



Child Support Enforcement Services

Finding the Noncustodial Parent

Our children.
Our responsibility.

Why look for the other parent?

Your child will be happiest with two supportive, caring parents.

If you find your former partner, he or she can help you care for your child—and create a sense of family, here, that your child can rely on.

Child support payments also will help you give your child the care he or she deserves.

Finding the other parent is worth the effort. Please don't be afraid. We are here to help you.

Will my information be kept private?

Yes. The child support enforcement office will protect your personal confidential information.

What does it cost?

If you get help from Medicaid, Foster Care, or cash assistance programs, these services will be free. Otherwise, they may cost you up to \$25. Some states charge extra. Ask your local office what they would charge.



How do I start?

The first step in seeking child support is to find the parent who does not live with the child, called the noncustodial parent. The child support enforcement office must find this parent to...

- Establish paternity.
- Establish a child support order.
- Collect child support payments.

What do I need to provide?

To help find the other parent, you must give us as much information as you have about that person. The most important information you can give is the other parent's...

- Social Security Number.
- Employment Information (Any information you have).

What if I don't know the Social Security Number?

If you do not have the other parent's Social Security Number, your caseworker may be able to find it with at least three of these:

The parent's...

- Name.
- Birthplace.
- Birth date.
- Father's name.
- Mother's maiden name.

You will also want to think about who else might know where to find your former partner. If you can, provide contact information for...

- The other parent's relatives, friends, or former employers.
- Unions.
- Local organizations, including professional organizations.

How do you find the other parent?

Child support enforcement offices have access to many types of information. These records can lead us to your former partner, even if he or she moved to a different state. We can see state and local government records on...

- Births, deaths, marriages, and divorces.
- Taxes.
- Real estate and personal property.
- Employment.
- Public assistance.
- Motor vehicles.
- Licenses (Fishing, occupational).
- Business information.
- Law enforcement.

We also can search...

- Utility and cable TV bills.
- Credit bureau information.
- Bank records.
- State Directory of New Hires (Employers must report new employees to this directory).
- State Parent Locator Service (It searches state records).
- Federal Parent Locator Service (It searches federal tax and military records and other data).

What if I don't know much about the other parent?

Think about the time you did spend together. Where did you meet? What did you talk about? What kind of work did he or she do? Do you have any mutual friends who might know more?

Can your office always find the other parent?

No. But the more information you can give us, the more likely we are to find your former partner.

What happens if your office finds the parent's address?

Your caseworker may ask the other parent to come to our office for an interview, or may tell the parent that legal action may be taken.

If you can't find the other parent, can I still get financial help?

Yes. If you are trying to help find the other parent, you can get cash assistance from the TANF program. We can tell you how to apply.