

# Department Notice

All Employees: State

June 23, 1995

## **Collection of Fee for- Garnishment of Federal Pay**

A Department Notice dated February 1, 1994, informed Department employees that federal salaries could be garnished to satisfy debts of employees. Garnishment was previously permitted only for alimony and child support.

The law permitting garnishment to satisfy debts also authorizes the Department to collect a fee for such garnishments (5 U.S.C. § 5520a(j)(2)). Based on a cost study, the Department will impose a fee of \$30 for receipt and processing of each garnishment. As required by the law, this fee will be charged to the employee whose salary is being garnished.

The fee will be charged for each garnishment order served and processed. Thus, each time a court orders the Department to garnish an employee's salary, the Department will deduct the \$30 fee. Although administrative costs are incurred for each pay period for which a garnishment is in effect, no additional fee will be charged to cover those costs.

The fee will be deducted at the time the garnishment is first instituted, beginning with the July 9, 1995, pay period. It will be added to the garnishment amount, except that in cases where the garnishment amount plus the fee would exceed the statutory garnishment limit, the garnishment amount will be reduced to keep the total within the limit.

The fee does not apply to garnishments in support of child support and alimony legal process under 42 U.S.C. §§ 659, 661, and 662.

As stated in the February 1, 1994, Notice, employees are urged to settle matters that may lead to garnishment. The Employee Consultation Service, located in Room 3243, telephone (202) 647-492.9, offers counseling and referral to credit counseling services in the community. Specific questions concerning garnishment should be referred to Ms. Sheila McCoy, L/LM at (202) 647-7359.

Office of Origin: L/LM