

What
Is Child Support?

Child support is a way to make sure your child is cared for financially.

- If you live with the child (the custodial parent), you can apply to get payments from the other parent. This money helps pay for your child's food, clothes, housing, medical care, education, and other living expenses.
- If you do not live with the child (noncustodial parent), you can use child support services to establish a legal relationship with your child, and to record that you have made support payments.

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

How We Can Help Your Child

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., matrícula 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.

The child support enforcement office can work on your case better—and collect your child's payments more quickly—if you provide as much information on the other parent as possible.

Can I Get Help in Spanish?

Many child support offices have someone who speaks Spanish. Contact your local office to see if yours does.

What Do I Do Next?

Set up an appointment at your local child support enforcement office. There you will meet a caseworker who can tell you more—and start getting you the help you need to support your child.

You may bring family members with you if you like.

Where Do I Apply?

You can apply through your state, tribe, or local child support enforcement (CSE) office.

To find an office, look in your telephone book, usually under the state/county social services agency, or on the state's child support Web site.

Each state and many Native American tribes have child support enforcement programs. If the noncustodial parent lives in a different state, that state will work with yours to get you the support you need. You have the right to apply to whichever office will give you the best service.

Contact us—we'll be with you every step of the way.

What does the Child Support Enforcement Office do?

It can help you...

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

How Can Child Support Help?

Having two caring, supportive parents is best for your child. Child support involves the other parent and will give your child a deeper connection to his or her family, community, and roots.

Can I Get Help If I Am Afraid of the Other Parent?

If you need help but think that the other parent is dangerous, talk with your caseworker. You may be able to show good cause for not naming the other parent. The child support office can make sure that only authorized people can see your information, so that you stay safe.

Will My Money Be Safe in the Bank?

Yes, the banks we use are safe. Their automated payment systems make sure you get your money quickly, and that there is a record of it.

