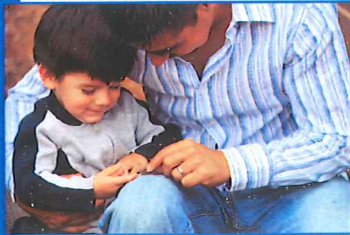


Benefits of Working with Child Support Services

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM:

A Resource for Parents ...



The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is here to help you navigate the Child Support Program. Early contact with DCSS will provide you with many long-term benefits.

Benefits Include:

- You may establish a working relationship with your case workers.
- If paternity is at issue, you can request genetic testing.
- Can help you understand how a child support order is established, modified and enforced.
- Can help you understand how medical support works - the establishment of the order and how medical support is enforced.
- If an enforcement action is taken against you we can inform you of your rights and help you understand what actions you need to take to satisfy or stop the enforcement action.
- You are informed about the court order and when you are required to start paying your support or when you should expect to start receiving support.
- Ensures that the amount of support you are being charged is correct. We provide accurate accounting and payment records.

Contact your local child support agency: 1-866-901-3212, or

TTY: 1-866-399-4096

Statewide Online Application:

<https://www.childsup.ca.gov/resources/tabid/295/default.aspx>

With participation from both parents, children benefit both financially and emotionally in many ways:

Financial:

- Housing
- Groceries
- Health Insurance
- Transportation
- Education
- Day care
- Extra Curricular Activities

Emotional:

- Peace of mind for child(s) well-being
- Strengthened parent/child relationships
- Stability in home life

Child support helps families be self-sufficient.

Contact DCSS to find out more about how to provide your children with the future they deserve!



**Child Support
Directors Association**

*A Coalition of Experts Collecting Billions
for California's Children*

"Child Support... An Investment in the Future of Our Children"

CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

www.csdaca.org

Revised: February, 2011

Where Does Your Child Support Go?

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM: A Resource for Parents ...



Child support paid by non-custodial parents helps California children and families to remain self-sufficient. The support payments also go toward recovering money owed to the state for funds expended by the government for a child receiving public assistance.

The following are questions you may have if you are a non-custodial parent....

■ Where does my child support go?

If your child is not receiving public assistance, the payment goes to the custodial party. If your child is receiving public assistance, the payment is applied to recover the funds expended by the government.

■ I pay \$400 each month, why does the custodial party receive only \$50?

When a child is receiving public assistance, the custodial party is entitled to receive up to \$50 (called a "disregard") from the total child support paid for the month. The rest of the child support amount goes towards recovering public assistance funds.

■ Why does my past due balance go up? I make a payment each month towards my past due balance.

Pursuant to California law, if you owe past due child support, 10% annual interest is charged. If the past due child support balance is high enough, the monthly amount of interest charged will be more than the amount you pay each month.

■ The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) intercepted my IRS tax refund and the custodial party did not receive anything. Where did my money go?

IRS tax intercepts are applied to past due child support only - not to the current child support owed. If there is a past due balance owed to the state, the IRS tax intercept is applied to this balance. Once satisfied, the custodial party will receive the remaining amount.

Why Does it Cost So Much to Raise A Child?

Money is Needed For:

- Housing
- Utilities
- Clothing/Diapers
- Meals/Formula
- Child Care
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Dental/Medical Expenses
- Transportation
- Education
- Miscellaneous Items

Average Annual Cost to Raise a Child¹:

\$11,000-\$13,000

1 "Expenditures on Children by Families, 2009" USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.
<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov>



**Child Support
Directors Association**

A Coalition of Experts Collecting Billions
for California's Children

Contact your local child support agency: 1-866-901-3212, or TTY: 1-866-399-4096
<http://www.childsup.ca.gov>

"Child Support... An Investment in the Future of Our Children"
CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

www.csdaca.org
Revised: April, 2011

Modifying Your Child Support Order

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM: A Resource for Parents ...



Have you lost your job, had your income reduced or experienced other financial changes in your life? If so, local child support agencies are ready to help you.

■ How do I get my child support order modified or changed?

