



Child Support Facts For Fathers

It is very important that all fathers are emotionally and financially invested in their children.

- Child support helps pay for your child's basic needs, including food, shelter and clothing.
- Child support orders also require you to provide for the healthcare needs of your child.

In order to learn more about child support, please see the following facts:

If I am not the main person taking care of my child, can my child's mother ask me to pay child support?

Yes. If you are the legal father but are not the main person taking care of your child, you can be required to pay child support.





Can my parents help me figure out my child support?

Yes. If you sign a third-party release form, your county's child support enforcement agency (CSEA) can talk about your case with the person named on the release form. You can get this form from the CSEA.

Who can establish a child support order?

Anyone who lives with the child and provides most of the care for that child can contact the CSEA to get a child support and medical support order. This could be a parent, guardian, legal custodian or the head of the household where the child lives. A child support order can be placed up to the child's 18th birthday.

If my child lives with me and not with the mother, can I get child support from the mother?

Yes. If you are the main person taking care of your child, you have the right to get child support from your child's mother. If you apply for certain types of public assistance, your local CSEA will start this process automatically. If you don't receive public assistance, the CSEA can help you begin the process.

What if I've been ordered to pay child support and I can't afford it?

You can ask the CSEA to review your case and possibly change the amount you owe.

Can I still be ordered to pay child support if I'm not sure I'm the father?

Before you are ordered to pay child support, legal paternity must be established. This means you must be legally named as the child's father. If you don't establish legal paternity, and the mother of your child applies for public assistance, she will be required to provide information about the child's father to the CSEA. The CSEA will begin the process of establishing paternity and a child support order.

How much child support will I have to pay?

It depends on how much money you and the mother make and a variety of other factors. If the CSEA decides that you owe past-due support to the child, it can order you to pay that, too.

How should I make my child support payments?

If you have a job, the CSEA or a court can require the amount you owe in child support to be automatically deducted from your paychecks. If you do not have a job, the CSEA or a court can require the amount you owe in child support to be automatically deducted from your bank account.

If I'm under 18, could my parents be required to pay my child's child support?

Yes. If your parents are ordered to pay child support for your child, they will be responsible for paying child support until you are 18 — or until you turn 19 if you're still in high school when you turn 18. After that, you will have to pay child support for your child.

What happens if I ignore a child support order?

The court could suspend your driver's license, take additional money from your paycheck, or you may be held in contempt of court and possibly be arrested and sent to jail. It's important to stay in contact with your local CSEA. Make sure your CSEA has current information about your address, employment and income.