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## Criminal Enforcement Overview

The purpose of this summary is to provide a high level overview of the criminal enforcement process which complements the more detailed procedures linked to the topic.

Whenever a Child Maintenance Group (CMG) employee suspects a paying parent, receiving parent, third party or employer of criminal activity they may send a criminal referral to the Financial Investigation Unit (FIU) or enforcement. The subject of referral will determine who owns the case. See [Financial Investigation Unit \(FIU\) - Summary](#) for more information.

If the Paying parent is suspected, the case will move to enforcement if it is not already there. Where a receiving parent, third party or employer are suspected the case will be sent to the Criminal Suspicion and Third Party Team. The case however won't move to enforcement. A caseworker will need team leader authorisation to move the case to enforcement



You must ensure that you raise the service request (SR) on the correct subject as this will determine which area the referral moves to.

If the alleged offence was committed against another government department, they will be contacted directly via Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System (FRAIMS).

If it is necessary to gather information regarding an alleged offence such as failure to provide information, an Investigative Officer (IO) within the FIU will visit the party involved and gather the information.

The enforcement case manager or the IO will investigate the allegation and then decide on any further action.

Once the enforcement manager or IO has decided to continue to prosecution, a pack will be created and will be forwarded to:

- Legal Advisors Office (LAO) for England and Wales
- Procurator Fiscal for Scotland
- Public Prosecution Service (PPS) for Northern Ireland

The legal advisors will make a final decision on whether to prosecute and will update the case manager or IO accordingly.

### Functionally unique areas

Some enforcement areas are either functionally unique, or may not have access the the CMS system (e.g. Court Presenting Officers.) For roles without CMS system access the Specialist Services Support Team (SSST) acts as a liaison with the case owner. For further guidance see [Specialist Services Support Team](#). Client contact for roles without CMS system access is covered in the Procedure for [Call Backs](#).



This procedure uses the terms receiving parent and paying parent.

The receiving parent is the parent who receives or who is expected to receive child maintenance, known as the parent with care (PWC) or person with care (PeWC) on the system and in legislation. The paying parent is the parent who pays or who is expected to pay child maintenance, known as the non resident parent (NRP) on the system and in legislation.

[Call Backs](#)

[Criminal Action](#)

[Criminal Action - Decide](#)

[Criminal Action \(Scotland\)](#)

[Investigative Action](#)

[Specialist Services Support Team](#)

[Suspicion Of Criminal Activity](#)

[Financial Investigation Unit \(FIU\) - Summary](#)