



**Method 2:** The financial institution may match an inquiry file supplied by the state's child support enforcement agency against all open accounts maintained by the financial institution.

#### ***MultiState Data Match***

Financial institutions doing business in more than one state may choose to exchange with the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement or may elect to exchange through each state.

#### ***Off-Line Testing***

Prior to the live data match, financial institutions will be able to test their software for either Method 1 or Method 2. The test software will be available on the FIDM website and will be a simple download.

#### ***Financial Institutions Using Service Providers***

Financial institutions that use service providers will simply provide the name of their service provider on their agreement form. Informatix, Inc. will work directly with the provider to conduct the data match.

#### ***Easy to Report***

For ease of use and programming, the established file format is similar to the current 1099 reporting format.

#### ***Data to be Reported***

- Names
- Record address
- SSN
- Other identifying information

**NOTE:** It is important that all requested data be reported, including account balance information and complete account numbers.

#### ***Media Types Supported***

- CD
- DAT
- Diskette
- 9 Track Reel (3412)
- 9 Track Cartridge (3480, 3490, 3490E)
- FTP
- Internet

#### ***Data Match Methods***

Financial institutions must elect to use one of two data matching options.

**Method 1:** The financial institution may provide Informatix, Inc. with a file identifying all open accounts. We will match this file against an inquiry file supplied by the state's child support enforcement agency.

For more information:  
Visit us online at <http://fidm.statedatamatch.com>  
FIDM Financial Institution Hotline 1-877-965-FIDM  
3436

The advertisement features a computer monitor displaying a website interface with a blue arrow and the text "DATA MATCH". Below the monitor, a young girl and a woman are smiling. The background is a green circuit board pattern. The text "Partnership Responsibility Results" is written in a large, elegant font across the top and bottom. The Informatix logo is in the bottom left corner.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTION  
DATA MATCH**

*Responsibility  
Partnership  
Results*

**i**  
INFORMATIX





### **Overview**

All children deserve the chance to achieve their full potential. Parents who provide emotional and financial support to their children go a long way toward furthering this potential. But when non-custodial parents fail to provide economically for

their children, federal mandates empower states to enforce the collection of child support.

Cases of past due child support have increased from 2 million in 1976 to 20 million in 1997. Today the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), working with state and local child support programs, is launching a nationwide child support enforcement strategy that employs a powerful new tool. The Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) will expedite collection of some of the \$56 billion in owed support –and change millions of children's lives.

### **What is FIDM?**

Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), also known as the Welfare Reform Act, was signed into law on August 22, 1996.

FIDM is an innovative provision of PRWORA requiring all states to enter agreements with financial institutions doing business within their

state to conduct a quarterly data match. The data match identifies accounts belonging to parents delinquent in their child support obligation. When a match is made with the account of a delinquent obligor, state child support agencies may issue liens or levies to collect past-due child support. Our state is part of the FIDM Alliance, a consortium of states that has contracted with Informatix to conduct data matches with financial institutions using its innovative Match-Lock Solutions.

### **Financial Institution Limited Liability**

Under state and federal law, financial institutions cannot be held liable for release of a financial record to state child support enforcement agencies. Additional information regarding these statutes can be found at the FIDM Alliance website.

### **Who Must Participate**

- Banks and Savings and Loans
- Federal and State Credit Unions
- Benefit associations
- Insurance companies
- Safety Deposit companies
- Any entity that offers to the public accounts subject to the FIDM statutes

### **Frequency of Match**

The data matching process must be conducted quarterly but may be staggered throughout the quarter.

### **Types of Accounts Subject to Match**

Accounts include but are not limited to:

- Demand deposit accounts
- Checking accounts or negotiable withdrawal order account
- Savings accounts
- Time deposit accounts
- Money-market mutual fund accounts

To comply with PRWORA requirements the State of Maryland enacted Family Law §10-108.2. This law is to assist the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA) in its enforcement activities by identifying financial assets.

The CSEA uses account information acquired from the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) program to initiate judicial garnishments of funds held in financial institutions. The purpose of these garnishments is to collect past due support for Maryland's children. The benefits of the FIDM program will be realized either through the seizure of the identified property or through voluntary settlement of arrearages.

Maryland law allows the CSEA to utilize only Method 2 for its data Match. Method 2 is described in the "Data Match Methods" section of this brochure.

