



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Division  
Working to Recover Improperly Paid Funds  
Affects a Portion of Alaskans' Dividends Slated for Garnishment**

**Anchorage-** The Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Division announced today that an error occurred in the 2011 Permanent Fund Dividend distribution, affecting some Alaskans whose dividends were slated for garnishment. Due to a processing error, approximately 5,500 dividends were improperly paid. This also affects a portion of Alaskans who did not receive payments because these garnishments were not collected. While an accurate figure is not yet available, the maximum amount of garnishments would be just under \$7 million. The final total is likely to be less than this amount.

The error, discovered on Monday, does not affect the majority of dividends paid out to Alaskans, including child support payments.

The division is making every effort to recover dividends that were improperly paid to applicants instead of creditors.

Approximately 3,600 direct deposit returns have been requested, and stop payments have been issued for approximately 1,900 paper checks that were mailed last week.

The processing error occurred when division employees failed to link batches of electronic levies to applicant records. The batches were contained in a new software system known as "eGarns," which was used for the first time this year.

"We deeply regret the error and are working to recover the funds that were improperly distributed," Director Debbie Bitney said. "Alaskans' faith in our process is of the utmost importance to me, and we have implemented changes to ensure this situation does not happen again."

Safeguards have now been programmed into eGarns that will automate processes, alerting division employees of potential anomalies.

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