

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

You should always 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 1-877-NJKiDS1 or by updating on the customer portal online.

You can visit our website at www.NJChildSupport.org, call 1-877-NJKiDS1 or use the NJ Child Support App to check your case or find out more about the Child Support Program.

New Jersey
ChildSupport.
It's more than just money.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PHIL MURPHY, GOVERNOR
SHEILA OLIVER, LT. GOVERNOR



NEW JERSEY CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

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.

In New Jersey, the Child Support Program is supervised by the state Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development, Office of Child Support Services and is administered in individual counties by the county Board of Social Services, Family Courts and Probation Divisions.

THERE ARE TWO PARENTS IN EVERY CHILD SUPPORT CASE

One is the person receiving support – the parent who lives with the child the majority of the time and has the primary day-to-day responsibility; the other is the person paying support – the parent who shares responsibility for supporting the child. Co-parenting is vital to maintaining a healthy relationship with your child. Although one person may have the day-to-day duties, taking shared responsibility is a key element in the support and success of children.

APPLYING FOR CHILD SUPPORT

You may file an application for child support at www.NJChildSupport.org or by visiting your local child support office. You also may contact us at 1-877-655-4371 and request an application be mailed to you. A one-time fee of \$6.00 will be charged for child support services and you will need to sign some documents in person. If you are a public assistance customer, there is no fee. Once your application is reviewed, a hearing with the Family Court will be scheduled to complete the process and create what is called a “child support order.” Once an order is entered and your case is established, your payments should begin. However, it may take longer to receive payments if the parent paying support is unemployed or cannot be located. 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, such as parent’s full name, date of birth, address, social security number, place of employment – 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. Unmarried parents who want to create the same legal relationship between the father and child must first establish paternity. Establishing paternity is the first step in collecting child support. The Child Support Program will help you take steps, including genetic testing, to establish paternity. When a father agrees that the child is his, he may sign a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity. 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 through your child support order. The amount of child support is established using the New Jersey Child Support Guidelines. These guidelines are used to determine how much money the parent paying support will contribute for the care of the child(ren) and will address parental responsibility for health care coverage through both parents’ resources. Shared parenting responsibility is vital to the development of happy and healthy children.

PAYING AND RECEIVING CHILD SUPPORT

After a payment amount is determined in the child support order, the Child Support Program collects the money from the person paying support, keeps records and sends the money to the person receiving support. Most people who pay child support have it deducted from their paycheck (called “Income Withholding”), in other cases, payment can be made by credit and debit card as well as by check, money order or cash. For more information on all of these options visit www.NJChildSupport.org/PaymentOptions.

The person receiving support has the option to receive payments either by direct deposit or on a New Jersey Debit Card.

ENFORCEMENT

We believe both parents have a responsibility to support their child. But if they don’t, enforcement actions may become necessary in order to collect child support. Paying on time and in full will help avoid enforcement situations such as:

- Tax refund intercepts (Federal and State)
- Court hearings
- Reporting to credit agencies
- License denial and suspension (drivers, professional or recreational)
- Passport denial
- Lottery & casino slot intercept
- Civil award/settlement intercept
- Seizure of assets (bank accounts, property, etc.)

More specific enforcement information can be found on our website.