



Stanislaus County Implements "Best" Solution
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Family Support Services employees all over the United States are aware of new Federal Regulations becoming effective October 1, 1998. For the rest of us, essentially, the regulations involve more stringent policies regarding the timelines and procedures involved with receiving and dispersing Child Support Payments.

A particular policy, mandated to counties within California, is to migrate all existing Child Support Payment systems to one system. Unfortunately, the software designed to comply (SACSS) cannot be implemented within all of California's counties by the Federal deadline. End result...several Child Support Services are not only left without a viable system, they are unable to comply with Federal mandates as well. Additionally, little time is available to develop or migrate to a new system. Born from this dilemma are several Consortiums consisting of various counties with compliant or near compliant systems working together to make one scheme work for everyone.

Alameda County created BEST, a child support system that complies with federal law. Two of our **DISC FS** (Family Support Application) customers (Stanislaus and Contra Costa counties) wanted to convert to the BEST system. Our challenge was to find an effective means of integrating **DISC FS** with BEST for our customers. When integrating our Imaging/Payment Processing Software with existing Accounting Packages such as BEST, we usually discover that both systems overlap functions. The key is to determine which system can perform which task better. We consider current functionality, available technology, as well as accounting principles. In many cases, it comes down to key discussions such as "if deposits are made within the Imaging software, it creates a separation of duties between cash handling and payment processing."

For Stanislaus, Contra Costa, and Alameda counties, we asked the three counties to help design the most effective solution. The outcome was a new version of **DISC FS** that interfaces with **BEST** via DDE and requires absolutely no changes to that system. The solution takes advantage of the cash handling controls of **DISC FS** and the timely payment identification within BEST.

On Monday August 3rd, Stanislaus County went live on the **BEST-DISC FS** integration. According to officials in the county, the **BEST** Solution is "simple and user friendly," and because of the one link the systems share, their "security measures are easy to implement and maintain."

Data Image Systems is proud to have participated in this system's integration; helping families and communities.

Note: DISC FS utilizes InveStore Storage Management Software to connect and control the archive devices.