

How  
**Can I Help My Child?**

Child support enforcement services can make sure your child is cared for financially. You can use them to...

- Find the other parent.
- Establish paternity.
- Set child support orders.
- Collect child support payments.
- Get health insurance for your child.

You can also learn skills to...

- Be a better parent.
- Have a healthy marriage.
- Work well with the other parent.
- Communicate and manage your emotions with the other parent.

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.



# Child Support Enforcement Services

Why a Child Needs Both Parents

Our children.  
Our responsibility.

### What Documents Should I Bring?

Your caseworker will help you get child support enforcement services—but you must do your part by bringing as much information as you can:

- Picture identification—Your driver's license, student I.D., matricula consular I.D., or other I.D.
- Social Security Number or Individual Tax Identification—Yours and the other parent's.
- Your child's birth certificate.
- The acknowledgement of paternity, if you have one.

Everything you know about where to find the other parent—date and place of birth, where he or she is living and working, phone number, names of relatives and friends, license plate, bank records, criminal history, etc.

### Where Can I Get Help?

- State/tribe programs.
- Community-based organizations.
- Faith-based organizations.
- Courts.
- Healthy Marriage Initiative.

Ask your child support enforcement office where to find this help.

### Why Is It Important for Both Parents to Raise a Child?

Children are more likely to be successful in life if they have two active, involved parents.

### How Are Children Who Grow Up with Two Parents Different?

They are more likely to...

- Do well in school.
- Have strong morals and self-esteem.
- Get along well with others.
- Have good mental health.
- Keep jobs and earn more money.
- Be more successful with their own families later in life.

### Why Establish Fatherhood?

Legally identifying your child's father gives your child certain legal rights and privileges. These include access to...

- The father's health and life insurance benefits.
- Social Security.
- Military or veterans' benefits.
- Inheritances.
- The father's medical history.

It also can create emotional ties.

### What Are the Risks For Children Who Grow Up Without Fathers?

Studies show that children whose fathers are absent are more likely to...

- Face poverty and commit crimes.
- Do poorly in school, or drop out.
- Have teen pregnancies.
- Have emotional and behavioral problems and commit suicide.
- Abuse drugs and alcohol.
- Be victims of child abuse.

### How Do Two Parents Give Their Children an Advantage?

Mothers and fathers help their children in different but equally important ways.

The stability and love of both parents is critical to helping children grow and develop. If you and the other parent work together, you can give your child more...

- Financial Support: Children who live without their fathers are two to three times more likely to be poor.
- Time: Two parents can spend more time with the child than a single parent can, especially if that parent works.
- Emotional Support: A child in a two-parent family gets double the amount of knowledge, advice, love, and caring.
- Connections to Family: The child who knows both sides of the family will feel more connected to his or her roots. The child also will have more family members to depend on, especially if the extended family lives nearby.

### How Do Both Parents Benefit?

Many parents develop deep, loving bonds with their sons and daughters.

Whether you are the mother or the father, parenthood can give you a sense of responsibility and help you grow.

You also will have the satisfaction of nurturing your own family, of watching your babies grow up, and of passing your culture along to your young ones.