- Contact your local child support agency immediately to begin the process.
- A new court order must be signed by a judge to change your child support amount. It does not happen automatically if you lose your job or other circumstances change.
- Your child support amount can also be changed by written agreement (stipulation) between you, the local child support agency and the other parent.
- You may also contact the Family Law Facilitator in your county or file your own motion to modify support in the Family Law Court.

■ What do I need to provide?

In order for a local child support agency to review your case for modification, you will need to provide current financial information such as:

- Income and expenses (including 1099 if self employed)
- Child care expenses
- Medical insurance
- Disability (SSI, SDI, SSA, etc.)
- Unemployment benefits/severance package
- Retirement income
- Custody and visitation arrangements

■ How long should I wait for a modification?

You should begin the process as soon as your financial circumstances change. The modification process can take many months.

When should I consider a modification?

You can ask for a modification if one or more of the following circumstances change:

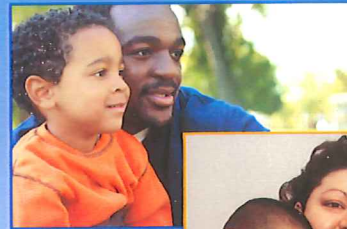
- Your income or the other parent's income increases or decreases.
- The custody or visitation agreement changes.
- You become disabled.
- You are deployed to active military duty.
- You are incarcerated or institutionalized.

When you request a modification the amount of child support ordered may go up or down depending on your situation. For more information on how child support is calculated, see our fact sheet "How is the Amount of my Child Support Determined" on the CSDA website at: <http://www.csdaca.org/factsheets.aspx>.

Contact your local child support office: 1-866-901-3212, or: TTY: 1-866-399-4096
<http://www.childsup.ca.gov>

Help for the Previously Incarcerated

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM:
A Resource for Parents...



The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) is here to assist with your successful re-entry. There are a number of ways we can help you deal with your child support issues and help you get back on track.

Get Back On Track:

- **Release Your Driver And Other Licenses**
Call us or come to the office to see what you can do to get your license released and help you get back on track.
- **Change Your Child Support Order**
If you cannot pay your child support because it is too high, we may be able to change your child support order. Bring proof of any income you have to our office.
- **Lower Part of Your Child Support Welfare Arrears**
If you owe back child support because your child(ren) received welfare, we may be able to reduce part of the arrears you owe.
- **Help You Find a Job**
We may be able to direct you to job centers for help with resumé writing, interview skills and job searches.
- **Reconnect With Your Children**
We can give you phone numbers of family law clinics that may be able to help you.

Call Your Local Child Support Agency Today
1-866-901-3212, or TTY: 1-866-399-4096



Child Support
Directors Association

*A Coalition of Experts Collecting Billions
for California's Children*

We Can Help.

"Child Support... An Investment in the Future of Our Children"

CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

www.csdaca.org

Child Support Information for the Incarcerated Parent



CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM:

A Resource for Parents ...

■ What if I am served with legal papers while I am incarcerated?

A Summons and Complaint is the first step in the child support process and your chance to tell the child support office about your situation. You only have 30 days to file the form called an "Answer To Complaint" that is attached to the Summons and Complaint or to contact the child support office if you do not agree with what the papers say.

■ What if I am not sure if I'm the child's father?

If paternity (legal fatherhood) has not been established, you can request free **DNA** testing to make sure you are the father. The testing can be done while you are incarcerated **but you must request it**.

■ What if I don't complete and return the "Answer To Complaint?"

You will legally become the child's father and may be ordered to pay child support.

■ I already have a child support order. Will that order continue while I'm incarcerated?

YES. Once a child support order is in place, you will continue to owe child support each and every month. You must act immediately to get your child support order changed. Being incarcerated does not automatically change your obligation to support your children. If you do not pay your child support, 10% interest will be added any unpaid amount.

■ How do I get my child support order changed?

Complete the **Incarcerated Parent's Request to Review Child Support** form available at your institution and mail it to your Local Child Support Agency (LCSA). Once this form is received it will be forwarded to the child support agency that manages your case for a review to determine if you are eligible for a modification of your child support order.

Remember that even after mailing the form it takes time to process and your child support obligation will continue until your child support order is changed.

