

## Changing a Child Support Order in Your State

 The information below applies only to New Jersey

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

Call the New Jersey Family Support Services Center at 1-877-655-4371 to speak to a Child Support Customer Services representative.

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

OCSS  
P.O. Box 709  
Trenton, NJ 08650

(877) 655-4371

<http://www.njchildsupport.org/>

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

Some judges view incarceration as “voluntary unemployment/willfully unemployed.” However, there are no statutory prohibitions and incarcerated individuals have the right to file a Motion/Post-Dispositional Application.

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

Yes. Many forms and resource materials are made available at the 21 County Welfare Agencies, Family and Probation Divisions of the Superior Court as well as the state child support and judiciary websites.

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

No.

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

A party may request a modification at any time by filing a motion and/or application with the court.

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

Motions and/or applications for post-dispositional hearings are processed through the Family Division. The Family Division provides the necessary forms and information to the filing party. If the requested action addresses the amount of support, a Financial Statement must be completed.

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

A court date is typically scheduled within four to six weeks of the filing.

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

If both parties agree, a consent order for a modification to the support order must be filed with the court. The order is then presented to the judge for review and signature.

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

Yes, there is a \$50.00 filing fee on FM (dissolution) cases. There is a \$25.00 filing fee on FD (nondissolution) cases. All litigants can file for a waiver of the fees.

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

No, the procedure to request a modification is the same for all litigants.

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

Yes, the Responsible Parenting Program for Incarcerated Individuals (RPP). The RPP is a joint initiative between the New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) and New Jersey Department of Human Services (NJ DHS). Case management services are performed by NJDOC social worker/case management staff while the inmates are incarcerated at participating State Prisons. NJDOC social workers will provide case management to access institutional services such as parenting education, aid in resolving child support issues and coordinate the transition to community-based case management and services. In the Institutional Phase, information with respect to child support would be disseminated, including *pro-se* motion packets to file a modification. Social workers will assist inmates with filing child support modification requests to the courts. After inmate release has been approved and transfer to a residential community release program or treatment facility takes place, the NJDOC social workers will reassess individual and outstanding child support issues can be addressed before inmate exits the institution. Transition planning for continuation of RPP services during the residential community release or treatment program phase will also be made at that time.

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

For those wishing to file on their own behalf, pro se packets that explain the process, procedures, forms, and mailing addresses are available from the Family Division in each county and on the Forms section of <http://www.njchildsupport.org>

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

If the incarcerated parent filed a motion or application for modification while incarcerated, upon release the litigant should contact the Probation office and also file for a modification with the Family division within 30 days of their release.

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 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.

