

Accompanying the third recommendation of the Department of Public Welfare (House, No. 171). Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE TO SECURE CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 3 of chapter 118 of
2 the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 21 of
3 chapter 1210 of the acts of 1973, is hereby further amended by
4 adding the following sentence:—

5 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, every
6 inquiry by the department concerning the wages or income earned
7 by any member of the family, or by any person who is under a court
8 order to support his or her spouse or children, which may be
9 available for the family's support shall be answered accurately and
10 truthfully in writing, and no criminal or civil action or proceeding
11 shall lie for compliance with the requirements of this sentence.

1 SECTION 2. Section 32 of chapter 209 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by section 4 of chapter 609 of the acts of
3 1977, is hereby further amended by adding the following
4 paragraph:—

5 In making orders or judgements relative to the support of a
6 spouse and the care, custody and maintenance of minor children
7 the probate court shall inquire if the spouse and minor children are
8 recipients of public assistance. If it finds that the spouse are minor
9 children are recipients of public assistance it shall make its order

10 for support or maintenance payable to the department of public
11 welfare to the extent of any payments made by the department to
12 such recipients. Notice of such order shall be given to the
13 department of public welfare.