



CREDENTIAL ALERT

OCTOBER 9, 2013

Notice of Credential Suspensions Pursuant to California Family Code Section 17520 State Licensing Match System (SLMS)

Background: The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing participates in the “State Licensing Match System” (SLMS) program. The 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.

The California Department of Social Services sends a monthly report to the Commission identifying individuals who are delinquent in their child support payments. All current credential holders and incoming applications for credentials are compared to this report. If a match is made, a 150-day document is issued and a “Notice of 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.

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 report 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.

What does this mean for certificated employees?

If a certificated employee is responsible to pay court ordered child support, and is delinquent on child support payments; the employee puts themselves at risk of having his/her credentials suspended. A certificated employee is required to have a valid credential to perform the duties as a certificated employee. The San Luis Obispo County Office of Education **does not** have the authorization to release a pay check per the Education Code.

If a certificated employee has his/her credentials suspended, the employee will be placed on an unpaid leave of absence until the matter is resolved which will result in a suspension of District paid contribution towards health benefits.