GET THE FORM - FILL IT OUT - TURN IT IN

Don't put it off because the longer you wait the more money you will owe. It is your responsibility to contact the child support office and follow up to make sure your child support is lowered or stopped.

Contact your local child support office: 1-866-901-3212, or: TTY: 1-866-399-4096



Child Support
Directors Association

*A Coalition of Experts Collecting Billions
for California's Children*

"Child Support... An Investment in the Future of Our Children"

CHILD SUPPORT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

www.csdaca.org

Family Reunification Compromise of Arrears Program

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM:

A Resource for Parents ...



If your child was previously placed in foster care, or with a guardian or relative and is now living with you, you could qualify to have the amount of past due child support (arrears) that you owe reduced or eliminated.

■ Who qualifies?

You may qualify if you meet all the following:

- You owe child support arrears while your child was not living with either parent and received public assistance from one of the following:
 - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families - Foster Care (TANF-FC)
 - California Work Opportunity and Responsibility of Kids (CalWORKs), or
 - Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program (KinGAP)
- Your child is living with you now at least 50% of the time.
- Your child is a minor.
- Your income is less than 250% of the federal poverty level (\$27, 925).¹

■ Can all of my child support debt be eliminated?

- The amount is determined by the local child support agency based on the facts of your case.
- The amount reduced can be up to 100% of the child support arrears you owe to the state for the time period your child did not live with you.

■ What do I need to do?

You must complete and submit an Application for Compromise - Family Reunification packet to your local child support agency.

■ How long does it take?

The local child support agency will send you a letter within 30 days after receipt of a complete Application for Compromise - Family Reunification packet on the status of your application.

¹ "2012 Federal Poverty Level" <http://www.coverageforall.org> (2012)

Contact your local child support office: 1-866-901-3212, or: TTY: 1-866-399-4096
<http://www.childsup.ca.gov>

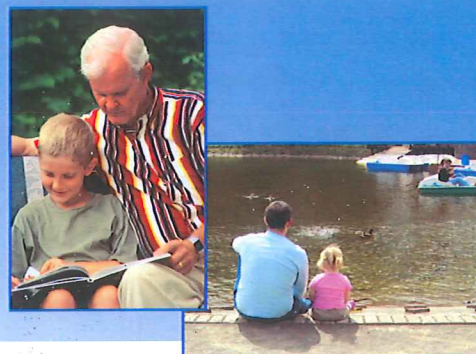
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

CALIFORNIA'S CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM:

A Resource for Grandparents ...



More and more grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Providing the basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter is a financial challenge for many grandparents. Nationally, one in ten children live with their grandparents with 41% acting as the primary caregiver.¹



■ Where to go for help:

California's Child Support Program works with legally acknowledged parents and guardians to ensure children and families receive court-ordered financial and medical support. Some of the services offered at the 52 county and regional child support agencies are:

- Establishment of child support and medical support orders
- Establishment of paternity
- Modification of child support orders
- Enforcement of child support orders
- Accurate accounting

Applications for services are available at the local child support agencies or online at: <http://www.childsup.ca.gov>. Click: "Apply for Services" on the website. Applications can be printed and mailed, or brought to the local child support agency for processing.

■ Additional Assistance:

- **Family Law Facilitator:** Every family court has a family law facilitator to provide child support information and help parents or guardians obtain and complete court forms. Services are free. Visit: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/self-help/facilitators.htm> for more information.
- **Human Services:** Social workers and family resource centers can be helpful in finding the needed services in your area. Visit: <http://www.chhs.ca.gov> for more information.
- **Social Security:** Under certain circumstances, Social Security will pay benefits to grandchildren. More information can be found on the Social Security website at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/kids/index.htm>.
- **American Association of Retired Persons (AARP):** The AARP has resources available to you if you are raising your grandchildren. The AARP has a "Guide for Grandfamilies" which can assist you with tips and tools needed to take care of yourself and your family. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.aarp.org>.

¹ Livingston, Gretchen and Parker, Kim "Since the Start of the Recession, More Children Being Raised by Grandparents" Pew Research Center. September, 2010. Internet. Available at: <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2010/09/09>.

Contact your local child support office: 1-866-901-3212, or: TTY 1-866-399-4096
<http://www.childsup.ca.gov>