholding orders dated August 29, 2018, or later

Maximum Percentage of Disposable Income That Can Be Taken	When the NCP Meets These Criteria
50%	 No qualifying arrears (equivalent to 12 or more weeks of their current child support)
55%	 Has qualifying arrears (equivalent to 12 or more weeks of their current child support)





Priority of Withholding

When the IWO amount exceeds the maximum withholding amount for that employee or contractor, employers must prioritize withholdings in the following order:

- 1. Current support obligation
- 2. Court-ordered health insurance premiums
- 3. Past-due support

Remember: Under State law, withholding for support has priority over any other legal process against the same income. If a federal tax levy is in effect, notify the sender of the IWO





Priority of Withholding for Multiple IWOs

When an individual employee or contractor has multiple cases and thus multiple IWOs...

Employers must withhold payments on each order for current support to the greatest extent possible on a prorated basis





How to Remit Payments

7. Remit payments—there are multiple ways to do it

- 1. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)/Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
 - To arrange for the first EFT/EDI payment, call the Employer Helpline at (800)846-0773 or (888) 208-4485 (TTY: 1-866-875-9975)

2. ExpertPay.com

- Requires Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) code
- ExpertPay does not charge a transaction fee for NYS
- Call (800)846-0773 or (888) 208-4485 for registration information

Support Services

Note: No matter how you pay, we <u>always</u> need to know:

- The date of withholding
- The NY Case Identifier
- The amount of payment for each account

You may also wish to include the employee or contractor's name and your company's name and Federal EIN





How to Remit Payments

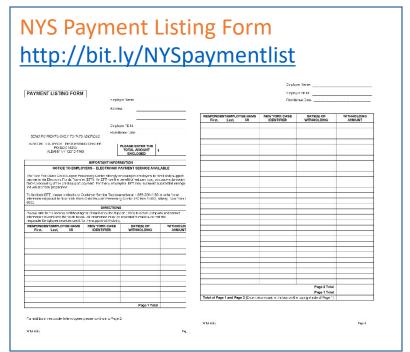
3. Check

- You can combine payments for multiple employees into one
 - You must still identify for each employee
 - The date of withholding
 - The NY Case Identifier
 - The amount of payment for each account
 - To make that easier, you can use:
 - Payment Listing Form <u>or</u>
 - Payment Coupon
- Mail payments to:
 NYS Child Support Processing Center
 PO Box 15363
 Albany, NY 12212-5363

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Employers' Responsibilities for Lump Sums

Lump sum payments are included in an IWO and are required to be garnished to collect past-due child support

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Note the emphasis on past-due child support. Because you don't necessarily know how much pastdue child support the employee might owe—or even if any is owed on the case at all—contact Child Support first before disbursing any lump sum payment



Examples of Lump Sum Payments

Bonuses

Retirement Incentives

1099 Income

Commissions

Workers'
Comp

Social Security

Severance Payments

Insurance Settlements

Personal Injury Settlements

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Stock Options and Dividends

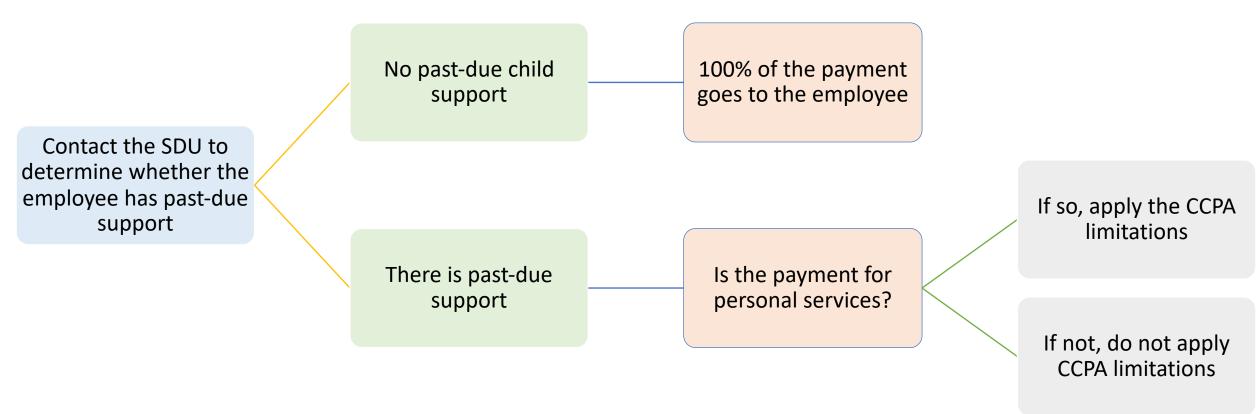
Leave Payouts

This list is not exhaustive. For questions about what qualifies as a lump sum payment write to nysdulumpsum@otda.ny.gov or call 888-208-4485.





The Lump Sum Reporting Process



How to Contact the NYS SDU about Lump Sums

Email: nysdulumpsum@otda.ny.gov

Phone: 888-208-4485

The SDU will respond by email or fax with the amount of past-due child support (arrears) owed by the employee.





Lump Sum Payments and CCPA Limitations

As with other income, the question of whether CCPA limitations apply boils down to whether the money is for personal services

Examples of Lump Sum Payments for Personal Services

CCPA limitations apply

Commissions

Severance Payments

Leave Payouts

Examples of Lump Sum Payments
Not for Personal Services

Withhold up to 100%

Dividends

Interest Payments

Benefits





What to Report with Lump Sum Payments

Employer contact information

- Company name
- Address
- Phone number and fax number
- Email address
- FEIN

Employee identifying information

- Name
- Social Security number (last four digits okay)

New York Case Identifier (see page 1 of the IWO)

County name associated with the New York Case Identifier

• In all Boroughs of New York City, the county can be given as New York City

Amount of the lump sum payment

Expected pay out date





Independent Contractors

Employers are responsible for IWOs related to independent contractors

If you receive an IWO for a non-employee, and you make payments to that person, you must withhold child support from those payment





e-IWO: The Most Efficient Way to Handle IWOs

e-IWOs Have Many Advantages

- No cost
- Saves time, money and resources (no more IWOs by mail!)
- Money gets to the family faster
- All of your IWOs are in one place: the e-IWO
- Signing up in one state means you're signed up in all states

Support Services

- Increases accuracy and reliability of data
- For more information on e-IWOs, contact eiwomail@ach.hhs.gov or learn more at:
- www.acf.hhs.gov/css/employers/e-IWO





New York City Employer Contacts

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