

New Jersey Child Support Program

GETTING CONNECTED, GETTING SERVICES

Contacting the New Jersey Child Support Agency is easy... visit www.njchildsupport.org or call **1-877-NJKIDS1** (1-877-655-4371).



NEW JERSEY CHILD SUPPORT

New Jersey's Child Support Program promotes financial and medical stability so children can grow into responsible adults. It helps parents meet the needs of their children by offering a full range of support.

Services are provided

through a variety of local agencies including your County Board of Social Services, Judiciary Probation, Family Division, Sheriff Department, and also through the State Office of Child Support Services, the administering agency.

ChildSupport.

It's more than just money.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY



www.njchildsupport.org
1-877-NJKIDS1

New Jersey Department of Human Services
Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor



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Child Support Services



APPLYING FOR CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

Applying for services is easy. You may file an application and complaint for child support online today at www.njchildsupport.org or visit your local child support office. You may also contact us at **1-877-655-4371**

and request an application. A hearing will be scheduled in order to complete the process. A one-time fee of \$6.00 will be charged for child support services. (If you receive public assistance, your fee will be waived.)

Once an order is entered and your case is established, your payments should begin quickly. However, it may take longer to receive payments if the non-custodial parent cannot be located or is unemployed.

In order to receive payments quickly, you should provide your local child support office with the other parent's full name, date of birth, address, social security number, place of employment or any other information you have. Additionally, you should also keep your appointments and ensure the local Child Support office has your current address and telephone number. Please report all changes of contact information promptly by calling the Child Support Hotline at **1-877-NJKIDS1**.

We believe both parents have a responsibility to support their child. But if they don't, enforcement actions – such as court hearings, tax intercepts, passport denial, license suspension, seizure of assets, and other methods – may become necessary in order to collect child support.

LOCATION

If you don't know where your child's other parent is, the Child Support Program will assist you in locating him/her. Any information you can provide will assist us and speed up the search.

PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT

When parents are married and a child is born, the husband is the legal father and his name appears on the child's birth certificate. To create the same legal relationship between unmarried parents and their children, paternity must be established. It's an important step in ensuring that both parents support their child, and is the first step in collecting child support. When a father agrees that the child is his, he signs a document for "voluntary acknowledgement." When he doesn't agree, the Child Support Program will help you take steps, including genetic testing, to establish whether or not he is the father.

The Paternity Opportunity Program (POP) provides further assistance in this process. For more information please visit the POP website at www.nj-paternity.com or www.njchildsupport.org.



CHILD SUPPORT ORDER

In New Jersey, child support, including medical support, is established by court order. Your child support office will help you take the necessary steps to establish a child support court order or visit www.njchildsupport.org to complete an application and file a complaint.

The amount of child support established is consistent with law and based on the New Jersey Child Support Guidelines. These guidelines are used to determine how much money each parent will contribute for the care of the child. Shared parenting responsibility is vital to the development of happy and healthy children. Health care for the child is to be ordered when available and at a reasonable cost.

MEDICAL SUPPORT

Medical Support refers to health insurance coverage for your child. It is important for the health and safety of your child that they have access to health care coverage. Your child support order will address parental responsibility for health care coverage and its availability through both parents' resources.



PAYMENT AND RECEIVING CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

After a payment amount is determined in the order, the Child Support Program collects the money, keeps records and sends the money to the appropriate payee. The Child Support Program collects money largely from income withholding. In other cases, payment

can be made by check or money order using payment coupons as well as by credit and debit card. The payee has the option to receive payments either by direct deposit or by the New Jersey Debit MasterCard® (New Jersey Debit Card). For more information, call **1-877-655-4371** or visit www.njchildsupport.org.

ENFORCEMENT

If payments are made on time, and medical coverage for the child is maintained, enforcement is not necessary. However, if payments are not on time and enforcement is necessary, some examples are:

- Tax refund intercepts (Federal and State)
- Court hearing
- Reporting to credit agencies
- License denial and suspension (drivers, professional or recreational)
- Passport denial
- Seizure of assets (bank accounts, property, etc.)

More specific enforcement information about these and other procedures can be found by accessing the Child Support website at www.njchildsupport.org

HOW CAN I CHECK THE STATUS OF MY CASE?

You can visit our website at www.njchildsupport.org or call the New Jersey Child Support Hotline at **1-877-NJKIDS1** 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week for your case status.

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