



WHAT HAPPENS TO MY CHILD SUPPORT ORDER WHILE I AM IN PRISON?

Support Enforcement Services believes that all parents need to be informed of their rights and responsibilities regarding their child support orders. Please review these materials so you can understand how being in prison affects your child support order.

What Happens To My Child Support Order While I Am In Prison?

- Your child support order will stay in effect while you are in prison unless you take action. If you ignore your child support order while in prison you may owe thousands of dollars to the child's mother or the State of Connecticut when you are released.

How Can I Change (Modify) My Child Support Order While I Am In Prison?

- If you have a child support case with Support Enforcement Services (the State) you can ask for *Review and Adjustment* services. We help parents get their support orders before the court. In court, a family support magistrate will hear the case and decide if the order will be changed. If you want our help, please complete the attached form and mail it to Support Enforcement to start the review process.
- You may represent yourself by preparing and filing the necessary motion to modify documents with the court. You may hire an attorney to act on your behalf.

What Happens To My Child Support Order After I Get Out Of Prison?

- The court will expect you to pay your child support as soon as you begin receiving income. We suggest that you inform DOC, when you are reviewing your Offender Accountability Plan (OAP), that you would like to participate in a parenting and/or fathering programs. These programs can help you prepare for being a parent that supports their child, both financially and emotionally.

How Can I Get More Information About Child Support?

- Please refer to the enclosed brochure for more information regarding child support.

SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

Who are we?

Support Enforcement Services (SES) is part of the Judicial Branch, Court Operations Division. We work with other state agencies to operate the Connecticut Child Support Program. We enforce and seek modification of child support orders. SES is dedicated to providing accurate information and appropriate services in a prompt, courteous and professional manner. SES also recognizes the valuable role that both parents play in supporting their children.

Our Mission

Our mission is to assist parents in securing financial and medical support for their children by providing quality services and information to the court, our customers, and the community in a courteous, efficient, and effective manner, that is sensitive to the contributions both parents make to their children's development.

What services do we offer?

- Monitor compliance with support orders
- Locate noncustodial parents
- Enforce court orders through income withholding and contempt applications
- Enforce medical insurance orders
- Review child support orders for modifications
- Establish and enforce interstate orders

Administration **860-569-6233**
287 Main Street East Hartford

Bridgeport **203-576-3670**
One Lafayette Circle Bridgeport

Central Processing Unit **203-789-6505**
414 Chapel Street New Haven

Danbury **203-731-2940**
71 Main Street Danbury

Hartford (Main Office) **860-566-8723**
999 Asylum Street Hartford

Hartford (Court Office) **860-706-5110**
90 Washington Street Hartford

Middletown **860-344-2957**
484 Main Street Middletown

New Britain **860-515-5300**
20 Franklin Square New Britain

New Haven **203-789-7485**
414A Chapel Street New Haven

Norwich **860-886-2694**
99 Main Street Norwich

Putnam **860-963-2580**
265 Kennedy Drive Putnam

Rockville **860-896-2400**
26 Park Street Rockville

Stamford **203-965-5730**
123 Hoyt Street Stamford

Waterbury **203-596-4188**
11 Scovill Street Waterbury

Questions and Problems Concerning Child Support in Connecticut



1-800-228-KIDS
Child Support Call Center

Support Enforcement Services

287 Main Street, 3rd Floor
East Hartford, CT 06118
(860) 569-6233 Tel
(860) 569-6557 Fax



JDP-ES-211
Rev. 9-2008

Copyright © 2008
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch,
Division of Superior Court Operations

*A Child Needs . . .
Emotional and Financial
Support of Both Parents*



support
ENFORCEMENT
services
SECURING SUPPORT
FOR CHILDREN

www.jud.ct.gov/childsupport/
State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. How are child support orders enforced by the child support program?

A. The most common method for enforcing a child support order is an income withholding order. This court order directs a parent's employer to take the child support from the parent's paycheck and send it to the State Disbursement Unit. Sometimes, parents ignore or disobey the court order. In those cases, SES can prepare and file an application for a contempt finding with the court. Both parents receive written notice about the court date. At the court hearing a family support magistrate may order the delinquent parent incarcerated until the child support is paid. Finally, some enforcement methods happen automatically, such as the interception of state and federal tax returns, seizure of bank accounts, and placement of liens on property.

Q. What should a non-custodial parent do if he or she cannot pay the child support order?

A. The parent should call 1-800-228-KIDS to discuss the modification options available. Based upon the parent's circumstances and needs, SES can start the modification action through a process called "review and adjustment," or the parent can proceed on their own behalf by filing a "pro se" motion for modification of the support order with the court.

Q. What should a non-custodial parent do if he or she loses a job, or cannot work due to illness or injury?

A. The parent should contact 1-800-228-KIDS to discuss his or her situation. SES staff will ask questions to help decide what is the best next step. If the injury is work related, workers compensation may be used to satisfy the order. If the parent will receive unemployment benefits, then these benefits may also be used to satisfy the support obligation. If the illness or injury is long term, then a modification may be appropriate.

Q. When a parent is found in contempt of his or her court order, what does it mean?

A. The court may only find a parent in contempt if the court determines that a parent knew about the court order, had the ability to pay the order, and willfully refused to pay the order. Often parents found in contempt of their child support order will be incarcerated until they pay a sum of money, called a purge amount. The length of the incarceration is directly related to how long it takes to pay the purge.

1-800-228-KIDS
Child Support Call Center



www.jud.ct.gov/childsupport/

Q. Is there a connection between payment of child support and visitation?

A. No. Paying child support and parenting time (visitation) are separate legal rights and obligations. A custodial parent cannot deny parenting time (visitation) because the non-custodial parent is not paying child support. A non-custodial parent cannot stop making payments because he or she is being denied parenting time (visitation). If visitation is an issue, the parent should consider getting a visitation order through the court. An application for visitation form is available at the court clerk's office.

Q. What happens to a support order when a parent is incarcerated?

A. The support order continues to be in effect until modified by the court. Inmates should contact SES at 1-800-228-KIDS to initiate a modification. In accordance with Connecticut law, the court will use an inmate's present income and any substantial assets for determining the amount of child support. Also, the court will not reduce a child support order if the inmate is incarcerated for an offense against the child or the custodial parent.

Q. How can I get more information about a child support payment or my account balance?

1-888-233-7223
Child Support Payments

Q. When does the child support order end?

A. In general, the duty to support created by a child support order ends when the child reaches the age of 18. However, this general rule may vary from state to state. For example, in Connecticut, the duty to support may extend to age 19 if the child is still in high school. Please contact us for a more accurate determination about the duration of your child's support order.

Q. How do you locate a parent?

A. SES staff has access to many state and federal computer databases that contain information on people. These databases provide employment, income and address information for individuals throughout the United States.

Q. How does a second family affect a child support order?

A. At the time a child support order is established, a non-custodial parent's second family will be reflected in the support calculation. However, once child support is ordered, a second family is not a reason to modify the support order for the first family, according to the Connecticut Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines.