

CMDMG - Volume 1: The Basic Principles

Summary of changes from December 2021

Amended chapters November 2024

Following amendments to chapter 15:

15002 The CMS offer two types of service for payment of child maintenance to the PWC

1. **Direct pay** - following a schedule issued by the CMS, the NRP makes payments directly to the PWC see paragraphs **15007** to **15012**.
2. **Collect and pay** - once the CMS has calculated the child maintenance liability, it then collects payments directly from the NRP to pass onto the PWC. Both clients are issued a payment schedule advising how and when payments must be made, and will be charged for the use of this service.

If clients select the collect and pay service, DMs will arrange the appropriate method of payment (MOP) from the NRP (see paragraphs **15028** to **15040**) and an appropriate MOP to the PWC (see paragraphs **15052** to **15056**).

15009 DMs, if asked, must clearly explain to both parties that they will be responsible for managing their payments on direct pay and that they should keep appropriate records (for example: bank statements to confirm how much has been paid and when. DMs should emphasise the importance of this in case of any future dispute about payments made and received.

15010 If asked by the PWCs DMs should advise that they need to tell the CMS quickly if payments are not received and if they want to change to collect and pay and, or have the arrears collected.

15020 If there are arrears on the case, explain to both parties that the NRP will need to pay the arrears directly to the PWC, as well as the ongoing payments due. Both parties should be advised that it is essential that they keep full records of any arrears payments made or received (such as bank statements in case the case changes back to collect and pay and there is any dispute about the amount of arrears that have been paid.

15023 If a NRP does not agree that payments have been missed, they will need to provide evidence confirming the payments were made. Acceptable evidence for these purposes would include

1. bank statements
2. duplicate(s) of any cashed cheque(s)

Amended chapters October 2024

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

amendment to chapter 14 of the CMDMG effective date table 3, as follows:

Inserted -

or

Child Benefit not in payment due the conditions about presence in Great Britain not satisfied, or where the NRP or their partner has elected not to receive child benefit because they would be liable to the 'high income child benefit charge' in income tax. And **Note** deleted.

Chapter 16 - Charging and Application fees

The fee removal aspect of CMDMG Memo 01/24 incorporated at paragraphs 16001, 16002 and 16021.

Amended chapters November 2023

Chapter 5: Meaning of certain terms

Additional information added to Note at para. 05005.

Amended chapters June 2023

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment (words deleted and word inserted) to effective date table 3

Amended chapters April 2023

Chapter 8: Child of the family or child abroad

Note added to paragraph 08008.

Chapter 9: Child supported under family based arrangement (CIFBA)

Note added to paragraph 09016.

Amended chapters July 2022

Chapter 11: Shared Care

Note to para 11003 updated and examples added to para 11008 to assist caseworkers with making decisions regarding share care cases when court orders are in place.

Amended chapters May 2022

Chapter 15: Service types and methods of payment

Section “Direct pay for MOPs for PWC who have experienced domestic abuse” added at paras. 15057 to 15060 and ‘Note’ added to para. 15015.

Amended chapters February 2022

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment to the note at the end of 14015.

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Further amendment made to the note in para. 14015 to better reflect the supersession application when being re-directed via Webchat.

Amended chapters January 2022

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment made to para. 14015 to include a note regarding supersession.

Amended chapters December 2021

Chapter 14: Effective dates (Effective date tables)

Amendment made to the wording in the first circumstance of effective date table 3 due to some confusion over the date.

Chapter 11: Shared Care

Minor amendment at para. 11003 to include a note.