



Garnishment – Multiple Orders

You could receive more than one garnishment order affecting the earnings of the same employee. There are rules to help you figure out which order to comply with.

Same Type of Order

In general, if you receive two of the same type of withholding orders, such as two *Earnings Withholding Orders* (form [WG-002](#)) or two *Earnings Withholding Orders for Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse* (form [WG-030](#)):

1. Comply with the first earnings withholding order you receive.
2. If you receive two earnings withholding orders on the same day, look at both orders, find the date of the judgment for each one, and comply with the order that has the earlier judgment date.
3. If you receive two or more orders on the same day that have the same judgment date, you may choose with which order you will comply.
4. If you are already complying with an order and you receive another one for the same employee, the order you received later is not effective unless it has a higher priority, as explained below.

Priority if Different Types of Orders

There are several different types of orders that affect an employee's earnings. You must comply with the order of highest priority. In order from highest priority to lowest:

1. An earnings assignment order for support (for example, form [FL-435](#))
2. *Earnings Withholding Order for Support* (form [WG-004](#))
3. *Earnings Withholding Order for Taxes* (form [WG-022](#))
4. *Earnings Withholding Order for Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse* (form [WG-030](#))
5. *Earnings Withholding Order* (form [WG-002](#))

If you are already complying with one type of earnings withholding order, and then you receive a different type of order that is higher on the priority list, you must comply with the higher priority order.

If you have to stop withholding earnings under one order because you receive a higher priority order, you must contact the sheriff who sent you the earlier order and tell him or her that you have received a higher priority order.

Example: You have been withholding earnings from an employee based on an *Earnings Withholding Order* (form [WG-002](#)). You then receive an *Earnings Withholding Order for Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse* (form [WG-030](#)) for the same employee. You must comply with the *Earnings Withholding Order for Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse* (form [WG-030](#)) because it has higher priority under the law. Notify the sheriff who gave you the earlier order.

Example: You have been withholding earnings from an employee based on an *Earnings Withholding Order for Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse* (form [WG-030](#)). You then receive another *Earnings Withholding Order for Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse* (form [WG-030](#)) for the same employee. You must continue to comply with the first *Earnings Withholding Order for Elder or Dependent Adult Financial Abuse* (form [WG-030](#)) because you received it before another order of the same priority.

Maximum Withholding Amounts

The law places limits on the percentage of wages that can be withheld. You may deduct \$1.50 from the employee's earnings for each payment made pursuant to a garnishment order.

Generally, a withholding order cannot exceed ***the lesser of:***

- 25% of an individual's weekly disposable earnings (i.e., after required deductions); or
- 50% of the amount by which the disposable earnings for the week exceed 40 times the hourly minimum wage. (Note: use the local minimum wage if higher than the state minimum wage.)

Exception: For child support orders, the maximum is 50% of disposable earnings.

Withholding Under More Than One Order

You may need to withhold earnings under two different orders if the higher priority order does not require you to withhold the maximum amount of disposable earnings.

If the higher priority order requires you to withhold less than the maximum amount of disposable earnings, then you must also withhold earnings under the lower priority order. The amount to withhold under the lower priority order is the difference between the maximum amount and the amount under the higher priority order.