



# Child Support Act 1991

## 1991 CHAPTER 48

### *Collection and enforcement*

#### **31 Deduction from earnings orders**

- (1) This section applies where any person (“the liable person”) is liable to make payments of child support maintenance.
- (2) The Secretary of State may make an order (“a deduction from earnings order”) against a liable person to secure the payment of any amount due under the maintenance assessment in question.
- (3) A deduction from earnings order may be made so as to secure the payment of—
  - (a) arrears of child support maintenance payable under the assessment;
  - (b) amounts of child support maintenance which will become due under the assessment; or
  - (c) both such arrears and such future amounts.
- (4) A deduction from earnings order—
  - (a) shall be expressed to be directed at a person (“the employer”) who has the liable person in his employment; and
  - (b) shall have effect from such date as may be specified in the order.
- (5) A deduction from earnings order shall operate as an instruction to the employer to—
  - (a) make deductions from the liable person’s earnings; and
  - (b) pay the amounts deducted to the Secretary of State.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall serve a copy of any deduction from earnings order which he makes under this section on—
  - (a) the person who appears to the Secretary of State to have the liable person in question in his employment; and
  - (b) the liable person.
- (7) Where—
  - (a) a deduction from earnings order has been made; and

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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(b) a copy of the order has been served on the liable person's employer, it shall be the duty of that employer to comply with the order; but he shall not be under any liability for non-compliance before the end of the period of 7 days beginning with the date on which the copy was served on him.

(8) In this section and in section 32 "earnings" has such meaning as may be prescribed.