

## Changing a Child Support Order in Your State

 The information below applies only to Florida

### 1. How can I find out if I have a “IV-D” child support case in this state?

Call Florida Child Support Program at 1-800-622-5437.

Parents in Miami-Dade County can call 305-530-2600.

Parents can also visit a child support office or chat with us online through our website (<http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/childsupport/>).

### 2. How can I contact my child support agency?

- Call 1-800-622-5437
- Call 305-530-2600 if you are in Miami-Dade County
- Call 1-877-769-0251 for payment information
- Chat online with us through our website at: <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/childsupport/>
- Visit a child support office. Office location information is available online at: <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/childsupport/phone.html>
- Contact by mail at:  
Florida Department of Revenue  
Child Support Program  
5050 West Tennessee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0100

### 3. If I am incarcerated, are there any barriers to having my order changed?

Some. An incarcerated parent's petition to modify support is not heard by the court until the petitioner is released from jail or prison. Support continues to accrue during that time, however, the court may grant relief back to the date when the petition was filed. Imprisonment is generally not grounds for a reduction in support. When the petition is heard the court is required to review repayment of arrears and repayment must be reasonable.

### 4. Do you provide any materials online that I can use to ask for a change to my child support order?

No. There are no forms or other printable materials available online, but information about support order modification is available online at: <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/childsupport/modification.html>. Persons needing forms or more information can call Florida Child Support Program or visit a local office.

### 5. Do you have any printed materials I could read to learn more about child support for parents who are incarcerated?

There is a short PowerPoint explaining child support for incarcerated parents on the Florida Department of Revenue's website, on the Publications & Community Resources page at <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/childsupport/forms.html>. The website also links to the IRS tax training site specifically for incarcerated or recently released individuals and links to the Florida Department of Corrections for re-entry initiative information, available at <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/orginfo/reentry.html>.

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### 6. When can I ask to have my order changed?

If the parent has a case with the Florida Child Support Program, a parent may ask the Florida Child Support Program for a modification if either party's circumstances or the child's have changed a lot since the support order was issued. A parent can also ask for a modification if it has been three years or more since the order was issued or last modified. If the parent who owes support wants the Program's help in modifying their support order, the Program can only go to court if the person who is owed support is receiving services from the Program for collection of support or either the party or the child is receiving assistance.

### 7. How do I request the change?

When a person requests support order modification the Florida Child Support Program mails them a Request for Modification form (Form PO200) that must be completed and mailed back to us. The form is barcoded so that when it is returned the state's automated child support system can track the activity. When the form is returned, the Florida Child Support Program mails the requester a financial disclosure form that must be completed and sent back with proof of any income. If the forms are not returned, there is no further action.

### 8. What is the process after I've asked to have my order changed, and how long does it take?

The initial request for information from the parents takes up to 60 days. Once the information is received by the Florida Child Support Program, it is reviewed in light of the state's child support guidelines. If the review indicates that the order should be modified, the Florida Child Support Program will take the action needed. The time varies depending on the court, whether the order is judicial or administrative, and how long it takes the non-requesting party to be served with notice of the action. Modification can take as little as 30 days if a hearing is not requested, although usually it takes longer.

### 9. Is this process different if the other parent agrees to the change in advance?

No.

### 10. Does it cost anything to try to have my order changed?

Maybe. No fee is charged to request support order modification. However, if the case goes to court and a petition to modify support is denied the court may order payment of costs.

### 11. If I am incarcerated, do I need to do anything else to have my order changed?

No.

### 12. If I am incarcerated, does my state have any programs to help me with child support?

In a few counties there is local outreach that takes place where Child Support staff visit correctional institutions, though that does not normally occur.

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### 13. Can I get help with child support questions from other sources?

- Florida Institution Legal Services, Inc., [fls@bellsouth.net](mailto:fls@bellsouth.net).
- Florida Legal Services, [www.floridalegal.org](http://www.floridalegal.org)
- Florida State Courts Self-Help Centers, [www.flcourts.org/gen\\_public/family/self\\_help](http://www.flcourts.org/gen_public/family/self_help).

### 14. Is there anything else I should know about trying to change my order?

No.



The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement prepared this guide; however, your local child support agency can provide the most current information. This guide does not have any binding legal authority and does not constitute legal advice. You may wish to consult a lawyer before using the forms or information provided.

